

THE NUGGET



First Congregational Church of Murphys, United Church of Christ



Our Dream Becomes a Reality: Director of Christian Education Is Here!

Over four years ago, with the inertia of Teddie Jackson and other parents, we began planning and praying for a Director of Christian Enrichment. Two years ago, at a council retreat, the leaders of our congregation decided to put this dream into action by putting forth a plan and a budget to get the process going. The dream is a reality!

We introduce Emilie Willis as our Director of Christian Enrichment. As a congregation you voted to support and fund this position in 2019 and now it time to celebrate and rejoice! She will now help lead our Sunday School, family nights, VBS, and many other events. Her love for God and for children will enable us to reach many more families.

Our families and children will have an opportunity to meet Emilie at a drive thru dinner in October 20th 5pm-7pm. Families will bring their children and pick up a meal and say hello to Emilie from their cars. We will all wear masks and be COVID safe.

Let us know if you can attend by emailing Peter, our secretary at nugget@fccmurph.org



We are in the Season after Pentecost and the color is **Green**.

A WORD FROM OUR VICE MODERATOR

As head of the Personnel committee, I would like to introduce our new Christian Education Director, Emilie Willis. Emilie has lived in Calaveras County for over 30 years. She is married and has 4 daughters ranging in age from 10-17 years old. Emilie has volunteered in the local elementary schools and was a basketball coach. In her free time she enjoys hiking, kayaking, fishing and painting. Emilie is excited about the opportunity to work with us and is looking forward to meeting families and being part of the church and youth program. Her first day of work will be Tuesday, September 15th.



PASTOR'S ARTICLE



What goes on Behind the Scenes During COVID?

Dear Parish Members, it is hard to get a sense of the “church” when we are apart so I thought I might share with you some of the ways we are “being the church.”

★ *Worshipping – we are hearing how many of you are joining our services on Sunday mornings as well as Taizé and the Daily Devotionals.*

Our worship team will continue to find ways to offer you meaningful times to praise God, pray, and be challenged by the Word of God. It might be easy to get out of the routine of church, but I invite you to set aside a time each week to worship, just as if you were in the building!

Thank you, Liz and Matt Graham, for your commitment to leading worship and the technical support.

★ *Growing through Small groups – Marilyn Baisel and Faye Morrison continue to write meaningful lessons for us in growing as disciples of Jesus Christ. Some groups are meeting in backyards and practicing social distance. If you want to join a small group via zoom, email Pastor Bonnie. Our class on racism was a special time of learning and the book study group will start soon.*

★ *Serving through Outreach – We are surely reaching into our community and offering financial aid, comfort, and support. Through your continued contributions we can help the homeless find a place to stay, provide food and gas, as well as assist with medication bills and electric bills. We support Sierra Hope, Habitat for Humanity, the Orphanage in Uganda, The Resource Connection and our own UCC partners.*

★ *Staying connected – through phone calls, zoom meetings, cards, and the occasional hello at the store or the post office. I am hearing of the joy of going to the mailbox and finding a card from one of our members! Our Parish Care team continues to help those who need an extra hand or special comfort during these tough times.*

