



THE NUGGET

First Congregational Church of Murphys, United Church of Christ



Holy Week is from April 2 - 8.

Palm Sunday: April 2

Liturgy of the Palms

Maundy Thursday: April 6

Mediterranean Supper 5:30pm

Good Friday: April 7

Stations of the Cross 12 - 2pm

Holy Saturday: April 8

Sanctuary decoration

Easter Sunday: April 9

Sunrise Service 7am, Worship 10am



Welcome to Spring...at long last! After this long winter we can begin to appreciate how Jesus must have felt when he came out of the wilderness. Like Jesus, we are in a time of transition and adjustment. Some of the changes will be joyous, and some tedious or difficult. But we are together in this and will weather the storms.

The FCCM Congregation unanimously approved the merger with Union UCC on 3/12/23. Pastor Liz Armstrong had her retirement service on 3/19, and many Union UCC members had their first combined service with FCCM in Murphys on 3/26. It was a joyous time together celebrating the addition of members new to the Murphys church with cake, coffee, and fellowship. I know the Murphys church is ready to welcome all the Union members to join us in worship, committee efforts, choir, small groups, etc. **On Sunday April 30 at 10 a.m. we will all worship together in a Closing Celebration Service at Union UCC.**

The hard work has begun with the Merger Ad Hoc committee, composed of Paster Bonnie, Carrie Shinn, Patty Haskell, Shad Sundberg from FCCM, and Vicky Oneto, Linda Winters and Gail Williams from the Union UCC. The team has met twice thus far and will be meeting at least two times per month to discuss the merge. Some of the things the team will tackle are:

- Immediate repairs needed to the property and/or buildings
- Potential rental of social hall and sanctuary
- Potential sale of entire property
- Inventory and disbursement of church belongings
- Financial situation and ongoing bills

It will most likely take 6-12 months to get the financial and tax situations ironed out for the merger, so the Ad Hoc team will be working hard to try to get everything resolved this year. Please feel free to call any of the team members if you have questions or comments.

Holy week is April 2nd through 9th. The complete calendar of events is listed elsewhere in this newsletter. We hope all of you will help us to remember and celebrate the glorious resurrection of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

With Easter Blessings to you all, Carrie Shinn, Moderator



Join us for a Closing Celebration of Union UCC on Sunday, April 30 at 10 a.m.. We will honor long time members and the many gifts of ministry through the years. This will be a sacred service of recognition of the remembrance. There will be no worship service at FCCM.

Pastor's Article

Can't you just feel it? The hope of spring? The longing for Easter with new life and new inspiration? Blue skies and warm days? If you are like me, this has felt like a long winter, but I am eager for the celebration of the Resurrection within each of us and our church!



We especially have our new church merger to celebrate! While for some, especially our beloved brothers and sisters of Union church, it may be feeling more like a death and the grieving is hard. I invite us all to enter this grief and share the road together. At the same time, let us vision for a beautiful future of God's possibilities for a wider and larger ministry.



I know there are many questions and the new ad hoc merger committee is already hard at work discerning how to move forward. There is a lot of uncertainty. What we do know for sure is this: With God all things are possible and together we will be stronger than apart.

I invite you all to reach out and get to know one another. Set up meals or a game night together or go on a walk after church with people you do not know. We have the opportunity to truly live the motto of the United Church of Christ, "That they may all be one." Let us celebrate our new life right now!

*Dancing in the joy,
Pastor Bonnie*

RING THE BELL FOR PEACE



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



NOW IS THE TIME.....

Hopefully you have noticed that there is progress being made on our Solar Project. The next step is the completion and final payment. We currently have about \$3000.00 in the Solar account and our finally payment is approx.. \$26,000. We did agree at the beginning of this project to borrow money from the Endowment Funds if we need additional funds. **So, now is the time to make your donation to the Solar Project!!!!** Please make sure and mark on your checks that it is for the Solar Project. I am excited that we are finally completing it!!! Please call if you have any questions. Thanks, Patty



Thank you all for your generous gifts to help others in our world and community. We collected \$682 for this worthy cause.

PROGRESS ON CARPORT INSTALLATION!



AFTER MANY WEEKS, WE WERE RELIEVED WHEN THE DELIVERY TRUCK ARRIVED!



THIS PROJECT IS COMING TOGETHER AND YOU CAN REALLY GET A FEEL FOR WHAT IT IS GOING TO LOOK LIKE.



Vice-Moderator's Musings

Stewardship. Why is it that so many of us cringe when we hear that word? Perhaps we equate it merely to requests for money. Or maybe it reminds us that we have an obligation to meet. It's not really a negative word!

