



NOVEMBER 2023 VOLUME 21 ISSUE 11

THE NUGGET

United Church of Christ



It is happening!
Wendy Glessman and her team are preparing a fabulous Thanksgiving dinner for anyone who wants to enjoy a great meal and fellowship on November 23 at 2pm.

We do appreciate reservations so please call the church office to reserve your spot. Bring your family and friends! If you want to help you may donate food items or money. Please call the church office or Wendy Glessman for more information.



Because of **You** our church changes lives.

To celebrate our Stewardship season and our shared ministry, we invite you to join us for a brunch after worship on November 5. Sandwich fixings will be provided, please bring a salad or cookies to accompany our meal. We will also have a cake to celebrate our newest members.



There will be no Taizé service in November. The next service will be on Wednesday, December 6 at 7pm.



Calling all Quilters!

If you want to join our church quilters, please call Mary Kelly at (209)443-4490



Mark your calendars now for our annual Christmas Open House at the church office on Wednesday, December 13 from 11am - 2pm. Treats will be provided. We hope you stop by to visit us!

Pastor's Article



Dear Beloved, I certainly hope you are noticing all the new folk who are attending our worship services and participating in our ministry. It just has me dancing for joy! The new people tell me that they appreciate our very warm welcome and oh how that blesses me to hear it!

However, I think we can take our hospitality a step further. The Bible says, *For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me. Matthew 25:35*

So often I hear, “well who is that?” Or “I don’t know them.” When I encourage you all to introduce yourselves on Sunday mornings and make a special effort to approach someone you do not know, I hear this: *Well maybe they have been coming to church a long time and I should know who they are, and I will embarrass myself, or I can’t remember their name.*

Especially since we are now a merged church, there are even more new faces. Do not use this as an excuse not to be hospitable. Jesus tells us to welcome the stranger.

I want to challenge each of us, every Sunday morning, to meet and **introduce ourselves to one person whom we do not know.** What if you don’t remember their name? What if they have been coming here for years? Just think how marvelous it would be if you would say, “HI, I’m Bonnie Hollinger and I am so glad you came today. It is wonderful to have you here.” Most people will then just introduce themselves and you are off to a fabulous conversation. It really is that simple.

Forgetting someone’s name is not a sin, my beloved. It is the nature of our minds when the index file of our brains is just overloaded. So, let’s give grace to ourselves and when you talk to someone whom you know, but cannot recall their name, just say, “please tell me your name again because it seems to be buried in my memory somewhere.” There are many other statements that work well too – but not talking to someone because you can’t recall their name, or beating up on yourself because you don’t remember, is not being hospitable to them or to yourself.

It takes some courage to branch out and not talk with the same people every week at social time, but we can do it! Love abounds – let be brave!

Dancing with my sometimes-foggy brain! Pastor Bonnie



Treasurer's Article

It is hard to believe that the last quarter of 2023 is here. You should have received your 3rd quarter giving statement from the Financial Secretary and I hope to have reviewed it. Please let Gary Carson-Hull know if there are any questions with these statements. Union members, please

remember that these statements reflect contributions to Murphys UCC only. If you need a copy of your contributions to Union UCC, please contact Gary. That information will also be included in you end of the year statement. I will be watching the bank balance carefully during this last quarter of the year. Please keep your pledges up to date during this time. With the added income from the Union Church, I am hoping we do not need additional funds from the endowment that was approved in the 2023 budget. Thank you for your continued financial support of the ministry of the church. Please call if you have any questions. ~Patty



NCNC UCC Annual Fall Gathering is via zoom on Saturday, November 18 at 10 a.m. We will be voting on the budget and the recommendation of Rev. Davena Jones as the Conference Minister. Visit <https://ncncucc.org/annual-gathering/> to register or call the church office. We need two voting delegates to attend so call Pastor Bonnie if you are able to participate. The meeting is open to everyone.



