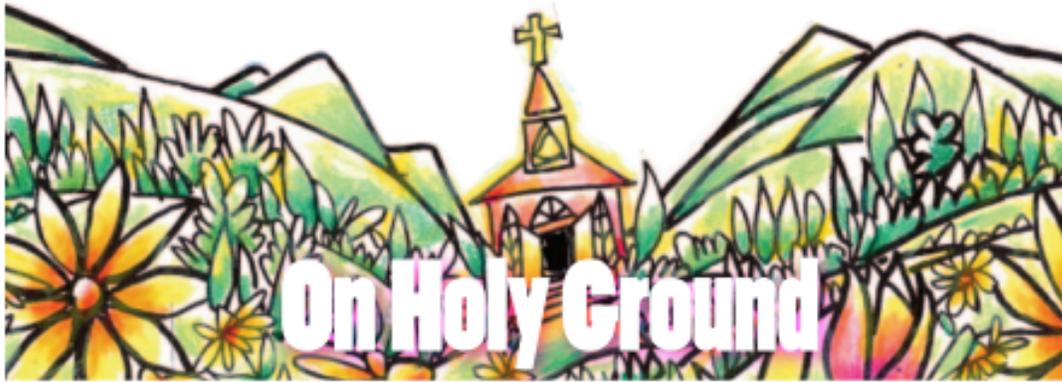


THE NUGGET

United Church of Christ



***Rev. Davena Jones
is being installed
as the NCNC/UCC
Conference***

***Minister on May 4,
2024 at 11am.***

***City of Refuge, UCC
8400 Enterprise Way
Oakland, CA.***

RSVP ncnccucc.org



*****To donate directly,
scan the QR code.*****

Our Strengthen the Church Offering will be on Sunday, May 19. The Strengthen the Church (STC) Offering reflects the shared commitment of people across the United Church of Christ to build up the UCC cooperatively. Conferences and the national setting equally share the gifts given by members and friends through their local congregations. The funds raised support leadership development, new churches, youth ministry, and innovation in existing congregations. You build up the Body of Christ with your generosity to this offering.

As God calls our congregations to be the church in new ways, your generosity will plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches and develop the spiritual life in our youth and young adults.

Pastor's Article

The Healing Power of Spiritual Practices



Mountain Melody will be having their concert on Saturday, May 4 at 2pm in our Sanctuary. Come enjoy a Broadway themed show brought to you by some fabulous local talent!

Last year at this time, I was in Assisi on a silent retreat learning how to take one moment at a time and just "let go."

Little did I know how I would need that training to make it through the beginning of 2024.

The challenges have been great this year for many of us and we are walking with God amid it all. The two greatest tools I have used are prayer and deep breathing. The sleepless nights and the pain of cancer can disturb, but the breath of God is far more powerful and often puts me right at ease.

One of the reasons these two aids are so helpful is that they have become daily practices for me. My doctors have been amazed that I can lower my blood pressure and tolerate high levels of pain through meditation.

Each time I breathe in, I envision God's healing life within me. When I breathe out, I let go of all the worry or things that cause me pain. As I breathe in, I say, "Breathe of God within me" and when I exhale I say "Letting go..." I just repeat this over and over.

Prayer enables me to lift each of you to God. I just begin by listing everyone whom God brings to my mind. Sometimes I envision God surrounding you with loving arms. I smile and quickly fall asleep. It's better than counting sheep! Join me in these two practices and see the renewed spirit of comfort within you!

Joy in the Journey, Pastor Bonnie





Treasurer's Report

I have been busy moving money around and investing the proceeds of the Union sale into an investment account. I have repaid the UC Endowment \$2685.00 from the refund that we received from PG&E. I will make another repayment, after we have our PGE true up, so I know how much to deposit. I also contacted UCFunds about reinvesting all the interest from those investments, as we agreed to at the 2024 Budget meeting. We will continue to use the interest from the Edward Jones accounts, since that is how those were set up. Please let me know if you have any questions about any of these transactions. Our yearly pledge income is down, but the non-pledge is up. I assume that is because we haven't had a new members class yet. I know Pastor Bonnie is scheduling it soon. I know everyone is going to start getting really busy with summer, but please keep up on your pledges. Thanks, Patty



ART SHOW AT THE DIGGINS

Our dear member, Tabitha Kremesec will be hosting an art show on Saturday, May 25 from 9am to 2pm in the Diggins clubhouse. She will be showcasing coloring books and other art.

Sunday

**SAVE
THE
DATE!**

Our Annual Congregational Meeting will take place on **Sunday, June 23** after worship. Packets and agendas will be sent out in the coming weeks.



Vice-Moderator's Musings

What's in a Name?



