



THE NUGGET

United Church of Christ

We are in the season of Lent.

Lent is a sacred time where we walk the path with Jesus to the cross. It is a time of reflection, connection, and renewal.

We will be having our Lenten Soup Suppers at church every Tuesday from February 20 - March 19 at 5:30pm in the Social Hall.



*Holy Week is
March 24 - 31.*

*Palm Sunday:
March 24
Liturgy of the Palms*

*Maundy Thursday:
March 28
Mediterranean Supper at
UCC Murphys 5:30pm*

*Good Friday:
March 29
Stations of the Cross at UCC
Murphys
12 - 2pm
Tenebrae Service at Faith
Lutheran Church in Murphys
at 7pm*

*Easter Sunday:
March 31
Sunrise Service 7am at
Buena Vista Cemetery
10am Worship
11am Easter Egg Hunt*

Lenten Soup Supper Committee Schedule

Feb. 20

Outreach & Social
Justice & Hospitality

Feb. 27

Worship & Christian
Enrichment

March 5

Parish Care

March 12

Finance & Facilities &
Stewardship

March 19

Worship & Christian
Enrichment

A Word from Rev. Mickey

Here we are in the season of Lent, following Jesus in the wilderness for 40 days. We are without our beloved Pastor who is in her own wilderness experience of recovery from surgery and moving into healing. We are still seeking our new identity as a merged church. How shall we be during this time?

I think that many Christians traditionally see Lent as a time of sacrifice and penance, of solemnity and suffering. What if we see it as a time of tending our souls, deepening our relationship with Jesus, becoming closer with each other and with the wider world? What if it is truly a time of growth and healing?

Let's use these days to connect with the troubled places in our world. We can each research and choose a country that is experiencing armed conflict (there are apparently over 100 of such conflicts right now) or one that is at risk due to the consequences of climate change. Let's choose a place that touches our hearts and learn all that we can about what they are facing and how it is impacting the lives of the people there. Perhaps there will even be ways for us to respond to their needs.

And because our world and communities have so many challenges, we are all hurting. Our hearts and minds are troubled. Lent, then, must also be a time of tender care for our own selves. What can you do that would tend to you in the way you might to a lover or best friend? What gift of care can you give to yourself, not just one time but on a regular basis during these 40 days? I am weaning myself off all sugar; it is an addiction for me and one that is not kind to my body and health.

Finally, let's not forget that we travel this wilderness journey together, here in this congregation. How can we each serve each other and the church? Who needs a meal or a ride? What teams or tasks can use more helping hands? What leadership role might we be called to fill?

The wilderness of Lent can be bare branches and rocks, and the journey of Jesus to the cross can break our hearts. But there can also be surprises and gifts... bright flowers that appear and joyful days. Let's live into these Lenten days with our whole heart and being, with whatever comes our way.



One Great Hour of Sharing® is on Sunday, March 10.

The United Church of Christ responds to humanitarian and development needs in the world. Gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing® carries God's message of love and hope to people in crisis. Our work here at our local church helps provide sources of clean water, food, education, health care, small business micro-credit loans, advocacy, resettlement for refugees and displaced persons, emergency relief and rehabilitation as well as disaster preparedness and response.



Pastor Bonnie is on medical leave until April. Let us keep her in our prayers as she walks her healing journey. She is keeping a journal of her health journey. You can stay updated by going to the link here:

<https://www.caringbridge.org/visit/bonniehollinger/journal/view/id>



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
PRESENTS

Irish Day

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

KIDS UNDER
10 EAT FOR
\$10, UNDER 2
FREE!

\$15

8:30 - 10:30 AM

MARCH
16



509 North Algiers Street
Murphys, CA

For more information or to purchase
tickets call (209)728-3141 or visit
www.fccmurph.org



Family Program is on
March 5 and 19 at 5:30pm

During the month of March, our Family Program will coincide with our Lenten Soup Suppers. We encourage all families to attend. There will be Youth activities. Please reach out to Evelyn Betts for more details.



Vice-Moderator's Musings

A special Ad Hoc Committee on Church Naming/Merger was recently formed to consider what name our merged church will adopt, as well as to review various church documents for possible revisions. These include our Constitution and Bylaws, our Mission Statement, and our Open & Affirming Statement.

The Committee has met a couple times now, reviewing the history of our two churches as well as the development of the United Church of Christ from several separate denominations over sixty years ago. In addition, we have had some discussion about our personal histories with the Church, what attracted us to come to this church, and what has kept us coming back. Just hearing our 12 stories showed how very diverse we are! At this point, the committee has decided that it is best to involve all of you now, at the beginning of this process. For that reason, we have decided to send out a brief poll with just three questions. We welcome all of our members, as well as any of our friends, to respond to these questions. To reach as many of you as possible, we will publish the poll in the bulletin, in the weekly email, and in the Nugget. We would appreciate your thoughtful feedback.

