

First Congregational Church of Murphys
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



THE Nugget

Volume 18 Issue 2

FEBRUARY 2020

We are in the season of Epiphany, the color is green..



A chocolate fountain
and wine tasting too!



Heavenly Chocolate Festival

Saturday, February 8th, 1 to 4 PM

*All you can eat for only \$12. Wine pairing and
wine by the glass also available for \$5.*



My dearly beloved parish, as I write to you I am grieving the sudden death of my sister in law, Pat Jordan. She and my brother were together for forty-six years and he is understandably distraught. Our lives are fragile, and we never know what is facing us today.

We plan, we work, we sleep, we play and often we don't give the day a thought, other than how to get through it. As many of you know, death can come suddenly and knock us down, as if a great wave of the ocean has just beat us upon the shore.

In times like these, there are no words really – only hope and trust in God. As I grieve with my brother Ricky and my family, I am reminded that we are in Epiphany. The song we keep singing each Sunday in church, fills me tenderly with the Holy Spirit. *The Lord is my light, My light and salvation, In God I trust, In God I trust.* I sing it over and over allowing its comfort to

rain down on me.

I pray that you too will turn to God in the dark times, when it seems as if all is a tempest around and within. Let us remember that God is the light. *Weeping and wailing, but hoping in God,*
Pastor Bonnie



The Lenten Season Begins with Ash Wednesday on February 26

It's hard to believe that the Lenten Season is almost here. It's hard to think of ending our bright Epiphany Season of Light, but the journey with Jesus takes us on all sorts of paths. Plan ahead and mark your calendars now. We hope that all of you will participate in this Holy Season and see how God might be speaking to you!

February 26, Ash Wednesday services — 12 noon at Faith Lutheran Church and 7:00 p.m. at First Congregational UCC.

Tuesday, March 3, at 5:15 p.m.—Tami Chesnut and Teddie Jackson's niece, Erin Stephens, will talk about her experiences juggling around the world, giving her an opportunity to interact with people of many different cultures. See page 5 of this issue for more details. **Outreach and Social Justice Team is the host** for the evening and will provide the soup.

Tuesday, March 10 - Christian Enrichment Team is the host. The theme is *Living Authentically: Finding Respite in a World of Chaos*. That evening will include practice meditating with song and scripture, led by Pastor Bonnie and Dr. Daryl.

Tuesday, March 17—Worship Team is the host. As we continue our theme, we will use ideas from Bruce Epperly's book, *The Power of Affirmative Faith*. Amid the challenges of contemporary life, many people are looking for a spirituality that works in today's world. The topic for that evening is: *God's Lively Providence*.

Tuesday, March 24—Parish Care & Membership & Calling Teams are the hosts. Continuing with Dr. Epperly's book, the topic is *The Spirit and the Forms of Love*.

Tuesday, March 31—Finance and Facility Team is the host. *Healing and Wholeness in Life and Death* is the theme for this night.

Note: All Lenten Soup Suppers this year begin at 5:15 pm.

DARK CHOCOLATE AND "GOOD GRIEF"

YOLANDA on a trip to Alaska, 2004, dark chocolate dipped ice cream



Rev. John shares the journey of grief with us in this little article as he relates his ongoing work of putting together photos from Yolanda's life. Below they are both featured in the celebration of the baby shower for Jedidiah Mann.



Like quality dark chocolate grief has this bitter-sweet quality that remains on the palette after the initial intense "taste." Part of my grief work after the loss of my beloved Yolanda, wife and companion of 56 years, has been the collection of photos and videos for a personal "memory book." Amid the "eyeball sweating" bitterness of loss is the sweetness of attached joy as she is "re-membered" and filed away in the "heart light" of prayerful gratitude for life gracefully lived, together. Of course there is a lesson here: live fully in the moment, rejoicing in those relationships filled with the sweetness of life and love. Receive the blessing, taste the goodness, for after the pain and death, this is the eternal "re-remembering" that lies at the heart of His instruction to "do this, and remember me"; the hope-filled communion that makes grief "GOOD."