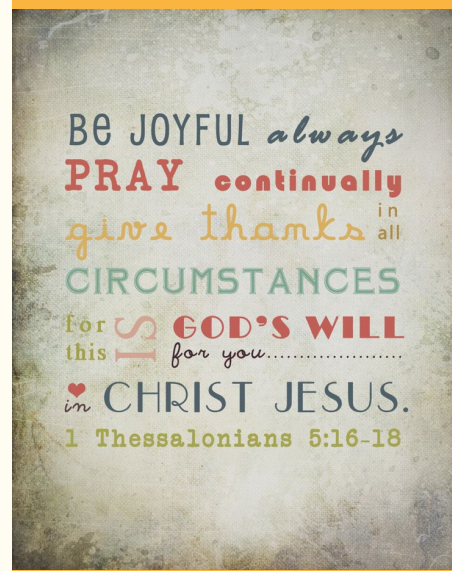
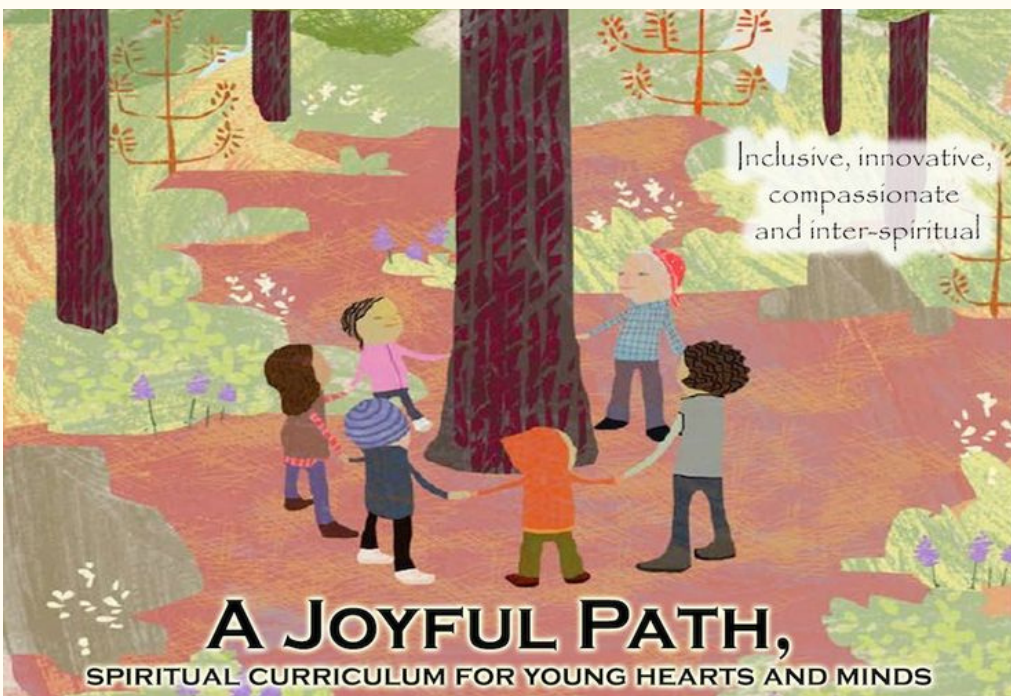
★ *Administratively -our teams and our staff proceed with meetings and making sure everything is running smoothly. Our new secretary Peter is staying on top of things and helping us with all the technical aspects of our ministry. The Council and the Executive Team are keeping abreast of all the workings of the church and are in touch with our Conference as well.*

So, you see, the church is alive and well. Even amid COVID we are thriving on the love and work of Jesus Christ in our lives and in our community. Missing you in person, but loving your spirit!

Pastor Bonnie



World Communion Sunday offers congregations a distinctive opportunity to experience Holy Communion in the context of the global community of faith. The first Sunday of October has become a time when Christians in every culture break bread and pour the cup to remember and affirm Christ as the Head of the Church. On that day, they remember that they are part of the whole body of believers. Whether shared in a grand cathedral, a mud hut, outside on a hilltop, in a meetinghouse, or in a storefront, Christians celebrate the communion liturgy in as many ways as there are congregations. World Communion Sunday can be both a profound worship experience and a time for learning more about our wider community of faith.



Sunday School will resume in October for our children. We will be pre-recording the sessions with our teachers and our new Director of Christian Education, Emilie Willis. The Christian Enrichment team has chosen The Inner Wisdom Series for their curriculum. Each Year has 38 full lessons that are heart-centered. They have a section for the teacher to understand the topic, reflect on it and find the meaning for themselves. There are relevant Biblical quotes as well as other sacred texts and wisdom quotes. There are 2-3 movement, art, music, rituals, and other activities, as well as an original story, discussion questions and a spiritual affirmation art page to take home. The Joyful Path lessons are a way to connect children with an authentic spiritual experience that is inclusive, creative and multi-layered. A Joyful Path is truly progressive curriculum that is nature centered, joy-full, compassionate, and intelligent. This behavior over belief curriculum is non-dogmatic, inter-spiritual, and heart centered.

A Joyful Path teaches children to:

