

First Congregational Church of Murphys
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

THE Nugget

Volume 18 Issue 7

JULY, 2020



SIERRA HOPE

TRANSITIONAL HOUSE



The Outreach and Social Justice Team of our church is so excited to announce that the Transitional Home in Angels Camp is finally getting ready to open! Here is a short explanation of what this home is all about:

Transitional Housing is a supportive, temporary accommodation designed to bridge the gap from homelessness to permanent housing, by offering structure, supervision, support, life skills, education and training to those individuals or families who struggle to maintain permanent housing. You can find out more on the Sierra Hope website, sierrahope.org.

FCCM's O & SJ team is holding a virtual Housewarming shower through Amazon. Some of our team have organized the kitchen with donated items and made a list of what is still needed. Sierra Hope is one of our church's *partners in ministry* and we want to support them in this effort. FCCM has been very involved with Sierra Hope for many years, sponsoring the AIDS Walk (this year changed to Walk of Hope) and the famous Red Dress Party. Sierra Hope is a vital link in our community for those who are vulnerable. One of the critical needs in this community is lack of affordable housing and homelessness. This home is a beginning to answer the call.

Jesus taught us that when we serve others, we serve him. "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me. Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." *Matthew 25:35-40*.

In order to be part of the "kitchen shower" please follow the directions on page 3 of this Nugget issue or go to the FCCM website. (*continued on p. 3*).



We are in the Season of Pentecost and the color is red.



Now is the Time!

Friends, we are on the cusp of something wonderful! Perhaps you did not expect to hear a statement like that when we are in the midst of a pandemic, a revolution calling for racial equality and an economic travesty. Yet I can still proclaim that we are on the cusp of something wonderful!

Why do I say this? NOW IS THE TIME when we the church will grasp the opportunity to answer the call to justice, to end poverty and to protect each other. We have many of the tools we need, the strong desire to seek justice, and the harvest is ready. My colleague Rev. Paul Eyer says, "this is an arduous journey and one that will not be done quickly." That's the hard truth but let us not be daunted by the task and the complexities, and get up and do something now.

"What can I do now?" You can support our partners in ministry today. We have just broken ground on a house for Teri Olivas with Habitat for Humanity. We will need many people to give physical aid in building and cleaning up the construction site. Email or call me today and tell me you can help!

Many times have I dreamed of a solution to homelessness in our county, and *now* we have the possibility right at our door step. The Sierra Hope Transitional House is in Angels Camp and we need workers. You can help by donating to our kitchen shower as described on the front and page 3 in this issue. Don't be afraid to step up and do some physical work! You will wear a mask and be in a safe environment while assisting with tasks. If you can help, email or call me today!

Even though we often provide temporary shelter for the homeless, folks, this is only a tiny Band-Aid. We need to get on board with Sierra Hope and Habitat for Humanity to make housing affordable to everyone. We have at least a half dozen families in our own parish who struggle with finding a place to live within their budget. Wages have not kept up with housing costs and we must be part of the solution. Now is the time! You have plenty of hours to DO something while we are sheltering in place.

We are already helping globally, partnering with the orphanage in Uganda. I will not go into more details here because we highlighted this ministry in the last two issues of the Nugget.

We can help end racism today by checking our attitudes and participating in the work of the UCC in developing strategies for equality. You can start right now by joining our Zoom chat on Wednesday, July 1 at 11 a.m. Rev. Mickey and I will begin a dialogue on opening us up to possibilities for change! On page 4 of this edition, the O & SJ Team has provided some resources for you. Jesus taught us to love one another and learning how to do this will take a lifetime, but we must do it now.

Velda Love, the UCC Minister for Racial Justice, says this: *"The Christian Church is the catalyst for addressing historical and contemporary issues regarding the intersections of race and racism that continues to harm communities of color. The United Church of Christ acknowledges and supports the equality of all humans."*

Restorative justice means celebrating humanity's rich cultures and diverse ethnic backgrounds, traditions, and expressions of faith. Racial justice demands Christians actively, boldly, and without reservation participate in dismantling racism within systems and structures that oppress people, limit equal access, and deny children, women, and men their civil and human rights."

Beloved, NOW IS THE TIME to stand up and be the church of Jesus Christ. Let us go forth with joy, knowing God is with us in all things.

Eager to journey with you, Pastor Bonnie

God has not given us a spirit of fear, but the spirit of power, of courage and resolution, to meet difficulties and dangers; the spirit of love which will carry us through opposition." 2 Timothy 1:7

SACRED CONVERSATIONS
TO END RACISM



Our Moderator Mandy DeSmidt Catches Us Up on Life in our Parish

Well here we are again, still separated and yet connected in our faith and commitment to being “The Church.” When this edition of the Nugget is published, we will have held our Annual Congregational Meeting via Zoom, elected our slate of leaders for the next program year and witnessed the amazing commitment of this church to do God’s work even during this time of distancing.