Recycling is picked up at the church the first week of every other month at 9am sharp. The next recycling pick-up will be on Wednesday, Nov. 8



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



THE ANNUAL BUDGET MEETING WILL BE HELD ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10. PACKETS WILL BE SENT IN THE COMING WEEKS.

Vice-Moderator's Musings

The Stewardship season is upon us and will be followed directly with Advent. I always have mixed reactions during this time. There is a certain pride I feel as I notice - and love - our congregation's ability to come together, agree upon a budget, and step up to cover the expenses of running our beautiful church. At the same time, I dread the discussions about reducing costs and depleting resources. Of course, inflation has been tough on all of our budgets the last couple years, but that includes the budget to keep our church facilities and programs running. So, we must remember that as we consider again how we can help with our financial pledge to our church for the coming year.

I believe that most of us come to this church because we believe in its mission and ministry to our community. We have jointly selected as our partners the Resource Connection, Sierra Hope, Habitat for Humanity, and Lasagna Love. Each of these agencies provide services to those in our community who need food, a safe place to live, support and assistance with their families, and other basic needs. We also come to be inspired and transformed through our worship and music. We create a welcoming place and celebrate the good news of Jesus Christ. How lucky we are!

Thank you for your part in contributing to the work and ministry of this congregation. Please be generous as you consider your pledge to support this church, both financially and with your time. Sincerely, Barbara Olivier



New Members will be received into membership on Sunday November 5 during worship. We are excited to have Sandra & Jeff Sather, Penny Sarvis, June Perry and Maggie Di Dio join our parish. We will celebrate their membership with a special dessert at the Stewardship luncheon.



Small Group Meetings:

Nov. 7: Family Program
5:30pm in Social Hall
Contact Evelyn Betts

Nov. 10: The Wanderers
10am in Murphys
Contact Marilyn Baisel.

Nov. 14: South Grove Bunch
5:30pm in Eastman
Contact Faye Morrison

Nov. 15: Angels Angels
11am in Copperopolis
Contact Barb Olivier.

Nov. 21: Cottage Circle
10 am in Murphys home
Contact Meg Self.

Nov. 28: Small Group #5
10am in Murphys home
Contact Pam Kimes.

Christian Education Recap



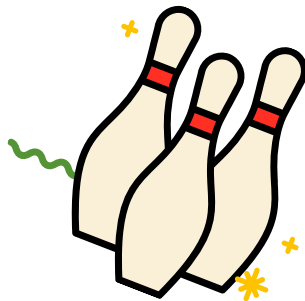
The holidays are upon us. We are busy preparing for the **Advent workshop on Sunday, December 3rd at 4:00pm**. We will enjoy a

variety of holiday crafts, a soup supper and workshop. This is a fun activity for all ages.

We are also starting to think about our **Christmas Program on December 17th**. I know these dates are in the distant future, but I find that November and December are busy months. We will then bring in the New Year with our annual **"Game Night at Church" on December 31st**, another fun multi generational event.

With the holidays coming up we will only have one family program in November, 7th, and one in December, 5th. We might have additional rehearsals for the Christmas program on December 12 and/or December 16th.

Hope everyone stays healthy during this holiday season and remember the reason for the season!
Patty



The Sunday School kiddos got to enjoy an afternoon of bowling on October 29. Many thanks to the parents and to our Christian Enrichment team for putting this together!



Book Study meetings:

Nov. 9, 2 - 4pm

Nov. 16, 2 - 4pm

The Book Club is part of our Christian Education program and meets every other Thursday in the Eastman Education Center.



We are happy to report that Shay's pooch, Ramses is doing well. Many thanks to all who donated to help with this sweet guy's vet bill!

We will miss you



A Message from the Worship Team

Hello, Congregation!

