

First Congregational Church of Murphys
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

THE Nugget

Volume 18 Issue 3

MARCH 2020



Ash Wednesday began the season of Lent. The color is purple.



Lenten Schedule

February 26th **Ash Wednesday**, Services with
Imposition of Ashes

Noon Service at Faith Lutheran Church

7p.m. Service at First Congregational UCC



Lenten Soup Suppers begin on Tuesday, March 3rd at 5:30PM and continue every Tuesday throughout Lent. The first one will feature Erin Stephens as our guest speaker. She will share her experiences traveling throughout the world, teaching and performing her exceptional juggling talents. (see page 7)

Holy Week begins on Palm Sunday, April 5th

Maundy Thursday, April 9th—Holy Supper
Dinner with the Disciples



Irish Day Pancake Breakfast

Saturday, March 21st at 8:00AM –
10:30AM

Eat in or Take Out:

Pancakes, Ham, Eggs, Juice & Coffee



UCC Officers: Our Faith, Our Vote, Our Voice Matters

(a message from our denominational leaders)

Left: Rev. John Dorhauer

Right: Rev. Traci Blackmon



The 2020 election cycle is stirring strong interest and concern across the United States and around the world. In these difficult and challenging times, this is not surprising. There is much at stake as we head to the voting booth this November.

Divisive, mean-spirited rhetoric dominates the airwaves and the public dialogue. Thoughtful, respectful, constructive exchange across differences on the key issues of the day is becoming more difficult to achieve. This is precisely why our voice and efforts as people of faith are needed. We can play a unique role in this election cycle by encouraging respectful, informed dialogue that builds community and a hope-filled vision of the future that includes all people.

In these tumultuous times, it can be tempting to withdraw and disengage from what feels like a polarizing, divisive process. We can lose heart and hope. Yet, grounded in our faith, we can renew our vision and take up the hard work of restoring community and lifting up a vision of the common good.

For people of faith, the public arena we know as “politics” represents much more than the partisanship we see on the news. It is a means by which we live out the commandment to love our neighbor as ourselves. Scripture reminds us over and over that building right relationships in human community and with God’s creation is an act inseparable from our relationship with God. Therefore, it is important for faith communities to engage in nonpartisan voter education and empowerment programs that help us reflect on our collective life and work to uplift the common good through the political process.

We can be inspired by the words of Doris Haddock, “Granny D,” a grandmother from Arizona who in her 90s walked across the country to be a voice for restoring the integrity of our electoral process: “If we allow the greedy and inhuman elements to steal away from us our self-government because we didn’t have the energy or courage to fight for it and to use it as a tool for love and wisdom, how shall we answer to that?”

Our vote? Yes, it matters. Voting is one way to give voice to the change we want to see in the world, a world that cries out for healing.

The UCC Our Faith, Our Vote campaign provides information and ideas to assist individuals and congregations in developing nonpartisan and meaningful ways to engage the political and electoral process. The Our Faith, Our Vote resources can empower UCC members to engage in voter registration, issue education and voter mobilization. We must equip ourselves and our communities to make informed, thoughtful decisions about who will lead us into the future. The Our Faith, Our Vote campaign is one way to do just that, and we hope you will join this effort in 2020.

Faithfully yours,

The National Officers of the United Church of Christ
The Rev. John C. Dorhauer, General Minister and President
The Rev. Traci Blackmon, Associate General Minister, Justice and Local Church Ministries
The Rev. Karen Georgia Thompson, Associate General Minister, Wider Church Ministries

Our Faith, Our Vote resources can be found at <https://www.ucc.org/ourfaithourvote>.



Right: Rev. Karen Georgia Thompson

Vice Moderator's Musings

We had a very successful fund raiser in February, our annual Chocolate Festival, making a total of \$2107.00. Diane Hosmer and Becky Smith headed up this event with over 25 helpers that made this a huge success. Erin Borean and her team transformed the social hall into a Chocolate palace. We had 72 chocolate creations including a chocolate fountain with strawberries, marshmallows, bananas and other goodies. We also sold 28 glasses of wine, all donated, at the event. Besides the people who came to taste that day, we sold over 40 boxes of chocolates to take home.

