

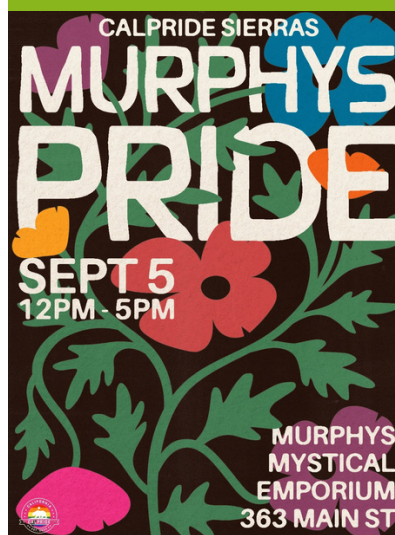
THE NUGGET



Save the Date:

**NCNC Annual Gathering
2026**

**October 22–24, 2026
City of Refuge United
Church of Christ & NCNC
Conference Offices
Oakland, California
for more information:
<https://ncncucc.org/annual-gathering-2026/>**



*We are in the season
of Pentecost and the
color is green.*

Open Door United Church of Christ

Open Doors • Open Minds • Open Hearts

— *All are Welcome Here* —

An Open and Affirming Church

We will be having our Neighbors in Need Offering on October 4, 2026.

The Neighbors in Need offering supports ministries of justice and compassion, with one-third of the offering given to the Council for American Indian Ministries and the remaining two-thirds supporting UCC justice ministries.

In 2025, the Neighbors in Need Offering supported 26 grant recipients across the UCC who were engaged in projects of direct service and advocacy. Learn more at

www.ucc.org/nin

Your contribution makes an impact! Here are just a few stories highlighting United Church of Christ ministries that are supported at least in part by the Neighbors in Need offering.

Living faith boldly: Youth descend on nation's capital for week-long immersion program:

<https://www.ucc.org/photo-essay-living-faith-boldly-youth-descend-on-nations-capital-for-week-long-immersion-program/>

UCC leaders lean into 'Love Knows No Borders' with strategies to move from desolation to action in recorded webinar:

<https://www.ucc.org/ucc-leaders-lean-into-love-knows-no-borders-with-strategies-to-move-from-desolation-to-action-in-recorded-webinar/>

At Ecumenical Advocacy Days, people of faith called on Congress to protect people, peace, planet:

<https://www.ucc.org/at-ecumenical-advocacy-days-people-of-faith-called-on-congress-to-protect-people-peace-planet/>



Interim Thoughts



Beloved,

I'm excited about the construction of our new church website. As I write, it is nearing completion, but there is still work to do. We hope to go "live" with the new website sometime in September. We express our sincere thanks to the anonymous "angels" whose generous donations have made this possible, to Thom Butler, our web designer, and to Matt Graham and Jenny Fuqua, who are the "website point people" working with Thom, as well as to all who have expressed their creative thoughts via email and in person about our website. I want to share with you my vision of what a church website should be and do, based on my *theology*—a word that simply means, "ways to speak about God." I would love to hear your vision

and theology as well! Your "Voices & Visions!" As a congregational church, every voice is important, and there is no real distinction between "clergy" and "laity" because God has made us all priests, that is, the visible presence of Christ on earth, Christ's hands and feet in the world.

So, with that in mind, here goes: my vision and grounding theology for church websites.

Core Values:

- God's good creation is lost in a haze of fear, violence, and extreme "domination practices" that lead to an unsustainable future that threatens us all.
- Nevertheless, God will not give up on God's good creation.
- God is actively redeeming God's world in ways visible and, often, invisible (to us).
- God will always get what God wants; God's Dream for creation will be fulfilled, and God's chosen instrument for this fulfilment is God's church, elect from every nation, and a "parable of true communion" (Brother Roger of Taizé).
- The darkness we see cannot overcome the light that is coming into the world through Jesus Christ, the source of light, the light itself.
- Therefore, to God there is no darkness at all and those who are lost will be found.
- God through the "Wild Goose" (Holy Spirit) who makes Christ known, is like the "hound of heaven," who recklessly and tirelessly pursues us, and this pursuit will continue in the age of the church until every last one of us is found and finally able to return home, to God, our truest home. This theology is sometimes called "universalism." Count me in!
- Because the lost are findable, and we as a church are bearers of the light of Christ, *we must organize ourselves not around ourselves but around those we have yet to meet*, who must be welcomed with extravagant hospitality, taught (discipled) and sent back into the world as bearers of Christ's light.
- Churches should make decisions based not on those "who have been here the longest" *but on those who are not yet here*. (This is truly radical: Those who first heard Jesus' Sermon on the Mount must have thought he had truly lost his mind when he compared God to a shepherd who *left* his ninety-nine sheep to seek and to save *one* lost sheep! As church members, *we may not like it, but this is what God is like*. There is more joy in heaven, Jesus said, when one sheep or one prodigal returns home (although those left behind, like an older brother, may grumble, not feeling the joy!) over **one sinner who repents** than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance ([Luke 15:7](#)).

