



THE NUGGET

First Congregational Church of Murphys, United Church of Christ

Let's celebrate the Earth

The Stanislaus National Forest is doing a virtual event on Earth day:

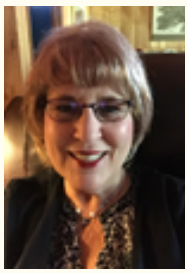
Earth Day: A Celebration of Reforestation and Wildflowers!
Thu, Apr 22, 2021 at 5:00 PM
Eventbrite Website
See more details on page 7.



Easter Season
The color is
White



**EASTER WORSHIP
CELEBRATION
APRIL 4TH 11AM
YOU CAN JOIN US ON
FACEBOOK OR YOU CAN
SEE THE SERVICE ON OUR
WEBSITE.**



PASTOR'S ARTICLE



April 22 is Earth Day and I am rejoicing that we have a designated time to celebrate the Earth! Lynne Bird in her article on page 7 of this publication introduces us to the theme, Restore Our Earth. She gives some wonderful suggestions of how we can do this, and I hope you will choose one to do.

Earth Day for me is like a party for celebrating someone I love all year long. Most of you know that I have sort of a love affair with trees. Especially now that I am battling cancer, I find the trees continue to speak to me. I lie underneath the pines and watch them sway. In the fall I fill my camera with photos of color as the leaves of the oak change and dazzle me. Every day around 4:00 p.m. where I live, a wind rushes through and it sounds like I am at the ocean. The strength of the tree's splendor inspire and ignite the healing cells in my body.

I often go to the lake where I live and watch the sun dancing on the water as the mallards chase one another and practice splash landings. I laugh and clap as a dozen of them crash in front of me! It's more entertaining than any tv show! The turkeys wake me with their prancing and calling to one another. Each day around 6:00 p.m. they awkwardly soar to the trees for a night of nestling.

The earth has given much to me and I long to take care of it. I try to recycle, use as little double wrapped items as possible, turn off lights when I leave a room, and wear a sweater instead of turning up the heat. It's selfish actually as I want the earth to be green and productive for ages to come. The healing powers and the beauty of the earth are staples in my life and I praise God for this great gift. May you find joy too in Creation and take responsibility to love her!

Reveling under the forest canopy,

Pastor Bonnie

**Phasing Forward
An Announcement from the Finance
and Facilities Team**

At our monthly meeting held on March 22nd we had a lively discussion regarding how and when it would be safe to hold in person services and gatherings while staying true to our mission of inclusion for all. As you can imagine this is a daunting challenge given the space limitations of our sanctuary, our desire to sing hymns with gusto and our overwhelming need to hug and greet one another.

After much discussion we agreed that we need to start the process of building the bridge between where we are today (no in person meetings or services) to what we might be able to do as we move towards the end of this dreadful pandemic. As a result, we are forming an ad hoc committee, called Phasing Forward to discuss and tackle the many challenges that lie ahead before we can safely and inclusively resume in person services. Sally Elliott has agreed to chair this committee and she will be seeking members that are willing to put in the time to discuss, think through and eventually help to implement plans. If you would like to participate please contact Sally at: sally.elliott@gmail.com or call her at (650) 255-1489.

Please note that this is a very first step, there is no plan to resume in person services any time soon. Services will continue to be held virtually until such time that Finance & Facilities along with the Council discuss and approve of plans developed by the Phasing Forward Committee.



Moderator's Nugget Article

Spring is in my heart as I write these words today. Even though I see gray skies out my windows, and we're still under so many Covid restrictions, I can't help but feel so hopeful that we're almost there! It's been wonderful this past month to see and hear all of your voices during Zoom worship on Sunday mornings. It lifts me up for the rest of the day.

I know we're all just aching to be back together, with our small groups, our meetings and worship and social hour. I long for this too.

But we need to stay the course just a little longer; we are so close!

I'm thankful so many of you have received one or both of your vaccines – praise God for the marvels of science! And our wonderful Parish Care team is available to arrange transport for shots if any of you are in need of their help.

We need to stay vigilant though, as many of us, myself included, have yet to receive even a first dose. We are still under the “over 65” restrictions in this county and so there are many in the parish that are not yet protected. I pray everyday that we will ALL be vaccinated soon, but that may not be until early or mid-summer.

