



THE NUGGET

First Congregational Church of Murphys, United Church of Christ



Heavenly Chocolate Festival Saturday, February 11 1 - 4pm

All you can eat for only
\$15. Wine pairing and
wine by the glass also
available for \$5.



*Ash Wednesday is
February 22. This
marks the beginning
of our Lenten season.
We will not be having
an evening service,
but please join us
with Faith Lutheran
Church in Murphys
for their Ash
Wednesday service at
noon.*

Saizé worship service

March 1 at 7pm



*You are invited to gather in the
candlelit sanctuary at 7pm
for the simplicity of
music and meditation,
prayer and silence.*

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.

Pastor's Article



Dear Ones,

By now I am hoping all of you have found a small group that fits your schedule. We do have openings if you are still looking for a place to get involved. These small group gatherings once a month are so very important in the life of our parish.

They provide a place for us to talk about our faith journey and share our joys and sorrows. It is a time of growth and reflection, caring and challenge. These first three months of the year, we are examining what we believe about Jesus, God and the Holy Spirit.

I've been reading the book, *Childish Thinking* by Salvatore Sapiena and it has led me to challenge us all to think about our faith in mature ways. He says this, The teachings of our childhood have led many to leave the Church, because they simply couldn't reconcile those teachings with the teachings of Jesus and with their own life experiences which taught them otherwise.[1]

The goal for the conversations in our small groups is to enable us to share what we believe and be challenged to think in new ways about our faith. It is often hard to describe or tell someone what we know about God and the Bible, and we have little practice doing it. We might be able to retell Sunday School stories from the Bible but how are we engaging the wisdom from the Bible in life changing ways?

Come to small group and find out! Through scripture, art, and music we will uncover marvelous treasures! To join a group, call the church office and let us know you want to be a part of this exciting walk with God and others!

Thrilled to be in ministry with you!

Pastor Bonnie

[1] Sapeinza, Salvatore. Tregatti Press. 2020 *Childish Thinking: How the Church Keeps Us Stuck in Sunday School*. P. 14.



Treasurer's Article

Thank you to everyone for coming to the Congregational meeting and approving the 2023 Budget. It is truly a blessing working with everyone on this. I felt very supported and that people had reviewed the budget and asked me questions ahead of time. This preparation made for a short and productive meeting. We also had an increase in pledges for 2023, thank you for those that were able to do this. We still will have financially challenges this year, but I am hopeful that it will work out. I am looking forward to researching the endowment and giving you that information in June. Thanks again and stay dry!! Patty

We have our Heavenly Chocolate Festival coming up. We still need volunteers and chocolate. If you are able to help, please contact the church office. This is a very important fundraiser for our church.

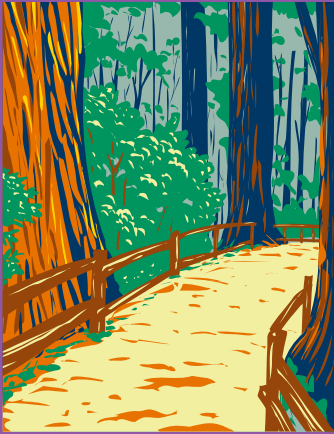
The Engaging Families
Resource Empowering Communities
Connection Enriching Lives

We are happy and proud to have received a letter of recognition from The Resource Connection for our congregation's gift of \$640. Our support helped provide food and a sense of comfort to so many children, seniors, and families who are struggling. Strong work, FCCM!



Volunteers needed

Are you a friendly, outgoing person? Do you love our social hour time at church? Then we need you to serve on our Membership and Calling team. If you think you might be a good fit, please call Pastor Bonnie



The South Grove Bunch will have their next meeting on February 28. They are still meeting on the 2nd Tuesday of the month from 5:30 - 7:30pm in Eastman.



Vice-Moderator's Musings

Since September, I have been using this spot in The Nugget to discuss the various teams and committees established by our bylaws to help conduct the business of our church. Joining one of these teams and committees is an important way for you to participate in the work of the church, but some people do not

feel comfortable in such a role. I have good news! You can participate in the work of one or more of our teams without being a committee member! In fact, several of our teams need church members to volunteer for various tasks sporadically or occasionally (and you don't have to attend meetings to serve this way).