Small Group Meetings:

May 10:

The Wanderers

10am in Murphys

Contact Marilyn Baisel



May 14:

South Grove Bunch

5:30pm at Soup Supper

Contact Faye Morrison



May 7 & 21:

Family Program

5:30pm at Soup Supper

Contact Evelyn Betts



May 21:

Faith & Friends

10am in Murphys home

Contact Pam Kimes



May 21

Cottage Circle

5:30pm at Soup Supper

Contact Faye Morrison



May 22:

Angels Angels

11am in Copperopolis

Contact Barb Olivier

For the last 3 months, I have had the assignment, along with 11 other church members, of considering what name our newly merged church should use. It has been an interesting journey.

One of our first considerations was just what drew each of us individually to this church, and what keeps us here. If you participated in our survey back in February, you also provided that type of input for us. We received just over 30 responses. Often-repeated terms included welcoming, friendly, historical, active in community, social justice and responsibility, compassion, fellowship, peace, grace, faith, and respect for diversity.

We also discussed the message sent to others by our name, what we want others to know about us, and what tends to draw people to our church. To gather your thoughts on these aspects of our name, we want everyone to participate in small group discussions. Those who are part of the monthly small groups will discuss possible names and meanings of those names during their May meetings. For those who are not in a small group, we will have two special small group meetings during May. We encourage each of you to attend one of these multiple meetings:

May 15th 10 am Eastman Bldg.

May 26th 11:30 am Eastman Bldg.

This is an exciting time that will impact the future of our congregation. Please join us in these important discussions.

Submitted by Barbara Olivier, Vice-Moderator

A Message From the Outreach & Social Justice Team



Greetings from the Outreach and Social Justice Team. Spring is finally here, and we are witnessing the earth's annual rebirth and renewal. Fun fact, the word "May" comes from the Latin word "Maius". Maius was actually short for the phrase "Maius Mensis" (Maia's month). Maia was the Roman Goddess of fertility and Spring.



The O&SJ team busily put together events to celebrate Earth Day this year and concentrated on activities for the kids. We have purchased activities for all the church's children. For the younger kids we have kits to make windchimes. The wind is an amazing source of clean energy. The kids can see and hear the wind's energy when they watch and listen to their windchimes. For the older kids we have Mason Bee House kits. Mason bees are a lesser known cousin to the Honey Bee and Bumble Bee. These humble little bees are wonderful pollinators. The church kids were also invited to create Earth Day posters again this year for our 2nd Annual Earth Day Poster Contest. The posters will be displayed as a part of OSJ's bulleting board display in the Social Hall in June and July.



The team is currently working with Allison Stevenot, an archaeologist for the U.S. Forest Service, to do a luncheon/talk on June 9 after the church service. Allison will talk about the value of identifying and protecting our amazing cultural resources. She is a member of the Miwok tribe and has amazing perspective about the natural and cultural resources in our area.

Later this summer the team is planning on hosting a Lasagna Dinner to support Lasagna love. Folks attending this dinner will be asked to bring donations for this wonderful partner in ministry.

Your Outreach and Social Justice Team



Vacation Bible School will be held the week of July 15 - July 19 from 9am to 12pm. We will have our Annual Picnic in the Park that Friday. More details coming soon.



Due to ongoing theft in our recycling area, including locks being cut off, recycling will now only be collected on Sunday mornings at church. Please do not bring your recycling at any other time. You can also drop it off at the homes of either Gary Carson-Hull or Sanders LaMont.

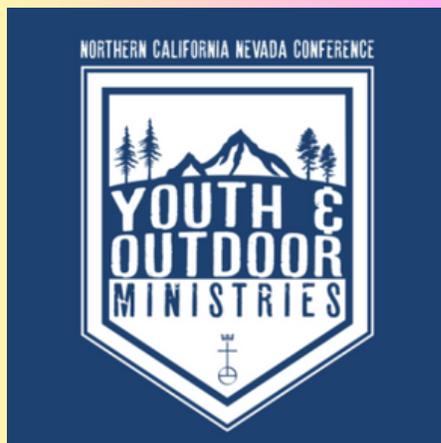
Christian Education

Recap

Its hard to believe that summer is almost here. We are all looking forward to the warm sun and spending time outside. Sunday school has been going well. We had a wonderful Easter egg hunt with lots of candy and kids. Thank you to everyone who donated candy. The Family Program has been difficult to get going this Spring- between the weather and sports. We do need help with food on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month. Please contact me if you can help prepare or serve on those nights. Pastor Bonnie is working on starting a Confirmation class for the youth and determining what days and times work for families. We have our Church camping trip coming up on July 13-14. Please mark your calendars . We are also doing Vacation Bible School on July 15-19th. We will begin planning this soon. Camp Tamarak is also coming up in July. This is the Conference run camp for youth. I have given the Sunday school students info on camp, but please let me know if you have a child or grandchild interested in attending. We provide scholarships for campers and we do need some additional donations in that account. I think that is all the news. We have a busy few months scheduled. Patty



The All Church Camping Trip at Big Trees State Park will be from July 12 - 14, 2024 with Worship being held at Big Trees at 10am that Sunday. Sign up sheets will be available in the coming weeks.



