

THE NUGGET

Open Door United Church of Christ

Neighbors in Need

Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.
-Galatians 6:2



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

*We are in
the Season
After
Pentecost
and the
color is
green.*

We will be collecting our Special Mission Offering, Neighbors in Need, on Sunday, October 5. This offering supports ministries of justice in compassion throughout the United States, including the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM) and the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM).



Interim Thoughts

A Word about Finding Peace

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid~ Johnn 14:27

As I write this, September draws near to an end, and October is right at the door. I find that my body takes on a different rhythm as the seasons change. Perhaps it was all those years I spent as a philosophy professor. With the end of summer came the start of the new academic year! Soon, I would have seventy new students, and the promise of hours of grading to come! I was usually able to feel in my body the transition from late summer to early fall. If summer was languid and tranquil, autumn was the season when things began to pick up speed. But since I no longer teach (my last class at Fordham University was April of 2024), I feel the speed of time more keenly.

Summer is supposed to be a time for relaxation and maybe a little reflection. Was it that way for you this year? It certainly wasn't mine!

It's not that we stop working during the summer, but often we do get to slow down a little. But it's possible, I suppose, that our lives are speeding up dramatically, with the daily news cycle adding adrenaline into our system and taking us out of our accustomed rhythms.

When time speeds up, anxieties can rise. Someone has called our era, "The Age of Anxiety." Many find it difficult to calm their anxieties. We want to take time to breathe,

but our heads fill up with thoughts of "things we should be doing." It can be hard to relax under such conditions.

The more closely you follow the news, the more difficult you might find it to sense Christ's peace in your life. And given our relative privilege, when we see disturbing images of folks rounded up by immigration agents, or view images of the devastation in Gaza, we may also experience a measure of guilt for what is happening, now, in our name. Given the reality of all this, I recommend this spiritual practice to you: For at least one hour per day, put down your phones, step away from your computers and TVs, and do something completely different that gives you a moment of peace. It could be walking, gardening, hiking, cooking, baking, reading, knitting, quilting, calling or texting a grandchild, feeding the wild birds—anything, really! Recognize that this practice is a privilege; not everyone in our country is able to do even that right now, but nothing good is served by exhausting ourselves with anxiety. We need to find ways to refresh and renew ourselves if we want to be of any help to those around us in need. Be kind to yourself. Lay off the guilt and.... Well, breathe.

Kate Moody's "Musical Sanctuary" can help. If you missed the first one in September, no

worries—Kate offers Musical Sanctuary on the third Sunday of each month at 5 pm, so the next one is October 19 at 5 pm, here in the sanctuary.

It may also be a wonderful time to meditate on Jesus' words in Matthew:

Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? . . . So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today.

All our striving (even when it's for justice on behalf of others) can overwhelm us and keep us from appreciating our opportunity to be at peace right now.

Peace to you,
Gary



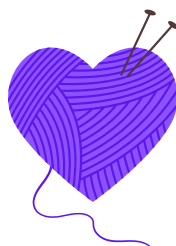
We had a wonderful visit from St. Francis of Assisi at worship last Sunday (Sept. 28) He's lookin pretty good for over 1,000 years old!



We will be hosting a New Member lunch on Sunday, October 26 at 12:30pm. This is a wonderful way for our new folks to get to know our congregation and learn more about Open Door UCC.

THE KNITTERS AND HOOKERS ARE BACK!

After a year away, the Knitters and Hookers have resumed their monthly gathering. This group is an official ministry of our church, concentrating on making beautiful Prayer Shawls for those who need some comfort. They meet on the 4th Wednesday of the month, with their next gathering being held on October 22. Please contact Liz Tussey for more information.



