

First Congregational Church of Murphys
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

The Nugget

Volume 18 Issue 8

AUGUST, 2020

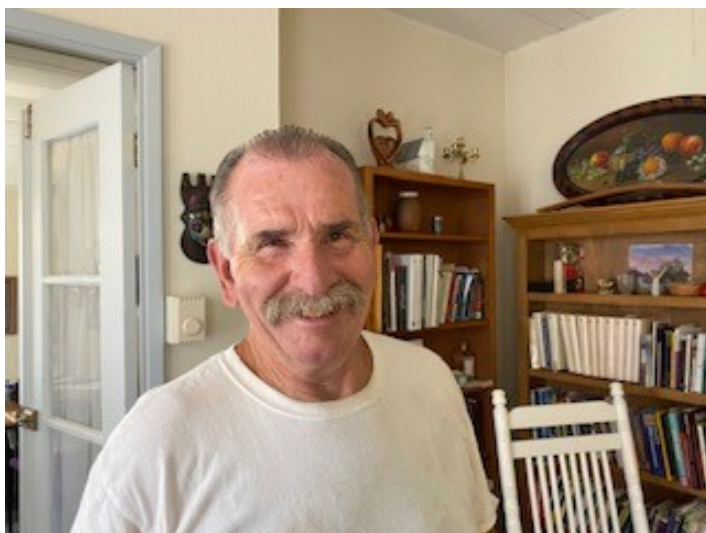


"Thanks to all of you for the years of kindness, friendship and support. I will be seeing you!"

—Vee Domazlicky, Administrative Assistant

**Two of our
beloved
Staff Retire.**

**Vee and George
we Celebrate
and honor your
service to us!**



"I might have retired from the job but I am still here. Pastor Bonnie, if you or anyone else, ever need anything at all, just call me, I am here!" George Glessman

We will be having a retirement party for George once COVID is over and we worship in person!

The New Face of Being the Church!



Hello Beloved,

As we continue to be the church, even when we are apart, it is taking some adjusting. I believe we will be living like this for some time, so I thought we might chat about how to be the Virtual Church.

First of all, we will **continue to worship God** – on Sunday mornings, in Daily Devotionals, in Taizé and in your personal time.

We will **continue to care for one another** through phone calls and Zoom visits. Our **continuing education** will be vital as we do book studies and take classes via Zoom. Our **outreach ministries** are serving many people, both here and in Uganda.

This is all going on and while you may not SEE it happening, the church is thriving. Here are some helpful hints in how we can be the church during this time of sheltering in place:

- ♦ Please check all your emails from the church office and Pastor Bonnie. Read all the way to the end. Yes, it is often a lot of information, but this is the way we now need to communicate. You will find ways to serve, share and worship in those messages.
- ♦ Continue to participate in the weekly zoom chats. You may not feel isolated, but many of our members are alone and suffering through this tough time. Your presence is one of the gifts you give to the church. I know that some of you work during the day, so we are pursuing the possibility of an evening session and alternating them.
- ♦ Visit our website often and attend worship via YouTube or Facebook. The service is also posted on our website after Sunday. Anyone who has Internet access can join our worship.
- ♦ You can share our worship and ministry with others. It is easier now than ever to invite friends to join you for worship or a class! Use social media to share God's good news.
- ♦ Work for justice – now is the time to write letters and call for change in our legislation. Pick up trash, volunteer where you can and let your voices be joyful. **Dancing with gratitude for you all,**
Pastor Bonnie

Class on Racism is a Good Place to Learn How to be an Antiracist!