CAMP TAM 2024 SEASON

July 14 - 20:
Camp Tam Senior

July 21 - 27:
Camp Tam Junior High

July 28 - Aug. 3:
Camp Tam Junior



Lasagna Love just celebrated its 4th birthday! When we started it was with the idea of easing people's burdens during the pandemic but it gained a life of its own and is still going strong 4 years later. We are in three countries now, Australia, Canada and in every state of the United States including Puerto Rico. We have served

almost half a million lasagnas and have impacted over 1.8 million people with our food.

Receiving help from Lasagna Love is as simple as going to www.lasaganalove.org and filling out an easy application. You can also volunteer to cook there at the website. We Spread Kindness, Feed Families and Strengthen Communities.

Lasagna Love is one of our Partners in Ministry.

**LASAGNA
LOVE**



Bell Choir rehearsals are every Saturday at 10am in the Sanctuary. Adult Choir rehearsals are on the 1st, 2nd, and 4th Sundays at 9am in the Sanctuary. Contact Dr. Daryl for more information.



Family Program is on May 7 & 21 at 5:30pm

We encourage all families to attend. There will be Youth activities and dinner is provided. Please contact Patty Haskell for more details.

UCC SUNDAY SCHOOL EASTER EGG HUNT 2024



News from our church community

*Rev Lloyd Schneider passed away On April 22. Rev. Lloyd was a pastor at Union UCC in Angels Camp for a number of years. You may send cards to the family at
PO Box 892 Tuolumne CA
95379.*

A Life Celebration service will be held in the future.



Margaret White sends greetings to everyone from her apartment at Cornerstone community. She is especially enjoying the Western Redbud blooms.



Alma Oneto 1

Susana Crow 1

Brenda Whaley 2

Emma Olivas 6

Barbara Matthews 7

Marilyn Baisel 8

Rev. Dr. Bonnie Hollinger 11

Alan Horvath 14

Rev. Dr. John Randlett 16

Asher Armstrong 19

Justin Glessman 20

Sean Markus 20

Miriam Thorsen 21

Robin Chesnut 22

Norma Fritsche 22

Michael Abando 23

Caity Johnson 24

Carolyn Anctil 26

Gretchen Thomson 27

Jeff Sather 29

Tommy Pratt 31

Phil Hosmer 31

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:

Prayer List:

The Family of Del Harris

The Family of Carol Osterlund

The Family of Meg Self

The Family of Hilary Oldenkamp

John & Marilyn Amormino

Thomas Bouton

Caity Johnson

Dodi Horvath

Tabitha Kremesec

Laura Miller

Teri Olivas

Daniel Smolich

Shirley Soderer

Gail Williams

Rev. Marty Williams

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 12:30pm AA & Al-Anon 5pm Worship mtg. ZOOM 6:30pm Al-Anon	2 5pm CE mtg. ZOOM	3 12pm Women's AA	4 10am Bell Choir 2pm Mountain Melody Concert
9am Adult Choir 10am Worship Holy Communion 2pm Del Harris Life Celebration	6 6:30pm Al-Anon	7 5:30pm Family Program	8 12:30pm AA & Al-Anon 6:30pm Al-Anon	9 10am The Wanderers Sm. Grp. in Murphys 12pm Women's AA	10 10am Bell Choir 1pm Meg Self Life Celebration	11 10am Bell Choir
12 9am Adult Choir 10am worship 11am OSJ EEC	13 6:30pm Al-Anon	14 2pm F&F mtg. ZOOM 5:30pm South Grove Bunch Sm. Grp.	15 12:30pm AA & Al-Anon 6:30pm Al-Anon	16 12:30pm AA & Al-Anon 6:30pm Al-Anon	17 12pm Women's AA	18 10am Bell Choir
19 10am worship 11am Council EEC Strengthen the Church Offering	20 6:30pm Al-Anon	21 10am Family Connections EEC 10am Faith & Friends Sm. Grp. in Murphys 5:30pm Cottage Circle Sm. Grp. 5:30pm Family Program	22 11am Angels Angels Sm. Grp. 12:30pm AA & Al-Anon 6:30pm Al-Anon	23 12:30pm AA & Al-Anon 6:30pm Al-Anon	24 12pm Women's AA	25 10am Bell Choir
26 9am Adult Choir 10am worship	27 Memorial Day Office Closed 6:30pm Al-Anon	28	29 12:30pm AA & Al-Anon 6:30pm Al-Anon	30	31 12pm Women's AA	

God's love echoes through us to all creation.
Website: www.fccmurph.org
Email: nugget@fccmurph.org
Phone: (209)728-3141

MAY 2024
DATED MATERIAL - DO NOT DELAY

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

First Congregational Church of Murphys
509 N. Algiers Street
PO Box 48
Murphys, CA 95247

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
Financial Secretary Gary Carson-Hull

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.