Ask questions and be curious

Go within and find their own inner guidance and wisdom

Stay focused and calm when needed and to discover and harness divine energy

Be creative, share their gifts and continue learning about their passions

To take action toward their own successes and happiness

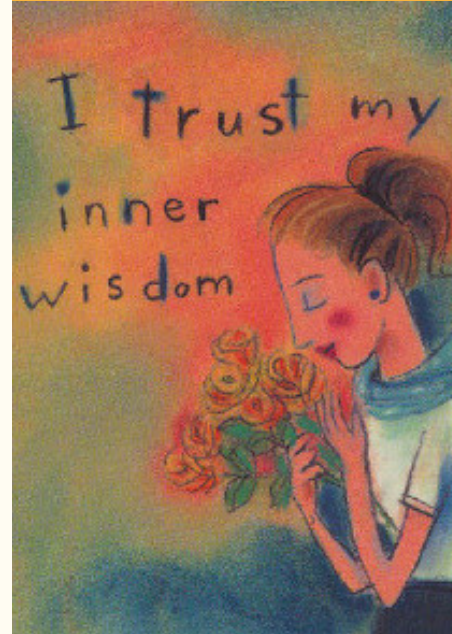
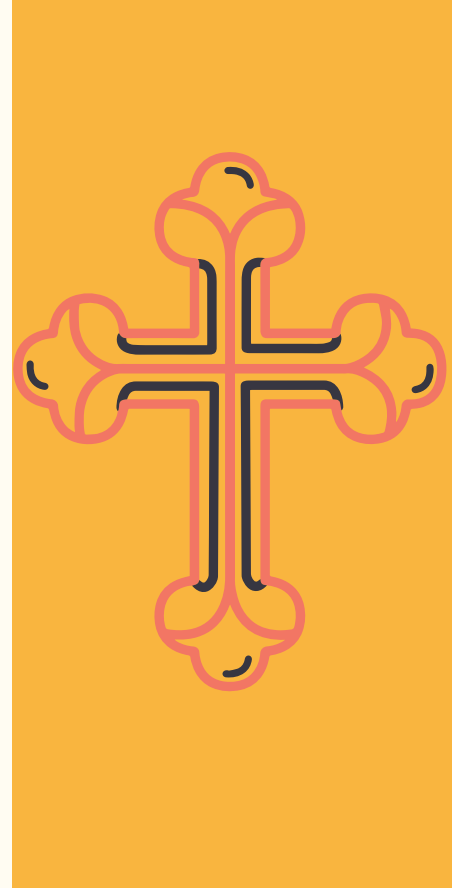
Find compassion for all beings, to be inclusive and tolerant, to find the divine in All Honor, protect, serve, and be in awe of Mother Nature

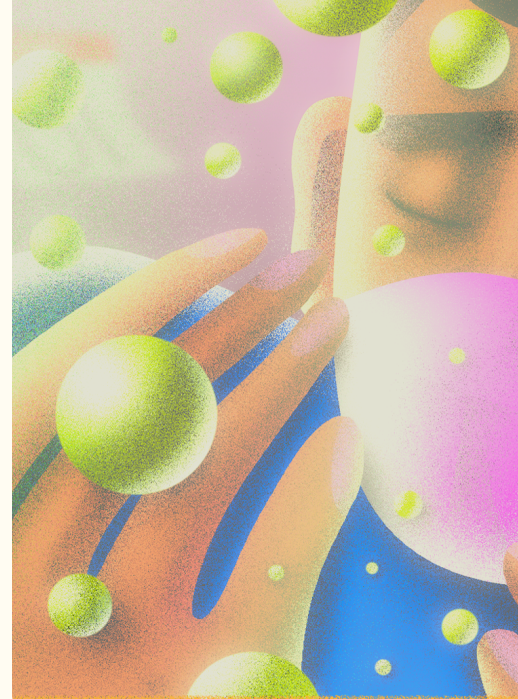
To know the history and mythology of our world religions and spiritual paths

To be heroes and heroines- to be brave, courageous, and to stand for peace and justice...

And much more!

We are excited that our children will be learning the lessons of Christianity through this curriculum!





FCCN THOUGHTS

What Stress?

I recently went to the doctor. Since I was a new patient, he asked, "Do you have any stress in your life?" I looked at him in disbelief, "Are you kidding? It's 2020!!" I am sure you will all relate. If it seems we have new stressors every week it is because we do. Each season brings events and occasions we need to miss out on because of COVID19, smoke, evacuations, power outages. How do we keep ourselves healthy and sane during these times of incredible stress?

Turning our focus to the little victories and things we CAN do is probably the best strategy, rather than focusing on the loss of things we cannot do.