Implications of all this for a church website:

- A church website must be **outward facing**, toward the communities it serves, and not **inward facing**, towards us only. Having received by grace alone the light of Christ, we are like beggars who have found bread, sharing our bread with others.
- [Research](#) shows that **85% to 90% of first-time visitors** look at a church's website before stepping foot inside the building. While church members must be an "invitational people," always welcoming, always inviting others to faith, the church website is where guests decide if they actually feel comfortable enough to attend. Visitors typically look for worship times, the physical address, what to wear, and programs for children. Especially for historically oppressed groups of people, they must feel that church is a community where they are safe.
- Worship and church life should be **hybrid**, that is, both in person and online. This is especially important in rural communities where it may take an hour or more to drive to church on a Sunday morning! As one [church](#) puts it, we must [redefine] "the experience of spiritual community by integrating innovative digital and physical spaces that foster deep connections, personal growth, and actionable service. Our mission is to create a dynamic and inclusive platform where individuals can explore their faith, engage in meaningful dialogues, and actively participate in community-driven service projects. By embracing creative flexibility and intentional design, *Illume* seeks to remove barriers to spiritual engagement, making it accessible, engaging, and relevant for modern seekers everywhere."

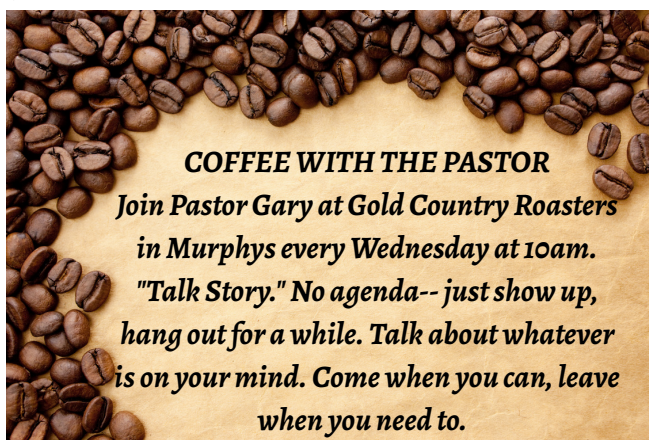
- “Hybrid worship” means presenting guests with two viable options: **Livestream and in person worship**. If Open Door commits to becoming a “missional church” focused on connecting with seekers of wholeness and healing not only in Murphys but in the wider (five county) surrounding community, we must become intentional about becoming a hybrid, missional church.
- This will take considerable “adaptive change,” and the transition from “church as usual” (old wine in old wineskins) to this “new wine” that cannot be contained in old wineskins! (Jesus used this parable in Matthew 9, Mark 2, and Luke 5 when people asked why his disciples did not conduct themselves according to the old assumptions and established religious practices. Jesus explained that his arrival signaled a completely new era. Trying to mix Jesus’ life-giving grace into an old system of earning salvation through religion breaks the system. It requires a fresh heart and an open mind. Christianity is not a **religion** so much as it is a life altering **relationship** with a person, Jesus the Christ. As my friend Walter Wink used to say, Jesus was so far ahead of his time, so radical in his vision, so inclusive in his acceptance of those deemed undesirable to religious folk, that if he had not lived, we would never have been able to invent him!)

