

First Congregational Church of Murphys  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



# THE Nugget

Volume 19 Issue 12

DECEMBER 2021

We are in the season of Advent until Christmas Eve. The color is violet or blue.

## *Advent and Christmas 2021*



*First Sunday in Advent, November 28* — Living in Hope

*Second Sunday in Advent, December 5* — Holy Communion

*Third Sunday in Advent, December 12* — The Joy of Christ!

*Fourth Sunday in Advent, December 19* — Intergenerational Family

*Christmas Pageant virtually presented during in-person worship and on*

*zoom*

## *JOY TO THE WORLD*

*Christmas Eve, Friday December 24, at 7:00 pm*

*Sunday, December 26, 10:00 am,  
Lessons and Carols*



Annual Congregational Budget  
Meeting January 9, 2022  
following worship!



## *Advent, A Season of Hope*



Advent is one of my favorite liturgical seasons. We sing our songs of waiting and promise and stretch ourselves to cling to the true meaning of Christmas amid the clamor of the shopping noises.

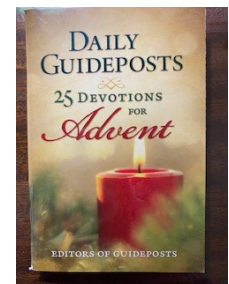
If you are like me, it has been a long and difficult year and I am eager to find comfort and respite from the news, from my cancer, from angry folks at the post office and hate flowing from the mouths of politicians. I'd like to bury my head in my pillow and wake up to a new day!

Then I am reminded of Mary's song, "my soul shall magnify the Lord, for He has done great things for me." Yes indeed! God has surely done great things for me and I revel in this comforting love of the Almighty. I can see the hand of God in so many ways, and you my beloved congregation, are a big part of it. You have nurtured me through tough times and comforted me in times of tears and illness. Your cards, meals and gifts, delighted me and healed my spirit too.

I was blessed as you filled our "bowl of hope" this past Sunday. Each day I am praying for your dreams on each little paper. Hope is the belief that good will win out, that God's love will reign and grace and mercy will abound. I am honored to hold your "hopes" sacred in my prayers and my heart. When we have hope, we act in kindness and love because we believe in Emmanuel, God with us! May Advent bring healing to you all,

### *Rejuvenating in Advent, Pastor Bonnie*

We still have a few Advent devotional booklets available. Please call the office if you want one mailed to you. 209-728-3141.



Taizé will be held on December 1 at 7 p.m.  
Come to this special Advent season service where we seek  
the light of God!

### **ANNUAL BUDGET MEETING**

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 9**

**after worship, in person and on zoom. Please mark this date on your calendars — a quorum is needed to pass our 2022 budget!**





## *Goodbye and thanks to Aly!*

*A message from our  
Vice Moderator, Patty Haskell*

As the vice-moderator I serve also as the chair of the personnel committee. It is my joy to work with the staff and we want to say a special thank you to Aly for her work with us.

After three years, Aly Bradley, our child care person is moving on. She is going to school at Columbia Junior college and also working full time as a nanny. She is also planning on working at Bear Valley this winter. Aly was a high school student when she started with us and has learned many skills since

then. She is positive, and pleasant to all the children and parents.

She has been always willing to attend Church activities and support our families. We will miss her and hope she comes visit us. Thanks for all you have done.



## **Knitters and Hookers**



Recently the Knitters and Hookers got together for the first time in a long time. Stay tuned for an email from Liz Tussey about the next time to get together.





Teri Olivas

## Stewardship News!

Thank you all for your participation in our Stewardship Season these past few weeks. I want to especially thank our special speakers, Mandy DeSmidt, Doug Shinn and Teri Olivas. We all enjoyed their stewardship insights! We concluded our season on November 14th with a wonderful Stewardship celebration, and the news that we had received pledges in an amount greater than any of us could remember at this early date. It was a day of celebration indeed! Don't forget, if you haven't yet sent in your 2022 pledge, we hope you can do so soon. It's easy to do on the web site as well as by mail.

A reminder too of the annual budget meeting in person and on zoom on Sunday January 9 immediately following worship. The budget team has been working hard on the 2022 budget, so please be present to hear their presentation and vote. Looking forward to a joyous Advent Season!

Carrie Shinn, Stewardship chair



Doug and Carrie Shinn



## *The Christmas Fund is a Welcome Gift to Many!*

On Sunday, December 12 we will be taking an offering for the UCC Christmas Fund, one of the five ways we support the denomination nationally.

Together our money makes an impact for those retired clergy who are struggling financially and perhaps physically as well.

Thank you for any contribution you can make. You may write a check to FCCM and put Christmas Fund in the memo or go online and make a donation there to the "Christmas Fund."

- Monthly pension supplementation for 276 retired clergy and lay employees (\$1,180,187)
- Health benefits supplementation for 89 retired clergy and lay employees (\$274,008)
- Emergency grants for 96 individuals and families (\$214,649)
- Christmas "Thank You" gift checks to 504 retired clergy and lay employees (\$252,000)



## *The Organ is Broken!*

**Present Condition of organ.** Our organ is 50 years old and appears to be on its last leg. None of the buttons (pistons) that allow me to set up different combinations of sounds work. The pistons allow me to quickly move from one sound to the next. Without the pistons working when I begin a piece I cannot change the sounds easily. This makes hymn playing virtually impossible. The speakers have static noises that come and go. Certain notes at times do not work. I never know when a note is going to fail. Rob Linquist, the former Allen representative came to FCCM when I first started my position at church. At the time he suggested we would be wasting our money by putting much money into it. He has since passed away and the new Allen rep. Jim Swihart from Carmichael agreed that the organ is too old to try to fix it. A new sound board would cost 6k and we would still have other problems and the sound would never get any better.