- *Take it day by day or even moment by moment: Look for those 3 Good Things. Remember the attitude of gratitude. Be aware "It could always be worse!"*
- *Be compassionate with yourself (and others): Don't be angry at yourself for mistakes. Realize you may have a short fuse right now. Try not to focus on missed opportunities.*
- *Be creative and find things to look forward to: Time to do that project you have been wanting to start; a favorite TV show; FaceTime with a friend.*
- *Find reasons to laugh: My husband and I started playing War with a deck of cards during lunch and found ourselves laughing through that simple game.*
- *Exercise: When smoke prevents you from going outside, try some indoor exercise, Tai Chi or Yoga. You can find classes online and apps to keep you on track.*
- *Look back: Not to the things you did before and are missing now. Rather take pride in getting this far and the resilience you have gained.*
- *Find ways to help others: 2020 has created so much need and there are many ways to support others. Writing cards, calling, or praying for others in the FCCM Directory, even those you do not know well. Opportunities abound with needs in Uganda, the Sierra Hope House, Blessing Box, and others in our community.*

"Adapted from UC Davis Health News"



"Turning our focus to the little victories"

Most importantly remember God's promises to us: "And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love." Roman's 8:38 NLT

*Diane Hosmer RN MSN IBCLC
FCCM Faith Community Nurse*



Thank you!

**TREASURER'S REPORT
SEPTEMBER 2020**

Hello and I hope everyone is staying healthy considering the smoke and the recent heat. On the financial side we continue to do well in both pledge and non-pledge donations, so thanks for keeping up with your contributions. As I think everyone knows we will continue to fall behind in plate offerings, income from church usage and our limited opportunities for holding fundraisers. This makes our regular contributions that much more important during these difficult times.

On a very positive note our endowment accounts, which are conservatively invested across several funds have now recovered back to the level they were at the beginning of 2020.

Finally, a short note about our Payroll Protection Loan. Our lender, Umpqua Bank has opened a loan forgiveness application portal. This will assist us in the process of converting our loan to a grant. I am now starting to work on gathering the supporting documents to make this happen. I hope to have more news on this front soon.

Please be well and take care.

Your Treasurer, Sally



LGBTQ



LGBTQ Youth and supportive friends are invited to join us for dialogue, education, friendship, and support!

~Currently meeting online via Zoom~

When: The 1st and 3rd Tuesday of every month at 7pm

RSVP with your email address at CalaverasGSRM@gmail.com or call

(209)352-1828





all children have the right
to simply be children...

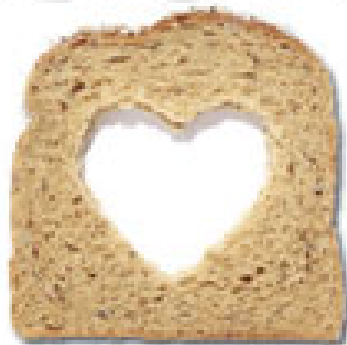
'I'm telling the solemn truth: Whenever you did one of these things to someone overlooked or ignored, that was me—you did it to me.'

— Matthew 25:40 (The Message)

Neighbors in Need Offering on 10.04.2020

Neighbors in Need (NIN) is a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). Two-thirds of this offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects through grants. Neighbors in Need grants are awarded to UCC churches and organizations doing justice work in their communities. These grants fund projects whose work ranges from direct service to community organizing and advocacy to address systemic injustice. This year, special consideration will be given to projects focusing on serving our immigrant neighbors and communities.

neighbors
& need



Thank you to all
our supporters
for your help!
Together we
raised more
than \$55,000
on the virtual
fundraiser!

blessed

thankful

grateful



Donate Your Gently Worn, Used and New Shoes To

Dawn of Hope Children &
Youth Project Inc, Lathrop CA

Help us raise funds for our organization by
donating your gently worn,
used and new shoes!

And don't forget to ask friends, family,
neighbors and co-workers to donate too!

All types of shoes: Men, women & children, used/New

Collected shoes are used to support micro-enterprise vendors.
Micro-enterprises are small businesses in developing nations.
They are typically operated by one person or family and
friends, depending on size.

WHERE & WHEN

509 Algiers Street
Murphys CA
UCC Church

From 9/1 - 10/25/20

All Types of shoes,
sneakers, boots,
dress shoes, high
heels, Sandals,
sports shoes,
Tennis shoes etc.