So, just what are we asking you? First, if you have an idea for the name of our Church, please submit it for consideration by the Committee. These suggestions will all be collected and considered by the committee as we try to arrive at two or three of the strongest names to be presented to the Congregation. Secondly, when you first came to either First Congregational or Union Congregational or our merged church, what brought you? Third, what keeps you coming? These two answers will help the committee as we consider what message we want our name to give to new people.

Feel free to cut out the box labeled "SeekingYour Input!", or simply email your responses to the committee at olivierleigh2@gmail.com. In the end, the decision will ultimately be made by a congregational vote, so we want to hear from you right from the start. We look forward to your response!

Submitted by Barbara Olivier



Small Group Meetings:

March 8:

The Wanderers

10am in Murphys

Contact Marilyn Baisel



March 12:

South Grove Bunch

5:30pm at Soup Supper

Contact Faye Morrison



March 5 & 19:

Family Program

5:30pm at Soup Supper

Contact Evelyn Betts



March 19:

Faith & Friends

10am in Murphys home

Contact Pam Kimes



March 19

Cottage Circle

5:30pm at Soup Supper

Contact Faye Morrison



March 27:

Angels Angels

11am in Copperopolis

Contact Barb Olivier



A Message from our Beloved Shirley Soderer

*Dear Parish Family,
It has been four
months since I have
been home. Hospital,
Rehab Center, and
now at my son and
daughter-in-law's
home in East Sonora.*

*My thank you for my
cards, gifts, prayers
and love you have
sent me since I left
Murphys. My room's
bulletin board at
Avalon Rehab was
covered with your
beautiful cards,
notes and
decorations. I send
my love to everyone.
~ Shirley Soderer*

SEEKING YOUR INPUT!

The Ad Hoc Committee on the next steps for our merging congregation wants to hear from you. We are seeking ideas for a new name and for who we want to be as a new merged church.

Please take some time and respond. You may email your responses to Barb Olivier, olivierleigh2@gmail.com or cut out this square and return it to the church office. Thank you!

When you first came to either First Congregational or Union Congregational or our merged church, what brought you?

What keeps you coming?

Do you have a name you would like to suggest for our new church? This will assist the committee to come up with names to present for a congregational vote.

Due date: March 7

A Message from one of our Partners in Ministry

The Engaging Families
Resource Empowering Communities
Connection Enriching Lives

Dear Pastor Bonnie and Members,

Thank you so much for your donation to The Resource Connection Food Bank, and "As Needed" food! Our food bank experienced a 69% increase in usage from March - October last year. Our other programs continue to provide high quality services to children and families and those who survive domestic violence and/or sexual abuse. Your generosity makes such a difference to many in our County. Thank you for your faithful support. We are grateful.

**Sincerely,
Gloria Miller
Board Chairman**



*Earth Day is
April 22. Stay
tuned for
details on local
events.*



*Bell Choir rehearsals
are every Saturday at
10am in the Sanctuary.
Adult Choir rehearsals
are on the 1st, 2nd, and
4th Sundays at 9am in
the Sanctuary.
Contact Dr. Daryl for
more information.*

A Message from the Worship Team

Hello Congregation!

Our Worship team is missing Pastor Bonnie, but we know that she is in good hands. In her absence, our team members are very busy preparing everything for this Lenten and Easter time. Below I have highlighted all of the seasonal services and events.



Penny and Mickey will be continuing communion on the 1st Sunday of each month. All are welcome!

The Lenten Soup Suppers have kicked off and will continue Tuesday nights at 5:30 through March 19th. We hope you come and enjoy the delicious soups and the wonderful fellowship and discussion.

On Palm Sunday we'll be marching with our palms led by Dr. Daryl. We hope you'll have your marching shoes on ready to sing praises in the neighborhood!

The Maundy Thursday Dinner on March 28th at 5:30 will be hosted by the Worship Team. Come and reenact the Last Supper wearing your traditional 1st century clothing. We will have sign-up sheets for you to bring your favorite Mediterranean type food to share. It should be a fun evening!

On March 29th, Good Friday, Joe Jackson will be setting up the Seasons of the Cross in our church from 12 noon to 2:00 PM. It is a time to reflect on the journey Jesus made to the Cross.

Faith Lutheran Church in Murphy's will be having a Good Friday Tenebrae Service at 7:00 PM. A few of our members will be readers at the service. Please plan to attend and support Reverend Karen and Faith Lutheran Church.

On Easter Sunday we will begin with an Easter Sunrise Service at 7:00 AM at the cemetery. We will praise Jesus rising from the ashes and sing songs of praise led by Dr. Daryl. Following this, the Easter service will be at 10:00 AM in the sanctuary. Be sure to wear your best Easter hat!

