



## *Welcome back, Pastor Bonnie!*



*It is with an overwhelming sense of gratitude that I return to be in ministry with you starting this past Monday March 25. I will be working full time but easing into the role with some restrictions. I need to work from home until at least April 8 and Rev. Mickey and Rev. Penny will continue to preach until then. I am thrilled to be able to take pastoral care calls, participate in the mission of the parish and do administrative work as well.*

*Occasionally you may see me at the office. I still need to honor my 3 foot distance and mask wearing. Even though I am making weekly trips to Stanford for treatment, I am able to work remotely.*

*Very soon I will be in worship with you. Thank you for your incredible support. The cards, prayers, financial assistance and emails have sustained us in this tough time.*

## Earth Day is April 22!



*Creation Justice Ministries of the United Church of Christ has asked us to think more deeply about the way plastics impact our lives and God's creation.*

*We will be discovering ways to be good stewards of the earth and give praise to God for this beautiful planet.*

## *A Word from Rev. Penny*

I am writing this on March 19, the spring equinox, when day and night are the same length. By mid-April, when you read this, days will be considerably longer. I am struck by how the events of Jesus' life correspond with the seasons. Jesus was born, the Bible tells us, in mid-winter. It was a dark time. For the Jewish people, under Roman rule, a very dark and somber time. And so in the darkness there appeared a bright star – a reflection of the bright birth about to happen.

As we follow, especially during Lent, Jesus's life and final days, the night is still somewhat longer than day. Then comes Easter, the Rising; the light has begun to prevail. Spring will expand into summer. Growth and blossoming will swell. The invitation to expand, to resurrect our spirits is built into nature's own expansion and resurrection.

The biblical stories and patterns often drew upon earlier folk stories, wisdom and attunement with the natural world. To me that is a strength of those stories. It can remind us that we are ultimately grounded in the nitty gritty, earthy world that God created. And it reminds us that people of faith preceded the birth of Jesus, then of Christianity, and much of their wisdom infuses our later traditions.

Reflecting on the seasons and the long-distant traditions, on their continuity and their cyclical changes, I am struck by a sense of harmony: that despite our limited vision and constricted personal experience, there a much larger whole in which everything fits – even us. There are moments when we see it, moments when we sense it. The Good News is that it's not up to us to create it or maintain it. A loving God does that. Our part is just to rest and delight in it.

(And if you're from the southern hemisphere, where the seasons are reversed, you must tell your own seasonal story! 😊)

Penny



*Mountain Melody  
will be having their  
concert on  
Saturday, May 4  
at 2pm in our  
Sanctuary. Come  
enjoy a Broadway  
themed show  
brought to you by  
some fabulous  
local talent!*







## Treasurer's Report

We have had a good couple of months with two profitable fundraisers, the Chocolate Festival and the Pancake Breakfast. It looks like we made over \$5000.00 for both of them.

I know there were lots of volunteers for these events. Thank you to everyone!! We will still need some more fundraisers for this year to meet our budget goal of \$10,000. So, start thinking of some possible ones, and let me know. Thanks for everyone's continual financial support.



**Rev. Davena Jones is being installed as the NCNC/UCC Conference Minister on May 4, 2024 at 11am.**

**City of Refuge, UCC  
8400 Enterprise  
Way  
Oakland, CA.**

**RSVP [nncucc.org](http://nncucc.org)**

**Columbia College  
Community Chorus**  
with orchestra  
Dr. Daryl Hollinger, Conductor



April 27 & 28  
Sat & Sun 3 pm

St. Matthew  
Lutheran Church  
13880 Joshua Way, Sonora

TICKETS \$20  
or \$25 at the door  
18 and under FREE  
(must reserve a seat)

Purchase tickets online—scan QR code or visit  
[GOCOLUMBIA.EDU](http://GOCOLUMBIA.EDU) and scroll down to *Events*.

INFORMATION / TICKET SALES 209-533-1532



*This concert features Schubert's lyrical Mass in G for mixed chorus, chamber orchestra and soloists. In the second half of the program, the chorus performs Dr. Hollinger's three joyous Psalm settings: Jubilate Deo!, Psalm 135, and Sing a New Song. Dr. Hollinger also collaborated with Murphys' poet Carol Osterlund to create the stunning work, Tending the Soul, a collection of three songs: "Footsteps on a Far Shore," "I Stand in God's Cathedral," and "I Dance."*



### Small Group Meetings:

**April 9:**  
**South Grove Bunch**  
**5:30pm at Soup Supper**  
**Contact Faye Morrison**



**April 12:**  
**The Wanderers**  
**10am in Murphys**  
**Contact Marilyn Baisel**



**April 2 & 16:**  
**Family Program**  
**5:30pm at Soup Supper**  
**Contact Evelyn Betts**



**April 16:**  
**Faith & Friends**  
**10am in Murphys home**  
**Contact Pam Kimes**



**April 16**  
**Cottage Circle**  
**5:30pm at Soup Supper**  
**Contact Faye Morrison**



**April 24:**  
**Angels Angels**  
**11am in Copperopolis**  
**Contact Barb Olivier**

# Moderator's Message

Ahhh, Spring at long last! Though you couldn't tell by my house in Arnold – chilly with snow on the ground in patches. But we're getting closer.