Gently Used / New

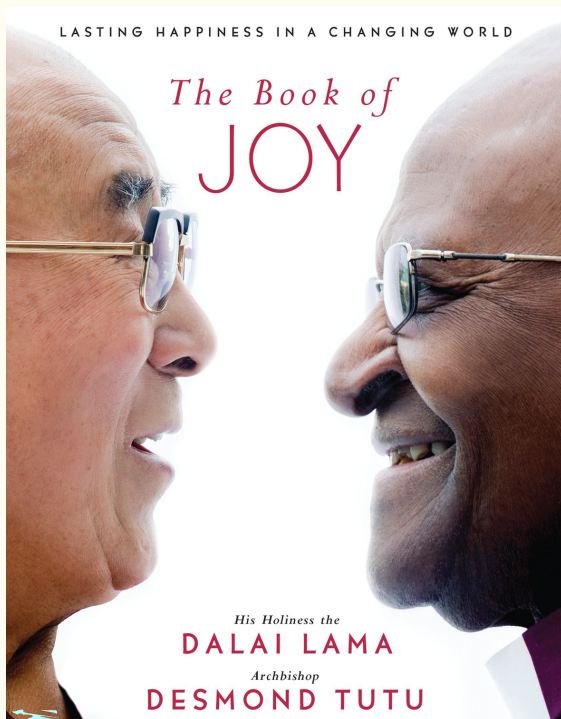
Thanks

Contact

Tami Chesnut / Pastor
Bonnie

pastorbonnie@comcast.n
et

tamorasue@gmail.com



Dear Book Study People

Hope you are all well and safe, and finding 'joy' in our changing world. We update you on our book study and discussion group so you know we are still planning, though it has been delayed. All of us have been experiencing many delays throughout our world today. I have found that many people are making special efforts to be patient and kind. If you have been reading our book His Holiness The Dali Lama and Archbishop Desmond Tutu gives us many ways to cope. Lots of adjustments have been necessary lately, and with prayers we can do it.

We will set another start date for the program, soon, and will keep in touch. What perfect timing for our book choice, as the two spiritual leaders can help us with some new perspectives, in our changing world. Keep reading "The Book Of Joy" and a suggestion is to study the lives of The Dali Lama, and Desmond Tutu from birth to present, as it opens up an amazing world that they have lived through.

If anyone does not have the book, and interested in receiving one please let Marilyn and Liz know. In

*the meantime,
Many blessings,
Liz and Marilyn*

With your help we managed to raise **\$350.26 THANK YOU!**



We will be doing the recycling program on a regular basis now, every other month. We will have the trailer in the church parking lot from 8:30am to 10:00am on the first Wednesday of each ODD month. That would make our next Recycle Day November 4th.

WE ARE NO LONGER GOING TO RECYCLE ANY GLASS BOTTLES IN THIS PROGRAM! We only get 12 cents per pound for glass and it is not worth our efforts. Please recycle your glass bottles along with your home recycling. It would be a tremendous help to us if you could possibly flatten your aluminum cans. As always be sure to pre-sort the aluminum and plastic in separate bags. Always take lids off of plastic bottles. We were made aware the last time we went to the recycling center that plastic needs to be sorted even if it has a CA CRV code on it. You need to look for the small recycle triangle and separate those products. If this is confusing, it is generally the larger water and juice bottles that are made from a different plastic. If you are still confused, put those larger water and juice bottles in your home recycling along with your glass bottles. We get very little money for those plastics anyway and they take up a lot of space!

Since Sanders and Gary are generally doing this by ourselves we welcome any help on those Wednesday mornings!

Gary Carson-Hull & Sanders LaMont for the Men's Group

WORDS FROM THE WOODS by Rev. Dr. John Randlett

Laila's Frog: A Modern Tale of earth care

In these perilous times the old story reaches across times and cultures to offer a promise of hope. We all know it as the story of "The Princess and the Frog" where a handsome prince has been cursed into a frog who can only be transformed back again with the care of a kiss.

Enter Laila Brickson, a 9-year-old princess who last July rescues a small tree frog from underneath the hot tub at Randlett Woods, our family's forest in the Cascade Mountains of Washington State.

"Croaker" arrives in a plastic nut jar with concerned questions about frog welfare addressed urgently to Averi, Laila's veterinarian mom.

In her caring way Averi explains that frogs kept in jars seldom led to good outcomes. So it was decided that Croaker would be carefully returned to the damp wild under the bunkhouse deck.

At a time when our forests, our weather even our oceans are being transformed under the curse of human caused global warming, the caring and restoration at the center of the story of Laila's Frog calls us to extend ourselves on behalf of our Creator's greatest gift to us: our earthly home. When placed in the Garden (Genesis 2) the human critter is told to "care for and keep it." When we work with Creation's God we are promised the Peaceable Kingdom forecast in Isaiah 6:11: The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. Lead on Laila and Croaker! You inspire the rest of us to hopeful action.

Hope(Transition) House

We would like to say a huge thank you to our members who have helped to make the house better and cleaner.