Here's the definition from Merriam-Webster: Stewardship is the careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one's care. We are asked to be stewards of our world by protecting our environment, and by preserving the world's water, soil, and other resources. We are also asked to be stewards of the gifts we have received from our God, including faith and love, as well as our time and talents. Okay, that can seem to be a pretty big responsibility, but it is also a great joy.

This month, I'd like to give you the opportunity to consider another way to utilize your time and talents in the stewardship of our church. Why not join the Stewardship Team? The primary duty of this team is to develop and implement an ongoing program of stewardship education, and to conduct the campaign of annual pledges. The team recognizes and promotes our members' use of their time, talent, and treasure to support our church's life. In addition, the Stewardship Team keeps a record of special offerings and fundraisers, coordinating the calendar timing and approval of such events, in coordination with other teams and committees. We get to plan fun and inspiring talks and events related to stewardship. Consider joining this team! We can use your organizational skills, creative ideas, and other talents. We meet only occasionally throughout the year, but our work is primarily in the autumn, as our annual campaign is developed. This team is small, so we could really use a couple more members.

Easter Blessings to all of you!

Barbara Olivier



We will have a celebration of life for our dear Joanie Singleton here at FCCM on April 29 at 2pm. All church members are welcome!



The Knitters and Hookers will have their next gathering on April 12. This is a week earlier than the usual meeting time. They meet on the 3rd Wednesday of the month from 11am - 2pm at Liz Tussey's house.



Christian Education Recap

It's time to start thinking and planning for the summer. The UCC summer camp for youth is coming up in July. We will be taking registrations soon. The dates are **July 16-22 Junior Camp, July 23-29 Junior High Camp and July 30-August 5th Senior High Camp.** This camping experience is a great opportunity to meet others and enjoy the outdoors at Camp Tamarack. I will be sending out registration information soon and the scholarship information. This camp is also a great opportunity for the adults to volunteer their time as counselors and medical supervisors. Please let me know if you have questions or would like to volunteer. My children attended camp years ago and had a great time and I also have been a counselor.

Please remember that we will resume our normal Family Program in April on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month. We also have a Disc Golf activity planned for April 23rd after Church and the Family Camp out on June 2-4th. Vacation Bible School is scheduled for August 7-11 right here after Pastor Bonnie is back from her sabbatical. Thanks, Patty

COLUMBIA COLLEGE
COMMUNITY CHORUS
WITH ORCHESTRA
**SPRING
CONCERT**
DR. DARYL HOLLINGER, CONDUCTOR

APRIL 22 - 23, 2023
ST. MATTHEW LUTHERAN CHURCH
13880 JOSHUA WAY, SONORA, CA



Saturday April 22, 3:00pm

Sunday April 24, 3:00pm

*Tickets: \$15 in advance,
\$20 at the door, 12 and
under free.*

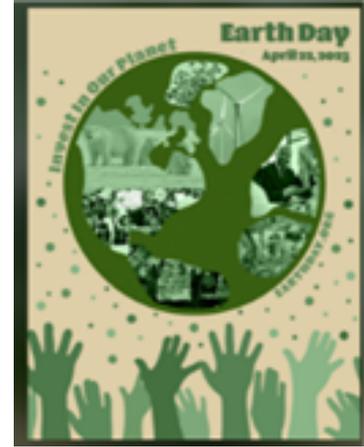
*To purchase tickets
online, scan QR code or
see gocolumbia.edu
(scroll down to events)*

**FOR INFORMATION OR
TICKET SALES: 209-694-0168**



From the Outreach and Social Justice Team

In the words of American cultural anthropologist Margaret Mead, "Never Doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it is the only thing that ever has".



April 22 is the official date for Earth Day this year. As Earth Day began in 1970, this will be its 53rd year. We are celebrating Earth Day with a Poster Contest for the kids. The Poster contest will be open to all kids, 15 and under, who attend our church and/or the Family nights. The theme will be the theme of Earth Day 2023, "Investing in our Planet". We ask that poster entries be on 11 x 14 inch paper. Any medium (paints, crayons, pencils, pens, or a combination) will be accepted. We will have two age groups ; 9 and under, and 10 and above. The winner of the 9 and under group will be getting a gift certificate from the Murphys Toy Store and the winner of the 10 and above group will receive a gift certificate to JoMa's Ice Cream store in Murphys. Entries will be received from April 16th to 18th at the church service or at Family night. Judging will be done by the Congregation on April 23. The posters will be displayed on the bulletin board in the Sanctuary in June and July. We look forward to seeing all the artwork!

The Earth Day Activity boxes will be handed out to the kids on April 23. The Outreach and Social Justice Team is excited to put together these fun and educational boxes for the kids and their families. If anyone has any ideas for activities to put in the boxes please reach out to any of the team members.