I commend you all for your individual responses to the myriad of crises we have encountered since the “shelter in place” order. Your responses through social media, your physical actions, and sharing your resources has made a difference for so many. We may never really know the number of people moved to action because God called us to speak up and financially support justice in our congregation, community, nation, and world.



Despite the tragic loss of Moses Zimbe, life goes on at the orphanage in Uganda. Children are being educated and fed, communication has improved and there is a growing optimism for the future. Our members are supporting Sierra Hope with labor and funds so that completion of the Transitional Housing Facility in Angels Camp will happen sooner than later. Not only will Sierra Hope be sheltering some of our community’s most vulnerable homeless, but there will be services available to assist residents in dealing with specific needs, finding a job, and becoming independent and self-sufficient. Habitat for Humanity has broken ground on a house in Copperopolis, awarded to one of our own, Teri Olivas. As her friends and family, we are called to help with “sweat equity” and support as needed.

Many of our congregation are concerned and speaking out about the violence and injustice of systemic racism in our country. As a church, we will continue to address white privilege and speak out against violence in any form. Watch for more information on this as group chats and studies on the subject are made available.

God bless you all for your continued endurance of the lonely and restrictive life we now live, for loving and supporting one another with phone calls, notes, and cards, and by wearing masks in public. Thank you for living your faith by feeding the hungry, caring for the sick and encouraging justice for all.

May the Peace of Christ be with you,
Mandy

Sierra Hope Shower, continued from front page.....

You can order items directly for Sierra Hope Transitional Housing through Amazon and they will keep track of what has been purchased. If it is easier for you, call me, Jeri Carson-Hull (209-768-1839). Let me know what you would like to purchase, and I can do it for you. (I get free shipping through Amazon Prime). Another option is to donate money for us to order something on your behalf. Whichever option you choose, the Amazon items can be shipped directly to my home. If you choose to have it delivered to your home, please make arrangements with me to deliver it to me at 222 Cottage Circle, Murphys, 95247, and I will deliver it to the Transitional House. There will be a time very soon when Sierra Hope will have an open house and you can visit.

Jeri Carson-Hull, Outreach and Social Justice Team

Please click on the link:

https://smile.amazon.com/gp/registry/giftlist/2IW61WJ6UM57P/ref=cm_gl_huc_view

Racial Justice – Topic of Concern

We at FCCM share values in common: love, caring, peace, justice, equality, and inclusiveness. These values are based upon our Christian faith. The challenge is how we apply our values in our daily lives. At this time of social unrest related to the issue of racial justice, we seek to find ways to align our values with our actions. Prayer, educating ourselves on the issues, being open to different perspectives, and spending time in contemplation, all contribute to the responses we choose to make. How does this affect our conversations with family and friends, our discussions in the church community, and our actions in the broader community? God is still speaking. Are we listening?

The Outreach and Social Justice Team encourages you to visit the United Church of Christ website at www.ucc.org/justice. Here you will find a wealth of information on justice. Under “Advocate for Justice,” you may select “Racial Justice.” Note the section on Publications and Resources, and don’t miss the podcast, “For a Just World.”

UNITED
in Christ’s love,
a JUST world for all.



United Church of Christ Justice and Local Church Ministries

www.ucc.org/justice_racism

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE DISMANTLES RACISM

RACIAL JUSTICE
RESOURCES

FAITH-INSPIRED
ACTIVISM & ADVOCACY

RESTORATIVE
THEOLOGICAL PRACTICES

*Sacred Conversations
to End Racism
Restorative Justice Study Guide*

Equips congregations to:

- ◆ Learn the historical and contemporary impact of racism on Church and society
- ◆ Uncover and correct myths of white skin superiority
 - ◆ Develop strategies to dismantle structural systemic, institutional, and individual racism

- ◆ Mobilize congregations for nonviolent direct social actions
- ◆ Organize with community partners to disrupt institutions with unjust policies and practices
- ◆ Create opportunities for dialogues where young adults and Millennials congregate

- ◆ Include Culture-Centered Biblical Teaching
- ◆ Preach Resistance, Inclusive Identities, and Justice for All
- ◆ Integrate African descendant, Womanist, Latinx and global theologies of Liberation

RESTORE GOD’S JUSTICE



Join our FCCM Zoom Community Chat on Wednesday, July 1, at 11:00 a.m., for a discussion on racism, hosted by Rev. Mickey Williamson and Pastor Bonnie. A link to Zoom will be emailed to you Tuesday.