**Options:** I asked Jim about buying a used digital Allen Organ. He said the only type that comes up for sale are usually 30 years old and we would have some of the same problems. The Worship Committee and Finance & Facility Committee are looking into the possibilities of a new chapel organ. We have been in conversation with both the Allen Organ Representative and the Rogers Organ Representative. Our present organ is a first-generation digital instrument. Both committees were impressed with the exquisite sound that present-day organ digital technology offers.

**History:** The history of our church, from its beginning, knew the value of organ music in worship. They had an organ right from the start. We want to carry on this beautiful and meaningful tradition that enhances our worship and helps lead our singing. In addition, a new organ will enable us to hold concerts as an outreach to the community, be used as an educational tool for our children and youth, and accompany many soloists and singing groups.

We will keep you posted as we continue our conversation with the organ reps and listen to current organ installations. We will have opportunities to take a visit to where they have been installed. **If you are interested in taking part in a day trip, please contact Dr. Daryl Hollinger @dhollingermusic@gmail.com See the "Inspired" Rogers' model below.**



### **The Resource Connection Bags are due on Sunday December 12!**

Let's gather lots of groceries for those in need. Here is a list of items needed:

Spices, salt, pepper, oil, powdered milk, tea bags, coffee, butter, eggs, cake mix, frosting, sugar, flour, dishwashing detergent, feminine products, Stove top stuffing, fresh vegetables, tuna, canned meats, bread

**The** Engaging Families  
**Resource** Empowering Communities  
**Connection** Enriching Lives

## Recycle




## Next Recycle Day Will Be In January!

**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 continue to do a better job of sorting what they are turning in — keep up the good work!**

**Many thanks!**

## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

<i>Carrie Shinn</i>	6
<i>Ilona Logodi</i>	8
<i>Fred Cooper</i>	8
<i>Marcus Collonge</i>	8
<i>Larry Buchanan</i>	13
<i>Bob Mulvany</i>	19
<i>Judy Hanson</i>	18
<i>Elizabeth Machado</i>	19
<i>Patty Turcotte</i>	19
<i>Ann Pestalozzi</i>	23
<i>Charlotte Hunt</i>	27
<i>Dylan Shinn</i>	29



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

Alan and Dodi Horvath  
 Caity Johnson  
 Hilary Oldenkamp  
 Angela Patterson  
 Joanie Singleton  
 Anna Wright  
 Monika Riedel and her family  
 Connie Cook and family  
 Fred & Shirley Soderer  
 Tabitha Kremesec  
 Mary Dahl  
 Susan Giannini Chadwick's son Andrew



Our chef Extraordinaire, Caity Johnson will be taking orders for pies and cookies. You can place your orders by calling her or signing up at the church. make your checks payable to Caity Johnson. Yum!

209-890-6064




**A Note from the Treasurer!** Thank you, Thank you, Thank you. The timely submission of your pledges for 2022 has been an enormous help to those of us preparing the budget for next year. We are experiencing the same cost increases you are and so will need to be creative in finding additional funding for all the basic expenses the church incurs. We are so grateful for your generosity and support. Our final budget recommendations will be mailed to you in mid December to be voted upon at the Congregational Meeting on Sunday, January 19. Please review the information and feel free to call me with any questions or concerns. Your presence at the meeting is most important so please plan to attend.



You are truly God's hands, helping to ensure the spiritual, physical, and emotional needs of our community are met every day. God bless you. May your Christmas be filled with Peace and Joy.

See you in church. Mandy, Treasurer



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
<b>December 2021</b>			<b>7 p.m. Taizé</b>			
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
<b>10 a.m. Worship</b>		7 p.m. - LGBTQ Youth Group				
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
<b>10 a.m. Worship</b> Bring Resource grocery bags to church <b>Christmas Fund offering</b>						
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
<b>10 a.m. Worship</b> <b>Council Meeting following worship</b> <b>Christmas Pageant</b>		7 p.m. - LGBTQ Youth Group		Office closed	Office closed 7 p.m. - Christmas Eve Worship	
26	27	28	29	30	31	
<b>10 a.m. Worship - Lessons and Carols</b>						

Webpage: www.fcsmurph.org

Email: nugget@fcsmurph.org

Phone: 209.728.3141

DECEMBER 2019

DATED MATERIAL— DO NOT DELAY

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Murphys, CA 95247

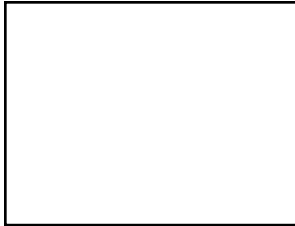
509 N. Algiers Street

PO Box 48

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

Custodian

Peter Marai-Muro

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Carrie Shinn

Vice Moderator

Patty Haskell

Treasurer

Mandy DeSmidt

Financial Secretary

Shad Sundberg

Clerk

Barbara Olivier

**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.