Easter season was just lovely in spite of missing our dear Pastor Bonnie. Penny and Mickey, and the worship team ably led by Liz Graham, did a marvelous job. And now, effective 3/25, we have Bonnie back "among" us, at least remotely. Her doctors have released her to work from home, on the phone, via Zoom etc., and we are delighted. While her healing is still going on, I know she has been anxious to rejoin the parish and the various pastoral needs. And we welcome her back!

Both of the season's fundraisers – the Chocolate Festival chaired by Judy Regalia and Marilyn Baisel, and the Pancake Breakfast, led by Wendy Glessman, were spectacular successes! We thank all who pitched in to help. These events got our fundraising year off to a rollicking good start. The figures are still being tallied but it looks like we made about \$5,000 between the two.

The business of the congregation continues apace. There are two active Ad-Hoc committees at work, one concerning new office management and accounting software, and the other with the re-naming of our newly merged entity. I think we can anticipate news from both of these teams in the coming months.

Let us continue to carry the Easter season in our hearts as we pray for Pastor Bonnie's complete recovery, and for the comfort and healing of all those among us, and indeed, worldwide, as we move forward into spring.

With love and hope in our hearts,

Carrie Shinn  
Moderator







## A Message From the Outreach & Social Justice Team

Greetings all from the Outreach and Social Justice Team! The team is busily getting ready for some awesome events and happenings over the next couple months. We will be putting together fun activity kits for the children to celebrate Earth Day and our wonderful earth. Kits for the younger kids will celebrate the wonderful gift of the wind. The older kids will be celebrating our beneficial insect friends. The kits will be handed out at the April 21, 2024 church service. This year the O&SJ team will be working with the UCC on the Earth Day poster contest. To enter the UCC Poster Contest the posters must be done on templated paper. We'll have the paper available at church this Sunday. If kids choose not to submit their artwork to the UCC contest they can use any 8x11 paper. The theme of this year's poster contest is "Draw, paint, and/or color about the world and environment in which you want to live". The team will submit the posters from kids who wish to enter the UCC contest to the UCC. Parents will be emailed a permission slip for their children to enter the contest. Parents just need to make sure the O&SJ team has a current Email address. Like last year, for the church contest, church members will select 2 winners based on age. Prizes will again be awarded to the winners. We can't wait to see the beautiful artwork! We are still working with the Forest Service Archaeologist to put together an informative talk on cultural resources in our area. More information will be coming in the weekly Emails. There is an Earth Day celebration at Feeney Park in Murphys on Saturday April 20, 2024 from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. We encourage you all to attend and celebrate our wonderful earth.



There will be a local Earth Day Celebration / Park Clean Up at Feeney Park in Murphys. There will be live music and food available. Bring the family and join the fun!



*The recycling program has been temporarily discontinued due to security issues at the storage bins. Please stay tuned for updates.*

# Christian Education

## Recap

The youth have been busy with Spring sports and activities. Sunday school has been learning about how the Bible teachings relate to our lives.

We are trying to schedule a fun activity and a service project. Coming up with dates and times is challenging with everyone's schedules for both of these events. The Family Program continues the first and third Tuesday evenings at 5:30. We will need helpers for teaching the youth program and also for cooking meals. Let me know if you could help with either of these. Thanks for the Easter candy donation.



The All Church Camping Trip at Big Trees State Park will be from July 12 - 14, 2024 with Worship being held at Big Trees at 10am that Sunday. Sign up sheets will be available in the coming weeks.

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA NEVADA CONFERENCE



**CAMP TAM  
2024 SEASON**

July 14 - 20:  
Camp Tam Senior

July 21 - 27:  
Camp Tam Junior High

July 28 - Aug. 3:  
Camp Tam Junior

Vacation Bible School will be held the week of July 15 - July 19 from 9am to 12pm. We will have our Annual Picnic in the Park that Friday. More details coming soon.



# *In Loving Memory*

*As we mourn the loss and cherish the precious memories we hold of three wonderful women, please note the following Celebrations of Life.*



*Carol Osterlund*  
*Sunday, April 14th*  
*2pm*

*Hilary Oldenkamp*  
*Saturday, April 20th*  
*2pm*



*Del Harris*  
*Sunday, May 5th*  
*2pm*



*Meg Self*  
*Saturday, May 11*  
*2pm*



**Bell Choir** rehearsals are every Saturday at 10am in the Sanctuary. **Adult Choir** rehearsals are on the 1st, 2nd, and 4th Sundays at 9am in the Sanctuary. Contact Dr. Daryl for more information.



**Family Program** is on April 2 & 16 at 5:30pm

We encourage all families to attend. There will be Youth activities and dinner is provided. Please contact Patty Haskell for more details.





