

THE NUGGET

First Congregational Church of Murphys, United Church of Christ

Celebrating our Stewardship

On Sunday November 6 we will be commemorating our Stewardship campaign with a joyous brunch after Sunday service. This is a wonderful way to celebrate the joy of giving and shared ministry. Come join us!



Daylight Savings Time ends on Sunday November 6. Remember to set your clocks back before bed!



Whoever you are,
Wherever you are on
life's journey
You are welcome here.

Pastor's Article

Masks are Optional, BUT....



My Dear ones, if you are like me, you are so tired of Covid and masks! I do not like wearing the masks at all. It is nice to have the option to wear it or not when participating in ministry and worship in our parish isn't it? However, I am hearing from some

members that this is causing some angst. BUT... for some of us, this is a tough issue. Not only me, but at least a half dozen of us, are living with health challenges that make getting Covid a serious life threat. I'll share personally in this column to try and help us all understand the "ickiness" about the masks policy. Recently my doctor advised me to "be very careful" and wear my mask whenever I am in public. She said, "Your body has very little reserve to fight any kind of illness, especially Covid." I don't like it one bit! I want to be seen as healthy and full of vigor.

So what is the BUT? I am happy for you if you do not need to wear a mask. BUT it makes it tough for me and others when I have to put my hand up to keep you from getting too close, or I keep backing up. I feel like I am offending you and it embarrasses me.

How can you help? **This is an area where the church can show its love for one another in a marvelous way.** When you see someone wearing a mask, keep social distance (at least three feet) if you are not wearing a mask. One member recently asked if she could hug me. I just loved that! She asked my permission first and I said yes, if you put a mask on! It was a great treat to receive a hug!

I know that outside our parish, the mask issue is often a political one. For us, let it be an issue of caring for each other in this beloved community. Some people have said, "well we are wearing masks for Pastor Bonnie." Yes, that may be true because my continued treatment for breast cancer is known to everyone, but there are members who live with illnesses that are not so apparent. So I am the ambassador for all of us.

In I Peter, we are told, *Finally, all of you, be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble.* Thank you for your continued understanding as we journey together.

Wanting to dance, but sitting still, Pastor Bonnie

Taizé

Nov. 2



*Join us for meditative worship
in the tradition of Taizé the
first Wednesday of every other
month at 7pm in the Sanctuary.*

RING THE BELL FOR PEACE NOV. 2



PLEASE JOIN US AS WE GATHER
ON THE FIRST WEDNESDAY OF
THE MONTH AT NOON IN
PRAYERS FOR PEACE AND THE
RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELL.

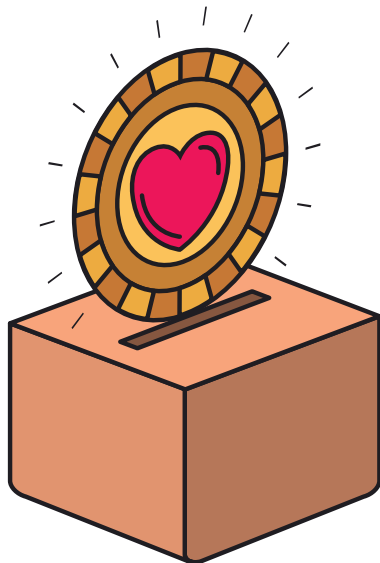


Treasurer's Article

We Did It!

We have met our fundraiser goal for the year thanks to the Peddlers Fair! We also sent off over \$1000 to the Resource Connection and over \$500 to Sierra Hope. Our solar project is moving forward and we have received another \$3500.00 for that project. Thanks for all your generous donations and have a wonderful Thanksgiving.

Patty



HEALTH OPPORTUNITIES, PROGRAMS & EDUCATION



Celebrating the Ways Our Members Give Back



The residents of Rocky Hill Road want to express their gratitude and appreciation to all of you who have contributed to our church's Halloween Candy Drive. It was a major success and everyone was so appreciative. Again, to those who have so generously donated, thank you for supporting this grass roots community event.



*A Thank You Message
Thank you to everyone who has helped me in so many ways over the past 3 years from the bottom of my heart.*

*Love,
Hilary Oldenkamp*



Moderator's Message

I don't know about you but I've sure been enjoying this glorious weather! It's taken us right on into the whirl of fall activities, Halloween, and Stewardship season. Hopefully you were able to participate in worship in late October and hear the stewardship messages. Stewardship season will wrap up with a Stewardship message from our beloved Dr. Daryl Hollinger on November 6th, so you won't want to miss that. Worship will be followed by our traditional celebratory brunch, so come for the service, and stay for the meal.