People were asked to vote on their favorite chocolate pieces and the results were:

First place- Marilyn Baisel- Apricot Coconut Balls

Second place- Liz Tussey- English Toffee

Third place- Becky Smith- Heavenly Chocolate Eclairs.

Congratulations to all!!!



We gathered information from our guests on how they found out about the Chocolate Festival. Most of the people found out from friends about the festival. Others found out from Facebook, radio, signs, the webpage and newspaper. At the end of the day, everyone had too much chocolate and we were exhausted. **Thanks to everyone that cooked, packaged, set up, cleaned up, sold tickets, sold wine, raffled items and those who continued to refill chocolate dishes.**

Start thinking about your next chocolate creation for next year.
For more on the Chocolate Festival see page 9.

Joyfully, Patty

Taizé

Wednesday, March 4th at 7:00 PM



Busy and frazzled with all that is going on around us?

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

Come and fill our hearts with your peace

You alone O Lord are holy

Come and fill our hearts with your peace

Alleluia!

We Build Sacred Community

Stewardship Team ~ Time and Talent

Thank you all who participated in the Time and Talent survey in late 2019. We had an amazing response! On March 8th during church, we will dedicate and recognize all of you who are currently serving on a team, and welcome members who have shown interest in serving on a team.

Right after services, there will be leaders available from each team, to discuss the workings of their ministry and answer questions from potential volunteers. If you indicated on your Time and Talent survey that you want to serve on a team, but you're not sure what's involved, you won't want to miss church on March 8th! There will be representatives from:

Worship
 Finance and Facilities
 Outreach and Social Justice
 Stewardship
 Christian Enrichment
 Parish Care
 Membership and Calling
 And our new Health and Wellness team



If you have interest in or questions about any of the teams, hope to see you on March 8th.

Carrie Shinn Stewardship

Attention Quilters!

Quilters will be meeting on

Wednesday, March 11th, 9AM to 11:15

Saturday, March 29th, 10AM to noon Eastman Building,



News from the Knitters & Hookers

If you know someone who would be comforted by a prayer shawl, lap robe or blanket, let us know. We have been knitting up a storm and would like to be able to gift someone who may need one.

Call Liz Tussey or catch us on Sunday at church.

Thursday, March 12th 11:00 to 1:00 is our next meeting day at Liz Tussey's. Bring a sack lunch and join us!



Keys!

The Facilities and Finance team has reviewed our key policy and made a few changes to improve church security and reduce the chance of lost keys. Missing keys are a security risk and may result in an expensive re-keying of buildings we hope to avoid.

We will re-key the Fisk building/church office. Current holders of Master keys will continue to have access to all other buildings. Office keys will only be given to church employees, executive team and financial secretaries. Other church members who need access to the office for any reason should visit during regular office hours.

If you no longer need a key, please return it as soon as possible to the office. Thank you for supporting our efforts to improve security and manage costs.

Matt Graham
Facilities and Finance Chair

Lenten Soup Supper Hosts

A Very Special Guest on March 3!

On March 3rd Erin Stephens will be with us at our first Lenten Soup Supper. She will be sharing about her travels with the **International Juggling Association (IJA)**. She has spent a great deal of time in a variety of countries and regions, including South and Central America, Australia, New Zealand, Asia, Africa and Afghanistan. In these travels she has brought a sense of adventure and trust in the people with whom she comes in contact. Her message will be very interesting and inspiring. **And she juggles!** Don't miss this event!



Sierra Hope's Transitional Housing Project



Sierra Hope's Transitional Housing Project is asking for Assistance. The project has received state funding to assist local residents who are currently homeless. Sierra Hope is in the process of opening a house for this purpose in Angels Camp.

The first rooms are due to be occupied by April 1.

Our church's Outreach and Social Justice Team will work in coordination with Sierra Hope to identify ways in which our church can help to provide support.

Presently, there is a need for furnishings, kitchen and bathroom items, and perhaps the adoption of a room. Contact Sierra Hope if you have items to donate. 209-736-6792. A tour of the new facilities is being planned in the future so stay in touch and look for an upcoming date! Please contact Susan Medeiros at 209-840-2066 if you are interested in attending this tour. Nancy Burton and Phil Hosmer have already assisted in this project and our sister church, Union UCC in Angels Camp is helping with the house as well.