Rev. John



Taizé

Wednesday, February 5th at 7:00 PM

**Come for an evening of quiet meditation,
with prayers and music, silence and song.**

***Thank you, Revs. Mickey and Penny,
for the scripture and sermon reminding us of the light;
ours and God's.***

Spirituality is the pursuit of the God you didn't make up.



We Build Sacred Community

Moderator's Musings



It's a New Year and have we got NEWS!

- ◆ There are lots of NEW faces and prospective members in the pews these days. Have you noticed? Have you introduced yourself?
- ◆ A NEW part-time position is open in Christian Enrichment for a coordinator. Know any non-church member who would make a qualified candidate? We could use your recommendation.
- ◆ We have a NEW Faith Community Nurse, Diane Hosmer, and will soon appoint a NEW Health and Wellness Team.
- ◆ The NEW Stewardship Team has been appointed: the members are Carrie Shinn, Helen Yost, Barbara Olivier and Kylee Luchetti, who will serve until elections in June.
- ◆ Coming soon from the ad hoc committees, NEW plans for safety and emergency preparedness and a NEW list prioritizing campus repairs and facility usage for Finance and Facilities.
- ◆ Watch for the NEW church photo directory. I hope you all had your photos taken. Photographer, Gabe Mann is very talented and generous.
- ◆ Your elected leaders, teams and committees are making things happen with cooperation, commitment and NEW ideas.

We celebrate your gifts of time and talents this month and you should be contacted by folks who can help you get more involved. If not, let me know. Please, stay "in the know" and "keep up" with all our exciting NEWS. Attend church, read the weekly emails and enjoy this monthly newsletter.

Happy NEW Year, Mandy

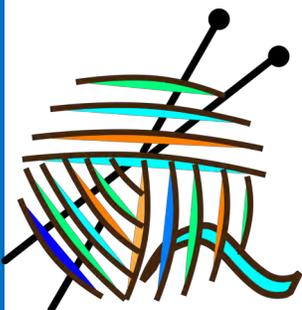
Attention Quilters!

Quilters will be meeting on

Wednesday, February 12th, 9:00 am to 11:15

Saturday, February 29th, 10:00 am - 1:00 pm

Eastman Building



Knitters & Hookers

Get your crochet hooks and knitting needles ready!

Join us at Liz Tussey's house on **Thursday, February 20th**, 11:00 to 1:00. Bring a sack lunch, your needles, crochet hooks, and your latest projects.

NEWS FROM OUTREACH AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

“JUGGLING FOR GOODWILL AROUND THE WORLD”

The Outreach and Social Justice Team will host the year's first **Lenten Soup Supper, on March 3rd at 5:15**. Tami Chesnut and Teddie Jackson's niece Erin Stephens will talk about her experiences juggling around the world, giving her an opportunity to interact with people of many different cultures. Through this experience she has been applying the positive values she developed in our church to spread goodwill, especially in developing countries. Please join us for an interesting talk with a Q & A to follow. Please come to dinner and prepare to be inspired!

Upcoming:

- **The 50th Anniversary of Earth Day Celebration will be held on Sunday, April 19, at Uttica Park in Angels Camp.** Looking for volunteers to help. Contact Tami Chesnut.
- **On Friday evening, May 8th, we are planning an African Dinner.** It will be a fundraiser for the Uganda Orphanage and will be a community-wide event. Volunteers will be needed to help with this big event.
- **Homelessness in our local communities is a big issue.** FCCM will be working cooperatively with Sierra Hope to learn more about what is being done and how as a church we may contribute to these efforts. More information will follow.

The Green Team encourages you to sign up for the UCC Environmental / Creation Justice newsletter called The Pollinator. Go to www.ucc.org/pollinator.

Reminder: The role of the Outreach and Social Justice Team, including the Green Team, is to organize activities that put the church's faith into action, supporting humanity and protecting our precious Earth. We value the participation of the whole church in these activities. Thank you! All are welcome to attend our meetings.



