

ITS STEWARDSHIP SEASON!

THIS IS A TIME OF CELEBRATION IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH WHEN WE ARE GEARING UP FOR OUR FUTURE MISSION AND HOW TO FUND IT. THERE WILL BE GUEST SPEAKERS AT SUNDAY WORSHIP FOR THREE WEEKS, BEGINNING ON WITH REV. SCHIEFELBEIN ON OCT. 23. ANGELA PATTERSON AND DR. DARYL WILL ALSO GIVE SHORT TALKS THE FOLLOWING WEEKS. COME LISTEN TO INSPIRING STORIES OF STEWARDSHIP!



Neighbors in Need offering October 2

We will be collecting the offering as a part of World Communion Sunday. Connie Cook will also be speaking that day. As you may recall, one-third of the offering supports Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). Justice and Witness Ministries use two-thirds to provide grants to UCC churches and organizations and support various justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects.



REV. MICHAEL SCHIEFELBEIN
OCTOBER 23

Rev. Michael Schiefelbein recently retired as Senior Pastor of College Avenue UCC in Modesto, California. He served there for 16 years, following his career as an English professor at Christian Brothers University in Memphis, Tennessee. Michael teaches the Enneagram, a tool for spiritual growth. His training and certification are from the Enneagram Institute. Michael and his husband, Steve Klinkerman, live in Modesto. They enjoy learning foreign languages, singing in chorale groups, and traveling.



ANGELA PATTERSON



DR. DARYL HOLLINGER

God's love echoes through us to all creation.
 Website: www.fccmurph.org
 Email: nugget@fccmurph.org
 Phone: 209.728.3141

OCTOBER 2022
 DATED MATERIAL—DO NOT DELAY

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

509 N. Algers 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



www.ucc.org

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.

Pastor's Article



Recently I have been learning a lot about faith. Now I don't mean "faith" in terms of religion or belief. I'm talking about faith as an action, the ability to believe in someone or something. Jesus never actually said to people that he healed them. He either told them that their faith had made the whole, or he gave them a command to do something. I had an odd experience recently that startled me into a new realization of how strong someone else's belief in us can move us forward.

While visiting my daughter in Florida, I lost an earring at the beach. It wasn't very expensive, but it was precious to me because Daryl gave the pair to me for my birthday this year and I love wearing them. I was very upset and telling my daughter about it. We looked in our picnic basket, the car, our towels and our bathing suits to no avail. "Let's go back and look at the beach," she said."

"Do you really think we will find it there?" "Let's try," she exclaimed and so back to the beach we went. As we entered the park, I told the attendant taking our money that I had lost my earring and asked if anyone turned one in to the office. "No," she said, "but I have faith in you." "Well, we are going to hunt," I said. "I have faith in you," she repeated and gave me a thumbs up.

It seemed odd. Why would she say that she had faith in me? It seemed a strange thing to say when the earring was either going to be there or not. However, it kept ringing in my head. We approached the area where we had been and at first nothing, then all of a sudden right next to the picnic table, there it was.

My daughter and I hugged each other and danced for joy. What stayed with me for days though, was the phrase, I have faith in you.

It was a warm, confident feeling, given by a complete stranger. How often do I doubt myself, second guessing decisions and actions? How many times do I worry if I am saying or doing the right thing?

"I have faith in you." That kind of statement is an affirmation that I did not even know I needed. We were facing difficult days with my daughter's illness and I was anxious about the long travel to see my brothers and sisters. Every day, I kept hearing, I have faith in you. Sometimes all it takes is someone else believing in and encouraging us!

It was a gift and I share it with you so we can remember that we are walking together and we will be okay through these very tough times where hate rages, fires burn, the climate is amuck, and wars still seem endless. I have faith in you! Faith, that together, we can be the love and healing this world and earth need.

Let's celebrate God's grace this day, Pastor Bonnie

Taizé
Oct. 5



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



HABITAT HOEDOWN WAS A HUGE SUCCESS!

Thank you to everyone who purchased raffle tickets. You helped Calaveras Habitat for Humanity make \$75,000 from this fundraiser. Woo hoo!



