



THE NUGGET

The Merged Church of Union Congregational and First Congregational, United Church of Christ

FAMILY CAMPING TRIP

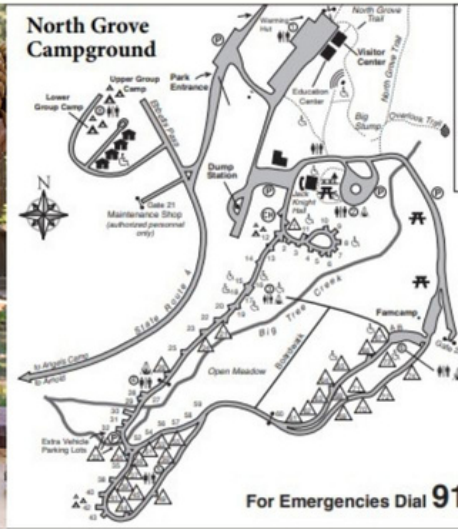
AT

BIG TREES STATE PARK

JUNE 2 - 4, 2023

WORSHIP AT BIG TREES ON SUNDAY JUNE 4

RELAX. CONNECT. PLAY.



IMPORTANT INFO:

Sunday Worship 10am at campsite.

Breakfast and lunch are on your own. Suppers are provided by the church.

Sunday lunch is a potluck.

Tents and RVs welcome.

Bring your own towels, soap, firewood, eating utensils, bug spray, sunscreen, musical instruments. No pets allowed.

It is coming up on Summer and our Annual Family Camping Trip at Big Trees is already in the works. This is a fun trip, available at no cost to you. Just come and enjoy fellowship and the glorious

Redwoods with our beloved church community. There is a sign up sheet in the Social Hall, please do add your name and vehicle info to that list if you've not already done so. Also, keep your eyes out for the food sign up sheet, as we do shared suppers on Friday and Saturday nights.

Breakfasts and lunches are on each individual family or couple.

If you have any questions, you can call the church office or contact Tanya Sundberg for more info. We hope you join us for this joyous trip!





Pastor Bonnie will be taking her sabbatical this spring and summer. She and Dr. Daryl will be gone for the month of May, spending time in retreat and contemplation in Italy. Dr. Daryl will be back June 1st, Pastor Bonnie will be back August 2nd. Rev. Marty Williams and Rev. Penny Sarvis will be leading worship services during this time. Becky Miller-Cripps and Gail Williams will be leading the music. Let us pray and wish our dear Hollingers blessings and rejuvenation as they further their ministerial education.



Our wonderful Carrie Shinn leading a sabbatical blessing on April 23 for Pastor Bonnie. Earnest prayers were offered for blessings on her as well as the congregation that she serves.

Welcome to Our Subs!



*From Pastor Bonnie:
Congratulations to our secretary, Jenny Fuqua who has now been with us for one year. We are very blessed to have her in our parish office and she brings joy to everyone she meets! Please stop in and say hi sometime! Thank you Jenny for your great work!*



*Rev. Dr. Marty Williams
Marty will be preaching on
May 7, May 28, June 4, June
25, July 2, and July 16.*



*Rev. Penny Sarvis
Penny will be preaching on May
14, May 21, June 11, June 18,
July 9, July 23, and July 30.*



Gail Williams: music



Becky Miller-Cripps: music



Treasurer's Article

The year is progressing quickly. I will be giving a mid-year report at our Congregational Meeting in June on our 2023 Budget and on the Endowment balances and growth. Please continue your faithful giving towards your pledges. We have had two successful fundraisers and we have raised half of

our Fundraiser Projected income so far this year. We will need to be talking about another Fundraiser in the Fall. I have heard mention of a dinner in the park, but we will have to start planning that soon. Hope everyone is enjoying the good weather. Patty

OUR SOLAR IS UP AND RUNNING!



AFTER MUCH ANTICIPATION, WE ARE PROUD TO ANNOUNCE THAT OUR SOLAR PANELS ARE UP AND PRODUCING POWER! THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HAVE ALREADY HELPED MAKE THIS A REALITY!



THE WIND SOCK IS A CHEERFUL REMINDER TO BE CAREFUL OF THE CLEARANCE OF THE PANELS IF YOU WANT TO PARK UNDER THEM.