Going Green with Our Lenten Devotional!

The Worship Team is excited to announce that our Lenten Devotional Series for 2020 is “going green.” Our own Pastor Bonnie will be offering a podcast every Monday through Friday during Lent. You will be able to access it by going to YouTube. This way you can hear it at your convenience on your phone, iPad or computer.

If you still want a paper devotional, we will have a collection of Lenten booklets from past years and they will be in the social hall.

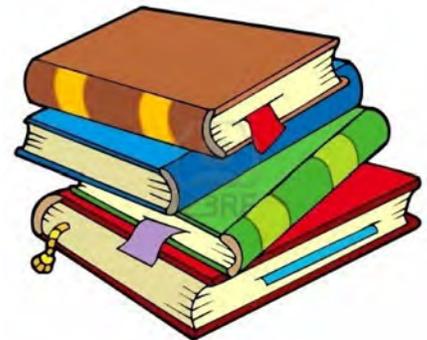
You might also invite your friends to view the podcast. This could be a great way to introduce them to our caring parish and the journey of Jesus!

We Study and Grow Together

Book Study

The Book Study group is concluding their study of Karen Armstrong's Book *Twelve Steps to a Compassionate Life* with a pot-luck luncheon featuring dishes from the countries we have studied. The group has suggested that we explore other writers who are looking at compassion in stories of our faith and others. Some suggested titles are:

- *The Book of Joy, Lasting Harmony in a Changing World* – Dalai Lama & Desmond Tutu
- *Beyond Religion: Ethics for a Whole World* – Dalai Lama & Alexander Norman
- *The Gift of the Jews* – Thomas Costain
- *The Radical King* – Martin Luther King, Jr.
- *The World of Gandhi* – Richard Attenborough
- *The Art of Communicating* – Thich Nhat Hanh
- *A Hidden Wholeness* – Parker Palmer



Other Suggestions are welcome. Please email Liz Tussey (leetussey@gmail.com) or Marilyn Baisel (mbaisel@gmail.com)

Small Groups



This year FCCM's small groups are studying Paul's letters to the Corinthians in the New Testament. Paul's advice to the struggling new congregation in the busy seaport of Corinth has much to say to us in this busy and conflicted world of today. Included in these letters is the famous passage on Love in 1st Corinthians 13, in which he encourages his flock to live godly lives and care for one another as the Body of Christ. Interested? Find out how to join a group — call the office.

Recycle Sunday, February 9th

Plastic water bottles, glass containers with CA CRV or CA CASH printed on them and aluminum cans can all be recycled for cash. Please be sure all your cans and bottles are empty and the caps or lids are off. Men's Fellowship reports that folks are doing a better job of sorting what they are turning in — keep up the good work!

Many thanks!



Family Program

Children and parents are all invited to join the Family Program which meets the 1st & 3rd Tuesdays of the month at 5:30 pm, in the FCCM Social Hall. A family dinner is served, followed by supervised playtime for the children and a special session for parents only. On the first Tuesday, parents meet with Pastor Bonnie and on the third Tuesday, the adults have their own "Small Group" with the same discussion guidelines on Bible passages as the rest of the congregation. Both evenings offer opportunities to get better acquainted in an informal setting.

Volunteers to help set up, prepare food and clean up for these evenings **are always welcome**. Call Laura Argento at 659-255-4454 if you'd like to help out with this very worthwhile program on some first or third Tuesday evening



Resource Connection Sunday—February 9th

Let's bring our bags of canned goods and staple goods, and our checks, as we continue our support in our county of The Resource Connection and the good work that they do.



Also, remember to include easy-opening cans and other food items for our **Blessing Cupboard**. It is being used a lot. Pre-packaged fruit, vegetables, and main dish items all are needed.



We Reach Out to the Community and Beyond

AMERICAN ROOTS WITH EUROPEAN PASSION

Beppe Gambetta, guitar & vocals, returning to Murphys!

