

# THE NUGGET

Open Door United Church of Christ



A glorious worship service in the pines was enjoyed on August 25. New members were baptised by Pastor Bonnie after the service and the food was enjoyed by all! Many thanks to all who participated in making this day so special. More photos inside!



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



*We will have our  
Taizé worship on  
Sunday, September 29  
at 10am*

# Pastor's Article

## *Rejuvenated and Ready to Dance!*

*This summer's vacation for me was very special as we were able to spend time back East with family and friends. I was able to swim in the Atlantic Ocean and what a grand time it was! It wasn't the kind of vacation where one sits and meditates as it was full of traveling to see family, but I am still ready for the fall season and the thriving ministry we have here.*

*By the time you read this, we will have added nine new people to our parish. I dance with joy at how our life together is growing! More than ever, our world needs Christians who are gentle, faithful and live out the ethics of Jesus Christ. It is a challenge to be sure, but we can experience great joy as we strive to do so together.*

*One of the ways we live our commitment to the church and each other is to participate in a small group. This month we will be starting our meetings again. I am hoping that some of you will choose to switch it up a bit and go to a new group. This will enable you to learn to know your siblings in Christ more fully. If you have not yet joined a group, please call Pastor Bonnie and she will see that you find one that fits your schedule.*

*In these small groups, we share our joys and concerns, read scripture, have discussions and pray together. There is always laughter and fun involved too! Our lives are enriched by the insights of others and the support we receive in times of suffering. Come dance with us as the Holy Spirit moves among us! **Waiting to sign you up! Pastor Bonnie***





## *Vice-Moderator's Musings*

There are probably some photographs elsewhere in this newsletter which depict the very special worship service held on August 25th. I feel compelled to talk a bit about the feel at that service. First, I must admit that I grumbled for a few days about having to go all the way up to White Pines, instead of just having a service in Murphys. However, I convinced myself that it was an important day in the life of our congregation, and I needed to participate.

So what's so important? Well, being in a place where we do not normally hold our Sunday services certainly tends to heighten our senses. Being in our beautiful outdoors adds an appreciation for nature and the need to protect our environment. The service at White Pines also generally has relied more heavily than usual on music, and that adds an extra joyful atmosphere and camaraderie to the service. But more importantly, this is the day that we put aside to welcome new members to our church. It is unusual in this day and time for a church to be growing at all, but we welcomed 10 new members to our church that day! Seven of our new members braved the chilly water, along with Pastor Bonnie, to be baptized in a brief but meaningful ceremony. In addition, three more members who had previously been baptized were welcomed as new members. Then all of us present renewed our baptismal promises, and also promised to support one another as we strive to live out Christ's teachings. Very inspiring! Of course, we then celebrated with a wonderful picnic lunch.

There were a lot of people involved in making this event happen! First, thank you to the 10 new members who joined our congregation, along with the members who sponsored them on their membership journey. Then there's Pastor Bonnie, our Music Director and all the wonderful musicians, and our liturgist, who led us in prayer and song. Thanks, too, to our hospitality committee, our BBQ chefs, and all of those who brought dishes for the picnic. Thanks to each person who made the special effort to join the celebration, And let's not forget to thank Jenny for her preparation work, and those who stayed to help clean up after this wonderful celebration. It certainly "took a village" to make it happen! Thank you all!!

