



We are in the season of Lent.

*Lent is a special forty days where we walk the path of Jesus to the cross. We will join Faith Lutheran for their Ash Wednesday service on February 22 at noon. We will also have a Taizé service here at FCCM on Wednesday, March 1 at 7pm. We will be having our Lenten Soup Suppers every Tuesday in March at 5:30pm. Our Lenten Devotional booklets have arrived. This book is called, **Running From Empty**, and you can get your copy at the church for \$5.*

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



*Saizé worship service
April 30 at 10am*



*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 **Learnings from Lent**

As we are now in the season of Lent, we once again practice the rituals of these holy 40 days leading up to Easter. During Lent many people practice a discipline of giving up something as a sacrificial act of deepening their faith. In these modern times, many people prefer to add something to their rituals.

Each of us will determine what is calling to us to enrich our walk with the Holy One. For some, it might be giving up T.V. or wine or chocolate or obsessive working. For others it might be adding a good deed to every day, a moment of prayer for someone else, a cheering phone call or a donation to a place of need.

Why is this so important? I am reminded that other faith traditions have similar practices. The Muslims practice a month long fast of Ramadan, the Jewish people Practice fasting during Yom Kippur and my own ancestors, the Native American tribes, use fasting for spiritual awakening. A UCC writer Craig Gabriel says, "It seems almost universally accepted that an intentional and thoughtful act of self-sacrifice can not only deepen spiritual connections with the Sacred, but also make us all more mindful of the excesses with which we are prone to live and grow oblivious to." [1]

I encourage us all to discover a spiritual practice this Lenten season. The tragic war in Ukraine and the earthquakes in Turkey and Syria, all remind me of the fragility of life. I am grieving these situations and asking God to direct us in how we might respond. It's often easier for me to go to my optimistic side and ignore the suffering. There is learning in the dungeon of sickness as well. May we all find the blessing of a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ and others on our Lenten paths.

Praying from the pits, Pastor Bonnie

[1] https://www.ucc.org/into_the_mystic_lent/



Treasurer's Article

Another month has come and gone. We had a very successful Chocolate Festival in February and are looking forward to the Pancake Breakfast on March 28th.

We are making good progress towards our Fundraiser budget goal of \$10,000. Thank you to Judy Regalia and her team of "Chocolate Experts" that made the

Chocolate Festival a huge success. The community and the workers enjoyed over 65 types of chocolate desserts. Everyone was excited to hear that it is an annual event.



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
PRESENTS

Irish Day

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

KIDS UNDER
10 EAT FOR
\$10, UNDER 2
FREE!

\$15

8:30 - 10:30 AM

MARCH
18



509 North Algiers Street
Murphys, CA

For more information or to purchase
tickets call (209)728-3141 or visit
www.fccmurph.org



Bell Choir is Back!



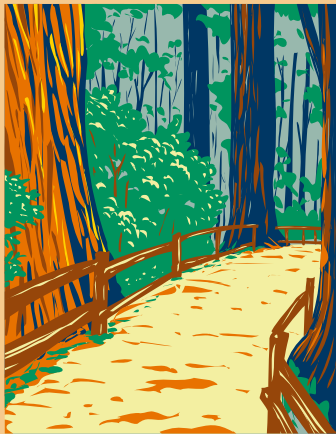
We are very excited to announce that our Bell Choir is going to be rehearsing in each Saturday until Easter at 9:30 a.m. If you have any interest in playing bells, please contact Dr. Daryl.



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.

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 March 13 in the Social Hall. They will return to their regular schedule after Lenten Soup Suppers are done.



Moderator's Message

I can't help but feel spring in the air now that we are into March (finally!). I don't know about you but it has been frightfully cold, snowy, icy, brrrr in Arnold, and we're ready for a change.

Aside from the weather, the start of 2023 has just been a marvelous time in the life of

the church. The officers and team leaders met for a Council Retreat at the Lakemont Pines Lodge in late January, and the results were inspiring and dynamic! I think everyone was energized, and the February council meeting incorporated the ideas that came out of the retreat, so we can carry them forward and put them into action.

The Heavenly Chocolate Festival was just that – Heavenly! Many thanks go out to Judy Regalia and Sandy Maus for so ably chairing this annual event. We had a record 70+ different chocolate goodies donated! The number of people who bought tickets – including community members and church members was just amazing! I think a good time was had by all and it was a great kickoff to our fundraising efforts for 2023. Abundant thanks to all who volunteered and all who participated – it was just a fabulous time.