Treasurer's Report - July, 2020

Hello all, I am pleased to report that so far this year we are doing pretty well on the financial side. Through May 31, 2020, we are ahead of budget for both Pledge and Non-Pledge Income. This is great news considering that we are behind in both plate offerings and fundraisers since we are unable to hold in-person church services and events. It seems that our virtual worship services online are helping to maintain the steady income flow vital to our church's financial health. Thanks so much to all who continue to give during such troubling times.

Just a quick note on the status of our CARES Act Payroll Protection Loan: as many of you may know, Congress passed new legislation on June 5th which adds more flexibility to the terms and conditions of getting our loan "forgiven" and turned into a grant. I am currently working on providing the necessary documents to apply for loan forgiveness. I will keep you posted on our progress over the coming months. In the meantime, stay healthy and thankful for our supportive church family.

All the best, Sally Elliott, Treasurer



Our Beloved Faith Roberts Passed Away on June 9, 2020

Faith Roberts was a bright light among us. As you step into the social hall, above the door you will see a plaque that says, "Walk with Faith." This sign has a double meaning. Faith proposed that Women's Fellowship help fund the costs to install the automatic doors. She wrote a letter to the Finance and Facilities Team outlining all the reasons it was necessary. As usual, she was very convincing.

Her name is quite appropriate as she was faithful in her love of God, her family, her church and her neighbors, all of her life. In her last days on earth, Faith said over and over again to Pastor Bonnie, "I always wanted to help people in my life." She surely did just that.

Her joy was evident and she was an avid singer. In her younger years she performed with a band and sang in many places. We will surely miss this amazing woman!



One of Faith's favorite songs was Amazing Grace. Here are the words she sang in her last days:

***When we've been there ten thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we'd first begun.***



Adopt a Piece of the Earth!

If you have driven by the church campus lately, you probably noticed Connie Cook hard at work creating a beautiful garden on the Algiers Street side of the FCCM property. She is doing this in memory of Allan Thode.

Connie had the great idea that perhaps other members of the congregation would like to adopt an area of our campus and be responsible for its upkeep. Currently we do not have a paid staff person to take care of the landscaping needs. There are at least twelve areas that need to be “adopted.”



You can choose to take on an area yourself or get a couple of people to work with you. The process is easy. Call the church office and obtain the form showing the different areas. The form will list all the details and guidelines to be part of this “Adopt the Earth” project.

Read the guidelines for the project to make sure you can fulfill the duties, and then fill out your vision of how you plan to take care of the area or upgrade it. This will be presented to the Finance & Facilities Team and they will get back to you with approval and/or suggestions. If there is cost involved in the upkeep, you can get

approval for purchases by submitting a form to the office.



Connie has incredible gardening skills and in addition to helping many of our parishioners with their own yards, she made the beautiful box, above left, and totally revived the soil. She has also made the current irrigation system more effective!

Not all of the areas need this much work, but will need upkeep such as weeding, trimming and general cleaning. You could commit to six months or longer for a specific area. During our sheltering in place, it is a good time to do projects like this — you can work in a safe place with social distancing.

Come celebrate the earth by volunteering! You can email the church office if you would like the information packet sent to you.





Above, the Olivas family: in front, Teri, then Emma, and behind them, Ian and Hiro

June 27th Groundbreaking at Habitat for Humanity House for Teri Olivas and Family Is a Blessing!

On Saturday, June 27th, even though it was hot in Copperopolis, Teri, Ian and Hiro Olivas gathered with friends, family and Habitat for Humanity volunteers to break ground on their new home. The view is incredible and excitement was everywhere as we celebrated the beginning of a new chapter in their lives. "I have never owned a home," said Teri, "I am thrilled to be able to do this!" Over a dozen members of the FCCM congregation attended and Pastor Bonnie offered a blessing and words of hope. It will take many hours to complete the house and volunteers are needed. If you would like to participate in any way, please email Pastor Bonnie.



Left, Teri breaks ground first, with Ian, Hiro and Habitat President Todd Peterson looking on.



Then it was Ian's turn...



...and left, Hiro gets his chance, his first contribution of the "sweat equity" required of all Habitat home recipients.

A joyous time for the Olivas family!

Below, Todd Peterson, Habitat president, speaks to those gathered to see the Olivas home site dedicated.





Worship Continues Through Technology

This summer we will continue to worship and gather through the use of technology. Your leadership team is always assessing what is the best way to “be the church” during this pandemic. Only when we can assure the physical safety of everyone, will we return to worshipping in person.