Both the Finance and Facilities team and our Faith Community Nurse, Diane Hosmer, are working hard on reopening plans. Once we are closer to this joyous occasion, Council will take their recommendations and work towards implementation.

Until that time, let's all stay patient. I know you have springtime joy bubbling in your hearts, and when we all meet together again, it will be an amazing celebration! Keep that in your heart for now, and pray that all are safe and healthy.

With the hope of Easter in my heart,

Carrie Shinn



Taizé

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

*Come join us **Wednesday,**
April 7th at 7PM via Zoom*

*~A time to refresh mind and
spirit~*

ANNUAL SPRING CLEAN-UP
SATURDAY, April 17,
9:00 AM—NOON

Yes, it's that time of year, time to spruce up the property after Easter, and many helping hands are needed. Bring your gloves, rakes, clippers, brooms, etc.

Together we can make the property shine.



Thank you



Treasurer's Report

Hello Everyone. It is mid-March as I write, and our finances are holding strong especially with the second draw awarded to us from the Federal Government's Payroll Protection Plan of the CARES Act. This loan, which we fully expect will be forgiven, will help us meet payroll expenses and cover the shortage in unrealized pledges toward our annual budget. Please note, I said unrealized pledges, not income. I believe that COVID insecurity has prevented many of our members from promising to support the church with a certain amount this year. We are being wise and prudent, giving what we can, when we can, rather than promising more than we might be able to afford.

We have had a couple of significant donations that increased the protected balances of two endowment funds and February showed additional asset growth after dividends. Endowment money is invested for the long term and so as in the past, I expect they will continue to provide financial stability as we are prudent in our withdrawals. It is still early in our financial year, but the trends indicate we can expect our church and its mission to blossom right along with the buds of spring. As always, if you have specific questions or would like to see the financials, you only need to ask me.

Mandy De Smidt, Treasurer

Thank you



Thanks to Men's Fellowship for running this project. We received \$110 for March through this program!
The next recycling will be on May 5th.

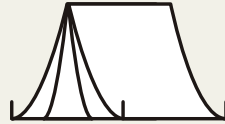


We rejoice to report that we have received almost \$500 for One Great Hour Sharing!
Thank you for your generosity





Hello Friends!



After a very difficult and stressful year off, Camp Tamarack is ready to roll into the 2021 Summer Camp Season! Our Tam community is hard at work preparing for a safe and fun camp experience. We were so grateful that the Creek Fire spared our beloved camp from any major damage and it will be back to full function in time for the summer! We will be using the American Camp Association and CDC guidelines to ensure that COVID-19 precautions and regulations are put into place. We are moving forward with the knowledge that Fresno County may require us to cancel due to COVID restrictions, but based on the current numbers and vaccination roll out, we are very hopeful for a successful summer at Camp Tam!

2021 Camp Dates:

Jr. Camp: July 18 - 24

Jr. High Camp: July 25 - 31

Sr. High Camp: August 1 - 7



Parish Care

Our Parish Care team has offered to help anyone get to a place to be vaccinated. There are several options available and our Faith Community Nurse, Diane Hosmer, can give you more info if needed. If you need transportation to get vaccinated, please call the chair of Parish Care, Carol Dougherty at 209-916-5095. Parish care also helps with picking up medications, delivering meals, listening, and praying with you. They are a stalwart in this time of COVID and we thank God for their ministry to us.



FCN Thoughts: When and Who Do I call?



Emergencies, by definition, are unexpected occurrences. Last month we spoke of preparations for weather related emergencies. (We are all are ready now, with our go-bags and evacuation plans in place, aren't we?) This month I want to address medical emergencies: determining when to call your primary care provider vs. urgent vs. emergent medical needs. Thinking through potential emergencies ahead of time and understanding your options will help you in making decisions in the rush of the moment when an emergency occurs.

Faith Community Nurse

Assists in integrating health, wellness, and faith; offers education, prayer, and personal support for medical challenges; provides support for transition to home after hospitalization or surgery; makes referrals to community programs; develops education programs and support groups according to the needs of the congregation; may make recommendations of non-urgent/emergent medical care.

Note: If you think you may need to go to the emergency room or call 911—don't wait—DO IT!

