



*We will be hosting our annual New Year's Eve Family Game Night on Tuesday, December 31st at 7pm here at the church. Please join us and bring a snack to share!*



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

## DON'T FORGET

**We will be  
having our  
Annual  
Congregational  
Meeting on  
Sunday, January  
12 immediately  
after worship.**

**We will be  
reviewing the  
2025 budget, so  
it is important for  
folks to attend. If  
you've not  
received your  
meeting packet  
with a letter,  
agenda, and  
proposed budget,  
please call the  
office ASAP.**

## Pastor's Article

Dearly Beloved, I don't know about you, but I love a new year! Fresh starts, hope for the future, and the belief that with God all things are possible. We can sit and whine about the past or we can use it as a branch on which to grow.

My theme in life continues to be Joy in the Journey. You are all part of that great joy. This is going to be an exciting year for all of us, full of changes. Daryl and I will retire to Myrtle Beach South Carolina on May 30, 2025 and you all will seek a new pastor.

The Scriptures reassure us. In Isaiah 41:10 it says, *Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.* You have a wonderful leadership team in place with your council. They are marvelous at handling challenges and change. I have seen them turn to God and each other for wisdom and strength and the results are amazing.

So, let's hold on to hope and the promises of God in this journey of joy! Let's open ourselves to new possibilities of ways to serve God and others in our community. We continue to grow and thrive. We will be holding a new member class starting in February 2025. Our teams are blessing us with great work and outreach.

We are pregnant with the promise of God's good work among us! I'm continuing to work hard and eager to be with you on this wild journey called "church" in 2025!

*Leaping for joy, Pastor Bonnie*



*Dear Fellow Followers of Christ, I wish to thank you all for your thoughts, prayers and generous support of me during my recent Mexican adventure. These truly were the hardest days of my life. I was surprised and comforted by this outpouring. I will be forever grateful to you all. Sincerely, George and Patty Haskell*



# Christian Education



The confirmation class and mentors are learning about various world religions as part of confirmation. To help with this they are going to the Islamic Center in Manteca on Sunday, January 26th to learn about Islam.

This is a place that some members of our church visited in the past and it is warm and welcoming. After giving us information about the Islamic faith we will be able to view the silent prayer time.

We decided that this visit will be open to any who are interested, not just the confirmation class.

Please RSVP to the church office no later than Jan. 19.

Thanks to all of the parents for helping their children prepare for the Christmas program, which was fabulous!! Remember we will be taking a break from the Family Program for awhile this winter. I will be planning monthly special events for the students. The first event will be Saturday January 18th at 12:30. We will be traveling to Sonora to have a McDonalds lunch and then going to "Elevate", a trampoline park near Black Oak Casino. We do need to purchase tickets in advance, which the Sunday School will pay for, but we need to know who will be attending by January 11th. We will not go, if we don't have tickets purchased in advance. Please let me know as soon as you can commit. Parents can also attend. Please let me know if you have any questions. In February we will be going Ice skating. Not sure of the date yet. Hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas and Happy New Year. Patty



## *Confirmation Classes Continue in 2025!*

*Congratulations to our confirmands Nicholas Abando, J.T., Glessman and Hiro Olivas for completing the first three months of confirmation. They have been faithful in attendance, and you have seen them serving in worship! Thank you very much!*

*Thanks to our mentors, Alan Horvath, Sanders Lamont, and Matt Graham for providing leadership in our program.*

*In January 12, following worship, we will have lunch together at Firewood and then go back to Eastman for our class. We will continue with the "Decision" curriculum.*

*On January 26 we are taking an exciting trip to the Islamic Center in Manteca and expand our knowledge about another religion.*

*We ask you to continue to pray for these young men as they are participating in this program!*



# Treasurer Report

Don't forget our Congregational Meeting on January 12th right after Church. I will be presenting on the end of the year 2024 finances and presenting the 2025 budget. Please let me know if you have any questions. Hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas and Happy New Year!! Patty

## Discover the Blessings of Small Groups!

*Perhaps you are wondering about our small groups and why you might consider joining one. Parish life is more than just worship on Sunday mornings, doing justice daily and serving on teams.*

*Our faith grows in many ways and in the small groups, Pastor Bonnie provides a guide for discussion that enables us to learn more about God and each other. She wants the whole parish to participate because the topics usually center on issues we are facing at a specific time. There are also challenges to our discipleship and in a small group we can share how to continue to be a loving advocate for grace and mercy. For example, recently we studied faith and politics.*

*There are times too when each of us need a safe place to share our joys and sorrows. These groups are confidential and what is said there, stays there. This also enable you to get to know one another better. God often sparks new ideas within these groups and deep understanding of our discipleship journey takes place.*

*The groups meet at different times and places. Some have snacks and some eat a meal together. They are once a month and last for several hours. So if you are not currently part of a group, please call Vicky Oneto from the Membership and Calling Team and she will connect you with a group. Her phone number is 209-743-8335 or you can email her at [vicky@sandshadow.com](mailto:vicky@sandshadow.com)*

*Join today and be blessed!*



**The Chocolate  
Returns!  
Mark your  
calendars now  
for our famous  
Heavenly  
Chocolate  
Festival on  
Saturday, Feb. 8.  
Stay tuned for all  
the delectable  
details!**

