



THE NUGGET

Open Door United Church of Christ



*We have a
new name!*



*We are having our
annual Worship at
White Pines on
Sunday, August
25. We will have a
chicken BBQ,
please bring a
salad, dessert, or
dish to share. Come
worship out in the
splendor of God's
creation! There will
be signups in the
Social Hall soon.*

*After much discussion
and an official vote with
our wonderful members,
our name has officially
been changed to
Open Door United
Church of Christ.*



Pastor's Article

What's Pastor Bonnie Doing These days?

Someone recently asked me, so what are you up to now? Are you still getting treatments, how are you feeling and what's happening at church?

All good questions so I decided to give a little update here.

Church update: We are thriving! I enjoyed the camping trip and the train trip with the families very much. It was a delight to worship in the woods with so many of you on Sunday morning. It was a smaller group this year, but some new faces so that was a great treat!

Our new member class has been ongoing, and I am now meeting individually with people to prepare for baptism and inception into our church. I revel at this part of our ministry and can't wait to have our service at White Pines Lake where we will have the baptisms. Our new people are enjoying our faith practices and our loving welcome. Make sure you reach out to them!

Jenny and I have both taken some seminars regarding our Church Data Base and it is working fine.

Thank you for updating your emergency contact information. It is now all entered in our system.

We are working on the legalities of the name change with Carrie Shinn and Barbara Olivier.

Our Parish Nurse Diane Hosmer and I are working on some great seminars for you!

We continue to serve those who come to our doors each week for gas cards, food, a place to stay or just to talk. Thank you for the money to do this.

Some of my parish care is done via the phone but I have made a number of personal in-home visits recently. I will continue to do this unless the Covid numbers get too high!

I attended the NCNC clergy retreat and the annual conference. It was good to be with colleagues of faith and see God's blessings abound. I am participating in racial justice training this fall as is required for me to keep my standing in the conference.

Cancer Update: I am still slowly healing from the surgery and taking a daily chemo pill. It plays havoc with the rest of my body, so some days are a bit icky until my stomach settles down. We are working on that. Unfortunately, I will need to continue to make trips to Stanford but hopefully only once or twice a month. There are many doctors who are trying to keep me cancer free, so it takes a whole team of them to do the work. I am feeling great however and am able to participate fully in ministry with you, which I love. Your support has been life giving and I am overjoyed by your kindness to me during this tough time.

*By the time you read this, I will be preparing to go on vacation with Daryl. We will be traveling back East to visit family and friends. Thank you for your continued love and may you find great joy today. **Doing a slow waltz, Pastor Bonnie***





Moderator's Message

The dog days of summer are upon us, but that doesn't mean things are quiet in church life! I know many of us are escaping the heat at higher elevations (I'm writing this message from the shores of Lake Tahoe!), or just plain staying indoors due to the fierce heat. Stay cool, hydrated and safe!

I know quite a few of our young people recently attended Church Camp at Tamarack. That site would certainly offer respite from the heat, and I look forward to hearing some of the stories of their experiences. Thanks again to all of those who helped support the campership program. There was also a nice group at Big Trees Park for the annual Family Camp this month. A little warm, but a wonderful time was had by all.

August brings us the culmination of new member classes and the outdoor service at White Pines Lake on August 25th. New members will be accepted into our congregation during the outdoor service. There may also be some baptisms, so you won't want to miss this wonderful fellowship opportunity! The service will be followed by our traditional grilled chicken lunch, so be sure to bring your favorite potluck dish to add to the meal.

The membership and calling team has recently put up a lovely bulletin board with photos of new members. Please get to know these folks as you meet them in the coming weeks.

As a reminder, Pastor Bonnie will be on vacation for the first 3 weeks of August. We wish her a joyful and refreshing time away!

See you all in worship!

Carrie Shinn
Moderator

A Party in the Park



It was a perfect day to gather in Murphys Park, as the temperature was perfect, a light breeze was blowing, and it was altogether a picture perfect scene. The day became even more beautiful filled with happy, joyful people who lovesocializing together. We were celebrating a birthday, and lucky me, it was a real party that we shared with great delight. Tables were set waiting to receive delicious summer dishes including all the favorites of salads including, tomatoes, potatoes, pasta, watermelon, even a carved watermelon basket - what a sight to behold! Summer drinks were plentiful; your choice of two kinds of lemonade or iced tea. What more could anyone want? There was more: flowers that had been lovingly grown, elegant birthday cards, and even a trivia game, in which all had fun participating, even me, as we had some good laughs, and felt very connected. The birthday cards have to find a permanent home, in case a day comes when I need reminding of life's true values.

To quote another..."Gratitude's Garden"

*"In the garden of my heart where gratitude grows,
You are the sun that nurtures my soul, with each passing year more beautiful
you become. In my heart you are home."*

*With loving thanks,
Liz Tussey*





Be a Blessing!

Way back in 2016 Jeri Carson-Hull learned about a little free pantry project which stocked canned foods where hungry people in need could come to take supplies. She brought that idea back to our own Outreach and Social Justice Team. With their backing she approached the church council and got permission to establish such a good idea here at our church. Thus was born the Blessing Box which is on the front porch of the Eastman Education Center. Jeri has been in charge of this successful venture ever since, eight years of supplying foods, now also some basic health items, for the homeless and/or just financially insecure people of our town. The Blessing Box is filled three times a week.

Jeri has the assistance of a few volunteers and Education Director Patty Haskell has organized the Sunday School children to help stock the Blessing Box on Sundays. Murphys Senior Center has shared some of their grant money with the project and our own council has supported it as well. Jeri orders mainly online and some supportive church members check local discount stores for food bargains to contribute. The rewards include touching thank you notes left at the Blessing Box and even some recipients who have knocked on the door of committee meetings in Eastman Center to express their appreciation.