Marilyn, Helen, Laura L, Joyce H - cleaning and putting kitchen together

Joyce and Marilyn - curtains for kitchen and dining room

Pam Kimes and her friend Bonnie - painting/decorating caretakers bathroom

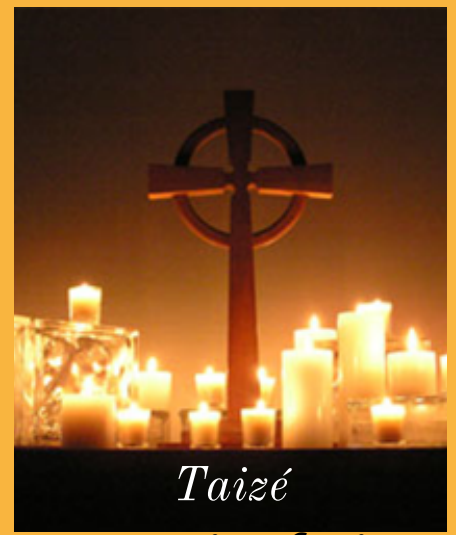
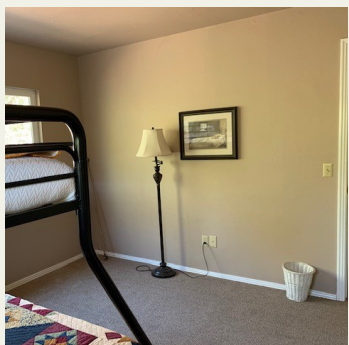
Valerie and Carrie Shinn- toys and clothing for the playroom

Bobby and Celine Decker - painting the furniture for the bedroom we adopted

Marilyn, Celine, Susan M, Lynne Bird - decorating the adopted bedroom

Phil and Jamie - cleaning up yard and mowing grass.

Jamie- coordinating between Sierra Hope and our church.



Taizé

**~ A service of quiet
prayers, meditation and
songs ~**

Come join us

**Wednesday, October 7th,
at 7 PM**

**~ A time to refresh mind
and spirit ~**

**Live streaming on
Facebook**

Join Us!

**SIERRA
HOPE**
HEALTH OPPORTUNITIES, PROGRAMS & EDUCATION



Happy

BIRTHDAY



Kevin Gaines	1
Christine Mongsene	3
Shirley Soderer	5
Ed Williams	6
Helen Yost	6
Kristen Schott	8
Laura Leonard	9
Barbara Olivier	9
Jane Hampel	10
Brian Mason	10
Zack Luchetti	13
Patty Haskell	19
Fred Hampel	22
Mara Rosenhart	29
Terry Mongsene	31
Patrick Stephens	31



Prayers answered

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:

All those who are ill

Bobby & Celine Breen & Family

Susan Giannini Chadwick

Jara & Max Clark

Tracey & Kelly Ellefritz

Tara Glessman

Alan & Dodi Horvath

Hilary Oldenkamp

Angela Patterson

John Randlett & Family

Family of Faith Roberts

Joanie Singleton & Family

Family of Allan Thode

Gail Withuhn

Josephine Zimbe & Family

Barbara & Jim Lashbrook

Kim Plowman

Pete Lyon (Friend of Miriam)

all of the children at the orphanage

October 2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2 4pm Christian Enrichment Team Meeting	3
4 11am Worship 1pm Council meeting Stewardship Moment World Communion Sunday	5	6 7pm LGBTQ meeting	7 11am Community Chat 7pm Taize Service	8	9	10
11 11am Worship	12 10am Outreach & Social Justice meeting	13	14 11am Community Chat	15	16	17
18 11am Worship	19 1pm Finance & Facility meeting	20 5pm-7pm Family Program Drive thru dinner 7pm LGBTQ meeting	21 11am Community Chat	22	23	24
25 11am Worship	26	27	28 11am Community Chat	29	30	31

God's love echoes through us to all creation.

Webpage: www.fcsmurph.org

Email: nugget@fcsmurph.org

Phone: 209.728.3141

October 2020

DATED MATERIAL— DO NOT DELAY

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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*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

Administrative Assistant Peter Marai-Muro

Custodian Peter Marai-Muro

Officers

Moderator Mandy DeSmidt

Vice Moderator Patty Haskell

Treasurer Sally Elliott

Financial Secretary Shad Sundberg

Clerk Joe Silva



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 3rd Monday of each month.

The Committee reserves the right to edit submissions for length and content.