For example, Parish Care can use your help if you'd like to offer meals like soups or casseroles to members who are ill. They could also use people willing to drive a member to health appointments, or to church services or events, or to visit a member who is hospitalized or shut-in. The Hospitality Committee always appreciates help in the kitchen before and after services, and also needs a steady stream of volunteers to bring a treat for members to enjoy during "coffee hour" on Sundays. The Worship Team is currently recruiting ushers, greeters, and sound technicians for our Sunday services. Membership & Calling could use help in connecting with visitors and prospective church members, as well as members who haven't attended lately. Christian Enrichment has needs for help with the bimonthly Family Program, the children's Sunday School, and other activities they sponsor for our spiritual growth and education. You can also support the Outreach & Social Justice Team by working on one or more of the projects they facilitate for our members, without being part of the planning team. The Finance & Facilities Team always needs volunteers for help with the grounds and with setting up equipment for various events. So, you can see, there are lots of opportunities to assist one or more of our teams, without officially becoming a regular team member or attending monthly meetings.

The reality is that we need every member to find the ways that they can best contribute to the life of our church, to meet our mission and goals. We are a relatively small church, with big goals to serve our God, our community, and our world. Please find at least one new way that you can serve, and then contact that Team or Committee to volunteer!

Barbara Olivier, Vice-Moderator



Christian Education Recap



We continue to have exciting times together. We will see our families and enjoy a nice dinner on Tuesday, February 7 and 21. If you would like to help prepare a meal, please contact Judy Regalia at 415-747-1947.

We continue to have well attended family programs and exciting Sunday School lessons. Jeri Carson-Hull gave a presentation on the Blessing Box and the purpose of it. We will now be restocking and checking the Blessing Box every Sunday morning during Sunday School. In Sunday school we have been learning about other religions: Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam, Judaism and Indigenous. We made prayer rugs and learned about the purpose of them. The Junior High curriculum is learning about Jesus and the Sermon on the Mount. We are looking forward to our intergenerational camp out on June 2-4 and to Camp Tam. Please mark the dates on your calendar and hope you can make the camp out in June. Thanks, Patty



LOVE
⇒ JESUS ⇐

grow
in faith

CHANGE
THE WORLD

Knitters and Hookers



For their December meeting, the Knitters and Hookers gathered at Liz and Diane Tussey's house for a wonderful party and sing-a-long. Diane planned all of the Christmas carols, complete with violin accompaniment! They sang every song you could think of! What party would be complete without some treats? An assortment of desserts were enjoyed, along with some mulled wine. This group knows how to have a good time!

They will have their next gathering on Wednesday, February 15 from 11am - 2pm at the Tussey's house.



The Outreach and Social Justice Team will be hosting a Homelessness Awareness Night on **February 25 at 5pm**. There will be a guest speaker and soup and chili provided for supper. For more information, please contact Pam Kimes.

Bell Choir is Returning!



We are very excited to announce that our Bell Choir is going to begin rehearsing in February each Saturday at 9:30 a.m. If you have any interest in playing bells, please contact Dr. Daryl.



Do you love singing? Then join the vocal choir! Vocal choir meets the second and fourth Sundays of each month at 9 a.m. for rehearsal and then sings during the service.

Introducing Our New Child Care Worker!



Hi! I'm Shayanna DuCharme. I was born and raised in the state of Wisconsin and moved to Murphys 6 years ago with my partner, Malachi. We now have a one and a half year-old daughter, Sorren, who is also a new member of this church! I worked in the Special Education room at Michelson Elementary School for 4 years as a para-professional. I will be graduating from Columbia College this semester with my degree in Allied Health and plan to transfer to Berkely for their Herbology program. I am very excited for this opportunity to work at this lovely church and to guide the minds of children once again!

WELCOME



Plan to join us for the retirement service and celebration for Rev. Dr. Liz Armstrong at Union UCC in Angels Camp on February 26 at 11:30 a.m. We plan to leave right after to our worship service and go share in this event together. We are asking you to RSVP by signing the attendance sheet this Sunday following worship. We need to know how many people are coming so we know how much food to prepare.

— HAPPY —
Retirement



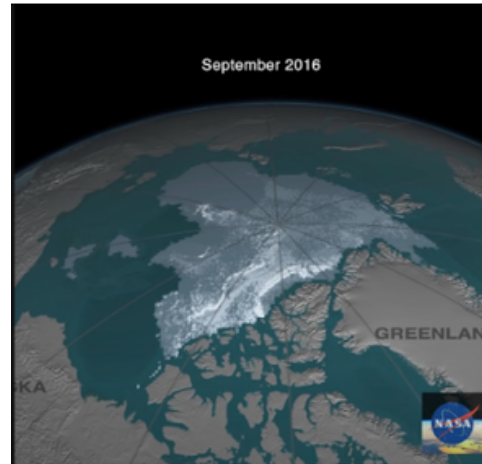
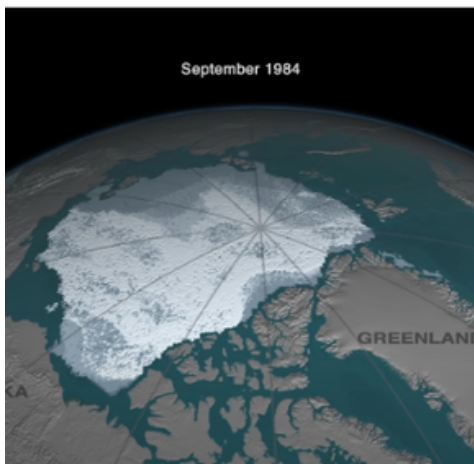
Water Conservation Corner

Is our freshwater percentage increasing or decreasing?