As most of you know, Pastor Bonnie will take her Sabbatical this year, May 1st to July 31st. She and Daryl have coverage during their absence (Daryl will use vacation time to join Bonnie in May) completely lined up, and we wish her a time of renewal and spiritual growth.

The nominating committee has begun meeting to review and plan for the end of term for officers and some team members on 6/30/23. If you or anyone you know would like to get involved in a team or committee, please feel free to contact me, Barbara Olivier, or Pastor Bonnie. We welcome all input and involvement and are so blessed by the new members who have joined a team.

The Blessings of Spring Renewal to all of you!

Carrie Shinn
Moderator



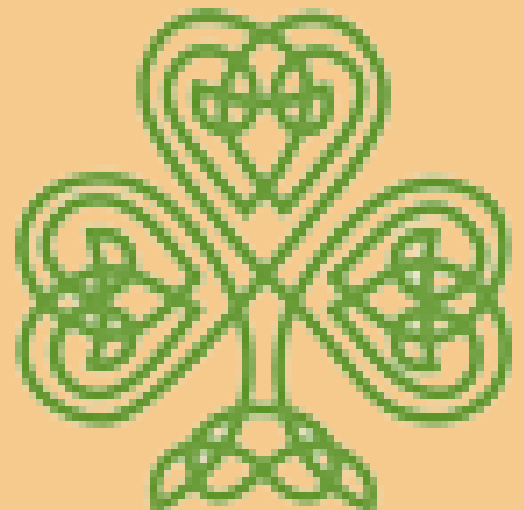
Christian Education Recap



The Knitters and Hookers will have their next gathering on March 15. They meet on the 3rd Wednesday of the month from 11am - 2pm at Liz Tussey's house.

SPRING FORWARD!

Daylight Savings Time is March 12! Set your clocks forward.



As Christian Education Director I have been busy making plans for the spring and summer. I will be doing a Shine Curriculum training on March 5th after church in the Williams room. If you are interested in learning about the new Junior High curriculum, please let me know. Also in March, on the 12th, we will be doing a disc golf activity and trash pick up at Feeney Park. The Family Program for March will be combined with the Lenten Soup Suppers, which are every Tuesdays. I will be providing children activities and Dr. Daryl will be working with the youth on handbells and hand chimes. We will also have the famous Easter Egg Hunt on Easter morning and planning an Open House for Sunday School in May. Mark you calendar for the Family campout on June 2-4th at Big Trees , and Vacation Bible School on August 7-11th. It will be a busy spring and summer. Thanks for all your support and help. Patty



Honoring our Volunteers!



Dear Church Family,

Bravo!! Well done!

The Chocolate Festival was a huge success with 71 different varieties of chocolate, people from as far away as Illinois, and thousands of calories and grams of sugar consumed!

To date, the gross amount for the day is \$3,459 up from \$1,500 from 2019.

A special thank you to Sandy Maus, Co-chair, Lucie Tardif who managed the kitchen, Pat LaMont and Faye Morrison who worked all day Friday recording and labeling all the chocolate and setting up the kitchen FULL of chocolate for Saturday. To Pam Kimes for making TONS of phone calls, to Peggy Sparrow for helping create the baskets, Connie Cook who managed and supplied the best chocolate fountain ever, Marilyn Baisel and daughter Cathy who managed the coffee, tea bar, Barb Olivier and crew at the wine bar, Jenny for all her support, and a HUGE thank you to all the Worker Bees who worked for hours on Saturday and of course to ALL the bakers, for without you this event could not happen.

Such a fabulous church family coming together to create this success!

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Big hugs,
Judy Regalia
Co-chair



Outreach & Social Justice

March and April Happenings

Romans 1:20 – For ever since the world was created, people have seen the earth and sky. Through everything God made, they can clearly see his invisible qualities – his eternal power and divine nature. So they have no excuse for not knowing God.

Spring is a season to rejoice in the re-birth of plants, the re-awakening of trees, flowers, and animals from their winter slumber, and the renewal of our souls. During this season the Outreach & Social Justice Team will be focusing on and celebrating our beloved Earth and how we can nurture and protect her.

In April we will be holding a poster contest for the kids celebrating Earth Day. Any medium or mediums the kids want to use to create their poster is permitted. The posters will need to be on 11 X 14 paper. The theme of the posters will be the theme of this year's Earth Day "Invest in Our Planet". The congregation will be voting for the winners on April 11 and prizes will be given to the winners.

We will again be making Earth Day Activity boxes for the kids in the church and their families. Please save any shoe boxes you have and give them to a team member to use as a vessel for our activity boxes. If anyone has any ideas of activities to include inside these boxes please pass those on to one of the O&Sj Team members.