# *'Tis the Season for Gathering and Sharing Joy!*



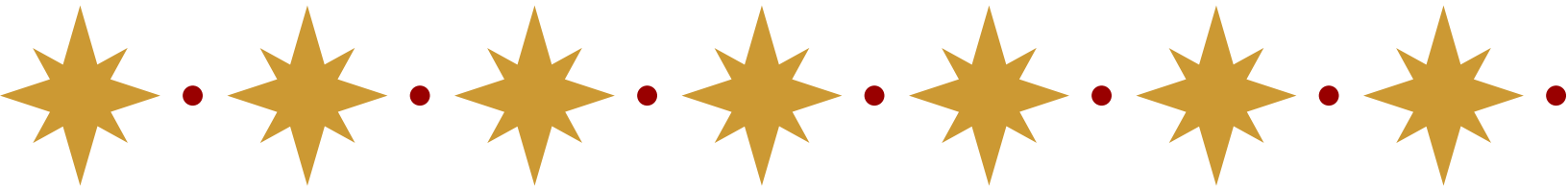
A few of our wonderful musicians spreading the Christmas Cheer!



The Outreach & Social Justice team is busy wrapping gifts for all the folks at Golden!



The Animal Stars at the Christmas Performance were adorable!



Many thanks to all who came to our Office Open House. We had a wonderful time hosting our beloved members with some delicious Christmas treats, good conversation, and wonderful company through the afternoon!





The scriptures tell us:

*“The Lord will give us unyielding and impenetrable strength to his people. The Lord will bless his people with peace.”*

Psalm 29, verses 11 – 12

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:

Liz Tussey

Erin Stephens

Dodi Horvath

Brian (Nancy Burton)

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)

Norma Fritsche

Lynda Goodman (June Perry)

Jeff Sather

Rev. John Randlett

Eber Hampton (Jesse Hampton)

Corky, Annette, Lars (Mark McCormick)

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

Tabitha Kremesec

Laura Miller (Noel Helmbrecht)

Daniel Smolich (Liz Tussey)

Rev. Marty Williams

Rebecca Boyett 1

Jeff Kelly 6

Ava Armstrong 7

Joe Jackson 13

Dan Lewis 15

Janis Ossa Nielsen 18

Andrew Oneto 18

Dustin Shinn 18

Pat LaMont 19

Jeri Carson-Hull 20

Kelly Ellifritz 22

Connie Bowser 24

Norman Nielsen 26

Joan Thorsen 27

Janet Reynolds 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.



# January



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>9am</b> Adult Choir <b>10am</b> worship Holy Communion	<b>10am</b> Pastoral Relations mtg. EEC <b>1pm</b> M&C mtg., Fisk <b>6:30pm</b> Al-Anon	<b>06</b> <b>07</b>	<b>01</b> <b>08</b> <b>1pm</b> F&F mtg. ZOOM <b>12:30pm</b> AA & Al-Anon <b>6:30pm</b> Al-Anon	<b>02</b> <b>09</b> <b>10</b>	<b>03</b> <b>12pm</b> Women's AA <b>NEW YEAR HOLIDAY OFFICE CLOSED</b> <b>12pm</b> Women's AA	<b>04</b> <b>11am</b> Bell Choir
<b>9am</b> Adult Choir <b>10am</b> worship ANNUAL BUDGET MEETING	<b>13</b> <b>6:30pm</b> Al-Anon	<b>14</b> <b>8:30am</b> Staff Meeting	<b>15</b> <b>10am</b> Exec mtg. Fisk <b>1pm</b> CE mtg. ZOOM <b>6pm</b> Worship mtg. ZOOM <b>12:30pm</b> AA & Al-Anon <b>6:30pm</b> Al-Anon	<b>16</b> <b>17</b> <b>12pm</b> Women's AA	<b>18</b> <b>11am</b> Bell Choir	<b>18</b> <b>11am</b> Bell Choir
<b>11am</b> Council EEC	<b>20</b> <b>6:30pm</b> Al-Anon	<b>21</b> <b>10am</b> Family Connections, EEC <b>11am</b> Knitters and Hookers	<b>22</b> <b>12:30pm</b> AA & Al-Anon <b>6:30pm</b> Al-Anon	<b>23</b> <b>24</b> <b>12pm</b> Women's AA	<b>25</b> <b>11am</b> Bell Choir	<b>25</b> <b>11am</b> Bell Choir
<b>9am</b> Adult Choir <b>10am</b> Worship CE Visit to Islamic Center of Manteca	<b>27</b> <b>6:30pm</b> Al-Anon	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> <b>12:30pm</b> AA & Al-Anon <b>6:30pm</b> Al-Anon	<b>30</b> <b>12pm</b> Women's AA	<b>31</b> <b>12pm</b> Women's AA	

God's love echoes through us to all creation.

Webpage: [www.fccmurph.org](http://www.fccmurph.org)

Email: [nugget@fccmurph.org](mailto:nugget@fccmurph.org)

Phone: (209)728-3141

JANUARY 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](http://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.