

THE NUGGET

First Congregational Church of Murphys, United Church of Christ



Neighbors in Need Offering,

The Neighbors in Need offering, which we will receive on October 3, 2021, supports the UCC's ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries to fund a wide array of local and national justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects. Through ucc.org/justice, our national Justice and Witness Ministries office offers resources, news updates, and action alerts on a broad spectrum of justice issues. Working with members of the UCC Justice and Peace Action Network, Justice and Witness continues its strong policy advocacy work on issues such as the federal budget, voting rights, immigration, health care, hate crimes, civil liberties, and environmental justice. Neighbors in Need also supports our American Indian neighbors in the UCC. Today there are 20 UCC congregations on reservations and one urban, multi-tribal UCC congregation in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Neighbors in Need helps make Unfailing Love possible. For this to occur, it needs your support. Please give generously. And remember, contributions to Neighbors in Need can be made online at anytime: ucc.org/nin

*They are like trees planted by streams of water,
which yield their fruit in its season.* Psalm 1:3a



Offering Date
10/03/21



All children have the right to simply be children...

'I'm telling the solemn truth: Whenever you did one of those things to someone overlooked or ignored, that was me—you did it to me.'

Matthew 23:10 (The Message)

Pastor Bonnie's Article



“I’m So Glad Jesus Lifted Me!” That’s the song we sang recently in church after a difficult week. We sang it with fervor and belief in our Jesus! Lately it seems like most weeks are difficult.

The beauty in singing that particular song was not only the fact that we proclaimed the wondrous way Jesus ministers to us, but we sang it in community. Some of us gathered in person to worship and I have to tell you, it blessed my soul!

I missed many of you though, who are choosing to stay home in order to be safe from COVID. We understand but we want you to know you are missed. You can take part in the worship service by going on our website.

Yes, it is later, but I think it can help you stay in tune with our lessons from the Bible and the power of shared community.

Each week our Phasing Forward Team meets to discern how to plan for our worship services. So, stay posted and know that wherever you are, you are loved! We want everyone to do what they feel is best for them.

Praying for healing and better days ahead, Pastor Bonnie



Taizé

**Wednesday, September 1st
at 7:00 PM**

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

Welcome to Tabitha Kremesec, who is becoming a new member of our parish on Thursday, August 26th. She was introduced to our church by Celine Breen. Tabitha is going to be baptized and take her vows of membership with family, friends and Marilyn Baisel as her sponsor. Tabitha lives with her husband Steve at 2513 Black Oak Dr in Arnold. She is an artist as you can see by her lovely paintings here. She does portraits and landscapes and loves animals and the ocean. Tabitha also published a book which you can get on Amazon or Walmart.com entitled “Life as We Know It and Other Poems.” Let us welcome Tabitha as our new sister in Christ!



WELCOME



**Recycle Wednesday,
September 1st.**

**Plastic water bottles with
CA CRV or CA CASH printed
on them and aluminum
cans can all be recycled for
cash. Please be sure all your
cans and bottles are empty
and the caps or lids are off.**

**Many thanks!
Men’s Fellowship**



Treasurer's report



Greetings Everyone,

I am sorry to have missed the annual White Pine picnic, but at least I was able to see the recorded service on the website.

Wonderful!

Church finances are holding steady. Your past Treasurer, Sally Elliott and I are putting together a new cashflow projection for the next several months to plan better for our future now that worship in person has again begun. We also need a better understanding of options for Finance and Council to consider if they should need to consider any building projects or repairs.

Summer is always a time for travel and folks are away. Please keep your pledges coming in. The internet donation feature on our website makes it much easier to give even while away. Please be careful as you are out and about, stay safe and healthy. I will see you all again soon.