Primary Care Provider [doctor, nurse practitioner (NP) or physician's assistant (PA)]

These providers work with your long-term medical needs, provides care for minor illness, prescribes medications, and helps determine care for new symptoms, including referrals to specialists. Often these providers are not available for same day visits and may not be able to return a call that day, so if you do not feel your concerns can wait, choose the next option.

Urgent/Prompt/Rapid Care Facility (Sonora Adventist Health: 1 in Angels Camp, 1 in Sonora)

Walk in facilities when you feel you need same day (urgent, non-emergent) care, such as minor illness or injuries, rash, minor cuts or burns, moderate gastrointestinal issues, or minor infections.

Emergency Room (ER) (Mark Twain Hospital, Sonora Adventist Health, Sutter Amador Jackson)

If you feel you need immediate attention and your concern is more severe than those mentioned above, the ER may be your best choice. Symptoms such as chest or severe abdominal pain; difficulty breathing; numbness in face, arms, or legs; head trauma; severe bleeding; sudden dizziness, weakness or loss of balance; or severe burns (see Call 911 below). Mental health crises may require a visit to the ER for further evaluation. Do not be concerned about your issue not being severe enough to warrant ER care. Sometimes it takes expertise of the ER providers to make that determination. They are there to help you and concur it is far better to err on the side of caution.

Call 911

Consider calling 911 for more immediate treatment and to get to care quickly. Many problems, such as symptoms of heart attack or stroke, will have better outcomes the more rapidly you obtain care. Do not hesitate! Never attempt to drive yourself if you have severe chest pain https://www.cdc.gov/heartdisease/heart_attack.htm, have signs of stroke https://www.cdc.gov/stroke/signs_symptoms.htm, or have passed out. Be aware the ambulance may take you to your nearest hospital, rather than your preferred facility. If you live in Amador or Calaveras Counties investigate purchasing an American Legion Ambulance Service subscription which covers transportation for immediate family members for a reasonable fee. <https://www.alpost108.org/ambulance-service>

No one wants to have a medical emergency, but we can all be prepared by learning when to ask for help. “Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.” Colossians 4:2 (NIV)



Earth Day falls on April 22 this year. The theme of this year's celebration is Restore Our Earth. Unfortunately, with the Covid pandemic still raging on, Earth Day events will be restricted to small group or virtual celebrations. Here are some ideas on how to celebrate God's wonderful creation that we call earth.

- **Take a walk.** Whether out in the parks, forests, or even in our communities natural spaces abound in our area. Turn off all electronics and immerse your senses in the beauty of the natural world around you. Take note of your surroundings with all your senses. What do you see? What do you hear? What do you smell? How do natural objects feel? Ask your children what they are experiencing with their senses. Thank God for the beauty of what you are experiencing.
- **Pick up a bag or two of garbage left by others in your natural world.**
- **Commit to a meatless meal day.** Research has found that avoiding meat and dairy products is "the single biggest way" to reduce your impact on our precious earth. Commit to a day or two a week to go without meat or dairy products. Prepare vegetarian and vegan recipes with your children. Several vegetarian cookbooks for children are out there.
- **Have a Earth Day Movie Night.** There are numerous movies out there that speak to different age levels; Young children, "The Wings of Life" or "Wall-E" ; Pre-teens, "Oceans", "The Monkey Kingdom", "The March of the Penguins", "Fly Away Home"; Teens, "Chasing Ice", "Avatar". After the movies talk about the movie and what environmental message they contained.
- **Finally, Earthday.org has a virtual event on April 22. Log on to Earthday.org for more information.**

The list above is far from complete as there are many ways to celebrate and love the wonderful earth. Happy Earth Day all!

STASIA AND TRISTAN TAKE THE LEAD IN FIGHTING HUNGER IN TUOLUMNE



We are a donor based food drive based in Sonora, CA that works to mobilize community members to donate food to ATCAA Food Bank for distribution to food pantries throughout Tuolumne County. Donations happen every two months. Food can be collected in green reusable bags and brought to a number of businesses which hold it until we pick it up! Since the pandemic, MLFP has been doing cash donations to ATCAA, so we will be starting physical food collection in April. Food donations include non-perishable at this time. Our website has plenty information and background:

<https://motherlodefoodproject.org/>

Tristan and I are excited to participate in such an important cause, and anyone in the Tuolumne County are interested in green bag are welcome to contact us through the participant sign up tab on our website! Feel free to contact us for any other info, and thanks for helping us get the word out :)

Anastasia & Tristan Kaiser

LGBTQ



LGBTQ

Youth and supportive friends are

invited to join us for

dialogue,

education, friendship, and

support!