Sunday, February 9th at 6:00 PM



The concert to be offered at FCCM in his 3rd performance here is an intriguing journey through the multifaceted artistic world of Beppe Gambetta, a synthesis of the itineraries of his life, spent between his birthplace of Genova, Italy; Europe and the United States, where he currently resides. Beppe is a renowned guitarist but also a singer, composer, researcher who loves to tell stories about his journeys with a peculiar sense of humor and irony. Beppe shows in his performances a new and unique approach to flat-picking the acoustic guitar, a style that he developed in a career of forty years of travelling, meeting with masters of many cultures, researching old forgotten traditions, and performing for audiences on different continents. Starting from the early studies of his American mentor Doc Watson, Beppe brought his flatpicking approach to a more modern development of guitar style, based on complex strumming, cross picking and the use of open tunings. The program will focus on new, original compositions inspired by many traditions, as well as revival pieces from his main projects of research on European and American music. Part of the concert will be dedicated to songs and ballads in different languages, spiced up with new acoustic guitar arrangements. Beppe will also tell about the great inspiration he got from the encounters with folk icon Pete Seeger and the legendary Italian songwriter Fabrizio De Andre', his travelling and studies in mysterious places like the wild areas of Sardinia Island, the musical contribution of European emigrants to the American cultural Melting Pot, and the joy of continuing to write in modern times, new dance melodies and romantic serenades.

Suggested donation \$20.

NEW MEMBER CLASS TO BE HELD ON SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23

We are excited to welcome all the new folks in our FCCM parish. We will have another informational class on Sunday, February 23, following worship. Lunch will be served by the Membership and Calling Team. We do need volunteers to help set up, wash dishes, and clean up. If you can help, please call the office.

In this session we will talk about the Teams and Committees of our parish and how we work together. These events always include an activity to help us get to know each other, a question and answer time, and lots of fun and education.



Uganda Orphanage

The five secondary school students we are supporting in Uganda completed their first three terms and began their second year in January. Many thanks to those who are sponsoring them. Note that due to changes in exchange rate, the cost is now about \$66/month or \$264/term per student. More sponsors are needed. One doesn't need to commit to the entire amount for a student. Any gift marked "scholarship" will go to help these young people get the education that enhances their chances for a good life.



John Kasibante

Many have inquired about Moses's health. He had what the surgeon told him was successful surgery for removal of colon cancer and is slowly healing and regaining strength. He will learn about any follow up treatment at his next appointment at the end of February. Please add your prayers for complete healing.



Shakila Nambalilwa



Sofia Nabisaalu



Ronald Kasuija

In part because Moses hasn't been able to work, he is anticipating a poor harvest for the current maize crop, and there may be some food shortages in the upcoming months. **Your contributions to the Uganda fund will help with this and the many ongoing needs at the orphanage.** *Thank you!*



Frank Nakibinge



Taizé Services Will Continue for Now!

The Worship Team reported that there was a little better attendance at the January Taizé service, so for now we will continue to offer this great worship time. We do hope though that many more of you will plan to come to this candlelight service of praise, prayer, silence and music. In days of frustration and sorrow, this forty minutes will renew you as you

spend time in the Light of Christ. Come be refreshed in the Spirit! The next service is on Wednesday, February 5, at 7:00 p.m.

Let us Pray:

*for Anastasia, Tristan and Jonas Beil as they grieve the death of Anastasia's grandmother.

*for Pastor Bonnie and her family as they mourn the death of her sister in law, Pat Jordan.





FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

<i>Angela Patterson</i>	9
<i>Paula Smith</i>	11
<i>Tracey Ellifritz</i>	12
<i>Carol Dougherty</i>	14
<i>Shad Sundberg</i>	16
<i>Monika Riedel</i>	18
<i>Vena Graves</i>	19
<i>Chelsea Page</i>	19
<i>Colleen Silva</i>	21
<i>Hilary Oldenkamp</i>	28
<i>Joanie Singleton</i>	28



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

Recently we have witnessed the stories of how God has answered our prayers! God hears our cries and answers them. Let us pray daily for the following members or friends of our community in your prayers:

Bobby Celine Breen and Family
 Nancy Burton and Family
 Susan Giannini Chadwick
 Jara and Max Clark
 Susana Crow
 Tracey and Kelly Ellefritz
 Tara Glessman
 Del Harris
 Patti Hennessee
 Alan and Dodi Horvath
 The Family of Barbara Hurlbut
 Caity Johnson
 Hilary Oldenkamp
 Angela Patterson
 John Randlett and Family
 Meg Self
 Joanie Singleton and Family
 Becky Smith
 Gail Withuhn
 Moses Zimbe



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>FEBRUARY 2020</p>						<p>1</p> <p><i>Below: February 8, 1-4 pm Heavenly Chocolate Festival</i></p>
<p>2 COMMUNION SUNDAY 9:00 am Bible Study 9:00 am, Choir 10:00 Worship 10:15 Sunday School</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p> <p>5:30 Family Program/ Social Hall, EEC, Fisk 7:00 LGBTQ YS Group/ EEC</p>	<p>5</p> <p>5:00 pm, Bell Choir 7:00 TAIZÉ</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p> 
<p>9 RESOURCE CONNECTION & RECYCLE SUNDAY 9:00 am Bible Study 9:00 am, Choir 10:00 Worship 10:15 Sunday School 6 pm, Beppe Gambetta Concert</p>	<p>10</p> <p>11:00 am, O & SJ Tm/EEC</p>	<p>11</p> <p>8:00 am, Men's Fellowship/EEC 10:30 Membership & Calling/EEC</p>	<p>12</p> <p>9:00 am, Quilters/EEC 5:00 Bell Choir 6:00, Vocal Choir</p>	<p>13</p> <p>8:30 WIC/Social Hall 1:00 Finance & Facilities/EEC</p>	<p>14</p> 	<p>15</p>
<p>16</p> <p>9:00 am Bible Study 9:00 am, Choir 10:00 Worship; 10:15 Sunday School 11:45, COUNCIL/EEC</p>	<p>17</p> <p><u>NUGGET DEADLINE</u> President's Day holiday, church office closed.</p>	<p>18</p> <p>5:30 Family Program & Small Groups/Soc Hall, EEC, Fisk 7:00 LGBTQ YS Group/EEC</p>	<p>19</p> <p>10:00 Worship Team/Social Hall 5:00 Bell Choir 6:00, Vocal Choir</p>	<p>20</p> <p>11:00, Knitters & Hookers/ Liz Tussey's</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>
<p>23</p> <p>9:00 am Bible Study 9:00 am, Choir 10:00 Worship 10:15 Sunday School NEW MEMBERS CLASS</p>	<p>24</p> <p>11:00 am, Green Team/EEC</p>	<p>25</p> <p>8:00 am Men's Fellowship/EEC</p>	<p>26</p> <p><i>Ash Wednesday</i> 9:00 am, Quilters/EEC 10:30 Parish Care Noon, Service at Faith Lutheran 7:00 pm, Ash Wednesday Service at FCCM</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p> <p>10:00 am-1:00 pm, Quilters/EEC</p>

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FEBRUARY, 2020

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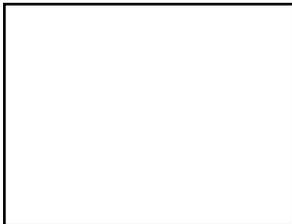
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UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

First Congregational Church of Murphys

THE NUGGET



www.ucc.org

First Congregational Church of Murphys

United Church of Christ

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Pastor Emeritus	Rev. Dr. John Randlett
Music Director	Dr. Daryl Hollinger
Administrative Assistant	Vee Domazlicky
Custodian	George Glessman

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Vice Moderator	Patty Haskell
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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.