Closing Reflections

- If we commit to becoming a missional church--that is, an outpost of God’s realm of peace and justice in a very rural part of California where folks may need to drive an hour or more to attend worship in Murphys, **and** we accept the fact that the age of “Christendom” is over and we live in a post-Christian era, **then** we need a website that accurately reflects the kind of church that we aspire to be. Our theologies (“ways of speaking and thinking about God”) should guide our website design (as well as everything else.)
- Among other things, this means we want to “lean in” to being **Open and Affirming**, prophetic (or, if you prefer, “progressive”) and above all **safe** for any who may be frightened to come through the doors.
- The front door of a church can be terrifying for those wounded by bad religion, or those who have recently heard about church but have no idea of what church is--- in this sense, the “mission field” our ancestors understood as far away in places like Africa, South America, and Asia is right here, in Calaveras County.
- “Missional church” is just a fancy way of saying, **a Jesus centered church**. An exciting church! Jesus was never boring, often funny (the peasants he preached to would have naturally roared with laughter when Jesus said it is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter heaven—classic peasant humor!), frequently in trouble with the law, and constantly summoning people to the greatest adventure of their lives—the life of Christian discipleship.
- Jesus centered churches are **never boring** and are not satisfied with being one more aging, boring, status-quo embracing, cookie cutter mainline Protestant church dimly reflecting the nostalgic mist of an earlier era of a Christendom which is dying, and may well deserve to die, because it lost its first love--Jesus, who, I repeat, was never boring, always radical, always challenging systems of domination, always calling folks to a higher vision, to God’s Dream of human flourishing for all.
- Thus, we need a **website** that will create “**side doors**” and “**back doors**” -any kind of door! as online and in-person **points of entry** into the church.
- Our very name, Open Door, suggests this.
- Can we build a website that functions like a door swinging open on the hinges of love and true communion, and an interactive website that is not merely a boring “information tool?”
- Question: Can we *afford* to build such a website, and make the shift to being hybrid church?
- Can we afford not to?

More about this in our next edition of the *Nugget*!
Sending much *aloha* to each of you,

Gary



Vice-Moderator's Musings

This is my first article as Vice Moderator. It's hard to believe I am not the Treasurer anymore. Barb is helping me move into this new role. The Search committee and I are busy re-writing the letter of call for Pastor Gary, since the Congregation voted to change his status from Interim Pastor to Designated Term Pastor. This change will allow us to complete a cultural reassessment and identification of a future vision for our ministry. I will also be working with Pastor Gary and to complete staff evaluations. Thanks to all the staff for the wonderful Vacation Bible School and also all the extra planning and work that went into the White Pines service. Also a big thanks to the many volunteers that helped make these successful events. Looking forward to cooler weather and continued growth in our Church family. Patty



AN INVITATION TO JOIN AND CREATE ACT II

At the end of winter a team was formed to plan a replacement for the Council Retreat that had to be cancelled due to the snowstorm. This team consisted of the retreat planning committee and the Search Committee (since it had investment in knowing any new directions the church was taking). We gave ourselves the name Adaptive Change Team (ACT).

This effort generated the five after church conversations that were attended each week by nearly 40 people. The discussions were lively and filled with good ideas and generated a number of possibilities for the congregation to consider.

Now the process that ACT I was called to perform is completed. Yet there is clearly more work to be done to have a clear vision of who Open Door UCC is to become. How do we turn all those great ideas from the conversations into clear visions and goals?

The Council is calling for the creation of the next "generation," ACT II. Most of the members of ACT I are returning their energies to the completion of our church profile (necessary to seeking a Settled Pastor).

Along with some members of ACT I, an infusion of new members is needed to begin the work of ACT II. This will be a temporary committee; it will probably meet monthly and on occasion more often. Initial meetings will likely be in person; ongoing they may happen on Zoom.

Are we talking to you? Are you interested in a deep and vibrant future for Open Door?
Are you willing to help us discern our next steps? No special qualifications or knowledge are required. Newer members are particularly encouraged to consider this!

*Please indicate your interest and intent to serve by contacting our Church Moderator, Barb Olivier (olivierleigh2@gmail.com 951-312-5849)
If you have questions, please feel free to contact Mickey Williamson (mickeyw46@gmail.com 209-890-9553).*



Tuning in With Our Music Director

The season begins to turn in September - the choirs will reassemble, and the Season of Creation will refocus our musical energies. The different themes for the upcoming Sundays offer an opportunity to explore thematic music.

