

THE NUGGET

Open Door United Church of Christ

Imagine Together

*We will be celebrating our
Stewardship season by
welcoming guest preacher,
Rev. Jane Quandt, who will be
giving a sermon on Sunday,
November 3. Please
remember to bring your
pledge cards with you on that
day and also plan to join us
for a social appetizer and
celebration after worship.*



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



**DON'T FORGET
TO SET YOUR
CLOCKS BACK
ONE HOUR ON
SUNDAY,
NOVEMBER 3!**



Pastor's Article

Recently, as part of my continuing education, I spent a week at San Damiano in Danville on a silent retreat. People often ask me, what happens on a silent retreat? How can you stay quiet for so long?

So, first of all, don't assume that just because I love to talk that I can't be still. I have a good legacy of spending time in silence and being renewed with God. These times of silence enable me to listen, to pray, to meditate and to reaffirm my call to ministry. It is also an awakening to new possibilities and praying for others.

San Damiano is a perfect place for such a retreat. The grounds are lovely, and they have a labyrinth and walk with the stations of the cross. There are magnificent views of Mt Diablo. The room at San Damiano is meager with a bed, desk and a small private bath. It is perfect for praying without distractions.

In the gospel of Mark, Jesus tells the disciples to come aside and rest awhile. He knew how important it is to get respite from the demands of the world. Our lives are full of distractions. We are often left over-stimulated with too much noise as our daily existence becomes excessive and filled with unhealthy habits and niggling thoughts. A silent retreat is an experience over a given time that brings us back to the present moment. Here, life is no longer a distraction but a sanctuary to sit with our inner worlds. Thank you for giving me this time to renew my spirit! I pray that each of you might take an opportunity to go on a silent retreat! Joy in the silence, Pastor Bonnie

*The cross at
San Damiano*



Vice-Moderator's Musings

As our stewardship campaign for the year closes, it is important to note that stewardship is much more than just monetary support. Merriam-Webster defines stewardship as the careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one's care. In the Christian tradition, stewardship refers to the way time, talents, material possessions, and wealth are used or given for the service of God.



Why do I mention this? The time we are about to enter in our church's life is an extremely important one. Our dear Pastor and our Music Director are preparing to retire in seven short months. This will be a major transition in our church life. In particular, seeking a pastor is a major project, and it is critical that we begin as soon as possible. We have a lot of resources available to assist us in this process, but it is usually not a quick process, and the most critical resources are the members of this church. Please plan to give your time and talents to this activity.

As an important first step, we are asked (required) to prepare our "Church Profile", which will be shared with the UCC conference and posted for all interested candidates for our next pastor. For those of you who have not previously participated in calling a new pastor, the purpose of the profile is to describe our church's life and mission, as well as the qualities we seek in a pastor. This is a participatory activity and will require some prayerful visioning by all of us. Of course, some of the questions are facts regarding our congregation, our church, finances, and demographics. But there are three basic sections which describe who we are now, who is our neighbor, and who is God calling us to become? Our effort to answer these questions will prompt conversations, explorations, storytelling, and many prayers. This process is part of our stewardship. I know I don't need to tell you that this will have a significant impact on the future of our church, and who we become. Please participate as fully as you can.

Submitted by Barbara Olivier

Christian Education



We have been busy with the Family Program and the Confirmation class. The confirmation class is discussing how decisions are made and what impacts your decisions. Good discussions are coming out of these lessons. The Family Program has been studying Peace this year. It has not been very well attended lately, due to youth participating in soccer.

We are also starting to practice for our Christmas Program which will be a musical program this year. The Advent workshop is scheduled for the first Sunday in Advent, December 1st. More details on this event will be coming.

SMALL GROUPS SCHEDULE

#1 Marilyn Baisel

3rd Friday at 10am

#2 Faye Morrison

2nd Tuesday at 5:30pm

#3 Pam Kimes

4th Thursday at 10am

#4 Alan Horvath

1st Friday at 2pm

#5 Faye Morrison

3rd Tuesday at 5:30pm

#6 Barbara Olivier

4th Wednesday at 11am

*If you would like to join a small group,
please contact Pastor Bonnie.*



**CELEBRATION
RINGERS**
Handbell Choir
and
Guest Performers

Directed by
Bryce Custodio

Present a
Holiday Concert

November 17, 2024 1:30 PM

Open Door United Church of Christ
509 Algiers Street
Murphys, CA

Worship Team is seeking New Members

The Worship Team is seeking new committee members. Our Team assists the Pastor and Music Director with planning and executing the services for the congregation. Some of our duties include (but are certainly not limited to):



Scheduling liturgists and ushers which has graciously continued by Joe Jackson and Karl Graves (even though they had to move as Resources for a year per By-laws), make decisions on various accessory items for services, decorate the Sanctuary for Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter seasons, assist the Pastor with other tasks as requested.

