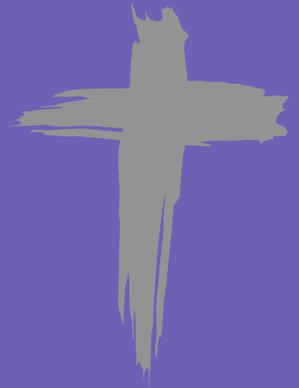




THE NUGGET

United Church of Christ

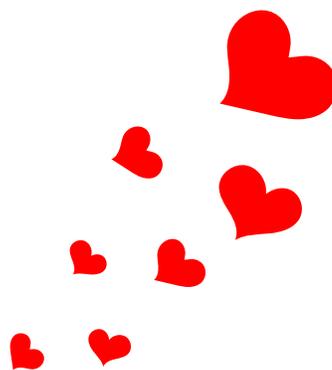


Ash Wednesday is on February 14th. There will be a service at Faith Lutheran Church in Murphys at 12pm. All are welcome.



We will be having our Lenten Soup Suppers every Tuesday in Lent at 5:30pm from Feb. 20 - March 19

All the Chocolate You Can Eat!



scan QR code here to purchase tickets directly.



The Annual Heavenly Chocolate Festival will be held on Saturday, February 10 from 1 - 4pm. Tickets are \$15 each and are available online as well as at the door. There is a discounted family package if you purchase 2 adult and 2 child tickets, available at the door. Wine pairing and raffle tickets are also available at the door.

Pastor's Article

As we have been walking the journey of health challenges with you all, I am reminded of the passage in Philippians 1 where Paul spouts his love for his people. I could not choose any better words if I tried. It's also February – the month of love and chocolate – two of my favorite things!



Every time I think of you, I give thanks to my God. Whenever I pray, I make my requests for all of you with joy, for you have been my partners in spreading the Good News about Christ from the time you first heard it until now. And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns.

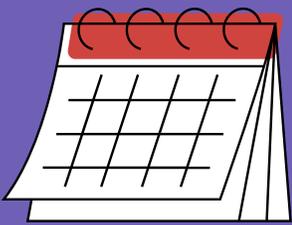
*So, it is right that I should feel as I do about all of you, for you have a special place in my heart. You share with me the special favor of God, both in my imprisonment and in defending and confirming the truth of the Good News. **God knows how much I love you and long for you with the tender compassion of Christ Jesus.***

I pray that your love will overflow more and more, and that you will keep on growing in knowledge and understanding. For I want you to understand what really matters, so that you may live pure and blameless lives until the day of Christ's return. May you always be filled with the fruit of your salvation—the righteous character produced in your life by Jesus Christ—for this will bring much glory and praise to God.

You are the body of Christ and your love and welcome in our community continually delight me! I am sensing a great deal of strength and growth among us – even as many of us face challenges and sorrows. We are upholding one another. My heart overflows with joy and I cannot thank you enough for the compassion and mercy we are receiving. I see you giving it to one another as well. Glory be to God for this church!

I'm dancing in my heart even if my feet won't work! Pastor Bonnie

The Knitters and Hookers will return after Liz has recuperated from her health challenges. Let's continue to pray for her and Diane!



The Council retreat has been postponed. The new date will be announced at a later time.



Treasurer's Article

Happy New Year!! We had a successful Congregational Budget meeting on January 21st. The Congregation unanimously approved the new revised 2024 Budget. Thank you to everyone for all their support. I think everyone was pleased with the end of the year report and the revised budget. Please remember to call me if you have questions or need more explanation on anything. Jenny and I are working with CDM to help make my monthly reports more accurate and easier to read. We also just formed a sub committee to look at other church management programs. Please let me know if you are interested in being on this sub committee. Thanks for all your support. Patty



Our Family Program begins on Feb. 6.

We begin our Lenten Soup Suppers on Feb. 20 and will be held every Tuesday until March 19, including Family Program nights. We encourage all families to attend. Activities will be provided for the children. Each committee will take a turn providing the soup supper for the week.

Please reach out to Evelyn Betts for more details.

**MANY THANKS TO JUDY
REGALIA FOR HER
GENEROUS DONATION OF
\$5000 TO OUR CHURCH.**

**Thank
YOU!**

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Del Harris celebrated her 100th birthday on January 17. A celebration was held for Del at her daughter's house in Livermore. All of her great grandchildren, grandchildren and children were there. She also had some neighbors who lived in Murphy's attend. One of her great granddaughters played some beautiful piano music. Del was overjoyed.



On January 14, you all surprised our dear Joe Jackson with cards and a birthday cake. He was very moved by the gesture and he extends his deepest thank you to all who were a part of the celebration.

Moderator's Message

What a blessing it was to see so many members in church for the December and January budget meetings. On 1/21/24, we successfully passed the 2024 budget, thanks to the hard work of our Treasurer, Patty Haskell, the budget team, Finance and Facilities team and the Church Council. And the involvement of each and every one of you. We are just so blessed to have such an active and engaged congregation, making sure things flow smoothly.