Submitted by: Barbara Olivier

# *Christian Education*

It has been a quick and eventful summer for many. Students are busy getting back into the routine of school and parents are busy getting their children here and there. Sunday School has started back up and we are excited to have some new students. We will be starting up a new and improved Family Program real soon, so watch for the date and information. We had students attend Camp Tamarack this summer and everyone enjoyed it. Thanks to the Congregation for its financial support sending these students to camp. Hopefully with the change in Family Program we will have more time for service projects and fun family outings. Thanks for everyone that supported the Sunday School while I was taking care of my husband over the summer. See you soon. Patty



## *Treasurer Report*

Church finances continue to be stable. The pledges are down some this month, but attendance has been down also. The Fall is the time to catch up on your pledges. We will be considering doing some repairs on our church buildings this Fall, which are much needed. At the Congregational meeting held in September we discussed ways of funding these repairs. Finance and Facilities are continuing to discuss other maintenance and repairs needed to the physical plant of our Church buildings. Please be aware that we have not met our fundraising goal for the year and we do not have another fundraisers planned for the year. If you would like to make a donation to the fundraising account (a non fundraiser) please note that on your donation. Thanks for all your financial support of the Church. It is exciting to see all the new members! Thanks, Patty



# *Updates from Parish Care*

George Haskell is home! Many prayers have been with him since he suffered a severe infection in Mexico on a family vacation, followed him to hospital care in Houston, then California, a brief "time off" here in Murphys, back to Stockton for more care, and NOW HOME to stay. Pretty soon we hope to see him sipping coffee downtown and/or walking his dog. It was wonderful to have him at the White Pines worship in August 25. Thank you, God.

Also, Shirley Soderer, is living her regular life at home in Murphys after months of recuperation in the hospital and then a short stint at her son's home. It is so good to think of her here again and hear her voice at her home phone. Prayers were (and are) with her throughout her illness and recovery.

## *Our Choirs have returned!*

***Adult Choir:***

***Sundays, Sept 8, 15, 22 at 9am***

***Bell Choir:***

***Saturdays, Sept. 14, 21, 28 at 10am***



# Outreach and Social Justice



On September 7, the annual Pride in the Park event will be happening in Murphys Community Park. We, Open Doors, are in the process of putting together an informational booth for the event. We will be looking for folks to help with that booth. If you can't commit to helping, please try to stop by the event to show your support for the LGBTQ community.

Let's all dust off our walking shoes and join Sierra Hope for their annual fundraiser, Walk for Hope. This awesome event takes place at Calaveras Big Trees State Park on September 21, 2024. The park will be adorned in all her beautiful fall colors and the weather will most certainly be cool and pleasant. The walk will rejuvenate your mind and soul. Community and church members will be gathered to support a great organization. A wonderful bag lunch prepared lovingly by your fellow church members will be provided. Could there be a by a better way to spend a Saturday? Don't want to walk? The Outreach and Social Justice will need some help supplying the sack lunches. We'll need cookies, (home baked are always the best!). The cookies would need to be individually portioned and we'd need an ingredient list. We will also need sandwich makers, sack stuffers, and folks to help set up and clean up. Sign-up sheets for cookie bakers and volunteers will be at the church starting September 1. Let's all show Sierra Hope how much we support their important work in our community and SHOW UP!

**Walk for Hope**  
on  
**September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024**  
Registration/Check-in: 9a-11a  
Walk the trails: 9a-2p  
Bag lunch is provided!

at Calaveras Big Trees State Park

Register at [Sierrahope.org](http://Sierrahope.org) or [walkforhope.flipcause.com](http://walkforhope.flipcause.com)  
Telephone: (209) 736-6792  
Email: [info@sierrahope.org](mailto:info@sierrahope.org)

**SIERRA HOPE**  
HEALTH OPPORTUNITIES, PROGRAMS & EDUCATION

Form a Team or Walk the trails as an individual: Create a "virtual team" to walk the trails. Your team can pay online or give the funds to you to turn in.

Non-profit 501(c)3 EIN 77-0258235

Sierra Walk for HOPE is a family event with a beautiful walk in the forest among the Giant Sequoias to raise awareness and funds to assist families and individuals at risk of hunger or homelessness and provide support for people living with HIV/AIDS in our community.

# ***Small Groups Enrich our Lives and Help us Grow!***

Beloved church! We are ready for a wonderful fall session of our small groups. We are inviting everyone to join a group. These meetings are a time filled with rich discussion, sharing of joys and sorrows, prayer, food and fun! There will be a sign up sheet on Sunday September 1.