Are you curious about how the sound is managed during our Worship? Then volunteering for the Sound Team may be right for you!! Our Sound Team is slim and needs reinforcements! The Team is becoming volunteer weary and in real need of more hands on deck! Joe will train you and work with you regarding your availability. Even once a month will help! You will work with Daryl and the Worship Leaders on the days you are scheduled. Please speak with Joe, Daryl or email me and I will connect you with them! Thank you for supporting this important volunteer position!



We are also in need of more volunteers to usher, especially for the upcoming Holiday season. Being an usher is a wonderful way to participate in our worship. Duties include greeting folks, lighting of the altar candles (this is optional if you are just too shy!), collecting offering plates and assuring our sanctuary and the overflow sanctuary are ready for the worship service. We rotate the ushers each week, but you may have noticed you see the same "regulars". That is why we need you!

Please consider adding your name to the list! Speak to Karl Graves, Pastor Bonnie or myself! (or email me).

Blessings,
Liz Graham
Worship Team Chair

The Worship team will be decorating the Sanctuary for Advent season on Saturday, December 2 at 9am. Please contact Liz Graham for more details.



Dear beautiful people, I wanted to share with you that I have decided to resign from my custodian position. During the three years with you all I enjoyed serving you and it is with a heavy heart that I make this decision, as you all have given my family and me so much that I will cherish forever. I am deeply thankful for your continuous love and support.

*Sincerely,
Peter*

CHURCH CLEAN-UP!



Welcome



Saturday, November 11th at 9am.

Mark your calendar to join the group in some fresh autumn air to help rake up leaves, prune back hedges and get our campus ready for the upcoming winter season. If you have a favorite rake, leaf blower, pruning tools, etc.

bring them along, too. We will have tools available to share. If you prefer an indoor project, there are several. Also, important to mention---refreshments will be served. If the weather looks questionable contact Joe Jackson or Connie Cook. Hope to see you on the 11th.



OUR NEW FLOORS HAVE BEEN INSTALLED!

You may have noticed that the kitchen in the Social Hall is looking a little freshened up. The new floors were installed on October 28. Special thanks to Joe Jackson and Connie Cook. They spent hours moving furniture and cleaning.

Welcome to our newest staff member, Lucie Tardif. Lucie was born and raised in Montreal Quebec. She moved to California in January of 2000 to pursue her career in the garment industry as a Technical Designer Manager. She also spent time with an interior design firm. Lucie has been living in Arnold full time since 2020. Her passions are costume history, cooking, entertaining, wood working, design and dogs. We are happy to have Lucie on board as our new custodian.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!



One day in June I was contemplating one of my all-time favorite quotes by theologian Frederick Buechner. It comes from a series of alphabetical reflections, this one called "Vocation." He says: "The place God calls you to is where your deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet."

I thought, "my deep gladness is walking and hiking." The deep hungers of the world that most speak to me now are saving the planet from climate change and protecting our democracy. So it occurred to me that I could walk to raise money for organizations that are in some way addressing those issues. And they should be local groups that I know and trust and am part of.

The idea was born to count all my exercise and hiking miles in July, August, and September, asking friends to support me with donations or pledges. I put out emails and messages on Facebook and the support came in. But I had no idea how great that support would be!

My total mileage on September 30 was 250 miles, and my 39 supporters (friends, family, members of the three groups, even people from places like Massachusetts and Florida!) made it possible for me to raise \$8000!

The church, the Community Action Project/Calaveras Planning Coalition, and a local political party each received a check for \$2700. And I got a lot of good exercise on beautiful early morning walks with my spouse!

It's a lesson for all of us: when those very clear ideas drop in unexpectedly, it's a direct message that is meant for me, is important in our world, and will be effortless. I'm so glad I was listening.

And a big hug to each of those 39 who were walking with me virtually through their donations. Blessings, Rev. Mickey

Congratulations to Kristin and Arron Brown, who welcomed a baby girl, Olivia, on October 14. Olivia joins her big brother, Eric. The Brown family was able to attend worship on Sunday the 29th. It was such a blessing! We will be having a baby shower for them on Sunday, November 26 after worship. We hope everyone can make it! Stay tuned for more details.