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Worship 10am	2 Family Al-Anon 6:45pm	3 Family Program at FCCM 5:30pm	4 Exec. Comm. Mtg. 9:30am AA & Al-Anon 12:30pm Ring the Bell for Peace 12pm Al-Anon 6:30pm <i>Taizé 7pm</i>	5 AA & Al-Anon 12:30pm	6 Women's AA 12pm	7 Gold Rush Street Faire
8 Worship 10am	9 Family Al-Anon 6:45pm	10 Family Program at FCCM 5:30pm	11 AA & Al-Anon 12:30pm	12 Al-Anon 6:30pm	13 Women's AA 12pm	14 Council Retreat
15 Outreach/Social Justice Mtg. 9:30am	16 Family Al-Anon 6:45pm	17 Family Program at FCCM 5:30pm	18 AA & Al-Anon 12:30pm	19 Al-Anon 6:30pm	20 Women's AA 12pm	21 Women's AA 12pm
22 Worship 10am	23 Family Al-Anon 6:45pm	24 Family Program at FCCM 5:30pm	25 AA & Al-Anon 12:30pm	26 Al-Anon 6:30pm	27 Women's AA 12pm	28 Women's AA 12pm
29 Worship 10am	30 Stewardship Speaker	31 Worship Team Mtg. 1:30pm				





- Shirley Soderer 5**
- Helen Yost 6**
- Syl Walton 5**
- Kristen Schott 8**
- Laura Leonard 9**
- Barbara Olivier 9**
- Jane Hampel 10**
- Brian Mason 10**
- Patty Haskell 19**
- Mara Rosenhart 29**
- Tabitha Kremesec 30**
- Terry Mongsene 31**
- Patrick Stephens 31**

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 Anctil
- Caity Johnson
- Jamie Leigh's family
- Tutthill Family
- Gail Withuhn



Vice Moderator's Musings

Here we are in October already! One thing that October brings is our annual stewardship commitment to support our church. Our stewardship theme this year, "From Bread and Cup to Faith and Giving," connects God's generous giving to our stewardship. Receiving the bread and cup - the Eucharist - provides a focus to Christian community. At the Eucharistic table, Jesus uses the bread and the cup as visible signs of God's unbounded love for all of us, inviting us all to be part of his abundance. Too often, our minds get stuck on thoughts of scarcity. Our fears make God's invitation ever more crucial: God provides; God pours - until our cup overflows. God's abundant giving allows us to imagine a new approach to living. So we ponder this question during our stewardship events: how can we reflect God's abundance with what we have? How can we connect our experience of God's unconditional love and generosity with the choices we make to support our church? This will be the theme as we consider multiple ways that we make a commitment to our church and our community during our stewardship campaign this year.

Your Stewardship Team is pleased to announce that we will have a special guest pastor, Reverend Michael Schiefelbein, to help kick off our events on Sunday, October 23rd. We will hear three stewardship stories including one from Angela Patterson and one from Dr. Daryl Hollinger, on the three Sundays of our campaign - October 23, October 30, and November 6. And we are very happy to announce that we will bring back our joyous tradition of a celebration brunch on November 6th after the service that day. We hope that you will all join us in these events!

With credit to UCC resources for stewardship,

Barbara Olivier



RING THE BELL FOR PEACE OCT. 5



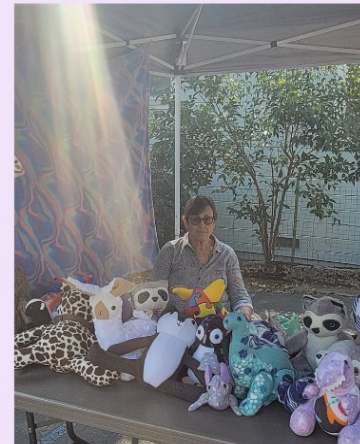
PLEASE JOIN US AS WE GATHER ON THE FIRST WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH AT NOON IN PRAYERS FOR PEACE AND THE RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELL.

Assistant Treasurer Updates

Big Success at Peddlers' Fair!