Small Group Schedule:

First Fridays

Friday, Oct. 3
2pm

Alan Horvath

South Grove Bunch

Monday, Oct. 13
5:30pm

Faye Morrison

The Seekers

Tuesday, Oct. 21
5pm

Faye Morrison

Faith & Friends

Thursday, Oct. 16
10am

Pam Kimes

The Wanderers

Friday, Oct. 17
10:30am

Marilyn Baisel

Angels Angels

Weds., Oct. 22
11am

Barb Olivier

Tuning in With Our Music Director

Dear Open Door,

Thank you for your warm and wonderful welcome! Dolly and I are beginning to settle in, and are grateful for your help and patience during this transition time. We love everything about Murphys and you (so far ;). Well, except the squirrels dropping walnut peels on the car. I love my little casita, and it is surrounded by trees expelling sap, acorns, and other missiles. I trust this is seasonal and the car will be nice and clean when the rains begin.



The vocal choir is tuning up, and the handbell choir will convene on October 25. Rehearsal schedules for both groups listed below. The handbell choir is a short-term commitment, preparing music for Christmas Eve and Epiphany. Yes, Christmas is on the way! The vocal choir has a deeper ongoing commitment, but I am diligent about helping by providing preparation materials in weekly (and sometimes more often) emails, and am flexible about accommodating people's shifting schedules. I'd love to talk with you about being part of the choir, even if it's on a temporary basis.

A word about the origins of Musical Sanctuary: It was inspired by a conversation several years ago with the pastor of Admiral Congregational Church in West Seattle. He mentioned that people from the many Twelve Step groups that met at the church did not attend Sunday services. I suggested that the church offer evening services with topics related to the Twelve Step recovery such as forgiveness (which will be the Musical Sanctuary topic on October 19), God's will, letting go, etc. He didn't follow through on the idea, but it stuck with me. I had been practicing and leading the Connect & Glow meditation for several years, with and without music. It was a natural step to extend the meditations with exercises that explore different topics and principles related to spiritual growth and healing - I took that step, Musical Sanctuary was born. **I will be offering Musical Sanctuary on the third Sunday of each month.** Here are some upcoming topics:

Nurturing Faith and Gratitude
Release and Renew
Inner Guidance
All Heart
What Do I Stand For?
All Earth

All blessings!
Kate

October Choir Rehearsals

Sunday, October 5: Pre-service warm up

Saturday, October 11: 10 a.m. rehearsal.

Light lunch follows.

Sunday, October 12: Pre-service warm up

Sunday, October 19: No rehearsal

Sunday, October 26: Pre-service warm up

Handbell Choir rehearsals begin

Saturday, October 25, 10:00.

MUSICAL Sanctuary

Forgiveness

Music and Guided Meditation

with Kate Moody

Sunday, October 19

5:00 pm

Open Door UCC

509 Algiers St.

Murphys

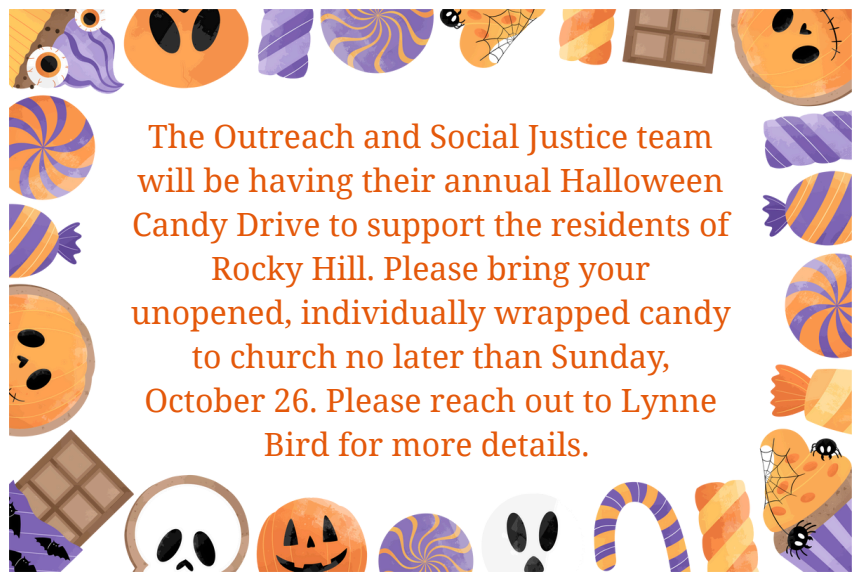
by donation

Please join me for Musical Sanctuary on Sunday, October 19 at 5:00 pm in the sanctuary. The topic will be "Forgiveness ~ Make Right." We know that forgiveness is essential for spiritual well-being, and is a large part of many spiritual and religious teachings. But just how do we forgive? Especially if the offender hasn't apologized or asked for forgiveness. And they may still be doing the same old seemingly-unforgivable behavior. We will explore forgiving - ourselves and others - letting go, the meaning of unconditional love.