The small group study guide, written by Pastor Bonnie will focus on politics and faith. The title for the series for the next four months is:

Let's Dive in! (A study on faith and politics: proclaiming a loving response)

While these are challenging topics, the discussion is timely as we have become a polarized people. As Christians, we have an opportunity to seek justice in what we say and do and how we hear one another. This will hopefully be a playful activity where we can loosen the reigns on "what I believe," and open the path to "listening with the ears of God."

If you are already part of a small group we are suggesting that you might change to a new group. This will enable us to get to know one another better. When we gather for these times of fellowship, it helps us grow as disciples of Jesus as we rely on one another and God for wisdom. Come be part of the joy! If you cannot sign up on Sunday, please email or call Pastor Bonnie.



# *A Lovely Celebration in the Pines*



# Welcome New Members!





**Stella Sundberg 1**

**Maxine Harper 5**

**Syl Walton 5**

**Ian Olivas 8**

**Alice Williams 11**

**Kathy Kuhn 14**

**Earl Ferguson 16**

**Carol Woods 24**

**Jim Walton 25**

**Rose Mulvaney 26**

**Mickey Williamson 26**

**Marci Duggan 26**

**Tanya Sundberg 26**

**Matt Graham 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.



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 Haskell Family**

**Bob Lewis (Barb Olivier)**

**Thomas Bouton (Emily Lawrence)**

**Marci Duggan**

**Theresa Fowler (June Perry)**

**Dodi Horvath**

**Tabitha Kremesec**

**Cindy Luna (Marci Duggan)**

**Laura Miller (Noel Helmbrecht)**

**Daniel Smolich (Liz Tussey)**

**Gail Williams**

**Rev. Marty Williams**



# September 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<b>10am</b> Worship  <b>Holy Communion</b>	 <b>Staff Holiday</b>  <b>6:30pm</b> Al-Anon	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>  <b>12:30pm</b> AA & Al-Anon <b>6:30pm</b> Al-Anon	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>  <b>12pm</b> Women's AA	<b>7</b>   <b>12 - 5pm</b> Pride in the Park
<b>9am</b> Adult Choir <b>10am</b> worship	<b>9</b>  <b>6:30pm</b> Al-Anon	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>  <b>12:30pm</b> AA & Al-Anon <b>1pm</b> F&F mtg. Zoom <b>5pm</b> Worship mtg. <b>6:30pm</b> Zoom Al-Anon	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>  <b>12pm</b> Women's AA	<b>14</b>  <b>10 - 11am</b> Bell Choir
<b>9am</b> Adult Choir <b>10am</b> worship <b>11am</b> Council EEC	<b>16</b>  <b>6:30pm</b> Al-Anon	<b>17</b>  <b>10am - noon</b> Family Connections, EEC	<b>18</b>  <b>12:30pm</b> AA & Al-Anon <b>6:30pm</b> Al-Anon	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>  <b>12pm</b> Women's AA	<b>21</b>  <b>10 - 11am</b> Bell Choir <b>9am - 2pm</b> Sierra Walk for Hope
<b>9am</b> Adult Choir <b>10am</b> worship	<b>23</b>  <b>6:30pm</b> Al-Anon	<b>24</b>  <b>1pm</b> F&F mtg. ZOOM	<b>25</b>  <b>12:30pm</b> AA & Al-Anon <b>6:30pm</b> Al-Anon	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>  <b>12pm</b> Women's AA	<b>28</b>  <b>10 - 11am</b> Bell Choir
<b>10am</b> Taizé worship	<b>30</b>  <b>6:30pm</b> Al-Anon		<b>12:30pm</b> AA & Al-Anon <b>6:30pm</b> Al-Anon		<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

SEPTEMBER 2024

DATED MATERIAL - DO NOT DELAY

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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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

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.