The homelessness event has been rescheduled to June. We hope to see everyone at this informative event.



Spring 2023 Mountain Melody Concerts:

"Be Kind—Rewind!
Mountain Melody Favorites Old and New"

This Spring, Mountain Melody takes a trip down memory lane with a wonderful program of favorite tunes from years past. The small but mighty chorus is made up of members from Calaveras County and Amador County.

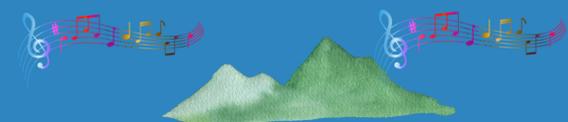
Though you may remember some of our tunes from previous concerts, everything old is new again with this particular group of singers. The program will showcase beloved standards such as "You Make Me Feel So Young" and "I Got Rhythm" as well as offerings from Broadway, like "For Good" and "Highlights From Chicago."

The "special sauce" that makes Mountain Melody stand out is their signature "blend." This means that all of the singers blend their voices so that they sound like one voice singing each of the parts in the arrangement. The whole family will be delighted to listen to this wonderful local group of women, so be sure to take a couple of hours out of the Spring hustle bustle and join us a one of our performances:

- Saturday May 6th, Hotel Leger Banquet Room in Moke Hill 2-4 pm
- Sunday May 7th, Union Congregational Church in Angels Camp 2-4 pm
- Saturday May 13th, Baker St West in Jackson 2-4 pm

Refreshments will be served at all performances.

For all of our concerts we ask for a \$10 suggested donation. This helps us with the cost of rehearsal space, sheet music purchases, website maintenance and etc.



We Are Now a Single UCC!

We were so blessed to have members of Union UCC join us for our first merged service on March 26. The sermon was a blessing and everyone felt so welcome. The singing was the best it has been in a while! Hurray for our new merged congregation!



Clockwise from left: Marci Duggan, Tari Takara, Vicky Oneto, Patty Haskell, Gail Williams, Carrie Shinn

Clockwise from left: Vicky Oneto, Patty Haslell, Gail Williams, Carrie Shinn, Noel Helmbrecht, Marci Duggan



Tari Takara and Marci Duggan grabbing some coffee. Be sure to check them out in the upcoming Mountain Melody Concerts!



Our steadfast Pastor Bonnie greeting the congregation after worship.



Pastor Bonnie will be taking her sabbatical this spring and summer. She and Dr. Daryl will be gone for the month of May, spending time in retreat and contemplation in Italy. Dr. Daryl will be back June 1st, Pastor Bonnie will be back August 1st. Rev. Marty Williams and Penny Sarvis will be leading worship services during this time. Becky Miller-Cripps will be leading the music. Let us praise and wish our dear Hollingers blessings and rejuvenation as they further their ministerial education.



Our Irish Day Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser is a huge success! Thanks especially to Wendy Glessman, Caity Johnson and Joe Jackson for their leadership. The numbers are not final but we estimate we made a little over \$2000!

THE NITTY-GRITTY ABOUT SMALL GROUPS

By: Faye Morrison

What involves more than 50 people in 7 different groupings—meeting monthly, with the purpose of stimulation, camaraderie, probably some food, and definitely a positive vibe?

Those are the much talked-about small groups and here's what "you need to know."

Having been in existence for several years, small groups are now being expanded and updated as Covid lessens, and a winter with atmospheric rivers of rain bringing unfriendly power outages fades into memory.

It's a great time to jump in. They meet for 1 - 2 hours on different days, different times, each forming its own ambiance, with the common goal of members getting to know each other better, having a chance to share their own stories and individualities. A conversation guide is prepared for the groups each month.

THE GROUPS:

#1. Jeri and Gary Carson-Hull, coordinators. (See Directory for phone numbers for all coordinators). Meets 1st Sunday of the month after church at Eastman Education Center. Brings bag lunches, Has 8-9 members.

#2. South Grove Bunch, Faye Morrison, coordinator. Meets 2nd Tuesday, 5:30 at Eastman Education Center. Shares potluck dinner at 5:30. Has 9 members, could take 1-2 more.

#3. Meg Self, coordinator. Meets 3rd Tuesday, 5:30 at Meg's home in Murphys (See Directory for coordinator addresses). Shares potluck dinner. 6 members. Welcomes occasional visitor.

#4. The Wanderers, Marilyn Baisel coordinator. Meets at Marilyn's (Murphys) and other members' homes. 2nd Friday, 10 a.m. Shares light potluck meal. 9 members.