The Musical Sanctuary experience includes the Connect & Glow guided meditation, beginning with Connect the Dots - visualizing energy centers - followed by Being Glow, which adds a few energy centers, and an exploration of the qualities of each center. The deep relaxation and openness brought on by the Connect & Glow practice helps the release of patterns of tension, and supports personal growth. This self-healing technique is suitable for beginning as well as seasoned practitioners.

P

As approved by the congregation on Sept. 14, we will be having our parking lot repaved very soon. Work is expected to go from Monday, Oct. 13 - Friday, Oct. 17. Parking will be limited during this time, so please plan visits to the church accordingly.



The Outreach and Social Justice team will be having their annual Halloween Candy Drive to support the residents of Rocky Hill. Please bring your unopened, individually wrapped candy to church no later than Sunday, October 26. Please reach out to Lynne Bird for more details.



California WIC, in partnership with the California Department of Public Health, will be distributing resources for Women, Infants and Children here at Open Door Church on Thursday, October 9 from 9am to 4pm.

REMINDER:
COMMITTEE
BUDGETS DUE BY
FRIDAY, OCTOBER
30. CONTACT PATTY
FOR MORE
DETAILS.



Moderator's Message

There are lots of things cooking at Open Door UCC, so be sure to stay tuned to the weekly email and Nugget. Fall is Stewardship season, and we hope to offer some special speakers as well as a very thoughtful message from Pastor Gary during October/November. The Stewardship theme this year is “Dreaming God’s Dream”,

based on the lyrics of a song written by Rev. Bryan Sirchio and inspired by the life and work of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King. Part of the lyrics read:

***“Dream God’s dream Holy Spirit, help us dream
Of a world where there is justice and where everyone is free
To build and grow and love and to simply have enough.
The world will change when we dream God’s dream.”***

Fitting words to begin our contemplation of our giving to Open Door UCC, and our world, in 2026. Stewardship Sunday will be November 9th, so be sure to put that on your calendar. We’ll be providing bulletin inserts and pledge cards leading up to 11/9.

I know many of you are thinking “Stewardship Season? Already??”. Fall is the time we turn our thoughts to budgets and giving for the coming calendar year. I guess you could say there are really 3 absolutes in life: death, taxes, and Stewardship season!

But seriously – why do we pledge? We can give to Open Door UCC without turning in a pledge card. So, why write down our intention for the coming year? Of course, telling the church about our intention helps leaders plan. But we ask you write down your intention for another reason. Jesus told us to love God with our heart, mind, soul and strength; and to love our neighbors as ourselves. A commitment card can engage us in all those ways as we express our love of God and neighbor.

Heart: we feel the love and support of people in the congregation. This is the place where we belong.

Mind: we think about our resources, both our income and our accumulated assets when deciding on what commitment to make in the coming year.

Soul: We experience the hope that comes from making a commitment to the future. A commitment card symbolizes our confidence in God’s future and makes us part of helping that future come about.

Strength: We do what we can to help support our neighbors and our community.

We ask you to return a commitment card because it connects you to the mission and ministry of our congregation and our neighbors, near and far. Returning your commitment card affirms with all of your being you are part of our **response to God’s dream.**

Submitted by Carrie Shinn



Dreaming God’s Dream
NO GIFT TOO SMALL, NO DREAM TOO BIG.