Many volunteers made the Peddlers' Fair a big success this year. They helped accept donations and set prices, set up, make sales, and clean up afterwards. Thank you so much to all everyone who helped! All of that hard work led to over \$1,300 in profit to contribute to our annual fundraising goal. This includes over \$500 in booth space fees from sellers – all 12 of whom want to come back next year! – plus over \$850 in sales from our booth. It was a beautiful sunny weekend, not too hot, bringing many people to the event. Good times and good deals were had by all. One man, who felt he got such a good deal after researching his purchase, came back with an additional \$100 for the seller! Thanks again to everyone who made this event a big success and we look forward to making it back into an annual occurrence.

Submitted by Shad Sundberg



Worship at White Pines

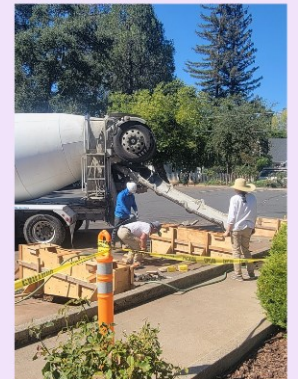


It was a beautiful morning to be in each other's company and praise Jesus under the pines and overlooking the lake. The service was well attended and folks sang and worshiped all under God's glorious creations! Even the ducks enjoyed the service!



Solar Update

Our solar installer, Joe Zhou and his cheerful wife have been working so hard getting the concrete poured and the rebar in for the bases of the carports that will have the solar panels on them. The carports have been ordered some time ago, but as with so much these past couple of years, it is taking quite some time to have them shipped. There will be much rejoicing once the install is complete!





We were so saddened to hear of the passing of our beloved Joanie Singleton. There will be a memorial service in the spring. Meanwhile, you can send condolences to **Yvonne Taylor and Family**
8015 Pine Hollow Dr
Mount Dora, FL 32757



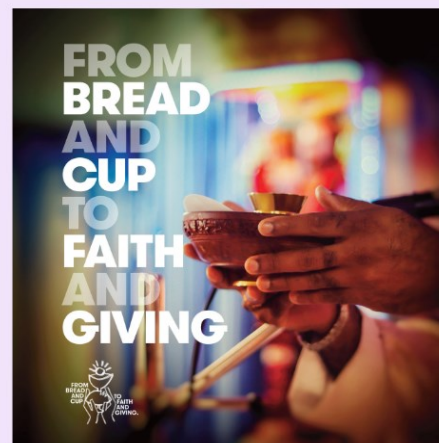
Notes From the Outreach and Social Justice Team



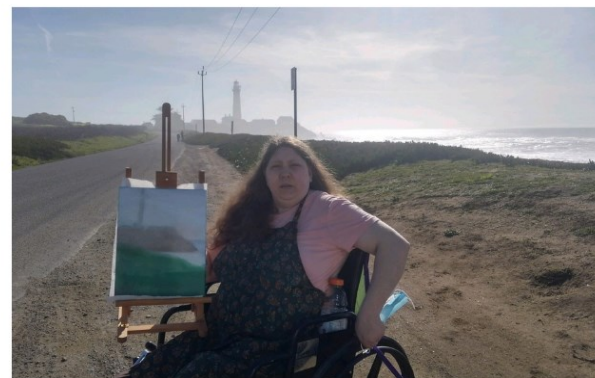
Over the last month and a half the Outreach and Social Justice Team hit the road running. Three big events certainly tested our new team. At our first and only meeting, thus far, we agreed to work with liasons for our partners in ministry. Teri Olivas stepped up to fill this role for Habitat, Jaime Leigh stepped up for Sierra Hope, and Jeri Carson Hull stepped up for Resource Connection. What a blessing and a help these ladies have been to our team! Teri gave a wonderful talk about Habitat in Church. Jaime Leigh gave a wonderful talk in Church on Sierra Hope and has been extremely helpful in helping the team to prepare for the "Walk for Hope" event. Our team put up posters, spoke on Habitat in church, and sold raffle tickets for the Hoedown. The event was extremely successful and one of Teri Olivas' friends won the Cabo prize! Event two was the Pride in the Park event. Our team ordered supplies for the event, sought out volunteers to staff the booth we had for the event at Murphys Community Park, and served as volunteers for the event. A special shout out to Joe Jackson who led the event for us. Despite the heat a good time was had by all and a lot of great contacts were made between the community and the church.