Small Groups

Many of you have shared that you are enjoying the vital and enriching conversations in your small groups. The most recent study from I Corinthians elicited a variety of responses.



We are hoping to address this passage referring to head coverings and marriage in the future. Stay tuned!

We surely hope you will continue to make attendance in your small group a priority. If you are not yet participating in one, please call Pastor Bonnie, Marilyn Baisel or Faye Morrison.



Recycle Sunday, March 8th

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!

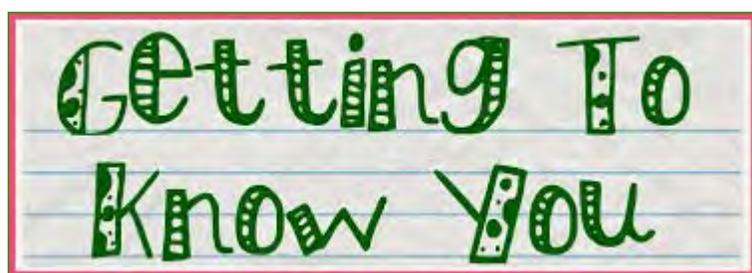


Family Program Continues to Thrive

The Family Program continues to offer dinner and classes the first and third Tuesday of every month. Laura Argento heads up the cooking and the kitchen crew and they do a phenomenal job in suppling delicious and nutritional meals. There is a team of people who serve in this ministry and we thank the following people: Mickey Williamson, Penny Sarvis, Marilyn Baisel, Sally Elliott, Meg Self, Diane Hosmer, Phil Hosmer, Joyce Hauck Swanson, Joe Jackson, Mary Kelly, Patty Haskell, Jeri & Gary Carson-Hull, Faye Morrison, Helen Yost, Joe & Colleen Silva, and Teddie Jackson. Thank you all!



Teddie Jackson teaches about nature at Big Trees State Park during our family Camping Trip.



Bulletin Board Feature Helps Us Discover More About One Another!

We are growing at a remarkable rate and this is joyful but it also means that we don't know each other well. Perhaps on a Sunday morning you recognize faces but can't recall names. That's okay because we are going to help you! Our clerk, Joe Silva, has created a "Getting to Know You" bulletin board. If you are willing to have some of your photos on the board, please contact Joe at 209-743-0438. Check out the board this month and discover more about Joe and Colleen Silva!

Welcome to All Our Newcomers!

We enjoyed a delicious meal and class in February and will continue with our next meeting on Sunday, March 29 following worship. We are excited to see so many new faces in our congregation. If you would like to help with the meal for this event, or participate with clean up, please contact Marilyn Baisel. It's a great time of fellowship and learning. Our next lesson will feature our faith walk at First Congregational United Church of Christ here in Murphys and what it means to live as Jesus taught us!



We Reach Out to the Community and Beyond



A Note From Green Team About Our Pill Bottle Ministry —

Please remember to remove the labels from your pill bottles before you bring them. You can most easily take off the labels by pouring hot water into the pill bottle and letting the pill bottle sit for a few minutes then drain the hot water and peel off the label. You can also soak the pill bottles in hot water with Dawn dish detergent and scrub off. If you have pill bottles with a sticky gummy residue they cannot be accepted.

— And from the Green Team

Another recycling opportunity are wine corks! You can take wine corks to Hovey Winery. They have a receptacle for the corks in the tasting room. They will be used in many industries, foot wear, flooring and others as well.



Let's Share a Meal with our Sister Church, Union UCC in Angels Camp and Support Their Fundraiser!



**Loaded Potato Supper at
Union UCC In Angels Camp,
Sunday March 15,
5-7p.m.
Adults \$10
children under 12—\$5**



The Annual Pancake Breakfast is coming —

Can you help us with this Irish Day special breakfast?



**Look for Wendy and Caity in the Social Hall and sign up!
It's fun and a great volunteer opportunity!**

March 21 from 8-10:30a.m.



Chocolate Festival Delights



From the scrumptious chocolate treats, to the raffle surprises, the joyful greeting and delightful music, to the faithful ticket takers, the inviting chocolate fountain and wine tasting—from beginning to end it was a truly delightful day!



Thank you to all who made chocolate goodies, and volunteered their time in so many ways!!

A great success because you gave your time.