Treasurer's Report

I continue to be busy with the Treasurer duties this month. The Union Proceeds funds were put in a CD last year and they matured at the end of August with a \$4121.00 increase. These funds will go back into that fund at Edward Jones. The Congregation approved the bid for repaving the driveway, so these funds will be used for that project. Teams and



committees are keeping their expenses within their budget. Good job!! Income has fallen behind a little, so please keep up on your pledge for rest of this year. This is the time of year that we usually run behind in pledges. Endowments continue to increase in value. We will start discussions on the 2026 budget soon, so keep that in mind. Hope everyone is enjoying the fall weather. Patty

Christian Education Recap

The Christian Education team recently met and planned out rest of this year. We had a successful Sunday School open house with everyone enjoying root beer and orange floats. We have started discussions with Pastor Gary and Kate on the Sunday School Christmas pageant on December 21st. I will be contacting parents to see which families are going to be in the area on that date, so everyone can be involved. Advent calendars will be going out to all Sunday school students before Advent begins on November 30. **The Advent workshop is scheduled for December 7th from 3-6pm.** It is a fun event for all ages. We also discussed how we missed our family campout at Big Trees this year and will be scheduling it for next year in June. Pastor Gary and I have discussed restarting the Family program after the first of the year. We will continue to discuss with the CE team, and plan for 2026. We really need more Sunday school teachers, so please let me know if you could help us- one Sunday a month. Thanks, Patty



Outreach and Social Justice

Autumn Opportunities and Events

The Fall season has begun and the Outreach and Social Justice Team has compiled a list of events, volunteer opportunities, and giving opportunities that we hope will bring you joy in this beautiful season.

CALAVERAS COUNTY

- **Calaveras Grape Stomp and Street Fair** (Murphys) on Saturday, 10/04/2025, 09:00 AM–5:00 PM
- **Lumberjack Day** (Westpoint) on Saturday, 10/04/2025, 08:30AM-4:00PM
- **Mark Twain Wild West Fest** (Angels Camp Museum), 10/11/25, 10:00 AM–4:00 PM.
- **Taps for Ta-tas & Car Show & Bacon Fest** (Murphys Pour House) 10/12/25, 11:00-5:00 PM.
- **Murphys Gathering** (formally known as the Witch Walk), 10/18/25, 9AM-6PM
- **All Hallows Fair** (Calaveras Fair Grounds) on Saturday, 10/25/2025, 1:30-10:30PM & Sunday 10/25/2025 11AM-5PM
- **Rocky Hill Road's Trick or Treat** (Murphys) on Friday 10/31/2025, 5-8PM.
- **Murphys Dia De Los Muertos** (Murphys) on Saturday 11/01/25, 10-4PM.

TUOLUMNE COUNTY

- **Stories in Stone** (Columbia Cemetery) on Fridays 09/26/25 & 10/03/25 at 7:00 PM and 7:30PM and Saturdays 09/27/25 & 10/04/25 at 7:00 PM and 7:30PM. Join some Columbia State Docents, including our friend Doug Lau, as they bring folks buried in the cemetery back to life through their historical reenactment.
- **Twain Harte Octoberfest Pub Crawl** (Twain Harte) on Saturday, 10/04/25 from 12:00PM-5:00PM.
- **Sierra-Tuolumne Kennel Club Barktoberfest Dog Show** (Motherlode Fair Grounds), Friday/Saturday/Sunday, 10/10/25-10/12/25, from 08:00-5:00PM.
- **Harvest Festifall** (Columbia State Park) on Saturday 10/11/25 & Sunday 10/12/25, 10AM-5PM.
- **Tales of the Roundhouse** (Railtown State Park, Jamestown) on Fridays 10/17/25 & 10/24/25 at 6:30 PM and 7:30PM and Saturdays 10/12/25 & 10/25/25 at 6:30 PM and 7:30PM.
- **Boo Boulevard** (Columbia State) on Saturday 10/25/25 2PM - 6PM.
- **Halloween Parade** (Westside Park, Tuolumne City) on Wednesday 10/29/25 at 4:30PM.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

- The Calaveras Wine Alliance is actively seeking volunteers to help with the Grape Stomp and Street Fair. If you would help contact the Wine Alliance at (209)728-9467.

DONATION & GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

- For those who were moved by Merita's talk and wish to learn more about Hands on Global their website is <https://handsonglobal.org>.