I wish you all a blessed Lenten and Easter season!

Your sister in Christ,
Liz Graham
Worship Team

Do You Know Your Teams?



By looking in the Spring 2023 Directory, on the first page, there is a list of Teams, and its members. The eight Teams keep our church working as a bonded community by meeting the needs of the Congregation, be they organizational or personal. The Parish Care Team recently became our supporters and saviors. My daughter and I were very sick with a virus and really could do little to help ourselves with many daily tasks. In came our rescuers, Parish Care. From chicken soup, casseroles (homemade), to grocery shopping, doing necessary errands like picking up prescriptions, and being a chauffeur for necessary medical appointments, these were just a few of their compassionate actions. It is truly the vision of the Team. They are there to lift you up in any way they can, and in a time of need, our gratitude is endless. The smiles, the cards, their willingness all reflected in the faces of: Carol Dougherty, Pat LaMont, Marilyn Baisel, Judy Regalia, and the unending prayers of Miriam Thorsen.

With Loving Gratitude,
Liz Tussey



**SPRING
FORWARD!
DAYLIGHT
SAVINGS TIME IS
MARCH 10. SET
YOUR CLOCKS
AHEAD ONE HOUR.**



The Christian Enrichment team is having the Annual Easter Egg Hunt for the Youth on Easter Sunday, March 31 immediately after worship. Contact Evelyn Betts or Patty Haskell for more details.



2024 Heavenly



Chocolate Festival





Savannah Nunez 2
Joyce Hauck-Swanson 3
Sally Greninger 4
Diane Campana 8
Walt Markus 11
Daryl Hollinger 17
Brian Inks 19
Carol Osterlund 19
Lizzy Restivo 22
Pete Ryan 23
Pam Kimes 24
Mary Kelly 26
Pattie Guida 27
Chris Markus 27
Kelsey Markus Sterrett 27
Diane Tussey 28
Patty Carmagno-Schnell 28
George Haskell 29
Phil Hosmer 31
Clinton Betts 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:

Tami Chesnut
Ron & Darlene Davis
Jess Hampton
The Hollinger Family
Dodi Horvath
Tabitha Kremesec
Bob Lewis
Tommy Pratt
Meg Self
Daniel Smolich
Shirley Soderer
Liz & Diane Tussey
Gail Williams
Rev. Marty Williams

MARCH 2024

| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|---|--|---|--|---|---|--|
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 1 | 2 |
| 9am Adult Choir 10am Worship | 6:30pm Al-Anon | 5:30pm Family Program <i>Lenten Soup Supper</i> | 10am AdHoc software mtg. FISK 12:30pm AA & Al-Anon 5pm Worship mtg. ZOOM 6:30pm Al-Anon | 10am The Wanderers Sm. Grp. in Murphys 12pm Women's AA | 10am Bell Choir | 10am Bell Choir |
| 9am OGHs Offering 9am Adult Choir 10am Worship 11am OSJ EEC Begin Daylight Savings | 9:30am AdHoc naming mtg. EEC 6:30pm Al-Anon | 2pm F&F mtg. ZOOM 5:30pm South Grove Bunch Sm. Grp. <i>Lenten Soup Supper</i> | 12:30pm AA & Al-Anon 6:30pm Al-Anon | 14 | 15 12pm Women's AA | 10am Bell Choir PANCAKE BREAKFAST 8:30AM - 10:30AM |
| 10am worship 11am Council EEC | 6:30pm Al-Anon | 10am Family Connections EEC 10am Faith & Friends Sm. Grp. in Murphys 5:30pm Family Program <i>Lenten Soup Supper</i> | 12:30pm AA & Al-Anon 6:30pm Al-Anon | 21 | 22 12pm Women's AA | 10am Bell Choir |
| 9am Adult Choir 10am worship | 9:30am AdHoc naming mtg. EEC 6:30pm Al-Anon | 11am Angels Angels Sm. Grp. in Copper 12:30pm AA & Al-Anon 6:30pm Al-Anon | 11am Angels Angels Sm. Grp. in Copper 12:30pm AA & Al-Anon 6:30pm Al-Anon | 28 MAUNDY THURSDAY 5:30pm Mediterranean Supper | GOOD FRIDAY 12-2pm Stations of the Cross @ UCC 7pm Tennebrae svc. @ Faith Lutheran 12pm Women's AA | 10am Bell Choir HOLY SATURDAY |
| EASTER SUNDAY 7am Sunrise service 10am worship 11am Easter Egg Hunt | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |

God's love echoes through us to all creation.

Webpage: www.fcsmurph.org

Email: nugget@fcsmurph.org

Phone: (209)728-3141

MARCH 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 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.