~Currently meeting online via

Zoom~

When: The 1st and 3rd Tuesday

of every

month at 7pm

RSVP with your email address

at

CalaverasGSRM@gmail.com

or call

(209)352-1828





Homelessness in our country, state, county and community is a problem that is extremely complex and difficult to understand. There are many reasons for the homeless problem we are facing. Some of the reasons are very much intertwined. It is believed that 53% of families (with Covid we know it is more) live from paycheck to paycheck. With just that fact, it isn't hard to see how the threat of homelessness looms large for many families. Mental illness and drug and alcohol abuse, which are many times the same issue not being treated properly, is another. Our attempt as a nation has been slow to deal with this huge problem, therefore the problem has gotten exponentially worse. So communities are stepping up to see what we can do to do our part.

Our church has joined with Sierra Hope (as the lead), Faith Lutheran Church and the Episcopal Church to create a long term sustainable housing project here in Murphys at the little red house next to the Faith Lutheran Church. It is considered permanent supportive housing to enable families and individuals the time and support needed to overcome the obstacle involved in creating and remaining in a stable home environment. We have been helping in the renovations of the house and will be helping to decorate and get it ready for the new tenants. It is an honor and a blessing to be a part of this ecumenical team for this very important work!

Celine Decker Breen~





Happy

BIRTHDAY



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

Pastor Bonnie

Susan Giannini Chadwick

Andrew Chadwick

Jara & Max Clark

Tracey & Kelly Ellefritz

Tara Glessman

Hilary Oldenkamp

Angela Patterson

John Randlett & Family

Alan & Dodi Horvath

Gail Withuhn

Josephine Zimbe & Family

Kim Plowman

Soderer Family

Anna Abando & Family

all of the children at the orphanage

Melinda Winship

Deborah Jones

George Glessman

Zach Luchetti

Cathy Kuhn

Caity Johnson

Katelynn Lamont

Matt Soderer

All medical profession and teacher

Clinton Betts 5

Nancy Burton 5

Doug Shinn 9

Brett Thomson 10

Bobby Breen 15

Dodi Horvath 16

Connie Cook 19

Tara Glessman 19

Isa Luchetti 22

April 2021

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2 Good Friday	3 Holy Saturday
4 11am Easter Worship 	5	6 5.30pm Family Program for Children 7pm LGBTQ meeting	7 7pm Taize Service	8	9 4pm CE meeting	10
11 11am Worship 	12 10am Outreach & Social Justice meeting	13 7pm Family Program for Adults	14	15	16	17  9-noon Spring Clean-up at Church
18 11am Worship 	19 1pm Finance & Facility meeting	20 5.30pm Family Program for Children 7pm LGBTQ meeting	21	22 	23	24
25 11am Worship 	26	27 7pm Family Program for Adults	28	29	30	31

God's love echoes through us to all creation.

Website: www.fccmurph.org

Email: nugget@fccmurph.org

Phone: 209.728.3141

APRIL 2021

DATED MATERIAL— DO NOT DELAY

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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509 N. Algiers Street

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FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF CHRIST
MURPHYS

THE NUGGET

Staff

Pastor Rev. Dr. Bonnie Hollinger

Pastor Emeritus Rev. Dr. John Randlett

Music Director Dr. Daryl Hollinger

Director of Christian Education Peter Marai-Muro

Secretary Peter Marai-Muro

Officers

Moderator Carrie Shinn

Vice Moderator Patty Haskell

Treasurer Mandy DeSmidt

Financial Secretary Shad Sundberg

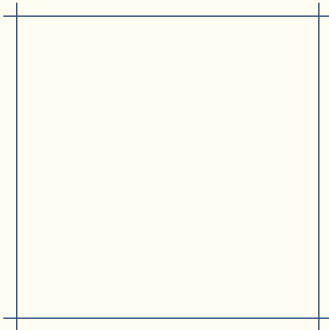
Clerk Joe Silva

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.



www.ucc.org