The Team meets monthly on Zoom from 5:00 PM to 6:00 PM. Other scheduling depends on our responsibilities over the year and the support needed for congregational events.

Considering the upcoming changes in Pastoral and Music Director positions, this team may need to assist any interim pastors and our eventual new leaders.

Please text or email me if you have any questions. My cell phone is (925) 383-8869 and my email is lgraham4429@gmail.com.

Thank you for your support!

Liz



Opportunities in Ministry

The Knitters and Hookers is a Prayer Shawl ministry. It has an unconditional goal of uplifting, and providing solace for those who are ill, grieving, or troubled. The shawl becomes the symbol of comfort, love, and many hugs.

The Prayer Shawl Ministry was started by two women in Connecticut about 25 years ago. The ministry is international, as the shawl has been known for many centuries in many religions and groups for peace, shelter, and comfort. It sends a universal message. The Prayer Shawl is a hand made expression of love.

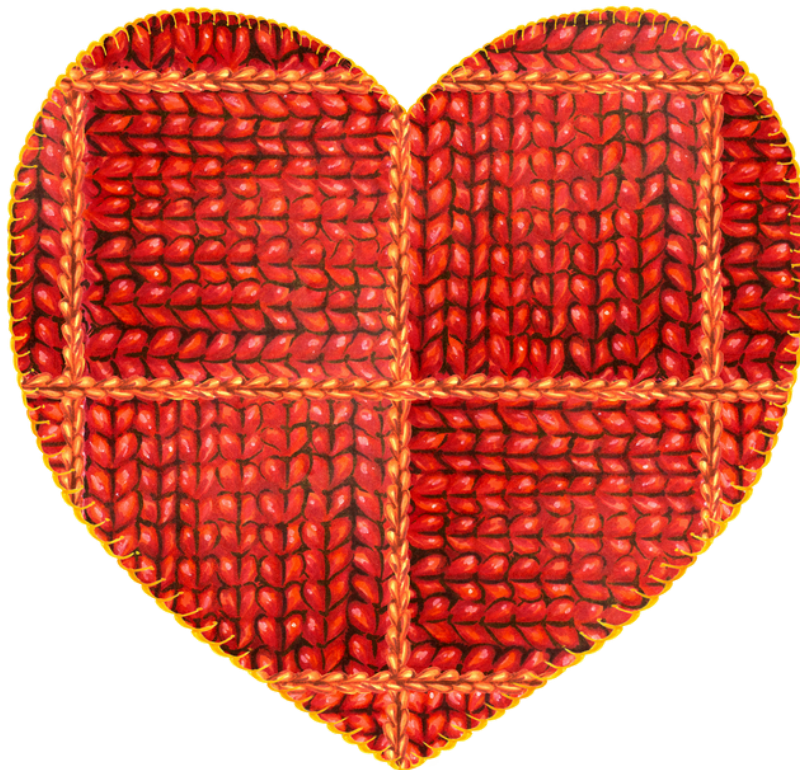
Our group began about 15 years ago, very casually. Since then we've made and given out about 70 Prayer Shawls. We've heard countless times the joy and comfort our shawls give to the receiver.

We have a lot of fun being together, and you can tell by our title that we have a good sense of humor.

This is a call for all knitters and crocheters to come join us. We meet on the third Tuesday of the month from 11am to 2pm at the home of Liz Tussey. If you cannot join us we accept donations of shawls, and have patterns available if you wish. Call Liz Tussey or Mary Kelly if you would like more information.

This is the time of year to think about our gift of time to the church and wider community.