We also took sign-ups for the ad hoc team that will address the naming of our merged church entity. If you are interested in joining this effort, please contact Barbara Olivier.

As we try to absorb the disturbing news from our dearest Pastor Bonnie about her ongoing health problems, as well as the many other folks among us who are grieving or hurting, I realize how much we need to stay strong together to weather the many challenges. I recently read a piece called "Train Yourself To Always Show Up" in which the author, Sharon Brous said, "First, do not take your broken heart and go home. Don't isolate. Step towards those whom you know will hold you tenderly. We cannot magically fix one another's broken hearts. But we can find each other in our most vulnerable moments and wrap each other up in a circle of care. We can humbly promise each other, "I can't take your pain away, but I can promise you won't have to hold it alone".

This is what we do for one another, week after week – we show up, and wrap each other in a circle of care. It's truly a miracle, and I feel it strongly every time I step through the doors of the church. I think you will discover, as I have over the past 10 or so years, the joy of being involved, "showing up" time after time, and being there to support one another.

THAT'S how we will weather these times!

Blessings and love to you

Carrie Shinn

Christian Education Recap



We started out the New year with our game night on New Year's Eve. There were 15 of us playing games and celebrating New York New Year at 9:00.

The family program starting back up on January 16th with a wonderful meal thanks to Sandra and Jeff Sathers. Thanks also to Joe and Connie our set up and clean up crew. The youth continued learning about Peace with stories from the Bible. We are working on planning a fun event and also a community service event.

Mark your calendar for the all church camp out at Big Trees on July 12-14th. We always have a great time camping and hiking. There will be more info coming later.

Important: We are in need of more Sunday School teachers for Sunday and/or Family Program nights. We have a great curriculum and we will train you. With the large age span of youth, we really need two teachers each week. Please call Patty for more info or if you have questions. Thanks !

SAVE THE DATE



**We will have our
All Church Camping
Trip at
Big Trees State Park
from
July 12 - July 14, 2024**



Small Group Meetings:

Feb. 9: The Wanderers
10am in Murphys
Contact Marilyn Baisel

Feb. 13: South Grove Bunch
5:30pm in Eastman
Contact Faye Morrison

Feb. 6 & 20: Family Program
5:30pm in Social Hall
Contact Evelyn Betts

Feb. 20: Cottage Circle
5:30pm in Murphys
Contact Meg Self

Feb. 27: Small Group #5
10am in Murphys home
Contact Pam Kimes

Feb. 28: Angels Angels
11am in Copperopolis
Contact Barb Olivier

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

FAMILY GAME NIGHT NEW YEAR'S EVE 2023







OUTREACH AND

The Outreach and Social Justice Team had a very busy October, November, and December and the team couldn't be happier. We all feel so blessed by this wonderful church to be able to do wonderful work in the church and in the community. We ended October with our Rocky Hill Road Candy Drive. Thanks to our church, we were able to help 38 residents on Rocky Hill Road with their Halloween Candy needs. The residents were very happy to receive the candy and, more importantly, our support for the event. Thanks to Jenny all the bags of candy were adorned with stickers saying the candy was a gift from our church. Around 1200 children trick or treated on Rocky Hill Road on Halloween. The street was crowded with happy children, their families, their dogs, costumes, lots of laughter, and community

togetherness.



The team jumped into the last week of December by decorating a Giving Tree. The Giving Tree was decorated with lovely ornaments, lights, and gifts tags for children and seniors. As usual our church community was more than generous in donating gifts to those in our community that otherwise might receive nothing. The second week in December we delivered the children's gifts to Toys for Tots. The representative from Toys for Tots was very happy with our donations. Wendy's beautiful handmade stuffed animals were the highlight of his day. Toys for Tots is partnered with the Resource Connection to collect and deliver toys to children at Christmas. We are partners in ministry with the Resource Connection.

SOCIAL JUSTICE



The Giving Tree stayed up until December 18 for the seniors. On the 18th of December the Outreach and Social Justice Team put the amazing gifts people donated into 16 large gift bags. Peggy showed us how to make the bags look amazing! The children in the church potted succulents in tea and coffee cups and decorated the plants for Christmas. On December 22nd, 12 members of our church community met at Golden Nursing Home in San Andreas. George Haskell led us all in Christmas carols. Wonderful cookies and other Christmas confections, donated by church bakers, were given to the residents who joined us in their social area for caroling. The residents were given the plants to enjoy in their rooms. 14 of the gift bags were delivered to residents who had few visitors and no Christmas gifts. We visited with these residents in their room and brought them fellowship, laughter, smiles, and a Christmas carol. The staff has since told me we truly brought Christmas cheer to everyone in the facility. Thanks to all who participated by donating gifts, baking, providing music, for showing up.



After the San Andreas event, 3 church members took the 2 remaining gift bags to Avalon in Sonora and gave them to Shirley and Hilary. We had a lovely visit with these ladies, and they too appreciated the gift bags.

