



THE NUGGET

First Congregational Church of Murphys, United Church of Christ

Christ is risen

Come join us as we celebrate the Life of Jesus through Holy Week to the Blessed Resurrection!

On Maundy Thursday we are all invited to attend a Holy Supper at Union Congregational Church at 5.30 p.m.

On Good Friday, April 15, we will have our sanctuary open from noon to 2 for you to come at your leisure and worship at the Stations of the Cross. You may also just come to pray. This is open to the public as well so please share it with your friends. In the evening, we are invited to the Tenebrae service at Faith Lutheran Church at 6:30 p.m.

On Easter day, we will hold a sunrise service at Buena Vista Cemetery in Murphys at 7 a.m.

Our Easter Service will be at 10 a.m.

There is an Easter Egg Hunt for the children during Sunday School on April 17.



See all the news inside:

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



Pastor Bonnie's Article



Unexpected Blessings

Life can be chaotic and stressful, but it can also be full of blessings. We often fail to see the wisdom and giftedness of the day because we might be burdened, grieving, sick, lost or alone. All those situations are often out of our control and may seem dark, but when shared with others, the light will shine through. Recently I had lunch with a parish member who told me that she is "seeing opportunities where once she saw challenges." I loved that! It reminds me of our reader board sign, "When gratitude is your default setting, life changes." It can take a long time for a situation to change, a relationship to be restored, a grieving heart to heal.

Here at First Congregational Church, we offer our love and our feet to walk with you on the journey. You do not need to travel alone. God is blessing us with gifts of hospitality, listening ears, compassionate hearts that want to share your load. The Scripture reminds us to do this: "Bear one another's burdens and so fulfill the love of Christ."

Our Parish Care team provides ongoing support. If you need a helping hand or a listening ear, please call Carol Dougherty and share your need. Her number is 209-916-5095.

I too am available to journey with you. While I do not do therapeutic counseling because I am not trained and it is unethical for me to do so, I am honored to provide pastoral counseling which includes, prayer, scripture, song, and spiritual guidance. We await to serve you!

Joy in the Journey,

Pastor Bonnie



Help Wanted

Interim Leader is urgently needed for our Membership and Calling Team. Marilyn Baisel has been chairing this team but is already on two other teams and needs to have someone take this on.

If you love meeting people, making phone calls and asking others to help, please call Pastor Bonnie today to volunteer your services. You will serve at least until July 1. At our June congregational meeting we will elect new people to the team. Pastor Bonnie and Marilyn will provide training for the position and answer any questions.

Together We Can!





Moderator's article



Ah, finally spring has sprung! While there is a lot of strife around the world, there is so much to celebrate as well. The beauty of nature, the fellowship and joy of being back in worship together, the new folks that are joining us for worship and the upcoming Easter Season! I can't wait to see the looks of wonder on the faces of our children as they hunt for Easter eggs!

Thanks are owed to Joe Jackson for leading the charge on the Pancake Breakfast last month, and for stepping up to lead the parking lot collection box from here on. The parking lot may be a largely untapped fundraiser that could bring in many donations as the year goes on.

Something I've noticed recently as I look around at Council members, team leaders and others that volunteer to take on projects like Joe Jackson: it seems often to be the same small group of people who get involved. But, we need all of you to choose a way to be involved, in whatever way you are able! Christian Enrichment can use Sunday School teachers and helpers (there must always be 2 adults present with the children); Outreach and Social Justice desperately needs team members, Stewardship is a tiny team that needs help... the list goes on. As we swing back into full activity this Easter season, please search your heart for a way you might be able to help. The nominating team consisting of Carrie Shinn, Barb Olivier, Gary Carson Hull and Pastor Bonnie will be meeting soon for 6/1/22 nominations. If you have any interest in volunteering, please reach out to one of us, or to the team leader. We need you!!

Easter Blessings to you all,

Carrie Shinn
Moderator



Parking Donations



Now we have a parking lot collection box by the office. The suggested donation is \$10 and we hope this option would be a good opportunity for a steady financial support.

Worship

We ARE back to IN-PERSON worship on Sundays however some of our parish members are unable to attend this way, so we are again offering our service via zoom.





Treasurer's article



Hello all you lovely people. It feels like spring. Even after being covered with snow, the daffodils pushed forth and bloomed. Iris plants are sprouting, and I think I saw buds on my dogwood tree. I know there are buds on my camellias and rhododendrons.

Our finances have been planted in good soil, they have bloomed abundantly. This recent storm of inflation and war in Ukraine have been like the snow on the daffodils, tough and hard, but we will push through. While we lost a little market value in our endowment investments, we are still so much better off than most. Pledges seem to be keeping pace with the expected budget and while we are only two months into our annual expenses, God seems to be favoring us and opening your hearts and wallets.

Thank you for your continued generosity. Because of you, the church campus is well maintained, bills are paid, employees seem happy and our missions within the community and world continue to flourish. You truly are the hands of God at work in our world.

Mandy De Smidt, Treasurer



Taizé

Wednesday, April 6th at
7:00 PM

**Come for an evening of
quiet meditation,
prayers and song in our
lovely sanctuary.**



New Spring Directory is coming

We want to publish a new church directory very soon. If we do not have your photo and correct info, please email the church office with your birthday, picture, address, phone number and email address. The email is nugget@fccmurph.org
This is a wonderful way for us to stay connected!

Celebrate Earth Day Each Day



Sunday School

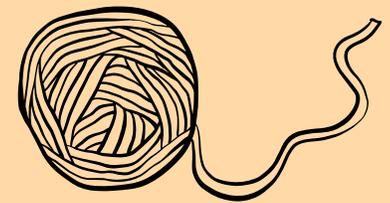
Sunday worship and Sunday school for children is at 10 a.m. every Sunday. Children may come to worship with their parents before going to Sunday School. It is a pure joy and a beautiful experience to reunite with them again after such a long time.