Submitted By: Liz Tussey



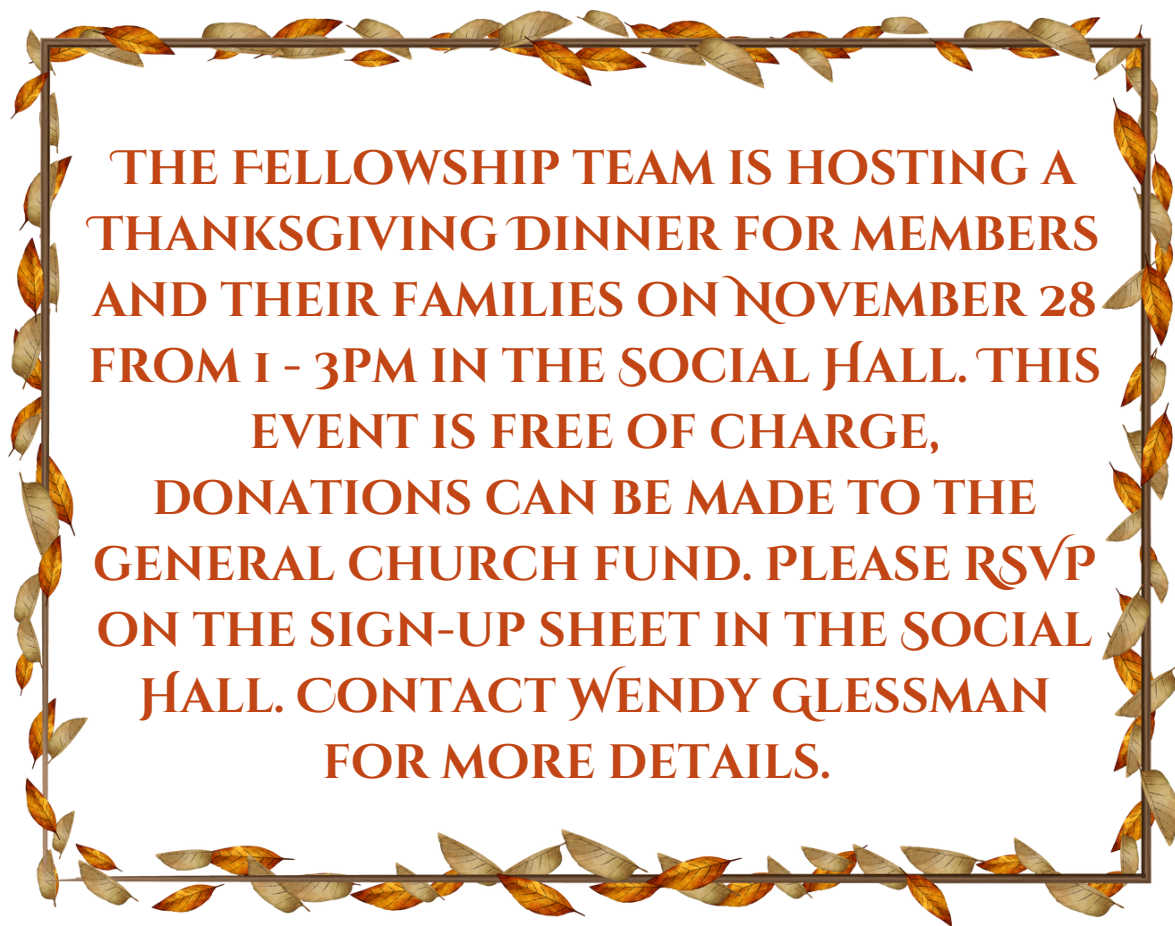
Treasurer Report

The Budget committee is busy working on the budget for next year. It seems like just yesterday when we developed this year's budget. Please remember to turn in your pledge cards as soon as you can.

Developing accurate income figures are as important as developing accurate expense numbers. Our investments continue to do well and expenses are down for this year. Also make sure that you remember to pay your 2024 pledges this year.



After numerous emails the e-script account for Union Church has been switched over to this Church. Please remember to let Sierra Hills and Angels Food market know that you have an e-script account and give them your phone number. If you have trouble or can't remember which phone number you gave them, let me know. We have received about \$800 this year from this account. Thanks





Hi, my name is Tabitha Kremesec. I'm both a traditionally published and self-published author specializing in children's and young adult books. Writing has always been a passion of mine since childhood. I love weaving fiction stories where anything can happen, with endings that can be happy or sad, allowing my creativity to flow freely.

As a child, my love for animals led me to rescue injured birds, cats, and dogs, igniting my dream to heal them. I fulfilled this dream by working at a pet clinic in Arnold, California, for a few years until health issues forced me to retire.

In 2018, I began painting and used the proceeds to support local animal shelters. Though I've mostly set aside painting, my passion for writing persists. I now write children's books about endangered animals, donating a portion of my book sales to the World Wildlife Fund (WWF). With 30 self-published books on Amazon, I continue to merge my love for animals with my writing.

A Wedding to Celebrate!

Our dear Jodie Gobson entered into marriage with her beloved, Dianne at our church on October 12. Pastor Bonnie officiated and it was a joyous event. Congratulations, Dianne and Jodie!



End to the Recycling Program

After a decade of fund-raising to support the church, the time has come to end the recycling program originally begun by Fred Soderer and Ken Grassmeyer as a fund-raiser for the then-active Men's Fellowship. Participation has dropped, we've had a consistent theft problem, and the expense of transporting materials has forced us to make this decision.

