

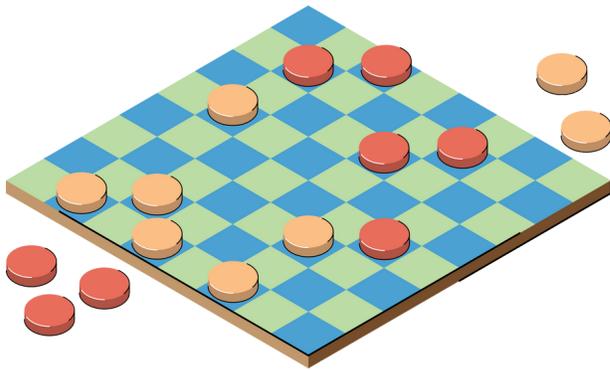


THE NUGGET

United Church of Christ

Don't Forget!

WE WILL HAVE A NEW YEAR'S EVE FAMILY GAME NIGHT AT 7PM ON DECEMBER 31ST. PLEASE JOIN US AND BRING A SNACK TO SHARE.



The annual Congregational budget meeting has been moved to January 21 after worship.

Epiphany begins on January 6. It begins in white and it changes to green.



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



Pastor's Article

Dearly Beloved,
I don't know about you, but I love a new year! Fresh starts, hope for the future, and the belief that with God all things are possible. We can sit and whine about the past or we can use it as a branch on which to grow. My theme in life continues to be Joy in the Journey. You are all part of that great joy. We are facing new challenges this year. A high insurance premium for the church will cost plenty, and many of us are experiencing it at our personal homes. We continue to transition into a merged church and will explore possibilities of a name change. We are thriving with new members joining us and another new class is starting soon. Our vital worship is inspirational and guides us to live like Jesus. So, let's bring some change into this journey of joy! I thrive on change but some of you do not. Keeping "things the same" is comfortable and it brings you peace. Peace can also come when we uproot the patterns that cause us to be blinded to the needs of others. Laughter and joy comes when we open ourselves to others who might believe differently than us. One of my favorite sayings is this, "the more voices around the table, the better." Let's be aware of those for whom speaking up is difficult. May we invite conversations with people who often stand alone in coffee hour. I can assure you; your life will be enriched! Let's offer God's hospitality to all – we proclaim it every Sunday in word so may we continue to live it! Eager to be with you on this wild journey called "church!"

Love, Pastor Bonnie

*Today
I CHOOSE
joy*



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



Treasurer's Article

I am continuing to work on the budget for 2024. The budget committee is meeting on January 3rd to

discuss the updated pledges and expenses and present this information to Council on January 7th. Please let me know if you have any questions on the information I presented at our Congregational meeting on December 10th. Don't forget we will have another Congregation meeting on January 21st to discuss the 2024 Budget. Have a Happy New Year. Patty



Many heartfelt thanks to all of you who came to our Open House, stopped by with gifts, cards, and treats. It means so much to the staff here and we appreciate it more than you know.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Love, Pastor Bonnie, Dr. Daryl, Jenny, Patty, Lucie, and Shay



SAVE YOUR RECYCLING!

Our next recycling pick-up will be on January 10. Be sure to save all the extra you will have from Christmas and bring it on down! This is an easy way to help with fundraising. All of the money collected after will be given directly back to the church. Call Gary Carson-Hull if you have questions.



Vice-Moderator's Musings

Here we are at the start of another year. I hope that all of you are able to find some inspiration during the Christmas season. I am generally not good at doing New Year's resolutions, but this year I am resolving to be more attentive to my responsibilities as a member of this congregation. I grew up in a church that had about 1500 members.



I knew about 500 of them, but there were plenty of members who came on Sundays but did not show up for anything else. It is so different here, with a membership of 140, where we really need each member to participate. And yet, our church has so much more impact on our community and on me individually. I realize that part of it may be simply my worldview today, versus 50 years ago, but part of it is our congregation. I find inspiration in the people of this church, as I have worked beside them and have come to know them. I find inspiration in the approach we take to our mission and purpose.

But I also see - and have myself felt - the exhaustion of over-commitment. There is work required to prepare and lead our services. There is work to reach out to the community and serve those in need. There is work to plan and execute our budget and keep our facilities operating. To allow our congregation to meet its mission and purpose, we all need to step up and provide services in addition to our monetary support. I am asking you to take a look at the various ways to actively serve this church and consider taking one step further in serving our church.

If you come to our services on Sunday morning, why not take the extra step of becoming an usher or greeter? You spend a little time before the service greeting and welcoming people to our church and spend a little time afterwards cleaning up the pews. At the same time, perhaps you will meet a few new people. It is a rewarding way to get involved, does not take a large time commitment, and more people are very much needed.

If that does not appeal to you, perhaps you would like to help with the preparation and cleanup of our social time after our services. Many of us enjoy that time, but we need to recognize that our Hospitality Team could use some help. If you have some Saturdays available, perhaps you could assist in the maintenance of our landscaping on occasion. Or, maybe you would like to be more active in the outreach to our community, working with the Outreach and Social Justice Team.