On September 6 we will have Kumu Mikilani join us from Sheep Ranch for oli (Hawaiian chant) and hula. Mikilani Young was born and raised in Hawaii and is of Kanaka Maoli, Filipino, Japanese, Chinese, Portuguese, and Mayan descent. She is a Kumu hula - one who teaches hula: the dance of expression, culture, and sacredness of Hawaiian tradition. Kumu

Mikilani is an active protector of Mauna a Wakea, a guide to youth, and supporter of nā kupuna (elders). She offers hula classes at the San Andreas Senior Center. Congregation members will also share their gift of music: Doug Lau will sing the Hawaiian national anthem, written in 1874 with words by King David Kalākaua and music by the royal bandmaster, Captain Henri Berger. Chris Marques will sing Hawaiian Lullaby by Hector Venegas and Peter Moon:

Where I live, there are rainbows
With life in the laughter of morning
and starry nights.

Where I live, there are rainbows
And flowers full of colors
and birds filled with song.

I can smile when it's raining
And touch the warmth of the sun
I hear children laughing
in this place that I love.

MUSICAL
Sanctuary
Simply Being
Music and Guided Meditation
with Kate Moody
Wednesday, September 23, 5:30 pm
Open Door Church
509 N. Algiers St., Murphys
by donation



The theme of the September 13 service will be "Water." Flautist Janet Telford will join us with flowing flute music. Janet studied flute with Paul Renzi (San Francisco Symphony) and oboe with Eldon Gatwood (Pittsburgh Symphony), and holds degrees in Music Performance and Musicology from San Francisco State University and Penn State University. She was a founder and long-time president of the San Jose Chamber Music Society, former co-editor of Music for the Love of It, an international newsletter for amateur musicians, and is the past Executive Director of the Sonora Bach Festival. Ms. Telford performs with numerous chamber music groups, including the Bach Festival Chamber Trio. She is also a long-time member of the Columbia College Community Chorus as well as being a founding member and musical director of the doo-wop vocal ensemble "Sincerely."

We sincerely look forward to more music from the So-Called Band when the theme is Celtic Spirituality on September 20. Also in September the handbell choir will begin rehearsing music for Advent and Christmas Eve. Here is the handbell rehearsal schedule for the fall, all Saturdays at 10:00 a.m.:

September 12 and 26

October 10 and 24

November 21 and 28

December 19

MUSICAL SANCTUARY The fall series will begin with "Simply Being" on September 23 at 5:30 pm. Musical Sanctuary is guided meditation interwoven with music and readings, suitable for beginning as well as seasoned practitioners. As always, we will begin with Connect the Dots - visualizing energy centers - followed by Being Glow, adding a few energy centers, and exploring the qualities of each center. The Simply Being meditation supports experiencing ourselves and all of life as benevolent, dynamic energy, bringing a sense of openness, expansion, and release.

All blessings! Kate



Christian Education Recap

Congratulations to Patty Haskell, new team leader for Christian Enrichment. Carrie Shinn, Trish McCormick and Evelyn Betts are the other team members. The Sunday school teachers for the this year are Patty, Joe and Evelyn. Trish will join us in a month and we look forward to working together I'm compiling a list of substitute Sunday school teachers and it's not very long. If you'd like to help out VERY occasionally, this is a wonderful opportunity. There are always two adults present during SS , per our Safe Church policy, so you would be the support person. Please let me know if you're interested.

We start our fall curriculum this month. We will be focusing on the Season of Creation and will be considering the creation story of the Old Testament. We'll continue our Rally Day tradition to kick

off a new school year with root beer floats on September 20. It will be after church service and before council and held on the patio of Eastman house. We look forward to seeing you there!

Submitted by: Evelyn Betts

DATES TO REMEMBER

9/20 Rally Day

12/6 Advent Workshop an afternoon of crafting and a light soup supper

12/20 Christmas Pageant

12/31 NY New Year's Eve. 6-9. Board games in the social hall

YOU HAVE A VOICE - USE IT!

GET ANY POLITICAL QUESTIONS ANSWERED, EVEN THE ONES YOU ARE AFRAID TO ASK.

THERE ARE NO DUMB GOVERNMENTAL POLICY-POLITICAL QUESTIONS!