On September 24, "A Walk for Hope" Sierra Hope's major fundraiser is happening at Big Trees State Park. Our team is preparing for this event by reaching out to Union Church in Murphys, getting supplies, signing our church up with Sierra Hope so church members can walk as a team, asking for volunteers, and getting supplies for the team. Jamie Leigh gave a great talk about the Sierra Hope Organization in Church. While our team has been driven by outside events the last month and a half we anticipate that, starting next month, we will be able to come up with some new things to promote social justice and protecting the environment.
Submitted by Lynne Bird



Art Exhibit at The Diggins



Our sweet new member, Tabitha Kremesec had to postpone her art exhibit due to ongoing health issues. The new date for the exhibit will be October 23 from 11:30am - 4:00pm at her home on 245 Three Finger Jack in Murphys Diggins. Let's show her some love!



This year on Halloween, as in years past, hundreds of people, including children and families in our church, will visit the residents of Rocky Hill Road to engage in Trick-or-Treating. While the residents of Rocky Hill Road enjoy decorating and giving out Halloween candy it is not without cost. Residents spend between \$150.00 to \$200.00 on candy alone. More money is spent by these residents on the lavish decorations set up for the event. Many of the residents are retired and don't even have young children around. A few folks bring bags of candy on Halloween night to help residents but, not wanting to run out of candy for the kids, most residents purchase the candy they think they'll need before the event. To show support for this neighborhood and this service they provide to the community with this family friendly event the church will be having a candy drive. There will be a large basket in the sanctuary to collect bags of candy for the residents. The Outreach and Social Justice Team will label the bags of candy with stickers containing our church logo and distribute the bags to Rocky Hill Road residents a week before Halloween. Please help support the Rocky Hill neighborhood in putting together this fun family oriented community event!



Christian Education Has a New Director!

I am excited to be starting a new job as Christian Education Director. I have lots of ideas of activities that I will be sharing with you soon. The Family Program has started up again on September 27th with a barbecue and a special presenter and will continue on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month. Sunday school has started for the year with a new curriculum, with one of them focused on older students. We will be discussing the upcoming Advent season and activities for the remainder of the year at the Family Program. I will be out of town from September 16-November 2nd on a previously planned vacation. Pastor Bonnie will be covering for me during that time. I will have office hours starting November 8th in the Eastman office from 11:30-2:30, if you would like to come by and talk. Feel free to call me at 209-743-8191 if you have any questions after November 2nd. You can also email me at christianed@fccmurph.org. I am looking forward to this new opportunity to get to know you and your children better!! Patty Haskell



Family Program is back!

Due to the hot weather we had to reschedule our 1st Family program to September 27th. We planned on having it on September 20th, but Michelson School rescheduled their Open House to that day. We will be having a barbecue dinner on September 27th starting at 5:30, thanks to Joe Jackson and Judy Regalia.



The Return of the Small Groups!

It seems like these 'Ber' months are bringing much exciting news of gathering and fellowship in our congregation! Below is the information regarding the small groups that will be meeting this upcoming year.

Coordinator: Faye Morrison

This group meets on the 2nd Tuesday of the month in the Eastman Education Center at 5:30pm. There will be a potluck meal.



Coordinator(s): Jeri & Gary Carson-Hull
This group meets on the 2nd Monday of the month, with rotating homes for the meeting place. There will be a light potluck meal.

Coordinator: Marilyn Baisel

This group will be meeting on the 2nd Friday of the month at 10am at Marilyn's house. There will be a light mid-day meal.



Coordinator: Meg Self

This group will be meeting on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 5pm at Meg's house. There will be a potluck meal.

Coordinator: Pam Kimes

This group meets on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 10am. The group will decide on a meeting place and a meal.



The Knitters and Hookers will have their next gathering on October 19. They meet in Murphys on the 3rd Wednesday of every month from 11am - 2pm. Contact Liz Tussey for more info.



Dr. Daryl's first pick up choir was a success. Fifteen folks stepped up to sing their hearts out in praises and joy. There will be another one on October 9 and October 23rd. There will be a short rehearsal before worship at 9am. Please text Dr. Daryl for more information (209)265-6716 or email dhollingermusic@gmail.com