Other Springtime activities our team is working on include a trash pickup day, a guided hike, Setting up an informational booth at the Earth Day celebration in Angels Camp and a brown bag lunch.

Postponed, but not cancelled, as soon as we are able to make it happen, the O&Sj team will be presenting our presentation on Homelessness.



A homelessness tidbit:

In 2021 13.5% of Calaveras residents lived below the poverty line. In 2021 a single person who earned less than \$13,900 was living below that line. The three available rentals in the Murphys area start at \$1650 per month (2 bed, 2 bath) to \$2700 per month (3 bedroom 2 bath).





Water Conservation Corner

Can we use all of our freshwater for drinking, cooking, bathing, fishing, swimming, etc?

No. 50 years after the passage of the landmark federal Clean Water Act, 50% of all assessed rivers, streams, and lakes in the U.S. are too polluted for fishing, swimming, or drinking.

<https://environmentalintegrity.org/reports/the-clean-water-act-at-50/>

And climate change threatens to further degrade these resources, possibly leading to widespread water shortages by mid-century.

<http://uswateralliance.org/wec>



←Topsoil runoff from farm,
central Iowa

Photo courtesy of USDA Natural
Resources Conservation Service

HOW TO HELP

- 💧 Buy organic produce and protein
- 💧 Buy and use less chemicals and plastics.
- 💧 Avoid chemical pesticides and herbicides.
- 💧 Dispose of hazardous waste properly.



Submitted by Corrie Billiet, Outreach and Social Justice Team

Upcoming next month...

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



HOLY WEEK

Earth Day celebration at Utica Park in Angels Camp on April 22. We will have an informational booth set up. Contact Lynne Bird for more information.



We will have a celebration of life for our dear Joanie Singleton on April 29. Please stay tuned for more details.



Joyce Hauck-Swanson 3
Sally Greninger 4
Diane Campana 8
Walt Markus 11
Daryl Hollinger 17
Carol Osterlund 19
Lizzy Restivo 22
Pete Ryan 23
Mary Kelly 26
Chris Markus 27

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





March 2023



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
 10am Worship Holy Communion 11am Jeri Small Group mtg EEC 1:30pm Worship mtg. via Zoom	 10am Parish Care mtg. 6:45pm Al-Anon	10am Family Connections 5:30pm Lenten Soup Supper & Family Program	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 Bell Choir Rehearsal
10am Worship 9am Choir rehearsal 11am OSJ meeting DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME	6 10am Parish Care mtg. 6:45pm Al-Anon	7 10am Family Connections 5:30pm Lenten Soup Supper & Family Program	8 12:30pm AA & Al-Anon 6:30pm Al-Anon	9	10 12pm Women's AA	11 9:30 - 10:30am Bell Choir Rehearsal
10am Worship 9am Choir rehearsal 11am OSJ meeting DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME	13 5:30pm South Grove Bunch Social Hall 6:45pm Al-Anon	14 5:30pm Lenten Soup Supper	15 11am Knitters & Hookers 12:30pm AA & Al-Anon 6:30pm Al-Anon	16	17 12pm Women's AA	18 9:30 - 10:30am Pancake Breakfast 9:30 - 10:30am Bell Choir Rehearsal
19 OGHS offering 10am Worship 11am Council Mtg.	20 1pm M&C mtg. EEC 6:45pm Al-Anon	21 5:30pm Lenten Soup Supper & Family Program	22 11am Knitters & Hookers 12:30pm AA & Al-Anon 6:30pm Al-Anon	23	24 12pm Women's AA	25 9:30 - 10:30am Bell Choir Rehearsal
26 9am Choir rehearsal 10am Worship	27 10am Pastoral Relations mtg. 6:45pm Al-Anon	28 5:30pm Lenten Soup Supper	29 12:30pm AA & Al-Anon 6:30pm Al-Anon	30 4pm CE mtg. via Zoom	31 12pm Women's AA	

3/14 - 3/20 Pastor Bonnie vacation



The Retirement service and luncheon celebration for Rev. Dr. Liz Armstrong is scheduled for Sunday March 12 at 11:30 a.m. Congregational Meeting is set for Sunday March 12 at 5 p.m. via zoom. We will vote on the merger with Union UCC.

God's love echoes through us to all creation.

Website: www.fccmurph.org

Email: nugget@fccmurph.org

Phone: 209.728.3141

MARCH 2023

DATED MATERIAL—DO NOT DELAY

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Murphys, CA 95247

509 N. Algiers Street

PO Box 48

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF CHRIST
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

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.