#5. Pam Kimes, coordinator. Meets 4th Tuesday at 10 a.m. at Pam's Murphys home. Group decides on food. 6 members.

#6. Family Program, coordinators Evelyn Betts and Helen Yost. Meets 3rd Tuesday, 5:30 at Social Hall and Eastman Education Center, at 5:30. Dinner and activities for children provided by the Family Program. Varying numbers of attendees.

#7. (in formation). Barbara Olivier, coordinator. Meets 2nd Wednesday at 11 a.m. at Barbara's home in Angels Camp. Light mid-day fare to be decided. 7-8 members anticipated, hopefully from Angels Camp, Copperopolis, San Andreas, Valley Springs.

That's the plan! You are urged to consider being in a small group, think of the day/time best for you and contact the coordinator and/or the church office to indicate your wishes. The coordinator decides on the capacity of the group to absorb more members. We are really hoping some newly merged members from the Angels Camp church will choose small group membership as one good way to become better acquainted.



Water Conservation Corner

Are people really drinking contaminated water?

Sadly, yes. 2 billion people still did not use safely managed drinking water in 2020.

At current rates, just 37% of the population of sub-Saharan Africa will be using safely managed drinking water by 2030.

<https://washdata.org/sites/default/files/2022-10/WHO-UNICEF-2022-state-of-the-worlds-drinking-water.pdf>



HOW TO HELP?

Please consider donating and/or volunteering with one of these organizations:

💧 <https://www.livingwaterworldmissions.org/>

💧 <https://www.livingwatersfortheworld.org/>

💧 <https://www.livingwaterwells.org/>

💧 <https://www.unicef.org/>





Clinton Betts 5

Nancy Burton 5

Amanda Armstrong 8

Doug Shinn 9

Brett Thomson 10

Dodi Horvath 16

Connie Cook 19

Tara Glessman 19

Isa Luchetti 22



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:

Praises and Gratitude:

Gail Withuhn has been blessed with great news! Her bone marrow biopsy showed that she remains in remission from her AML and the test of Minimal Residual Disease did not detect any cancer cells lurking in her system. Much gratitude!

All those who are ill:

Tabitha Kremesec

Hilary Oldenkamp

Angela Patterson

Tracey Ellifritz

Barbara Peterson

Maggie Di Dio

APRIL 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Palm Sunday 10am Worship Holy Communion 11am Sm. Grp. EEC 2	Jenny vacation 4/3 - 4/5 5:30pm Fam. Prgm. 6:45pm Al-Anon 3	1pm F&F mtg. via ZOOM 5:30 - 7:30pm South Grove Bunch Sm. Grp. EEC 11	12pm Ring the Bell for Peace 12:30pm AA & Al-Anon 6:30pm Al-Anon 5	Maudy Thursday Mediterranean Supper 5:30pm 6	Good Friday Stations of the Cross 12 - 2pm 7 12pm Women's AA	9:30 - 10:30am Bell Choir Rehearsal Holy Saturday Sanctuary Decorating 8
Easter Sunday 7am Sunrise Service 9am Choir rehearsal 10am Worship 11am OSJ meetig 9	6:45pm Al-Anon 10	10am Family Connections EEC 5:30pm Fam. Prgm. 5:30pm Cottage Circle Sm. Grp. in Murphys 18	11am Sm. Grp. in Angels Camp 12:30pm AA & Al-Anon 6:30pm Al-Anon 12	9am - 4pm WIC in Social Hall 10am The Wanderers Sm. Grp. in Murphys 12pm Women's AA 14	9:30 - 10:30am Bell Choir Rehearsal CC Community Concerts 3pm 22	9:30 - 10:30am Bell Choir Rehearsal CC Community Concerts 3pm 22
9am Choir rehearsal 10am Worship DISC GOLF CC Community Concerts 3pm 23	1pm M&C mtg. EEC 6:45pm Al-Anon 17	8am staff mtg. 10am Sm. Grp. in Murphys 25	12:30pm AA & Al-Anon 6:30pm Al-Anon 26	4pm CE mtg. via Zoom 12pm Women's AA 28	9:30 - 10:30am Bell Choir Rehearsal CC Community Concerts 3pm 29	9:30 - 10:30am Bell Choir Rehearsal CC Community Concerts 3pm 29
10am Taizé Worship Service 30						



God's love echoes through us to all creation.

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Phone: 209.728.3141

APRIL 2023

DATED MATERIAL—DO NOT DELAY

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Murphys, CA 95247

509 N. Algiers Street

PO Box 48

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

Secretary Jenny Fuqua

Custodian Peter Marai-Muro

Christian Ed. Director Patty Haskell

Childcare Shayanna DuCharme

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.