Despite the many joys of this season, there have been difficulties as well. We need to stay faithful in our support of our Pastor, staff, and one another. There are lots of health challenges among us, and I know Parish Care has been stretched to its limits this year. If you can help with a ride or a meal, please let Carol Daugherty know.

The Family Program has started off with a bang with 20-plus participants for the first couple of family night meetings. Many thanks to Judy Regalia for coordinating the meals, and for all the other volunteers that make this happen. It is very clear that we have a growing number of youths and young families in our congregation. This is a blessing and answer to prayer! There is a distinct need for support of our young families, following the pandemic, lockdowns, school closures etc. Our continuing sponsorship of these valuable programs is crucial.

Many of our other teams are also in full swing, including Outreach and Social Justice and Christian Enrichment. Keep an eye out for coming events, and many Advent activities. And don't forget to attend worship! This is our opportunity to be together and celebrate God's abundance. And, to support and care for one another. See you in church!

Carrie Shinn
Moderator



The Knitters and Hookers will have their next gathering on November 16. They meet in Murphys on the 3rd Wednesday of every month from 11am - 2pm. Contact Liz Tussey for more info.





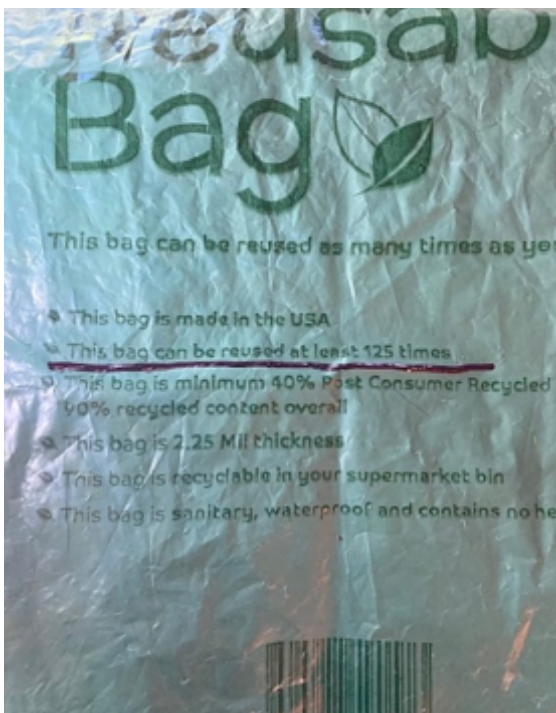
Notes From the Outreach and
Social Justice Team
DID YOU KNOW?



I know our church is well aware of the importance of Recycling, Reusing and Repurposing but almost daily I see consumers request new heavy duty, reusable plastic bags in grocery stores, Walmart, almost everywhere. **But Did You Know?** These bags are designed to be used 125 times! That would be amazing if that was happening. Sadly, too many end up in the recycling bins or worse, our landfills. 100 Billion bags are used each year in America and only 1% is recycled. We all know where the rest end up. It's devastating to wildlife, marine life and US!

Canvas bags are still the best choice but if you end up with one of these bags, thank you for reusing, over and over.

By Pam Kimes, Outreach and Social Justice



Recycling

Our next recycling drop off is on November 2nd at 9am. Please have your items sorted when you drop them off!

Recycling drop off is the first Wednesday of every other month at the church.



Solar Project Update

The carports have arrived in the US and should arrive in Murphys by the end of the month. We just recently received another \$2500 donation towards the project which brings our total of contributions to \$36360!

Thank you all!



LOVE
⇒ JESUS ←

grows
in faith

CHANGE
THE WORLD

Christian Education Recap

We are thrilled to have our interim Christian Education Director, Patty Haskell on board as staff. Patty will have office hours on Tuesday in The Eastman Center in the Christian Enrichment Office.

We have a full schedule of events for families. Our Family Program began in September and a huge thanks to Judy Regalia, the head of the meals for this ministry. If you want to assist on a Tuesday night, please give Judy a call. You can wash dishes, set the table, or help cook food or offer to bring desserts.

The Family Program is a valuable time for parents and children. Not only do they deepen their relationships with each other, but they are learning to live compassionately in our world.

The November family Program dates are: November 1 and November 15. We will begin rehearsing for the Christmas pageant on November 1.

We are also looking for people who have interesting hobbies to come spend some time with our children. Do you weave baskets? Make pillows? build birdhouses? If so, we would love to have you come spend a Tuesday evening teaching how children how to make something wonderful. Please call Patty Haskell or Pastor Bonnie to volunteer.