MARCH BIRTHDAYS

<i>Don Anctil</i>	1
<i>Savannah Nunez</i>	2
<i>Joyce Hauck-Swanson</i>	3
<i>Sally Greninger</i>	4
<i>Diane Campana</i>	8
<i>Ken Grassmyer</i>	9
<i>Walt Marcus</i>	11
<i>Allan Thode</i>	15
<i>Daryl Hollinger</i>	17
<i>Kylee Luchetti</i>	18
<i>Carol Osterlund</i>	19
<i>Lizzy Restivo</i>	22
<i>Pete Ryan</i>	23
<i>Mary Kelly</i>	26
<i>Chris Markus</i>	27



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:

All those with the flu
 Bobby & Celine Breen and famiy
 Susan Giannini Chadwick
 Jara and Max Clark
 Tracey Ellefritz
 Tara Glessman
 Alan and Dodi Horvath
 Caity Johnson for job search
 Ricky Jordan (Pastor Bonnie's brother)
 Hilary Oldenkamp
 John Randlett and family
 Joanie Singleton and family
 Gail Withuhn
 Moses Zimbe

Celebrations for answered prayer:

Baby girl of John & Sheryl is now home and breathing well.

Tracy & Kelly E. do not have to move!



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 COMMUNION SUNDAY 9:00 am Bible Study /EEC 9:00 am, Choir 10:00 Worship 10:15 Sunday School 1st Sunday in Lent	2 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	3 5:15 PM, 1st Lenten Soup Supper/Social Hall & Children Choir Practice 7:30 pm, LGBTQ Youth Support Group /EEC	4 5:00, Bell Choir 6:00 Adult Choir 7:00, TAZÉ	5 12:30p.m.—Executive Committee	6	7
8 RECYCLE SUNDAY 9:00 am Bible Study /EEC 9:00 am, Choir 10:00 Worship 10:15 Sunday School Celebration of Time & Talents	9 Church Office closed	10 8:00 am Men's F'ship/EEC 10:30 am , Outreach & Social Justice Team/EEC (time) Membership & Calling Team/(location) 5:15 PM, Lenten Soup Supper/Social Hall & Children Choir Practice	11 9:00 AM , Quilters/EEC 5:00, Bell Choir 6:00, Vocal Choir	12 11:00 am , Knitters & Hookers/Liz T's 1:00 Finance & Facilities/EEC	13	14
15 9:00 am Bible Study /EEC 9:00 am, Choir 10:00 Worship 10:15 Sunday School 11:45, Council/EECPotato Dinner At Union UCC 5-7p.m.	16 NUGGET DEADLINE Church Office closed	17 5:15 PM, Lenten Soup Supper/Social Hall & Children Choir Practice 7:00 pm, LGBTQ Youth Support Group/EEC	18 10:00 am Worship Team/Social Hall 5:00 Bell Choir 6:00 pm, Vocal Choir	19	20	21 MURPHY'S IRISH POTATO PANCAKE BREAKFAST
22 9:00 am Bible Study /EEC 9:00 am, Choir 10:00 Worship 10:15 Sunday School	23 Church Office closed 11:00 am , Green Team/EEC	24 8:00 am Men's F'ship/EEC 5:15 PM, Lenten Soup Supper/Social Hall & Children Choir Practice	25 9:00 AM , Quilters/EEC 10:30 , Parish Care/Marilyn's or Pat's house 5:00 Bell Choir 6:00 pm, Vocal Choir	26	27	28
29 9:00 am Bible Study/EEC 9:00, Choir Rehearsal 10:00 Worship 10:15 Sunday School New Member class	30 Church Office closed	31 5:15 PM, Lenten Soup Supper/Social Hall & Children Choir Practice		MARCH 2020		

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SEPTEMBER 2019

DATED MATERIAL— DO NOT DELAY

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Murphys, CA 95247

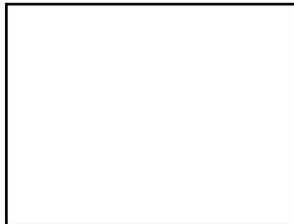
509 N. Algiers Street

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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

Staff

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

Officers

Moderator	Mandy DeSmidt
Vice Moderator	Patty Haskell
Treasurer	Sally Elliott
Financial Secretary	Shad Sundberg
Clerk	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.