THESE BOXES KEEP TRACK OF ALL ENERGY WE ARE PRODUCING, AS WELL AS ANY SURPLUS, WHICH PG&E WILL PURCHASE BACK FROM US!

Water Conservation Corner

- 1.1 billion people do not have access to a source of clean drinking water.
- 2.7 billion people experience severe water scarcity for at least one month each year.

<https://www.unicef.org/wash/water-scarcity>
<https://www.worldwildlife.org/threats/water-scarcity>



HOW TO HELP?

- 1. Get educated on solutions:
<https://solarimpulse.com/water-scarcity-solutions#>
- 2. Conserve water every day!

Submitted by Corrie Billiet,
Outreach and Social Justice Team





Moderator's Message



Upcoming Mountain Melody Concerts:

May 6: Hotel Ledger Banquet Room, Moke Hill 2 - 4pm

May 7: Union UCC, Angels Camp 2 - 4pm

May 13: Baker Street West, Jackson 2 - 4pm

Refreshments will be provided. There is a \$10 suggested donation.



The Knitters and Hookers will have their next gathering on May 17. They meet on the 3rd Wednesday of the month from 11am - 2pm at Liz Tussey's house.

Happy Easter Season to you all! What a glorious April of Worship and Fellowship it was! The events of holy week were deeply evocative and helped us focus on the true meaning of the season. It has been especially joyous to celebrate as a “merged” church with the Union UCC folks. The additional energy and ideas have been glorious.

There are lots of meetings and events coming in the next several months as we formalize our nominating slate in preparation of our congregational meeting on June 11th and continue to integrate our merged churches. As of May 1st, all finances are being combined into the accounts at FCCM, with Patty Haskell retaining the duties of treasurer. There are many, many opportunities to serve, so I hope everyone will find their “niche” for the coming year. There are several team leaders who are reaching the end of their terms, in addition to teams that need new members. If you haven’t already, please contact me, Pastor Bonnie or Barbara Olivier of the nominating committee to explore options for service.

Be sure to watch the weekly email and your Nugget for upcoming events. Both the Outreach and Social Justice team and the Christian Enrichment team have lots of great activities coming up in the next few months that I know you’ll want to participate in.

And lastly, our dear Pastor Bonnie will be away on Sabbatical from May 1st to July 31st. We are so happy she will have this opportunity to refresh and renew her spirits, especially following the very trying times she and all of us have experienced in the past few years. Bonnie has worked incredibly hard to prepare for this period, and we are so lucky to have gifted interim pastors and musicians to carry us through this time. Please reach out to any of the leaders: me, Barbara Olivier, Patty Haskell, etc. if you have needs or questions during this period. The church leadership strives to create a seamless and joyous time of celebration in Pastor Bonnie’s absence.

Carrying forward with the love and hope of the Easter Season...

Carrie Shinn



Christian Education Recap

Spring is finally here. We have been busy preparing for the busy summer ahead. The Easter Service was wonderful with the Youth performing with the handbells and handchimes. We had 19 youth hunting eggs on Easter with the older youth helping the younger ones. Everyone had a wonderful time. We will be taking a break from the Family Program while Pastor Bonnie is on sabbatical and will start up again in September. I have added two fun activities for families to the summer schedule, July 9th- either hiking or kayaking and August 27th- a picnic in the park. I will send out reminder emails before these events. Please review the dates below and mark on your calendar.

No Family Program May-August

June 2-4th- Family Camp out at Calaveras Big Trees- **sign up now**

July 9th- after church- hiking or kayaking (depends on weather)

July 16-22- Camp Tamarack junior camp- contact Patty for details

July 23-29- Camp Tamarack Junior High camp- contact Patty for details

July 30-August 5- Camp Tamarack Senior High Camp - contact Patty for details.

August 7-August 11- Vacation Bible School

August 27- Picnic in Murphys Park after Church

September 5th- Family Program resumes

Small Group Meetings This Month:

May 9:

South Grove Bunch

5:30pm at UCC Murphys

Contact Faye Morrison.

May 12:

The Wanderers

10 am in Murphys home

Contact Marilyn Baisel.

May 16:

Cottage Circle

5:30pm in Murphys home

Contact Meg Self.