Jeri is now looking for a volunteer to take her place and hopes there is just a person reading this article. If you can see yourself in this truly outreach role for a year or two, contact Jeri at 209-768-1839 or the church office at 209 728 3141. BE A BLESSING!

submitted by: Faye Morrison



Big Trees State Park Camping Trip 2024





Be Still and Know that I am God

Opportunity!

The Perseid meteor shower is now under way and will peak August 11 and 12. During peak displays it is possible to see 100 meteors an hour. I am presently planning on spending Sunday night the 11th at Sonora Pass. The moon sets before midnight. This is just sleeping bag and air mattress on the ground. There are no formal campgrounds there. No formal program at all.

Just a “Be Still and Know” opportunity. I can provide transportation for up to three if you are interested. I plan on being there before dark Sunday, and leave after first light Monday. Will stop at the Strawberry Inn for dinner on the way in. I will do compline Sunday night and anyone interested is welcome to join.

**For encouragement and further information, call Alan Horvath
775 451-4079**

God is Great!



Pastor Bonnie & Dr. Daryl will be on vacation until August 21. Let's pray for a safe and fun trip for them!

While they are away, we are happy to welcome back Rev. Liz Armstrong, Rev. Penny Sarvis, and Rev. Mickey Williamson to lead our worship services in Pastor Bonnie's absence. We will also be having our dear Gail Williams taking care of the music while Dr. Daryl is gone.

George Haskell is now getting rehab in a facility in Houston. George continues to improve and if all goes well, they are hoping to bring him to California in the beginning of August. Continued prayers and cards are sure to bring much joy! George and Patty are so appreciative of the monetary contributions.



2024 “Unsung Heroes”



During the Annual Congregational Meeting that took place on June 23, 2024, Shad Sundberg presented the “Unsung Hero” award. Shad and Tanya received the award in 2023, and this year they chose Penny Sarvis and Mickey Williamson to be the recipients of the award. This is in recognition of their faithful service to our church, including filling in for Pastor Bonnie while she was on medical leave. This was done on a volunteer basis and they both stepped up to see our congregation through worship services and fellowship. Congratulations, Mickey and Penny. We love you so!

All Aboard!

On Wednesday, July 17, Debbie Ferrulli invited the youth of our church on a field trip to Railtown State Park in Jamestown. While it was a pretty small group, everyone had a lot of fun riding the trains. Keep an eye out for more youth activities. We would love to have more kids join us!





Gary Carson-Hull 2
Tami Chesnut 2
Karen Rojas 4
Patty Hennessee 7
Teddie Jackson 7
Liz Graham 7
Diane Hosmer 11
Hank Fletcher 12
Teri Olivas 13
Bob Henning 19
Jerry Patterson 19
David Kelly 28

Don't see your birthday listed? We promise it isn't on purpose. Please contact the church office to have your special day added to our list.



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!

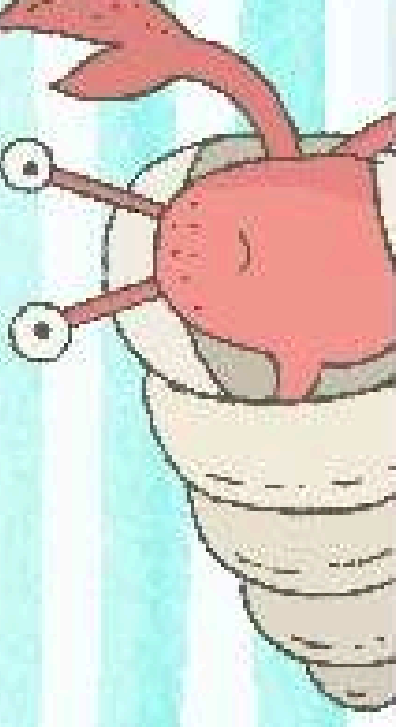
God hears our cries and answers them.

Let us pray daily for the following members and friends of our community:

Prayer List:

The Haskell Family
Mitch & Michelle (Barb Olivier)
Thomas Bouton (Emily Lawrence)
Marci Duggan
Theresa Fowler (June Perry)
Caity Johnson
George Haskell
Dodi Horvath
Tabitha Kremesec
Cindy Luna (Marci Duggan)
Laura Miller (Noel Helmbrecht)
Marco Scolo (Marilyn Baisel)
Daniel Smolich (Liz Tussey)
Gail Williams
Rev. Marty Williams

August 2024



| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|---|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|--|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 10am Worship Holy Communion | 5 6:30pm Al-Anon | 6 | 7 12:30pm AA & Al-Anon 6:30pm Al-Anon | 8 9am - 4pm WIC Distribution in Social Hall | 9 12pm Women's AA | 10 |
| 10am worship 11am OSJ EEC | 12 6:30pm Al-Anon | 13 | 14 12:30pm AA & Al-Anon 6:30pm Al-Anon | 15 | 16 12pm Women's AA | 17 |
| 10am worship 11am Council EEC | 19 6:30pm Al-Anon | 20 1pm F&F mtg. ZOOM | 21 12:30pm AA & Al-Anon 6:30pm Al-Anon | 22 | 23 12pm Women's AA | 24 |
| 10am worship at White Pines  | 26 6:30pm Al-Anon | 27 | 28 12:30pm AA & Al-Anon 6:30pm Al-Anon | 29 | 30 12pm Women's AA | 31 12pm Women's AA |

Pastor Bonnie and Dr. Daryl will be on
vacation from
Tuesday, July 30 - Tuesday, August 20

God's love echoes through us to all creation.

Webpage: www.fccmurph.org

Email: nugget@fccmurph.org

Phone: (209)728-3141

AUGUST 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.