These are tough times for people of color in America. The UCC is challenging each congregation to face racism head on. Hear this from our UCC Justice Minister *When a church claims boldly "Black Lives Matter" at this moment, it chooses to show up intentionally against all given societal values of supremacy and superiority or common-sense complacency. By insisting on the intrinsic worth of all human beings, Jesus models for us how God loves justly, and how his disciples can love publicly in a world of inequality. We live out the love of God justly by publicly saying #BlackLivesMatter. Classes are on zoom on Wednesday at 2 p.m. Email Pastor Bonnie if you would like to participate. Next class Aug. 12.*





VICE MODERATOR'S MUSINGS

I don't know where the time goes. It is hard to believe that it is August; where did the spring go? We continue to meet remotely for church services and our team meetings. Everyone has adapted to Zoom meetings and attending church online. Pastor Bonnie, Dr. Daryl, Liz & Matt Graham and Joe Jackson have advanced their computer, editing and recording skills to provide us with wonderful services each week. We have learned to have congregational meetings on Zoom and how to take turns talking on Zoom. I say, interesting times we live in right now. Even with all this, we continue to stay in touch and be connected to each

other. We continue to provide financial support to both local and international organizations; great job for a group that had no experience living in a pandemic! I hope everyone is staying healthy and staying connected to loved ones.

Take care!! **Patty Haskell, Vice Moderator**



Thank You Volunteers!

We are so grateful for the volunteers who have "Adopted a Piece of the Earth" on our campus. Tami Chestnut, Connie Cook, Phil Hosmer, Teddie Jackson and Margaret White have all signed up to adopt a section of our landscaping. Below you will see the fruits of Margaret's labor as the roses are once again blooming beautifully. All they needed was some TLC and Margaret knew just what to do.

We are still in need of more people to adopt a section of our landscaping. For now, the Finance and Facility team and other people keep it managed but we could use your help. If you

are out for a drive, do stop and see the magnificent transformation on both sides of our church. Connie has totally transformed the area next to the sanctuary and Tami and Teddie have cleaned up the Sheep Ranch side. Phil continually pulls weeds and keeps the side of the Eastman building a delight. Thank you Volunteers for your continued dedication and hard work!





Welcome our New Staff Person!
Custodian and Temporary
Secretary, Peter Marai -Muro

My name is Peter I'm a new Murphys' resident but I'm originally born and raised in a little country called Hungary, located in Eastern Europe. I'm married to my beautiful wife who will be working for Columbia College. During my free time I enjoy hiking, photography and reading books. I look forward to meeting and serving you. God bless you!

With love from your new friend Peter

Staff Update: Peter is both our custodian and temporary secretary. He brings excellent organizational and computer skills to the office. He will be also attending Columbia College part time.



Update on the Blessing Box—We are once again filling the Blessing Box with food for those in need. If you want to donate food, please make sure you drop it off to Jeri Carson-Hull. We prefer foods that are easily opened. You may leave the food on her front porch.



Taizé (note date change for August)
 ~ A service of quiet, prayers, meditation and song ~
 Come join us Wednesday, August 12th, at 7 PM
 ~ A time to refresh mind and spirit ~
 Live streaming on Facebook

Music Opportunities During COVID

From Dr. Daryl Hollinger

It has been a great joy to continue to have music in our worship services even while we are sheltering in place. Thank you to all who have provided music for us. If you want to sing or play for our worship, please contact me so we can set up a time for recording or tell you how this can be done. I have heard many comments from people stating how much they appreciate the music in our services.



I also wanted to let you know about several opportunities for your musical enrichment. Due to COVID, all these classes are taught on line and so I think it makes it easier for you to attend.

Please consider taking another one of my classes., **They are lots of fun!**

ELEMENTARY MUSICIANSHP CMUS 4A, Section 4240 (Tuesdays and Thursdays -11:20 - 12:45) Zoom Sessions and private coaching.

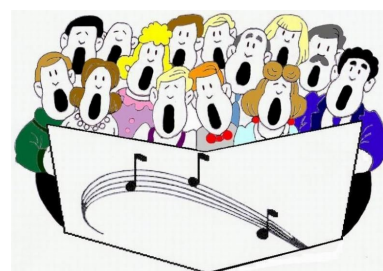
You do not need to have much musical background to take the course. If you want to become a better musician, this course is for you! It will aid you in reading music, playing chords and scales on the piano, and training your ear to recognize musical elements. **It's a great class for choir members!**

ELEMENTARY PIANO—CMUS 31A, Section 4252(Tuesdays and Thursdays 9:40-11:05) Zoom sessions and private coaching.