LEARN THE BEST WAYS TO CONTACT YOUR LEGISLATORS AND FIND OUT IF THEY REALLY LISTEN TO WHAT YOU HAVE TO SAY

DANA JORGENSEN HAS WORKED IN BOTH HOUSES OF THE CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE WITH 9 DIFFERENT LEGISLATORS FROM BOTH PARTIES FOR 33 YEARS HELPING CITIZENS CONNECT WITH THEIR STATE GOVERNMENT AND TRYING TO HELP THEM SOLVE THEIR PROBLEMS WITH STATE AGENCIES.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 6:00 - 7:30PM
BY DANA JORGENSEN, CURRENT AIDE TO ASSEMBLYWOMAN HADWICK

EASTMAN EDUCATION CENTER AT THE OPEN DOOR CHURCH, CORNER OF CHURCH AND ALGIERS STREET, MURPHYS.

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QUESTIONS? EMAIL INDICALAVERAS@GMAIL.COM

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 Breakfast and Lunch Provided

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PROGRAM SPEAKERS

- CLAIRE DAY, Chief Mission and Program Strategy Officer
 Alzheimers Assoc. of Northern CA / NV
- DR. BEATRIZ MARRÓN, MD, MPH, UC Davis
 Assistant Clinical Professor, Geriatric Medicine
- KUE LEE, CA Dept of Financial Protection & Innovation
 How to protect yourself against scams & fraud
- KEYNOTE:**
 DR. SELENA BARTLETT, PhD BSC BPharm
 Professor, Neuroscientist, and Global Leader in Brain Health

Murphys SENIOR CENTER | **Mark Twain Health Care District**

Dignity Health. Mark Twain Medical Center | **AdventistHealth Sonora**

AdventistHealth Home Care | **ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION**

For more information, click on the QR Code or visit www.murphyscenter.com

Worship in the Pines!

On August 23, our congregation gathered at White Pines Lake for our annual outdoor worship. It was a wonderful service that was brought to life with glorious music by the So-Called Band along with other musicians and vocalists, and a special dance interpretation of As I Go Down to the River to Pray by Abby Fuqua. A delicious potluck meal was enjoyed after. Many thanks to all who volunteered to set up, cook, clean up, set up wasp traps, and all of the other tasks that are crucial in making this event happen. It is truly a gift to have places like this right in our backyard!



When Jesus Tells a Boob Joke

Dolly Parton's America

Sarah Condon 11/20/19

It has not been easy for me to listen to the new podcast Dolly Parton's America. I feel like I am hearing a preacher point to the most self-righteous places in me and call them out. I feel a deep connection to the women in my family. And also, Dolly Parton's America is the one place where you will hear a horrific story of Dolly's mistreatment followed by her simply saying, "Forgiveness is all there is."

In the opening episode, entitled "Sad Ass Songs," Dolly talks about her early music. It is an apt title. Many of Dolly's songs served as a kind of response to the older, violent Appalachian ballad music that was all too often about the death of women. Her songs gave those dead women a chance to speak for themselves. They were the answer back from the grave. Helen Morales, author of *Pilgrimage to Dollywood: A Country Music Road Trip through Tennessee* remarked, "Those songs were insistent witnessing to women's lives. Women being treated really badly by men."

Her best known later work in this genre is the timeless "9 to 5." The song offered the soundtrack that the feminist movement so desperately needed. What's more, it is also just total fun. People who would have never considered themselves aligned with a feminist agenda are suddenly belting out lyrics about the mistreatment of women in the workplace. Which is the pure genius of St. Dolly. This song is played so much in my household that you can slap a blonde wig on my five-year-old, squint your eyes, and swear that Kenny Loggins is about to come into the room.

Even more recently, she wrote a song about the history of the 19th amendment. That's right, folks, Dolly Parton has recently penned a ditty about a woman's right to vote. And she rhymes huts and butts with no shame:

They said a woman's place
Was staying in her hut.
Washin', cookin', cleanin',
Wipin' baby's butts.
They said she'd never see the day
We'd equal up to them.
But here we are, we've come so far.
I guess we sure showed them.

She is singing our history back to us. She is telling us our stories in real time. And she has been doing it for generations



of women. My daughter is on track to love Dolly Parton just as much as my grandmother loved her. Not just because the music is wonderful, but because the music is us.