For several years the program provided local scholarships, donations to the local food bank and more than \$1,000 a year to church fundraising efforts. That support and income has dropped dramatically post-Covid.

We want to thank everyone who has supported this effort through the years, and encourage everyone to continue to recycle and reduce waste in an effort to help the environment. If anyone has a suggestion for a way to do so, please share your ideas with the Outreach and Social Justice team.

M E N T A L H E A L T H J U S T I C E F O R A L L

Mental Health is a
Universal Human Right

"God will not falter or lose heart until justice prevails throughout the earth." (Isaiah 42:4)



 UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST
NEIGHBORS IN NEED 2024
ucc.org/nin

We had our Neighbors in Need Offering on October 6. We are proud to announce that a total of \$726 was raised for this important Mission Offering. This fund directly supports ministries on Justice and Compassion throughout the United States.



The scriptures tell us:

“Many are the sorrows of the wicked but he/she who trusts and relies on the Lord shall be surrounded by compassion and loving kindness.”

Psalm 32

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:

Gail Williams

Dodi Horvath

Brian (Nancy Burton)

Mauro Oliveri and Mada Bass (Barbara Olivier)

Peter & Marian Egbert

Alison Gist (Mary Kelly)

Andrea Tucker (Elaine Lewis)

Hank Fletcher's daughter

Cindy Luna (Marci Duggan)

Ed and Carole Whisman (Wendy Glessman)

Sandy Fox-Hill

Norma Fritsche

Lynda Goodman (June Perry)

Jeannie Koops (Vicky Oneto)

Jeff Sather

Bob & Terry Lewis (Barbara Olivier)

Rev. John Randlett

Eber Hampton (Jesse Hampton)

Corky, Annette, Lars (Mark McCormick)

Steve Bouton (Emily Lawrence)

Kara, Max, and Allie Bechtel (Penny & Mickey)

Tabitha Kremesec

Laura Miller (Noel Helmbrecht)

Daniel Smolich (Liz Tussey)

Rev. Marty Williams

Margaret White 1

William Rosenhart 8

Sanders LaMont 9

George Glessman 11

Sandra Sather 11

Vienna Watkins-Colodzin 12

Hiro Phillips 14

Sharon Grassmyer 17

Gail Williams 19

Vicky Oneto 20

Evelyn Betts 21

Sandy Fox-Hill 21

Joe Silva 23

Shannon Ryan 30

Don't see your birthday listed? We promise it isn't on purpose. Please contact the church office to have your special day added to our list.



November 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
27 9am Adult Choir 10am worship Stewardship Celebration Daylight Savings Ends	28 2pm Bible Study, EEC 6:30pm Al-Anon	29	30	31	1 12pm Women's AA	2 11am Bell Choir
3 9am Adult Choir 10am worship Holy Communion 11am OSJ mtg. 12 - 2pm Family Program/ Confirmation	4 2pm Bible Study, EEC 6:30pm Al-Anon	5	6 12:30pm AA & Al-Anon 6:30pm Al-Anon 7pm Taizé Worship Service	7 1pm CE mtg. ZOOM	8 12pm Women's AA	9 2pm Bell Choir
10 9am Adult Choir 10am worship Holy Communion 11am OSJ mtg. 12 - 2pm Family Program/ Confirmation	11 2pm Bible Study, EEC 6:30pm Al-Anon	12	13 11am - 2pm Knitters and Hookers 2pm F&F mtg. ZOOM 12:30pm AA & Al-Anon 6:30pm Al-Anon	14	15 12pm Women's AA	16 11am Bell Choir
17 10am worship 11am Council EEC 1:30pm Celebration Ringers Concert	18 2pm Bible Study, EEC 6:30pm Al-Anon	19 10am - noon Family Connections, EEC	20 10am Exec mtg. Fisk 12:30pm AA & Al-Anon 5pm Worship mtg. ZOOM 6:30pm Al-Anon	21	22 12pm Women's AA	23 11am Bell Choir
24 9am Adult Choir 10am Worship 12 - 2pm Family Program/ Confirmation	25 6:30pm Al-Anon	26	27 12:30pm AA & Al-Anon 6:30pm Al-Anon	28 1 - 3pm Thanksgiving Meal at UCC	29 Staff Holiday 12pm Women's AA	30 10 - 11am Bell Choir 12:15pm Worship Team Sanctuary Decoration

God's love echoes through us to all creation.

Webpage: www.fccmurph.org

Email: nugget@fccmurph.org

Phone: (209)728-3141

NOVEMBER 2024

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

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 Haskell

Assistant Treasurer Shad Sundberg

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.