May 17:

Small Group #7

10am at Union UCC in

Angels Camp

Contact Barbara Olivier

May 23:

Small Group #5

10am in Murphys home

Contact Pam Kimes.

***note that our Family Program Small Group will not be meeting during the summer. They will be back in September.**





Recycling is back! Our next recycling pick-up will be on Wednesday, March 3 at 9am in the UCC parking lot. Recycling is picked up at the church on the first Wednesday of every other month (odd months).

RING THE BELL FOR PEACE



PLEASE JOIN US AS WE GATHER
ON THE FIRST WEDNESDAY OF
THE MONTH AT NOON IN
PRAYERS FOR PEACE AND THE
RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELL.



From the Outreach and Social Justice Team



National Trails Day is on June 1st. What better way to appreciate God's wonderful creation than to get out with family and/or friends for a hike.

While the high country will probably remain inaccessible for May and much of June, there are several lower country hikes where you can go.

Here are a couple trails where our church members have explored, refreshed themselves, and renewed their spirits in God's gift of nature.

New Melones – While Glory Hole is nice the Tuttletown Area has nicer trails. Purple flowers produce a showy display along the trails. This is a great area for watching birds as well. Accessible off Highway 49.

Table Mountain – A bit strenuous but hikers are rewarded with an abundance of wildflowers and incredible views. Accessible off Shell Road, off of Rawhide Road in Tuolumne County.

Duchess Mine Trail – Some wildflowers, some old cars, bird sightings, and an old airplane fuselage reward hikers who take on this trail. Be aware that there is little shade on this trail after the fire.

Peoria Flat Trail – Lots of wildflowers on this trail as well as views of the backside of New Melones Dam. Access the trail via O'Byrnes Ferry Road and the New Peoria Flat Road.

The Arnold Rim Trail – As the weather gets hotter the Rim Trail will open up more. Great places along the trail to go are Cougar Rock, Top of the World, San Antonio Falls, and San Antonio Falls Overlook. The Arnold Rim Trail has several access points throughout Arnold.

Red Hills – A little more of a drive but the flowers and plants are worth it. This area houses 7 species of plants and 4 species of animals considered rare or threatened. Access to this trail system can be made via Highway 108, La Grange Road, and finally Red Hill Road.

All the trails listed are dog friendly. Most have very few if any other hikers midweek. As your exploring nature reflect on **Romans 1:20 For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities-his eternal power and divine nature-have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.**

Book Study is Coming Back!

Greetings to all interested book people who want to learn about sustainable happiness, and daily joy from two spiritual masters. They are His Holiness the Dalai Lama and Archbishop Desmond TuTu.

The Education Team sponsors an adult education study, and before the pandemic, we had chosen, "The Book of Joy: Lasting Happiness in a Changing World" by Douglas Abrams. Because of our previous plan, quite a few people own the book. There are two used/new bookstores that have the book for \$16 used, \$27 new. I can possibly get a new book for a 20% discount, after we have sign ups as we need to know the number of copies to order. Sign-ups will be coming in May, after church.

We meet in the Williams Room of the Eastman Education Center every other Thursday. We want to be sure there is time to do the reading and process our ideas between meetings! The plan is to begin on June 1 from 2pm - 4pm. We will meet until July 13 and then take some time off for the summer. We will resume meetings in September, when the group elects to do so. Completing the book depends on how many pages we cover and discuss, an estimate is between 26 - 60 pages each time we meet. This is not a how-to book, in the words of the authors, "Lasting happiness cannot be found in any goal or achievement. It does not reside in fortune or fame. It resides only in the human mind and heart, and it is here that we hope you will find it".

This will be our 8th book study. The last book was, "Twelve Steps to a Compassionate Heart" by Karen Armstrong. For more information contact either our Christian Ed. director, Patty Haskell, or our facilitator, Liz Tussey, or anyone else on the Christian Education team. It is exciting to begin again.

Submitted by: Liz Tussey



Upcoming Next Month...

June 2 - 4: All Church Camp Trip at Big Trees State Park, worship at Big Trees on June 4.



June 7: Taizé worship service at 7pm.



June 11: Annual Congregational Meeting after worship. Keep a lookout for packets and more info.



June 17: The Outreach and Social Justice team will be hosting the Homelessness Awareness event. This event was postponed from February.



Earth Day Fun!