There are so many ways to serve! We need people to help with our Financial and Stewardship Teams, Membership and Calling, Parish Care, Worship Team, Christian Enrichment. And then there are the officers of the Council, and especially the treasurer and financial secretary positions. Is that where your talent may lie? Please consider giving a little more time to your church in any of these ways. Give it a try!

Submitted by Barbara Olivier

The Chocolate Returns!

Mark your calendars now for our famous Annual Heavenly Chocolate Festival, taking place on Saturday, February 10. More details to come!

Christian Education Recap

We had a really busy December. The students spent hours practicing for the play, which was wonderful. Everyone

enjoyed it. Thanks again to the Billiet's for the great time machine and Pastor Bonnie for writing the script and Dr. Daryl for the sound. Also thanks to the Sunday School teachers, Teri Olivas, and the many others that made it a great performance. We also spend time making gifts for Golden (Avalon) residents and cards. We decorated cookies, and received Advent calendars and pieces for our Nativity scene.

January will hopefully be a little quieter. We will start the year with our New Years Eve game night at 7:00-9:00. All are welcome. The Family Program will start back on January 16th at 5:30. I will be planning with the youth another fun activity this Winter and also a service project. Thanks for all your support. Patty



Small Group Meetings:

Jan. 9: South Grove Bunch
5:30pm in Eastman

Contact Faye Morrison

Jan. 12: The Wanderers
10am in Murphys

Contact Marilyn Baisel.

Jan. 16: Family Program

5:30pm in Social Hall

Contact Evelyn Betts

Jan. 16: Cottage Circle

10 am in Murphys home

Contact Meg Self.

Jan. 23: Small Group #5

10am in Murphys home

Contact Pam Kimes.

Jan. 24: Angels Angels

11am in Copperopolis

Contact Barb Olivier.

If you would like to join a small group, please contact Pastor Bonnie.

The Time Machine and Its Christmas Magic

Starring:

Lucy Abando
Nicholas Abando
Ben Billiet
J.T. Glessman
Georgie Mather
J.T. Mather

Hiro Olivas
Hutton Pratt
Tommy Pratt
Dylan Shinn
Hazen Shinn
Stella Sundberg

Written and Directed by: Pastor Bonnie

Co-Director: Patty Haskell

Sound Effects: Dr. Daryl

Stage Manager: Hiro Olivas

Set Design: Corrie and Adam Billiet



Youth Give Stunning Performance!



The angels bring
an Important
Message!

Amant Se!
Love One Another!



We all need a
little change!



Attitudes are
Changed!



Jeff Kelly 5
Ava Armstrong 7
Rachael Buchanan 13
Joe Jackson 13
Connie Cameron 14
Dan Lewis 15
Del Harris 17
Janis Ossa Nielsen 18
Andrew Oneto 18
Dustin Shinn 18
Pat LaMont 19
Jeri Carson-Hull 20
Joanna Inks 21
Kelly Ellifritz 22
Connie Bowser 24
Brenda Cumberlandge 24
Norman Nielsen 26
Joan Thorsen 27
Janet Reynolds 30
Kett Conrad 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:

Meg Self
Elsbeth Mann
Dodi Horvath
Gail Williams
Shirley Soderer
Tabitha Kremesec
Hilary Oldenkamp
Jess Hampton
Tommy Pratt

JANUARY

2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 HAPPY NEW YEAR 2024 6:30pm Al-Anon	2	3 3:30pm Budget meeting 12:30pm AA & Al-Anon 6:30pm Al-Anon	4 9am Exec. meeting via Zoom	5 12pm Women's AA	6 10am Bell Choir
7 9am Adult Choir 10am Worship 11am Council EEC	8 6:30pm Al-Anon	9 5:30pm South Grove Bunch Sm. Grp. EEC	10 12:30pm AA & Al-Anon 6:30pm Al-Anon	11 Pastor Bonnie & Dr. Daryl vacation 1/11 - 1/18	12 10am The Wanderers Sm. Grp. in Murphys 12pm Women's AA	13 10am Bell Choir
14 10am Worship 11am OSJ EEC	15 6:30pm Al-Anon	16 10am Family Connections EEC 2pm F&F meeting 5:30pm Family Program 5:30pm Cottage Circle sm. grp.	17 11am Knitters & Hooks 12:30pm AA & Al-Anon 6:30pm Al-Anon	18	19 12pm Women's AA	20 10am Bell Choir
21 9am Adult Choir 10am worship ANNUAL BUDGET MEETING	22 6:30pm Al-Anon	23 10am Sm. Grp. in Murphys	24 8:30am Staff meeting 12:30pm AA & Al-Anon 6:30pm Al-Anon	25	26 12pm Women's AA	27 10am Bell Choir
28 9am Adult Choir 10am worship	29 6:30pm Al-Anon	30	31 12:30pm AA & Al-Anon 6:30pm Al-Anon			



God's love echoes through us to all creation.

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Phone: (209)728-3141

JANUARY 2024

DATED MATERIAL - DO NOT DELAY

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Murphys, CA 95247

509 N. Algiers Street

PO Box 48

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

First Congregational Church of Murphys

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 Hskell

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.