We are working diligently to discover methods that enable most people to participate. We are integrating more applications so you can use Facebook and YouTube. This means that the services are not done in real time. While we know that some of you prefer it be live, it is a way we can have more accessibility to more people. Pastor Bonnie is

working hard on technology for our current sound and video systems, to see how we might be able to live stream again. There are many pieces to this process and it is quite complex.

In the meantime, we are happy to hear from many of you about how you are engaging in worship with us. We are also able to reach people who would not normally attend our services in person. We thank Liz and Matt Graham especially, for their time and commitment to lead worship. Matt is the guru behind the technology. Thank you to the soloists who are providing music, even from your own homes. This summer we are seeing a variety of people offering their gifts in this way.

To stay in tune with the rest of the parish community, do join us every Wednesday at 11 a.m. for a Zoom chat session. You can access this by phone as well as computers.

Let’s remember the “good ole days” of Sunday in church and lift our voices in praise wherever we are!

*Let everything that has breath
praise the Lord.
Praise the Lord. Psalm 150:6*



Taizé

~ A service of quiet, prayers, meditation and song ~

Come join us Wednesday, July 1st, at 7 PM

~ A time to refresh mind and spirit ~

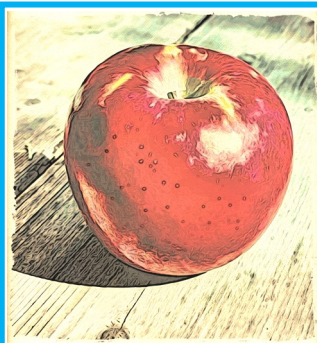
streaming on Facebook



Vee Domazlicky to Retire on July 24

Our Administrative Assistant, Vee, is ready to take some time to be at home with her husband Gary, who retired at the end of 2019. She is retiring on July 24. Vee's cheery disposition has enriched our lives and she has been a dedicated employee, offering much to our parish. We will miss her very much. She has been with us for over six and a half years and she has embraced the growth in our parish. We are planning a virtual celebration on July 22 and will email you more details soon. It's a tough time to say goodbye during COVID because we can't do it in person, but I have a sneaking suspicion that she will be back to visit in the future! Here are a few words from Vee:

From the moment I walked in the door at FCCM, I had never been made to feel so very welcome anywhere as I have been made to feel here. From our dear late Barbara Hurlbut and sidekick Joanie Singleton stopping in to say hello daily, soon volunteering to help here in the office, to George Glessman always asking if I needed anything and responding at a moment's notice, and so many, many other folks, what a joy it has been! People say, "Travel, don't wait", but we were fortunate to take a long-in-the-planning special dream trip to Hawaii earlier this year, arriving back home just before everything shut down (whew!). God willing, we will do that again, but during my recent week off, I discovered how much I like just being home — it was the first time on a vacation I had ever done that — and having lots of time with Gary. Unstructured time is such freedom, even if it's just doing chores! I had first worked as an x-ray developer (back when it was done by hand, y'all), and progressed over the years into the legal field, then imports, then...oh golly, it's been a lot of years in the workplace, and it's time turn off the alarm and sleep past 5:15 am if I feel like it. I will surely miss everyone here, no one more than Pastor Bonnie, who has taught me everything I ever needed to know about generosity, kindness and compassion. Arnold is not far and as noted above, it's likely you will see me "on campus" again. God bless everyone, stay safe and well!



FCN Thoughts: What does a Faith Community Nurse do?

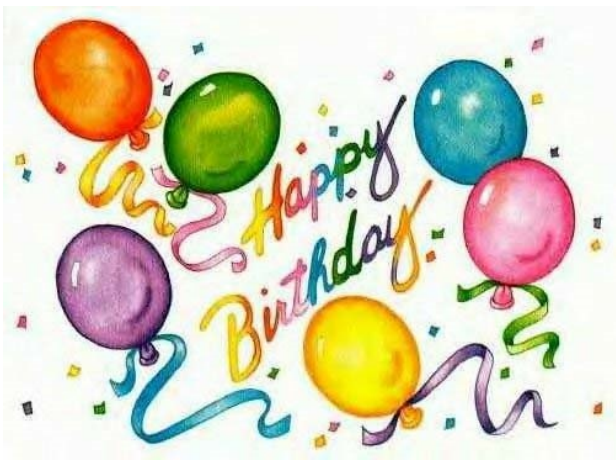
Several people have asked me about the role of the Faith Community Nurse (FCN). Briefly, the FCN is a Registered Nurse who protects, promotes, and enhances health and wellness in the faith community, intentionally focusing on spiritual care. Wellness includes the physical, mental, social, environmental, and spiritual sides of our lives — emphasizing wholeness rather than cure. The FCN does not take the place of your health care provider or home care, but works alongside you to assist you in getting the care you need, supporting you in the process. The official description includes:

- **Integrator of Faith and Health** — Helping you understand how your spiritual life can affect your physical and mental health, and vice versa
- **Personal Health Counselor** — Assisting you in your personal health goals
- **Health Educator** — Providing you with information on health topics; understanding a diagnosis or provider's recommendations or orders; setting up educational workshops
- **Trainer of Volunteers** — Collaborating with Parish Care and Health + Wellness Team
- **Developer of Support Groups** — Initiate support groups you need
- **Referral Coordinator** — Working with you to find the services you need for health and wellness; consulting with congregational teams
- **Health Advocate** — Supporting you to make health and wellness decisions

We will be sending out a Health + Wellness Needs Survey to establish our priorities. I look forward to working together with you in becoming our best selves! Diane Hosmer, Faith Community Nurse.

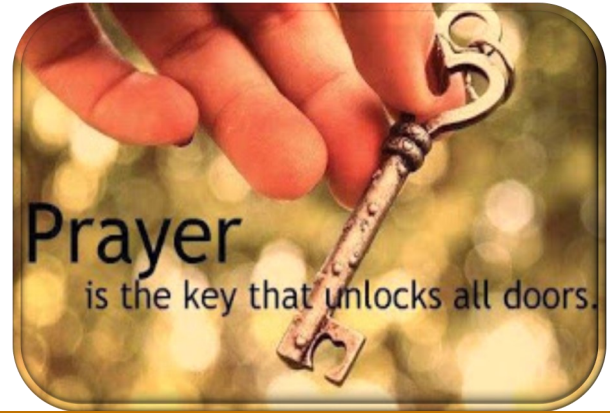
You can contact Diane at her email at dhosmersn@gmail.com





JULY BIRTHDAYS

<i>Jeff Chadwick</i>	2
<i>Faye Morrison</i>	2
<i>Wendy Glessman</i>	8
<i>Teglene Ryan</i>	12
<i>Lynne Klein</i>	15
<i>Wendy Black</i>	18
<i>Celine Breen</i>	18
<i>Edna Robbers</i>	20
<i>Valerie Shinn</i>	24
<i>Mandy DeSmidt</i>	26
<i>Karl Graves</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 in your prayers:

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
<p>JULY 2020</p> 		<p>All events are virtual, via Zoom or Facebook.</p>	<p>1 11:00 am, Community Chat with Pastor Bonnie</p> <p>7:00 pm, Taize</p>	<p>2 4:00 pm, Safety & Security Committee</p>	<p>3 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED IN OBSERVANCE OF INDEPENDENCE DAY</p>	<p>4 INDEPENDENCE DAY</p>
<p>5 COMMUNION SUNDAY</p> <p>Sunday Worship: Log on to Facebook just before 11 am, find First Congregational UCC Murphys and wait for the service to begin.</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8 11:00 am, Community Chat with Pastor Bonnie</p>	<p>9 1:00 pm. Finance & Facilities Team</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p>
<p>12 NEXT RECYCLE DROP-OFF TO BE ANNOUNCED</p> <p>11:00 am, WORSHIP, streaming online on Facebook</p>	<p>13 11:00 am, Outreach & Social Justice Team</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15 11:00 am, Community Chat with Pastor Bonnie</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17 NUGGET DEADLINE</p>	<p>18</p>
<p>19 11:00 am, WORSHIP, streaming online on Facebook</p> <p>1:00 pm COUNCIL</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22 11:00 am, Retirement Celebration for Vee</p> 	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>
<p>26 11:00 am, WORSHIP, streaming online on Facebook</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29 11:00 am, Community Chat with Pastor Bonnie</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>	

Webpage: www.fcsmurph.org

Email: nugget@fcsmurph.org

Phone: 209.728.3141

JULY 2020

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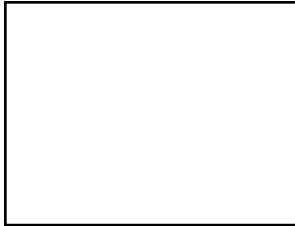
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UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

First Congregational Church of Murphys

THE NUGGET



First Congregational United Church of Christ, Murphys



Staff

Pastor
Pastor Emeritus
Music Director
Administrative Assistant
Custodian

Rev. Dr. Bonnie Hollinger
Rev. Dr. John Randlett
Dr. Daryl Hollinger
Vee Domazlicky
George Glessman

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.