Thanks to our Family Program teachers, Mary Kelly, Tami Chestnut, and Joe Jackson for all their great work in this ministry!

SHINE
LIVING IN GOD'S LIGHT

Some of Our Faithful Helpers



Tanya Sundberg



Patty Haskell



Liz Tussey



Carrie Shinn



Joe Jackson



Cathy Kuhn



Mary Kelly



Peggy Sparrow



Judy Regalia



Tami Chesnut

BRINGING OUR FAMILIES TOGETHER



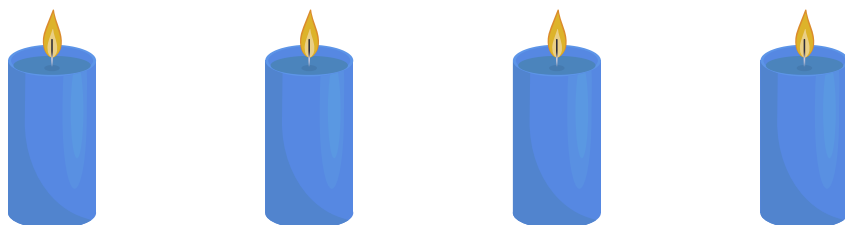
Join us for
Family
Program
every 1st
and 3rd
Tuesday of
the month
from 5:30 -
7:30pm in
the Social
Hall and the
Eastman
Education
Center.
Supper will
be
provided.



Advent Season Begins November 27th!



The Advent Workshop this year will once again be a marvelous intergenerational Event. We will gather on Sunday, November 27 at 4 p.m. in the church social hall. There will be many activities for everyone: Card Making, Advent wreaths, decorating the Christmas tree, and much more. We will be served a delicious soup supper by the Christian Enrichment team and end our time together with a service of Advent worship. If you have your metal or wooden frames for your Advent wreaths, please bring them to the workshop. There will be a signup sheet in November for this event.



Advent Calendars Needed!

Last year many of you made Advent Calendars for our children. It was such a success that we are hoping you will do this again this year. The first Sunday of Advent is November 27 and we would like to make sure each child has a calendar by that date. If you are interested in making an Advent calendar or two, please email Pastor Bonnie ASAP so she can give you the name of a child. We need to do this promptly so if we do not get enough people to participate, we can order calendars for the children. If you have questions or need ideas or want to contribute money to this project, call Pastor Bonnie.





*Our beloved
Bonnie Harper
passed away
peacefully on
September 9, 2022
at her home in
Murphys. Bonnie
was the mother of*

*Don and Susan Harper, who are both
longtime members of our church.*

*A Life Celebration was held on October 21
in Murphys with Pastor Bonnie officiating
the event.*

*Bonnie was known for her hybrid Irises
and people who attended the Life
Celebration each received a seed for the
Iris. The family donated all the flowers to
our church and many
people enjoyed them
throughout the week.*



*As you enjoy precious time
and meal sharing with loved
ones this Thanksgiving, you
are invited to say a prayer of
thanks to the original
stewards of the beautiful land
we call home with an
Indigenous Land
Acknowledgement. Our region
is the Mu-Wuk territory of
the Central Sierra Miwok
tribe. To find out more about
the indigenous territories of
the Americas, you can go to
Native-Land.ca*





Margaret White 1

Olivia Friend 2

William Rosenhart 8

Sanders LaMont 9

George Glessman 11

Vienna Watkins-Colodzin 12

Hiro Phillips 14

Sharon Grassmyer 17

Evelyn Betts 21

Joe Silva 23

Shannon Ryan 30

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

Family of Joanie Singleton

Tabitha Kremesec

Hilary Oldenkamp

Angela Patterson

Tracy Ellifritz

Alan & Dodi Horvath

Elsbeth Mann

Don Anetil

Caity Johnson

Jamie Leigh's family

Tutthill Family

Gail Withuhn

Sergio Pena

God's love echoes through us to all creation.

Website: www.fccmurph.org

Email: nugget@fccmurph.org

Phone: 209.728.3141

NOVEMBER 2022

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

Staff

Pastor Rev. Dr. Bonnie Hollinger

Pastor Emeritus Rev. Dr. John Randlett

Music Director Dr. Daryl Hollinger

Secretary Jenny Fuqua

Custodian Peter Marai-Muro

Childcare Worker Angelia Yu

Officers

Moderator Carrie Shinn

Vice Moderator Barbara Olivier

Clerk Marie Studebaker

Treasurer Patty Haskell

Assistant Treasurer Shad Sundberg

Financial Secretary Gary Carson-Hull



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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 15th of each month.

The Committee reserves the right to edit submissions for length and content.