Yours in Christ,
Mandy

Mary Jean Athearn Bissell

Born in Stockton, CA to parents Prince Allen Athearn and Mary Lovelia Watts Athearn, Mary Jean grew up between Stockton and Lodi. They spent most summers in Pacific Valley where her parents built a summer cabin. She met the love of her life, Donald M. Bissell at Stockton High School as a result of the alphabetical seating in one of their classes. They eventually got married in 1945 while Don was in the Air Force in Colorado Springs. Both attended U.C. Berkeley and Don became a Civil Engineer while Mary Jean raised their four children James Bissell, Gary Bissell, Joanne Hemstad and Steve Bissell. During these years in Castro Valley, they built a cabin in Bear Valley in 1966. Splitting their time between these locations, they enjoyed summer hikes, the Bear Valley Music Festival, skiing and church activities. They moved to Murphys, CA in 1988 near Mary Jean's sister Bonnie and husband Bill Harper and joined the Congregational Church.



Mary Jean Athearn Bissell

May 25, 1925- August 13, 2021

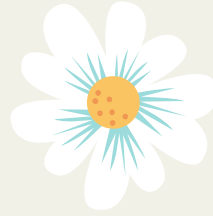
Continued article

Although retired, they both stayed active in the community, Don in S.I.R.S, Mary Jean in P.E.O. and both in the Bear Valley Music Festival. And, they traveled the world -including one trip around the world. She was a passionate chronicler of all of their trips. After Don's passing, Mary Jean continued to enjoy family gatherings for many years. She is survived by her sister, her children, 8 grandchildren and 7 great grandchildren. A small family memorial is planned for the near future.





Moderator's Message



The feel of fall is in the air – my favorite time of year! – a time of renewal, anticipation, joy. Many of the children have gone back to school recently, and I can't help but see the joy in their faces as a symbol of hope for the future.

Fall also brings Stewardship season, which we anticipate starting up mid-to late October, and hopefully concluding with a traditional stewardship brunch on November 7th. What a joyous occasion it would be for all of us to be together again!

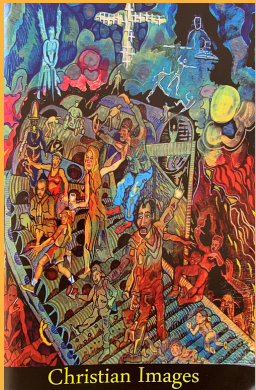
However, the anticipation of fall, Thanksgiving and Advent are somewhat tempered by our ongoing Covid challenges. We need to all acknowledge the wonderful work being done by our Phasing Forward team. They meet often to review the (everchanging) guidelines for Covid safety, and we know they are doing the best they can to keep us all protected. So, whether we meet in person for worship and small groups, or continue to Zoom, let's keep with the recommended protocol so we can get through this!

I know that many of you are saddened by the ongoing isolation, loneliness, and sometimes downright boredom of the past 18 months or so. But our love and caring for each other will carry us through. Let's renew our efforts to pick up the phone, pen a quick note, text a couple of photos, or pay a visit (if feasible) to one another. We are our own "pod" and can work together to keep each other healthy and positive. I know we can get through this because We Are The Church!

With hope, joy and love,

Carrie Shinn
Moderator

Our beloved Zach Luchetti went to his eternal home on August 18, 2021. Zach was a vital part of our church family and his artwork and passion for exercise were gifts he imparted to us. We are glad to have treasures of his talent in some of our church backdrops for Christmas. There will be a life celebration on Saturday, October 16 at 11 a.m. in our sanctuary. A luncheon will follow the services. You may send your compassionate thoughts to his mother Cathy Luchetti and Stepfather, Peter Hadreas at 6120 Lawton Oakland CA 94618. His father Larry's address is 1228 Wingdam Rd Murphys CA 95247. Leo, Isa and Kylee's address is 1961 Skunk Ranch Rd Murphys CA 95247. Memorial Gifts in his honor may be made to First Congregational UCC.