The Outreach and Social Justice Team prepared Earth Day boxes for the children and presented them on Sunday April 23. Thank you for such a thoughtful gift!

The Christian Enrichment Team put together a lovely afternoon of food, fun, and Earth stewardship. Here is the group enjoying some disc golf after a trash clean-up and pizza lunch.



Committee and Team Tabling Event...

On April 23, members of our various committees and teams staffed informational tables after worship. This was an excellent way for members to learn more about our committees and what all they do. Our church would not be able to function without the dedication of all of our committee and team members.



Christian Enrichment: Liz Tussey and Patty Haskell



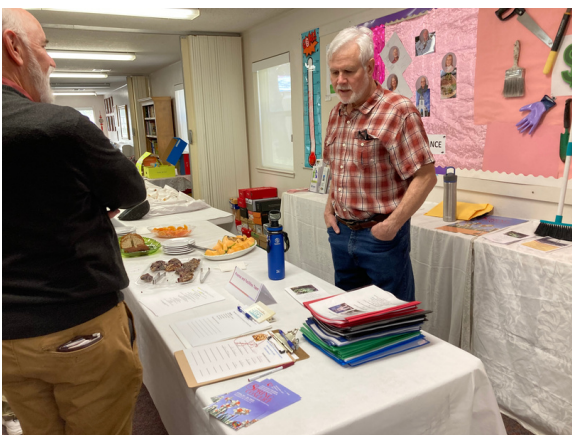
Small Group #3 coordinator, Meg Self



Outreach and Social Justice: Susan Medeiros and Peggy Sparrow



Stewardship: Barbara Olivier



Finance and Facilities: Matt Graham

**Teamwork
makes the
dream work!**



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
Caity Johnson 24
Carolyn Anctil 26
Gretchen Thomson 27
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:

Praises and Gratitude:

Celebration for Laura Leonard's new home!

Praises and blessings for Pastor Bonnie and Dr. Daryl as they spend some weeks away in a time of adventure and discovery!

All those who are ill:

Tabitha Kremesec

Hilary Oldenkamp

Angela Patterson

Tracey Ellifritz

Maggie Di Dio

Gracie Baker

John G.

Neil P.

Comfort for the family of Barbara Peterson who died on April 8. A Life Celebration will be held in August.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 6:45pm Al-Anon	2	3 12pm Ring the Bell for Peace 12:30pm AA & Al-Anon 6:30pm Al-Anon	4	5 12pm Women's AA	6
7 10am Worship Marty Holy Communion 11am Sm. Grp. EEC	8 1pm M&C mtg. EEC 6:45pm Al-Anon	9 5:30 - 7:30pm South Grove Bunch Sm. Grp. EEC	10 11am Sm. Grp. in Angels Camp 12:30pm AA & Al-Anon 6:30pm Al-Anon	11 4pm CE mtg. via Zoom	12 10am The Wanderers Sm. Grp. in Murphys 12pm Women's AA	13 10:30am Worship mtg. ZOOM
14 10am Worship Penny 11am OSJ meetig	15 6:45pm Al-Anon	16 10am Family Connections EEC 1pm F&F mtg. ZOOM 5:30pm Cottage Circle Sm. Grp.	17 11am Knitters and Hookers 12:30pm AA & Al-Anon 6:30pm Al-Anon	18	19 12pm Women's AA	20
21 10am Worship Penny 11am Council Mtg.	22 6:45pm Al-Anon	23 10am Sm. Grp. in Murphys	24 12:30pm AA & Al-Anon 6:30pm Al-Anon	25	26 12pm Women's AA	27
28 10am Worship Marty Strengthen the Church Offering	29 Memorial Day - Office Closed 6:45pm Al-Anon	30	31			

God's love echoes through us to all creation.

Website: www.fccmurph.org

Email: nugget@fccmurph.org

Phone: 209.728.3141

MAY 2023

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

Secretary Jenny Fuqua

Custodian Peter Marai-Muro

Christian Ed. Director Patty Haskell

Childcare Shayanna DuCharme

Officers

Moderator Carrie Shinn

Vice Moderator Barbara Olivier

Clerk Marie Studebaker

Treasurer Patty Haskell

Assistant Treasurer Shad Sundberg

Financial Secretary Gary Carson-Hull



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.