And this is why I was relieved and fascinated to hear Dolly Parton's America address the great critique of Dolly. Namely, people insist that she is "not political enough." As though all of those lyrics and all of those stories count for absolutely nothing. In the fourth episode of the podcast, called "Dollitics" (Dolly + politics), they dive right into this controversy.

In 2017, Jane Fonda, Lily Tomlin, and Dolly Parton were all Emmy nominees. They had, of course, all starred in the movie *9 to 5* together decades earlier. As they approach the microphone to great fanfare, the mood in the room quickly shifts. Jane Fonda quotes a line from the original movie but directs it at Donald Trump, "Back in 1980 in that movie, we refused to be controlled by a sexist, egotistical, lying, hypocritical bigot." Then Lily Tomlin leans into the mic and adds, "And in 2017, we still refuse to be controlled by a sexist, egotistical, lying, hypocritical bigot."

Dolly's face changes completely. Lily Tomlin goes on to read the prompter and list the nominees for supporting roles. Dolly sees her chance. She takes to the mic and says, "Well, I know about support. If it hadn't been for good support, Shock and Awe here would be like Flopsy and Droopy."

The audience laughs. She is, of course, referring to her boobs. Jad Abumrad, the podcast creator, commented, "Within just a few seconds, Dolly had disarmed the whole room."

The fallout from this moment was big on both sides. People on the right felt like Dolly should have defended the president. People on the left felt like she should have joined Jane and Lily in the roast.

But what got me, and what got Abumrad himself, was her reflection on the entire incident. Dolly later said:

Dolly Parton cont.

“What I wanted to say is “Let’s pray for the president.” Why don’t we pray for the president? If we are having all these problems, why don’t we just pray for Mr. President? It’s like I wanted to say that but I thought “no, keep your damn mouth shut.” That won’t work either. So tit joke. When all else fails, be funny.”

This wrecked me for so many reasons.

First of all, Dolly Parton’s songs and lyrics have done more to narrate the struggles of women in America than any other

music I know. She writes about poor children, about immigrants, and about dealing with mental illness. To say that she is not clear about her devotion to the least, the last, and the lonely is to not really know Dolly’s songbook at all.

It also reminded me of how people demand that their preachers come down hard on a political stance. We insist that our religious leaders be *prescriptive*. We do it in the name of knowing what is right and what is wrong. But really, we do it because we want our preachers to tell us that *we* are right and that the people out there are wrong. The best preachers I know absolutely refuse to hand out these modern-day indulgences.

Like Dolly, they sing the gospel and trust God to do the naming.

The best preachers I know are *descriptive*. They tell stories of the other, knowing that everyone in the room has felt like the other at some point in time. Like Dolly, they remember that everyone has felt pain and struggle. And also like Dolly, they use compassion as the gateway to the heart.

Yet perhaps what struck me most about this incident is just how much Dolly struck the posture of Christ. She sacrificed herself in that moment. We all know that the people who agreed with Jane Fonda and Lily Tomlin’s opinions on the president were just driven further into their stance, and the people who did not agree were just made angrier. And there stood Dolly, in the middle of it all, making a boob joke at her own expense, in the context of a movie about feminism.

I mean, my word. She was unwilling to be the one who divided people, so she simply divided herself on behalf of everyone there.

This is not to suggest that any of us can “be” Jesus. But we can certainly offer one another glimpses of him — which she gave us all that night. Besides, Dolly Parton knows and loves the Lord. She realizes that open-chested, open-hearted humility is the only thing that can help us anyway.

Poet’s Corner

God’s Grandeur

BY GERALD MANLEY HOPKINS

The world is charged with the grandeur of God.

It will flame out, like shining from shook foil;

It gathers to a greatness, like the ooze of oil

Crushed. Why do men then now not reck his rod?

Generations have trod, have trod, have trod;

And all is seared with trade; bleared, smeared with toil;

And wears man’s smudge and shares man’s smell: the soil

Is bare now, nor can foot feel, being shod.

And for all this, nature is never spent;

There lives the dearest freshness deep down things;

And though the last lights off the black West went

Oh, morning, at the brown brink eastward, springs —

Because the Holy Ghost over the bent

World broods with warm breast and with ah! bright wings.