2021 Sierra Walk for Hope

Mark your calendar for Saturday, September 25. It is your opportunity to participate in the 2021 Sierra Walk for Hope. Join our church, your family and your friends to take a walk among the beautiful redwoods of Calaveras Big Trees State Park. The 2021 Sierra Walk for Hope is a fun event that raises funds for the various worthy projects that Sierra Hope provides in our community. Its projects include helping those living with HIV/AIDS as well as supporting families or individuals who are at risk for homelessness. The goal is to raise \$25,000.

How do you register for the walk? To to the website: sierrahope.org or walkforhope.flipcause.com. You may also call: (209) 736-6792 or email: walk@sierrahope.org You can register as a team or you can do so as an individual. Gather your friends and family to form a team and walk or you can be a "virtual" team member without walking. Donations are tax deductible.

Information about the day of the walk? The Sierra Hope website gives all the details you need for signing in on the day of the walk, getting your lunch, and choosing your walk options.

Lunch Providers: Outreach and Social Justice Team is looking for helpers to serve the sack lunches at the Sierra Walk for Hope 2021 event. Please contact Susan Medeiros 209-840-2066 or Lynne Bird 209-768-8677 for more information. More details to follow in the weekly email.

As a reminder, Sierra Hope is one of FCCM's community organization partners.

Teri's House Dedication

We are so delighted to see Teri's house being done. It was a wonderful house dedication and we are so happy for Teri and her family.



Update from the Phasing Forward Team

The Phasing Forward ad hoc committee is continuing to monitor the surrounding public health Covid situation across the local counties.

As you know safety for all our worship service attendees is of utmost importance.

The Phasing Forward committee is very aware of increasing Covid cases and in particular those cases affecting children, many of which are not yet eligible for vaccinations.



Camp Tamarack the summer camp run by NCNCUCC was able to take place this summer. There was the Jr Camp which had younger kids in 4th through 8th grade, and the Sr High camp which had youth from 9th to graduated Seniors.



Our church was able to send 3 youngsters to the Jr camp. JT, and Justin Glessman, and Sophie Cabral-Decker; from what I have heard had a really great time. Maria Restivo, who was a member of our Church and youth group when she was in high school was the director of this camp.

I was able to volunteer as the Health Supervisor for the Sr High Camp. Happily, all of the campers and staff at this camp were vaccinated for COVID. Unfortunately, the drive up to camp was sad due to the Creek Fire that ravaged the area last year. There were stretches of burned forest everywhere. Thankfully Camp Tam was spared and even the beautiful meadow was intact. This is probably due to all the clearing and brush control that was done by people like Wade Hobson from the Big Red Church in Fresno. I want to go up and help next spring. Let me know if you want to go too.

Another new thing that was exciting to be a part of was that this is the first year we had a non-binary cabin group at camp. It was great that these youth could feel welcome and supported. I hope that this can continue in the future. I also hope that more young people from our Church can take part in the camping program too.



We worship, celebrate and rejoice

We had an amazing worship service at White Pines. It was so great to be together there again at this beautiful location. The service, music and the lovely meal were marvelous. Thank you so much for attending and helping us to make it happen. God is good!



Family Program Resumes

We are hoping that the Family Program will continue on Tuesday, September 21st at 5:30 pm with the regular schedule for the fall. Meetings are on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays each month. As we did before Covid, the 3rd Tuesday will also include the Family Program Small Group. Take a night off from cooking, enjoy dinner at the church, and join in great activities for both parents and kids!



Council Meeting

Exciting news! Please mark your calendar as we are going to have our first in-person Council Meeting after having so many Zoom sessions after worship on September 19th. Cannot wait to see you there!



We are the Church





Choir Update!

From Dr. Daryl: The Phasing Forward Committee met this week and decided with the increase in Covid cases that we will delay the beginning of choir. They will meet again in September and discuss if it is safe for us to begin rehearsals in October. I know many of you were excited about singing or playing handbells again. I have faith we will again be together in this capacity. I will keep you posted on this as things progress.



Thank you!