Decreasing. The icecaps and glaciers are melting into the oceans.

How quickly are the icecaps and glaciers melting?

According to www.climate.nasa.gov, Antarctica is losing 150 billion tons of ice mass per year. Greenland is losing 280 billion tons of ice mass per year.



For more info on disappearing Arctic sea ice: <https://youtu.be/hlVXOC6a3ME>

PLEASE REDUCE FRESHWATER USAGE!

- 💧 Replace lawns with drought- tolerant landscaping.
- 💧 Instead of sprinklers, use drip irrigation on individual plants.
- 💧 Check for leaks regularly.
- 💧 Mulch around trees.
- 💧 Cover spa/swimming pool to reduce evaporation.



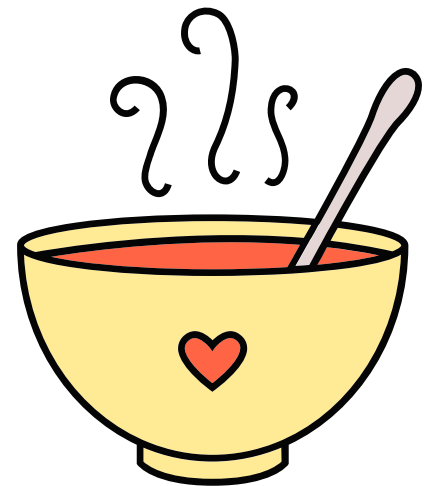
Submitted by Corrie Billiet, Outreach and Social Justice Team

Upcoming next month...



Our Irish Day Pancake Breakfast is coming up on March 18 from 8:30am - 10:30am. Many workers are needed to help with this event, so please contact Wendy Glessman if you are able to help.

We will be having our Lenten Soup Suppers every Tuesday in March at 5:30pm. Please refer to the sign up sheet in the social hall to see where your team is signed up.



Lenten Devotional booklets are on their way! This year, we will read *Running From Empty*. They will be available for sale for \$5 each.



Angela Patterson 9
Paula Smith 11
Tracey Ellifritz 12
Carol Dougherty 14
Shad Sundberg 16
Monika Riedel 18
Vena Graves 19
Chelsea Page 19
Colleen Silva 21
Hilary Oldenkamp 28



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 grieving:

Elsbeth Mann
Tutthill Family

All those who are ill:

Tabitha Kremesec
Hilary Oldenkamp
Gail Withuhn
Angela Patterson
Tracey Ellifritz
Alan and Dodi Horvath
Sergio Pena

February 2023



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 12pm Ring the Bell for Peace 12:30pm AA & Al-Anon 6:30pm Al-Anon	2	3 12pm Women's AA	4 9:30 - 10:30am Bells Choir Rehearsal
5 10am Worship Holy Communion	6 6:45pm Al-Anon	7 10am Family Connections EEC 5:30pm Family Program	8	9	10 12pm Women's AA	11 9:30 - 10:30am Bells Choir Rehearsal Heavenly Chocolate Festival 1 - 4pm
12 9am Choir rehearsal 10am Worship 1pm OSJ meeting	13 6:45pm Al-Anon	14 	15 11am Knitters & Hookers 12:30pm AA & Al-Anon 6:30pm Al-Anon	16 11:30am Exec. Comm. mtg.	17 12pm Women's AA	18 9:30 - 10:30am Bells Choir Rehearsal
19 10am Worship 11am Council Mtg.	20 President's Day Office Closed 6:45pm Al-Anon	21 5:30pm Family Program	22 12:30pm AA & Al-Anon 6:30pm Al-Anon	23	24 12pm Women's AA	25 9:30 - 10:30am Bells Choir Rehearsal
26 9am Choir rehearsal 10am Worship 11:30am Rev. Liz Armstrong retirement service	27 10am Pastoral Relations mtg. 6:45pm Al-Anon	28 5:30pm South Grove Bunch EEC				

God's love echoes through us to all creation.

Website: www.fccmurph.org

Email: nugget@fccmurph.org

Phone: 209.728.3141

FEBRUARY 2023

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

Christian Ed. Director Patty Haskell

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.