About Gerald Manley Hopkins

(Source: [The Poetry Foundation](#))

Gerard Manley Hopkins is considered to be one of the greatest poets of the Victorian era.

However, because his style was so radically different from that of his contemporaries, his best poems were not accepted for publication during his lifetime, and his achievement was not fully recognized until after World War I. Hopkins’s family encouraged his artistic talents when he was a youth in Essex, England.

However, Hopkins became estranged from his Protestant family when he converted to Roman Catholicism. Upon deciding to become a priest, he burned all of his poems and did not write again for many years. His work was not published until 30 years after his death when his friend Robert Bridges edited the volume *Poems*.

Cherishing our members, friends, and community...

Happy Birthday!

Stella Sundberg 1
Syl Walton 5
Ian Olivas 8
Alice Williams 11
Kathy Kuhn 14
Carol Woods 24

Jim Walton 25
Rose Mulvaney 26
Mickey Williamson 26
Marci Duggan 26
Tanya Sundberg 26
Matt Graham 30

*Don't see your
birthday listed?
We promise it
isn't on purpose!
If you would like
to have your
special day listed
in the
newsletter,
please call or
email the church
office.*

Prayer List

The scriptures tell us:

**“And my God will meet all your
needs according to the riches of
his glory in Jesus Christ.”**

Philippians 4:19

***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:***

Elaine Lewis
Family of Al Armstrong
Mark McCormick's sister, Teta
Linda Winters
Teddie Jackson
Doug Fraser (Doug & Patti Lau)
Miley Sophia (Breen)
Will and parents (Penny Sarvis)
Enoch Samraj
Ryan VanCleave
Faye Morrison
Jodie Gibson
Tabitha Kremesec
Lauren, Gordon, Emre, Willow (Jesse Hampton)
Shirley Soderer
Terry Dowell
Robin Chesnut
Tari Takara
Ben Richardson (LaMonts)
Dodi Horvath
Brian Whitehead (Nancy Burton)
Rev. John Randlett
Rev. Marty Williams

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 10:30am Pastor Search mtg., Zoom	2 8:15am Morning Prayer, Zoom 10am Worship Comm. mtg., Zoom 10am Coffee with Gary, GCR 12:30pm AA 6:30pm AA	3	4 12pm Women's AA	5
6 Jenny vacation 9/7 - 9/11 9am Vocal Choir rehearsal Holy Communion 11am small group	7 6:30pm Al-Anon	8	9 8:15am Morning Prayer, Zoom 10am Coffee with Gary, GCR 12:30pm AA 6:30pm AA	10	11 12pm Women's AA	12 10am Bell Choir rehearsal
13 9am Vocal Choir rehearsal 11am O&SJ mtg., Inner Sanctuary	14 1:30pm F&F mtg., 6:30pm Al-Anon	15 10am M&C mtg., Fisk 10am Family Connections, EEC	16 8:15am Morning Prayer, Zoom 10am Coffee with Gary, GCR 12:30pm AA 6:30pm AA	17 12pm Faith & Friends	18 12pm Women's AA	19
20 11am Council mtg., EEC	21 5:30pm South Grove Bunch 6:30pm Al-Anon	22	23 8:15am Morning Prayer, Zoom 10am Coffee with Gary, GCR 11am Angels Angels 5:30pm Musical Sanctuary 12:30pm AA 6:30pm AA	24	25 12pm Women's AA	26 10am Bell Choir rehearsal
27 9am Vocal Choir rehearsal	28 6:30pm Al-Anon	29	30 8:15am Morning Prayer, Zoom 10am Coffee with Gary, GCR 12:30pm AA 6:30pm AA			

God's love echoes through us to all creation.

Webpage: www.fccmurph.org

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SEPTEMBER 2026

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THE NUGGET



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Staff

Interim Pastor Rev. Dr. Gary Percesepe

Pastor Emeritus Rev. Dr. John Randlett

Music Director Kate Moody

Secretary Jenny Fuqua

Christian Ed Director Evelyn Betts

Childcare Abby Fuqua

Ministers at Large: All Members at Open Door UCC!

Officers

Moderator Barbara Olivier

Vice Moderator Patty Haskell

Treasurer Carrie Shinn

Clerk Darlene Davis

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 20th of each month.

The Committee reserves the right to edit submissions for length and content.