# IRISH DAY PANCAKE

ON SATURDAY, MARCH 16, WE HELD OUR FAMOUS IRISH DAY PANCAKE BREAKFAST. THE EVENT WAS WELL ATTENDED AND FOLKS LEFT WITH FULL BELLIES TO ENJOY THE FESTIVITIES IN TOWN. MANY THANKS TO ALL OF OUR WONDERFUL VOLUNTEERS!





# BREAKFAST 2024

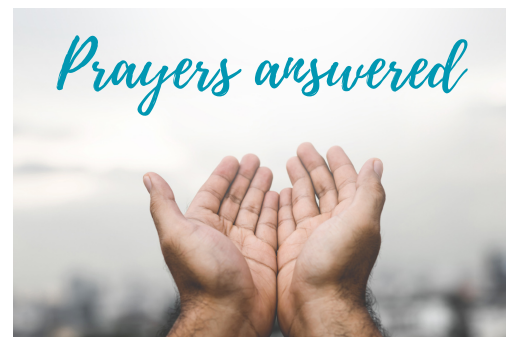


FOLKS FROM ALL OVER  
DONNED THEIR GREEN  
AND ENJOYED A HEARTY  
MEAL IN OUR WONDERFUL  
LITTLE COMMUNITY!





**Nancy Burton 5**  
**Amanda Armstrong 8**  
**Doug Shinn 9**  
**Brett Thompson 10**  
**Bobby Breen 15**  
**Dodi Horvath 16**  
**Tara Glessman 19**  
**Connie Cook 19**  
**Isa Luchetti 22**



The scriptures tell us: “Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God.

**Philippians 4:6**

We continue to witness the stories of how God answers our prayers!

God hears our cries and answers them.

Let us pray daily for the following members and friends of our community:

## **Prayer List:**

**The Family of Del Harris**

**The Family of Carol Osterlund**

**The Family of Meg Self**

**The Family of Hilary Oldenkamp**

**The Family of Michael Abando**

**John & Marilyn Amormino**

**Tami Chesnut**

**Jess Hampton**

**The Hollinger Family**

**Dodi Horvath**

**Tabitha Kremesec**

**Daniel Smolich**

**Shirley Soderer**

**Gail Williams**

**Rev. Marty Williams**





# APRIL 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
31	1	2	Jenny vacation 4/14-4/5		5	6
9am Adult Choir 10am Worship	6:30pm Al-Anon	5:30pm Family Program	12:30pm AA & Al-Anon 6:30pm Al-Anon	9am - 4pm WIC in Social Hall	12pm Women's AA	10am Bell Choir
Holy Communion	9:30am AdHoc naming mtg. EEC	2pm F&F mtg. ZOOM	5pm Worship mtg. ZOOM	11	12	13
9am Adult Choir 10am worship 11am OSJ EEC Carol Osterfund life celebration 2pm	6:30pm Al-Anon	5:30pm South Grove Bunch Sm. Grp.	12:30pm AA & Al-Anon 6:30pm Al-Anon	18	19	20
10am worship 11am Council EEC EARTH DAY CELEBRATION	6:30pm Al-Anon	10am Family Connections EEC 10am Faith & Friends Sm. Grp. in Murphys 5:30pm Family Program	11am Angels Angels Sm. Grp. 12:30pm AA & Al-Anon 3pm AdHoc software mtg. FISK 6:30pm Al-Anon	25	26	27
9am Adult Choir 10am worship	6:30pm Al-Anon	23	1	2	3	4
		30				
	6:30pm Al-Anon				12pm Women's AA	10am Bell Choir Hilary Oldenkamp life celebration 2pm
	6:30pm Al-Anon					

God's love echoes through us to all creation.  
Webpage: [www.fcsmurph.org](http://www.fcsmurph.org)  
Email: [nugget@fcsmurph.org](mailto:nugget@fcsmurph.org)  
Phone: (209)728-3141

APRIL 2024

DATED MATERIAL - DO NOT DELAY

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

First Congregational Church of Murphys  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
PO Box 48  
509 N. Algiers Street  
Murphys, CA 95247

THE NUGGET



[www.ucc.org](http://www.ucc.org)

#### Staff

Pastor Rev. Dr. Bonnie Hollinger  
Pastor Emeritus Rev. Dr. John Randlett  
Music Director Dr. Daryl Hollinger  
Secretary Jenny Fuqua  
Custodian Lucie Tardif  
Christian Ed Director Patty Haskell  
Childcare Shayanna DuCharme

#### Officers

Moderator Carrie Shinn  
Vice Moderator Barbara Olivier  
Treasurer Patty Haskell  
Assistant Treasurer Shad Sundberg  
Financial Secretary Gary Carson-Hull

#### FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, MURPHYS MISSION STATEMENT

We believe that all people are beloved by God and we strive to serve as a welcoming and nurturing church community to discern the Bible with insight for today and to live out Christ's teachings.

The Nugget Committee invites you to submit articles of interest and wishes to stress that the deadline is always the 15th of each month.

The Committee reserves the right to edit submissions for length and content.