Did you ever want to learn how to play the piano but just never had time to do it? Maybe you had a little bit of piano in the past, but haven't worked on it for some time. Do you want to perfect your piano skill? Now is a great time to take this virtual piano class. We have weekly zoom sessions and private coaching during the designated class time. It is lots of fun and you can work at your own pace.

The college is purchasing **portable roll-up pianos** for any student who may need one for either of the above classes. A portable keyboard will be on loan to you for the semester. After you register for the course, please just let me know if you need a piano keyboard and I will order one for you.

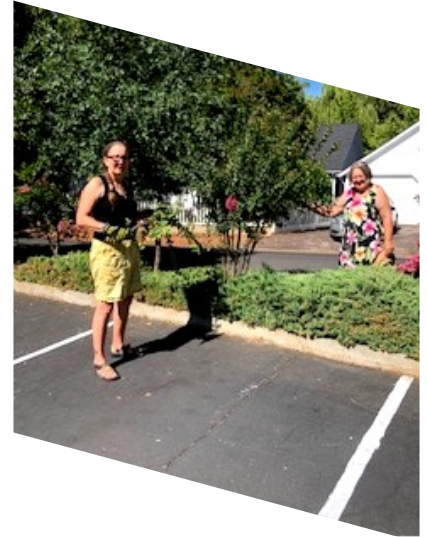
If you have not taken a course at Columbia College recently, you will need to go online and register as a student first, then sign up for the classes. If you have any questions call me and I can help you with it. I hope to see many of you in the class— it will be great to have you!



Adopt a Piece of the Earth!



*Phil Hosmer gave the tree
a much needed trim!*



*Tami, Teddie and
Connie make the
grounds beautiful!*

LGBTQ Youth Group Now Meeting Via ZOOM!



LGBTQ Youth group meeting the 1st and 3rd Tuesday via zoom at 7 p.m.

RSVP with your email address at
CalaverasGSRM@gmail.com or call
(209)352-1828

FCN Thoughts: COVID19, Current Events, and Worry



Raise your hand if sheltering in place, mask wearing, social distancing combined with concerns for your family, your community, your nation, and the world are getting to be a bit too much. Me too! Most of us have been working hard at staying connected while needing to remain physically apart, but are you at peace? Jesus tells us in Matthew 6:27 *“And which of you by worrying will add even one hour to his life?”* A short time later He tells us the key to stop worrying: *“So then, do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself...”* Matthew 6:34. How can we get ourselves to stay in today?

You have likely heard of mindfulness and some of you may be practitioners of this meditation tool while others may consider it to be kind of “woo-woo” and “out there”. The National Institute of Health states, *“Meditation is a mind and body practice that has a long history of use for increasing calmness, physical relaxation, improving psychological balance, coping with illness, and enhancing overall health and well-being.”* Meditation and mindfulness have been described as two sides of the same coin. Mindfulness is the act of focusing on being in the present and can be done during a meditation practice or may also be a way of life.

Learning to focus on the present may be a challenge at first, particularly in a time where learning in a group setting is not possible. However, there are phone applications you may find helpful. The apps “Calm” and “Headspace” are effective, but there is a fee to access all features. A free app I enjoy is “Mindfulness Daily.” It has lessons to listen to, you may set times for reminders to slow your breathing for a few breaths. Even if I am busy with something else, it reminds me to pause and be present—taste the tea I am drinking, listen to the birds and be grateful. There are a multitude of apps and websites available to help you begin your journey to the present. Some are faith-based apps, such as “Hope: Mindfulness and Prayer” or for veterans, “Mindfulness Coach.” Others help with guided-meditation or with anxiety or sleep. Check them out and try them for a few days to see what works best for you. I pray they will lead you to the *“peace that passes understanding”* of Philippians 4:7.