We would like to say a huge thank you from our depth of our hearts for your love gift, continuous support, kindness and so much love. We are so blessed! Words cannot express our sincerest gratitude for all you do for us. We feel so loved and even though we are far from our families we have you as our Family!

God's grace and blessings upon those who've touched many hearts and changed many lives.
Thank you so much! God bless you all!

With love,
Vanessa, Peter and Beni

LGBTQ



Youth group continues to meet in Murphys on Tuesdays. We are continuing with the schedule for youth on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month at 7pm to 8:30pm.

**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**



Love wins



HAVE YOU HEARD THE CALL?

Health + Wellness Team

We are gathering names of people who would be interested in participating in the new Health + Wellness Team. You need not be a health profession to join. Please read below to help your decision to become a part of this team. We will forward the information to the Nominating Committee.

- The Health + Wellness Team will meet quarterly, though possibly more at the beginning and is coordinated by the Faith Community Nurse. Members will include the Pastor, Faith Community Nurse, Healthcare Professionals of the congregation. Other interested persons are encouraged to join as Health Partners.
- The Team members will contribute in their areas of expertise and experiential knowledge in development and identification of educational programs, support groups and other Health and Wellness activities.
 - The Team will review the Congregational Health + Wellness Surveys to determine the health and wellness needs and concerns of the congregation with updates as needed.
- The Team will assist in evaluation of the programs and their effectiveness and use this information in development of further activities.
- The Team will work in conjunction with the Parish Care Team in providing support to the congregation and will not duplicate roles.

**For further information please contact Pastor Bonnie or Diane Hosmer RN
MSN IBCLC FCN call or text 209.559.5464 or email
DHosmerMSN@gmail.com**



September

BIRTHDAY'S

Stella Sundberg 1
Fred Soderer 4 +
Maxine Harper 5
Meg Self 5
Syl Walton 5
Ian Olivas 8
Alice Williams 11
Cathy Kuhn 14
Carol Woods 24
Jim Walton 26
Mary Dahl 26
Rose Mulvany 26
Mickey Williamson 26
Tanya Sundberg 26
Matt Graham 30



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

Pastor Bonnie & Dr. Daryl

Susan Giannini Chadwick

Jara & Max Clark

Hilary Oldenkamp

Erin Medeiros

Angela Patterson

Gail Withuhn

Josephine Zimbe & Family

all of the children at the orphanage

Kim Plowman

Anna Wright & Family

Deborah Jones

Family of Zack Luchetti

Cathy Kuhn

Caity Johnson

Joanie Singleton

Grassmyer Family

Soderer Family

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 10am Recycling 7pm Taize	2	3 12-1.30pm AA	4
5 10am Worship Holy Communion 	6 Labor Day Office is closed Pastor Bonnie & Dr. Daryl are on vacation	7 7pm LGBTQ meeting Daryl are on vacation	8 10am Executive meeting Pastor Bonnie & Dr. Daryl are on vacation	9	10 12-1.30pm AA Pastor Bonnie & Dr. Daryl are on vacation	11
12 10am Worship with Rev. Marty 	13 1pm Finance & Facility meeting Pastor Bonnie & Dr. Daryl are on vacation	14	15	16	17 12-1.30pm AA	18
19 10am Worship Council meeting 	20	21 5pm Family Program 7pm LGBTQ meeting	22	23	24 12-1.30pm AA	25 
26 10am Worship 	27	28	29	30		

God's love echoes through us to all creation.
Website: www.fccmurph.org
Email: nugget@fccmurph.org
Phone: 209.728.3141

SEPTEMBER 2021

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

Staff

Pastor Rev. Dr. Bonnie Hollinger

Pastor Emeritus Rev. Dr. John Randlett

Music Director Dr. Daryl Hollinger

Director of Christian Education Peter Marai-Muro

Secretary 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 3rd Monday of each month.

The Committee reserves the right to edit submissions for length and content.