The Outreach and Social Justice Team is busily planning for a great 2024! If you have ideas or thoughts how we can engage with our communities and/or our church community, please reach out to the Outreach and Social Justice Team.



Katherine Kett 6
Angela Patterson 9
Paula Smith 11
Tracey Ellifritz 12
Carol Dougherty 14
Shad Sundberg 16
Monika Riedel 18
Vena Graves 19
Chelsea Page 19
Colleen Silva 21
Wendy Haslid 27
Tari Takara 27
Hilary Oldenkamp 28

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:

Tami Chesnut

Ron & Darlene Davis

Jess Hampton

The Hollinger Family

Dodi Horvath

Tabitha Kremesec

Bob Lewis

Hilary Oldenkamp

Tommy Pratt

Meg Self

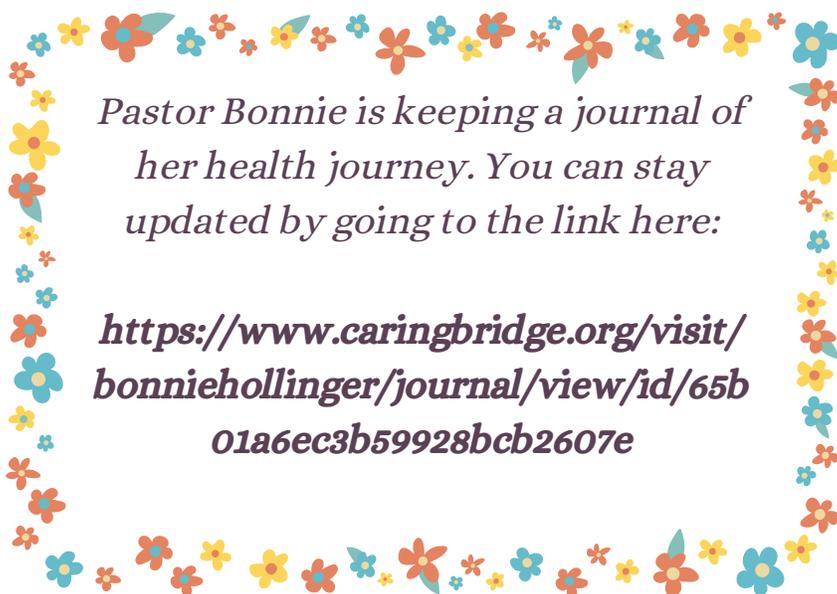
Daniel Smolich

Shirley Soderer

Liz & Diane Tussey

Gail Williams

Rev. Marty Williams



February 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>9am Adult Choir 4</p> <p>10am Worship</p> <p>11am Council EEC</p>	<p>6:30pm Al-Anon</p>	<p>2pm F&F meeting</p> <p>5:30pm Family Program</p>	<p>12:30pm AA & Al-Anon</p> <p>6:30pm Al-Anon</p>	<p>9am Exec. meeting via Zoom</p> <p>WIC in Social Hall 9am - 4pm</p>	<p>10am The Wanderers Sm. Grp. in Murphys</p> <p>12pm Women's AA</p>	<p>10am Bell Choir 3</p>
<p>9am Adult Choir 7</p> <p>10am Worship</p> <p>11am OSJ EEC</p>	<p>6:30pm Al-Anon</p>	<p>5:30pm South Grove Bunch Sm. Grp. EEC</p> <p>10am Family Connections EEC</p> <p>5:30pm Family Program</p> <p>Lenten Soup Supper</p> <p>5:30pm Cottage Circle</p> <p>10am Sm. Grp. in Murphys</p> <p>5:30pm Lenten Soup Supper</p>	<p>Ash Wednesday 12pm service at Faith Lutheran</p> <p>12:30pm AA & Al-Anon</p> <p>6:30pm Al-Anon</p>	<p>9am Bell Choir 8</p>	<p>10am Bell Choir 9</p> <p>Chocolate Fest 1 - 4pm</p>	<p>10am Bell Choir 10</p>
<p>10am worship 15</p>	<p>President's Day staff holiday</p> <p>6:30pm Al-Anon</p>	<p>12:30pm AA & Al-Anon</p> <p>6:30pm Al-Anon</p>	<p>12:30pm AA & Al-Anon</p> <p>6:30pm Al-Anon</p>	<p>12pm Women's AA</p>	<p>12pm Women's AA</p>	<p>10am Bell Choir 17</p>
<p>9am Adult Choir 25</p> <p>10am worship</p>	<p>6:30pm Al-Anon</p>	<p>12:30pm AA & Al-Anon</p> <p>6:30pm Al-Anon</p>	<p>12:30pm AA & Al-Anon</p> <p>6:30pm Al-Anon</p>	<p>12pm Women's AA</p>	<p>12pm Women's AA</p>	<p>10am Bell Choir 24</p>

God's love echoes through us to all creation.

Webpage: www.fccmurph.org

Email: nugget@fccmurph.org

Phone: (209)728-3141

FEBRUARY 2024

DATED MATERIAL - DO NOT DELAY

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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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.