Peace for today,
Diane Hosmer RN MSN IBCLC
Faith Community Nurse
You can contact Diane at her email at dhosmermsn@gmail.com



Emergency Preparedness Committee

The Emergency Preparedness team has continued to work on emergency procedures for the church. We are in the process of preparing instructions for a church emergency action plan. This plan includes information and procedures for dealing with emergencies to keep our church safe. It will include procedures for fire emergencies, wildfires, active shooter, earthquake, and medical emergencies for both the Church Sanctuary and the Eastman House.

We have submitted to the Finance and Facilities Team a list of materials needed to help implement this plan. The F & F Team approved the list of materials which will allow us to purchase first aid kits, AED and CPR training for 10 persons, an AED, 2-way radios for the Eastman House, airhorns, a folding wagon for Eastman House and emergency lanterns. Diane Hosmer, our Faith Community Nurse, is working with Northern California Nevada Conference to see if there is funding or grants to help purchase these materials.

We will keep everyone informed of our process. Hopefully we will have this completed by the time we can meet again in person.



Blessings, Kimberly Pratt, Emergency Preparedness Chair

SIERRA HOPE TRANSITIONAL HOUSE UPDATE

First, thank you all so much for your generosity! Our virtual wish list has been a fantastic success as you can see from the picture. I couldn't fit all of the items in the picture so if you don't see your item, don't worry—I am sure we received it. If you are not aware, the Sierra Hope Transition House is a recently purchased 5 bedroom home in Angels Camp acquired with the intent of it serving as the first 'transition' house where clients of Sierra Hope will be able to stay until they find permanent housing. The Outreach and Social Justice Team of our church has adopted the kitchen to furnish and decorate. As you can see from the photos, we accomplished our commitment!

This update is from Jamie Leigh, Board President of Sierra Hope:

Mid-August - we may try to open to limited occupancy. The bulk of the construction for handicapped accessible bedroom/bathroom and Jack and Jill bathroom constructed between two bedrooms are almost complete. Sheetrock work in these rooms being done now- toilets and sinks need to be installed and carpet reinstalled. Two rooms are fully functional and furnished and property fencing is complete. Sierra Hope will be looking for a part time live in premises house supervisor.

Thank you again, friends, for your generosity.

Jeri Carson-Hull, Member of the Outreach and Social Justice Team and Treasurer of Sierra Hope Board of Directors

Thank you ALL for your Fantastic Donations to our Kitchen Shower! Look what we were able to do!

**Laura Leonard,
Kevin Moore,
Joyce Hauck-
Swanson and
Marilyn Baisel
cleaning the
kitchen.**



**Jeri Carson-Hull, A
Sierra Hope Board
member heads up the
team of volunteers and
the project for our
church.**



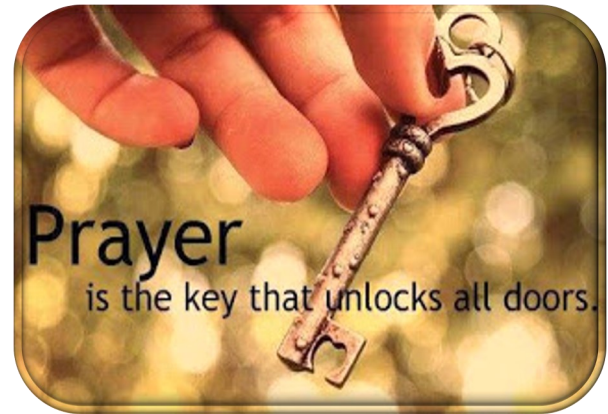
Marilyn Baisel, Joyce Hauck-Swanson, Helen Yost and Jeri Carson-Hull worked on the transition house to get the kitchen ready for residents. They cleaned and put all the kitchen supplies in the cupboards. They were assisted by Aaron, the on-site housing manager. We The kitchen is almost complete and Marilyn and Joyce are taking care of obtaining curtains . There is another room that is under construction but will need to be decorated and supplied. Stay tuned to hear more from the Outreach and Social Justice team about what will be needed.





AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

| | |
|-------------------------|----|
| <i>Gary Carson-Hull</i> | 2 |
| <i>Tami Chesnut</i> | 2 |
| <i>Liz Graham</i> | 7 |
| <i>Patti Hennessee</i> | 7 |
| <i>Teddie Jackson</i> | 7 |
| <i>Teri Olivas</i> | 13 |
| <i>Maria Restivo</i> | 14 |
| <i>Bob Henning</i> | 19 |
| <i>Jerry Patterson</i> | 19 |
| <i>Erin Borean</i> | 20 |
| <i>David Kelly</i> | 28 |
| <i>Barbara Peterson</i> | 31 |



Prayers Answered

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:

All those who are ill

Bobby & Celine Breen & Family

Susan Giannini Chadwick

Jara & Max Clark

Tracey & Kelly Ellefritz

Tara Glessman

Alan & Dodi Horvath

Hilary Oldenkamp

Angela Patterson

John Randlett & Family

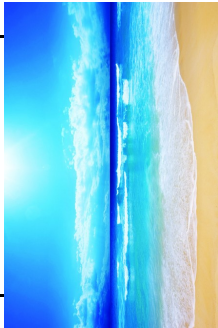
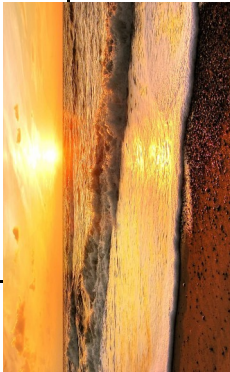
Family of Faith Roberts

Joanie Singleton & Family

Family of Allan Thode

Gail Withuhn

Josephine Zimbe & Family, all of the orphanage children

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|---|--|--|-----------|---|
| AUGUST 2020 |  | All events are virtual, via Zoom or Facebook. | | ** Sunday Worship: Log on to Facebook just before 11 am, find First Congregational UCC Murphys and wait for the service to begin. | | 1 |
| 2 COMMUNION SUNDAY 11:00 am, Worship ** | 3 | 4 | 5 11am Community Chat | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 9 11:00 am, Worship ** | 10 11:00 am, O & SJ Team | 11 | 12 11am Community Chat 2 p.m class on Racism 7:00 TAIZÉ | 13 1:00 Finance & Facilities | 14 | 15 |
| 16 11:00 am, Worship ** 1:00 pm, Council | 17 NUGGET DEADLINE | 18 | 19 11am Community Chat 2 p.m class on Racism | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| 23 11:00 am, Worship ** | 24 | 25 | 26 11am Community Chat 2 p.m class on Racism | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| 30 11:00 am, Worship ** | 31 | | | | |  |

Webpage: www.fccmurfph.org

Email: nugget@fccmurfph.org

Phone: 209.728.3141

AUGUST 2020

DATED MATERIAL—DO NOT DELAY

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Murphys, CA 95247

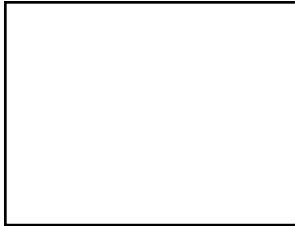
509 N. Algiers Street

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UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

First Congregational Church of Murphys

THE NUGGET



First Congregational United Church of Christ, Murphys



Staff

Pastor
Pastor Emeritus
Music Director
Secretary
Custodian

Rev. Dr. Bonnie Hollinger
Rev. Dr. John Randlett
Dr. Daryl Hollinger
Toni Middleton Young
Peter Marai-Muro

Officers

Moderator
Vice Moderator
Treasurer
Financial Secretary
Clerk

Mandy DeSmidt
Patty Haskell
Sally Elliott
Shad Sundberg
Joe Silva

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 3rd Monday of each month. The Committee reserves the right to edit submissions for length and content.