Thank you for going above & beyond.

On October 26 at the Murphys Diggins Clubhouse, a Volunteer Appreciation was held to celebrate all of the wonderful people who so generously give their time to keep this church running smoothly. There was finger food, champagne, and live entertainment! Jesse Hampton serenaded us with his guitar, Carol Osterlund read some of her beautiful poetry, and Stella Sundberg wowed the crowd with her juggling skills. Special thanks to Pam Kimes, Angela Patterson, and Connie Cook for putting together such a wonderful event!



Clockwise from top left: Stella Sundberg and Carol Osterlund; Carol Osterlund; Jesse Hampton; the Hollinger family - Pastor Bonnie, Dr. Daryl, and Jordan; Stella and Tanya Sundberg





Margaret White 1

Olivia Friend 2

William Rosenhart 8

Sanders LaMont 9

George Glessman 11

Vienna Watkins-Colodzin 12

Hiro Phillips 14

Carol Churchill 15

Sharon Grassmyer 17

Gail Williams 19

Vicky Oneto 20

Evelyn Betts 21

Sandy Fox-Hill 21

Joe Silva 23

Shannon Ryan 30

Lynne Bird 21

Fred Hampel 22

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:

Prayer List:

Joan Thorsen

Bill Jennings

Jodie Gibson

Lynne Bird

Dodi Horvath

Gail Williams

Shirley Soderer

Tabitha Kremesec

Hilary Oldenkamp

Angela Patterson

Tracey Ellifritz

Maggie Di Dio

Allen Davis

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						
9am Adult Choir 10am Worship Pledge Cards due Stewardship Brunch	6 6:30pm Al-Anon	7 5:30pm Family Program	8 9am Recycling 10am Exec. mtg. 11am Budget mtg. 5pm Worship mtg. 12:30pm AA & Al-Anon 6:30pm Al-Anon	9 2 - 4pm Book Club EEC 4pm CE mtg. ZOOM	10am The Wanderers Sm. Grp. in Murphys 12pm Women's AA	11 9am Church Clean-up 10am Bell Choir
9am Adult Choir 10am Worship 11am OSJ mtg. EEC	13 6:30pm Al-Anon	14 10am Family Connections 5:30 - 7:30pm South Grove Bunch Sm. Grp. EEC	15 11am Knitters & Hookers 11am Angels Angels Sm. Group 12:30pm AA & Al-Anon 6:30pm Al-Anon	16 2 - 4pm Book Club EEC	17 12pm Women's AA	18 10am Bell Choir
10am Worship 11am Council mtg. EEC	20 6:30pm Al-Anon	21 10am - 12pm Family Connections EEC 5:30pm Cottage Circle Sm. Grp.	22 12:30pm AA & Al-Anon 6:30pm Al-Anon	23 	24 Staff Holiday office closed 12pm Women's AA	25 10am Bell Choir
9am Adult Choir 10am worship 11am extended choir rehearsal	27 6:30pm Al-Anon	28 10am Sm. Grp. in Murphys	29	30		



God's love echoes through us to all creation.

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Phone: (209)728-3141

NOVEMBER 2023

DATED MATERIAL - DO NOT DELAY

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

First Congregational Church of Murphys

THE NUGGET



www.ucc.org

Staff

Pastor Rev. Dr. Bonnie Hollinger

Pastor Emeritus Rev. Dr. John Randlett

Music Director Dr. Daryl Hollinger

Secretary Jenny Fuqua

Custodian Lucie Tardif

Christian Ed Director Patty Haskell

Childcare Shayanna DuCharme

Officers

Moderator Carrie Shinn

Vice Moderator Barbara Olivier

Treasurer Patty Hskell

Assistant Treasurer Shad Sundberg

Financial Secretary Gary Carson-Hull

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.