Earth Day is held each year on April 22. It is a time to celebrate the presence of God in the natural world that surrounds and supports us. God works through us as we take responsibility for caring for our environment. We do so in the daily decisions that we make and the actions that we take to protect the environment. It is important to educate ourselves on the issues of protecting our natural resources and, in fact, saving our planet. This helps us to make informed decisions and take purposeful actions individually and collectively. To learn more about this topic, watch for upcoming Nugget articles and activities at the church. Most of all, celebrate Earth Day each day!

As a reminder, the first Earth Day was held on April 22, 1970 and was focused on creating awareness of environmental issues nationally. This led to legislative action to protect water and air from pollution. The national movement took hold internationally in 1990. On Earth Day 2016, the Paris Agreement was signed by the U.S., China, the UK and 120 other countries. It was acknowledged that nations must work together to solve global environmental issues. On Earth Day 2020, over 100 million people around the world observed the 50th anniversary in the largest online mass mobilization in history!



Thank You!



Knitters and Hookers

Laura Argento with a prayer shawl she received from the group as she grieves the death of her mother.



A very big thanks to Joe Jackson and his wonderful crew for all of their hard work organizing, taking charge of this event, and staffing it. It was a busy morning and a very satisfying fundraiser. The net profit will be announced soon.



New Member Class



Next New member class is Sunday, **April 3** following worship. A light lunch will be served. We will meet in the Eastman Building.



Repaired Screen Door at the office

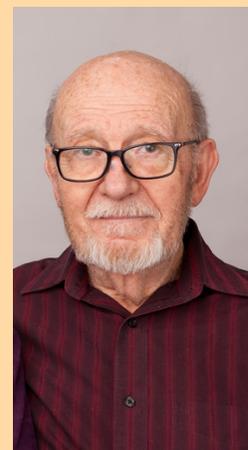
Joe Jackson did an excellent job repairing our screen door. It looks beautiful and brand new. We really hope that many soon the office will be back to normal and you can come through the new door!



A Life Celebration for **Fred Soderer** is scheduled for Saturday, April 23 at 2 p.m. at the church



A Life Celebration for **Ken Grassmyer** is on Saturday, April 30 at 10:30 a.m.



Daily Devotionals



Each Day during Lent you will receive an email from the office with the Daily Devotional with Pastor Bonnie. These are very brief and designed to open you to new possibilities. The series is entitled: **Out of Hibernation: A New Way Forward**. As we begin to meet in person and possibly back to pre-Covid activities, our faith journey can change also. What is God opening before us? What new adventures await?

When you open the devotional you can also subscribe to her channel and be notified when the devotionals are ready

We are the Church

Our Partners in Ministry



LGBTQ



One of the great blessings of this parish is the way in which we all serve our community. We are partners in ministry with Sierra Hope, The Resource Connection and Habitat for Humanity Calaveras. You may donate to any of these organizations by going to our website and selecting the Engage tab or writing a check and putting the name in the memo.

Just last month we sent \$860 to The Resource Connection Food Bank. We already have many members who volunteer at these organizations but if you want more information, please call the church office. Together we make a big difference!



We are continuing with the schedule for youth on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month at 7pm to 8:30pm via Zoom.

Thank you for your support and for sharing this information with those who can benefit from the support of this group!

Thank you,

**Matthew Johnson
(209) 352-1828**





Small Groups



There are four small groups at the moment who started to meet again in-person. We would like to encourage you to join and gather together either at someone's house or at the church. You can call or email the office to see about space availability.

We are welcoming new energy and new opinions.





April

BIRTHDAY'S

Clinton Betts 5
Nancy Burton 5
Doug Shinn 9
Brett Thomson 10
Bobby Breen 15
Dodi Horvath 16
Connie Cook 19
Tara Glessman 19
Isa Luchetti 22



Prayers answered

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:

All those who are ill

Sharon Grassmyer & Family

Shirley Soderer & Family

Joanie Singleton

Tabitha Kremesec

Connie Cook & Family

Mary Dahl

Hilary Oldenkamp

Angela Patterson

Diane Brown & Jesse Hampton & Family

Patti & Steve Pollock

Laura Argento & Sally Elliott

The Bissell Family

Monika Riedel

Tracy & Kelly Ellifritz

Alan & Dodi Horvath

Jody Quick

Elspeth Mann

Vee Domazlicky & Family



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1 12-1.30pm AA	2
3 10am Worship New Member class	4	5 7pm LGBTQ meeting	6 7pm Taize Service	7	8 12-1.30pm AA	9
10 10am Worship	11	12	13	14	15 12-1.30pm AA 	16
17 7am Sunrise Service 10am Worship	18	19 7pm LGBTQ meeting	20	21	22 12-1.30pm AA Earth Day	23 2pm: Life Celebration of Fred Soderer
24 10am Worship	25	26	27	28	29	30 10.30am: Life Celebration of Ken Grassmyer

God's love echoes through us to all creation.

Website: www.fccmurph.org

Email: nugget@fccmurph.org

Phone: 209.728.3141

APRIL 2022

DATED MATERIAL— DO NOT DELAY

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Murphys, CA 95247

509 N. Algiers Street

PO Box 48

*First Congregational Church of Murphys
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST*

THE NUGGET

Staff

Pastor Rev. Dr. Bonnie Hollinger

Pastor Emeritus Rev. Dr. John Randlett

Music Director Dr. Daryl Hollinger

Custodian Peter Marai-Muro

Officers

Moderator Carrie Shinn

Vice Moderator Patty Haskell

Treasurer Mandy DeSmidt

Financial Secretary Shad Sundberg



www.ucc.org

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.