Poet's Corner

This month's featured poem is "The Worrier's Guild," by Philip F. Deaver, from his collection, *How Men Pray* (Anhinga Press, 2005).

Next year, I promise! I'm going to cancel my membership in The Worrier's Guild and join the squirrels in Big Trees.

How about you?

The Worriers' Guild

by Philip F. Deaver

Today there is a meeting of the
Worriers' Guild,
and I'll be there.

The problems of Earth are
to be discussed
at length
end to end
for five days
end to end
with 1100 countries represented
all with an equal voice
some wearing turbans and smocks
and all the men will speak
and the women
with or without notes
in 38 languages
and nine different species of logic.

Outside in the autumn
the squirrels will be
chattering and scampering
directionless throughout the town
because
they aren't organized yet.



*Cherishing our members, friends, and
community...*

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Sally Smith 5
Shirley Soderer 5
Ed Williams 6
Helen Yost 6
Kristin Schott 8
Laura Leonard 9
Barbara Olivier 9

Hazel Shinn 14
Alan Armstrong 18
Patty Haskell 19
Lynne Bird 21
Mara Rosenhart 29
Tabitha Kremesec 30
Patrick Stephens 31

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:***

Gordon (Jesse Hampton)
Emre (Jesse Hampton)
Willow (Jesse Hampton)
Tracey Ellifritz
Tabitha Kremesec
Shirley Soderer
Family of Bob Henning
Pat Keene (Mark McCormick)
Terry Dowell
Lauren Clark Tusa (June
Perry)
Baby Rowan (Kimberly Pratt)
Bob Olivier
Robin Chesnut
Sandy Fox-Hill
Laura Miller (Noel Helmbrecht)
Adrienne Zimmerman (Carrie Shinn)
Tari Takara
Ben Richardson (LaMonts)
Bruce (Miriam Thorsen)
Dodi Horvath
Brian Whitehead (Nancy Burton)
Rev. John Randlett
Rev. Marty Williams



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						
5 9am Choir rehearsal 10am worship <i>Holy Communion</i> Neighbors in Need offering	6 6:30pm Al-Anon	7	8 8:15am Morning Prayer, Zoom 12:30pm AA 4:30pm Worship mtg. ZOOM 6:30pm AA	9	10 12pm Women's AA	11 10am Choir rehearsal
12 9am Choir rehearsal 10am Worship	13 1:30pm F&F mtg. ZOOM 5:30pm South Grove Bunch 6:30pm Al-Anon	14 10:30am Past. Search mtg., EEC	15 8:15am Morning Prayer, Zoom 12:30pm AA 6:30pm AA	16 10am Faith & Friends	17 10am The Wanderers 12pm Women's AA	18
19 9am Choir rehearsal 10am Worship 11am Council mtg., EEC 5pm Musical Sanctuary	20 6:30pm Al-Anon	21 10:30am Family Connections. EEC 12pm M&C mtg. EEC 5:30pm The Seekers	22 8:15am Morning Prayer, Zoom 11am Angels Angels 11am Knitters & Hookers 10:30am Past. Rel. mtg., EEC 12:30pm AA 6:30pm AA	23	24 12pm Women's AA	25
26 9am Choir rehearsal 10am Worship 12:30pm New Member Lunch	27 6:30pm Al-Anon	28	29 12:30pm AA 6:30pm AA	30 TEAM BUDGETS DUE	31 12pm Women's AA	

God's love echoes through us to all creation.

Webpage: www.fccmurph.org

Email: nugget@fccmurph.org

Phone: (209)728-3141

OCTOBER 2025

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



www.ucc.org

Staff

Interim Pastor Rev. Dr. Gary Percesepe

Pastor Emeritus Rev. Dr. John Randlett

Music Director Kate Moody

Secretary Jenny Fuqua

Custodian Lucie Tardif

Christian Ed Director Patty Haskell

Childcare Abby Fuqua

Officers

Moderator Carrie Shinn

Vice Moderator Barbara Olivier

Treasurer Patty Haskell

Assistant Treasurer Alan Horvath

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 25th of each month.

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