

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

# THE NUGGET

Open Door United Church of Christ



The Outreach and Social Justice Team will be staffing a booth at the Earth Day Celebration at Feeney Park in Murphys on Saturday, April 12. We will also be having our youth enter an Earth Day Poster Contest, awarding winners on Sunday, April 13. The deadline for posters will be Friday, April 11.

**Earth Day Celebration**  
*Our Power Our Planet*  
**Feeney Park-off Highway 4 in Murphys**  
**Saturday April 12, 11am-6pm**  
**Booths, Free Stuff, Food & Fun**  
**Live Music By**  
**Clan Dyken &**  
**Fallah, Julio and Nedra, Earth Tones,**  
**Heart Strings and The Stay Positive Collective**  
**Speakers. Arlene Weissman and Michelle Beutler-**  
**Fired Federal Forest Service Employee**  
**Food By: Tacos Estilo Marcos**  
*Sponsored by:*  
*The Blue Mtn. Coalition for Youth & Families*  
 For more info about booth space or sponsorship  
 209-293-4379/ fringe54@volcano.net or  
 ortgirl65@gmail.com



## HOLY WEEK

***Palm Sunday: April 13***  
***Liturgy of the Palms 10am***  
***Maundy Thursday: April 17***  
***Mediterranean Supper 5:30pm***  
***Good Friday: April 18***  
***Stations of the Cross 12 - 2pm***  
***Holy Saturday: April 19***  
***Easter Sunday: April 20***  
***Sunrise Service 7am***

***Easter Worship and Confirmation 10am***



# Irish Day Pancake Breakfast 2025

*Our Annual Irish Day Pancake Breakfast on Saturday, March 15 was a huge success—just like every year! A heartfelt thank you to everyone who volunteered and made this festive event possible, and to all who joined in the fun. We're already counting down the days until next year's celebration!*





# ***Youth Retreat at Mount Madonna***

Our Young Confirmands, accompanied by their dedicated mentors Alan Horvath, Sanders LaMont, Matt Graham, Patty Haskell and Tami Chesnut, embarked on a transformative retreat at the Mount Madonna Retreat Center, where they also visited the beautiful Sankat Mochan Hanuman Temple. This enriching experience allowed our youth to deepen their spirituality and gain insight into practices beyond Christianity. We eagerly anticipate welcoming our new confirmands on Easter Sunday!







## ***From Our Pastor***

### ***Change is Happening!***

*Well Dear ones, we are now two months away from my retirement. It is going so fast, and I can hardly believe it is happening. Most of you already know that Daryl and I are moving to Myrtle Beach, South Carolina and we are very excited about this next stage of our lives.*

*It is a mixed blessing to be sure. I can't even bear to think of not being with you and I tell people, "Don't talk about it until I have to!" You will be in my heart forever.*

*What I want to say here is to embrace the change that is going to happen to you too. You will be getting new leadership, and this can be a most rewarding adventure. Change can be hard, but it can be a new beginning that is full of possibilities. God is at work within you now and your ministry will flourish, I am sure of it.*

*You have a great leadership team in your council members, an exceptional Christian Ed Director, a phenomenal secretary, and a spiritual depth that enriches my life every day. Your willingness to be God's servant to others is amazing and I expect you will rise to meet the challenges coming your way.*

*There is still much to do until I leave. I am very excited to receive our confirmands in worship on Easter Day. What a glorious event this will be! Let's celebrate the change and enjoy each moment!*

***Joy in the Journey, Pastor Bonnie***



# *Moderator's Message*

Welcome Spring! I think we're all wanting to welcome spring now, though we can certainly use the early April rain. I know some of you may be wondering how the pastoral search is going, especially now that Pastor Bonnie and Dr. Daryl's departures are looming ever closer!

The Pastoral Search team is composed of: Barbara Olivier, Judy Regalia, Penny Sarvis, Mark McCormick, Tami Chesnut, Carrie Shinn and Noel Helmbrecht. We have been trying to meet every Tuesday morning via Zoom, though we have skipped some weeks as there's not a whole lot we can accomplish right now.

The team has put together a job description and compensation package for an Interim Pastor. We have been told to expect to have an interim Pastor with us for 12-18 months while we search for, and interview settled Pastor candidates. However, none of these moves can be made until we have an interim Pastor.

The NCNC office tells us that the interim Pastor needs to be qualified for this specific role in the UCC denomination, and this individual will guide us through the transition after Pastor Bonnie departs, help us to put together the Church Profile that will go out to candidates, and fulfill all other Pastoral roles while the search is taking place. Rev Davena at NCNC is searching for the perfect individual for this role, as she has a good understanding of our church. The NCNC has also posted the Interim position on the NCNC and UCC web sites, so we are hoping to start receiving some candidate applications soon. Rev Davena is telling us that our requirement for the interim pastor to live within Calaveras County for the duration may make it a little more difficult to find an Interim.

We should probably be prepared for a mixture of Pastors conducting worship in June, and maybe into July. The search team is putting out feelers to various folks to preach (of course our beloved Mickey and Penny are at the top of the list!), as we just aren't sure exactly when an interim Pastor will join us. We are all a bit frustrated with the time that has elapsed since Bonnie and Daryl announced their retirement date, but we are doing the best we can!

The personnel team, led by Barb Olivier, is actively working on filling the music director position. They have created a job description and it's being circulated.

Please pray for us as we actively work on these very important tasks. And feel free to ask any of us any questions you might have during this process.

Carrie Shinn, Moderator



The scriptures tell us:

*"And my God will meet all your needs according  
to the riches of his glory in Jesus Christ."*

Philippians 4:19

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:

Laura Miller

Dan Kuhn

Don Walton

Adrienne Zimmerman

Tracey Ellifritz

Anna (Deb Ferrulli)

Mike (Mark McCormick)

Tari Takara

Sophie (Angela Patterson)

Jonelle Lewis (Jenny Fuqua)

Ben Richardson (LaMonts)

Grace Smith and Family (Sadie Oneto)

Liz and Diane Tussey

Bruce (Miriam Thorsen)

Dodi Horvath

Brian (Nancy Burton)

Lynda Goodman (June Perry)


Rev. John Randlett

Rev. Marti Williams

Nancy Burton 5  
Amanda Armstrong 8  
Doug Shinn 9  
Darlene Davis 10  
Brett Thompson 10  
Bobby Breen 15  
Dodi Horvath 16  
Connie Cook 19  
Tara Glessman 19

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.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	Jenny will be on vacation from March 31 - April 2, returning on April 3.	1	2 12:30pm AA & Al-Anon 6:30pm Al-Anon	3	4 2pm First Fridays sm. grp. 12pm Women's AA	5 11am Bell Choir
6 10am worship <i>Holy Communion</i> 11am OSJ EEC 12 - 2pm Confirmation Class	7 6:30pm Al-Anon	8	9 1pm CE mtg., ZOOM 12:30pm AA & Al-Anon 6:30pm Al-Anon	10 WIC in Social Hall 9am - 4pm	11 Youth Posters due 12pm Women's AA	12 11am Bell Choir Earth Day event at Feeney Park 11am - 6pm
13 10am worship 11am Council EEC	14 5:30pm South Grove Bunch sm. grp. 6:30pm Al-Anon	15 10am Family Connections, EEC 1pm F&F mtg. ZOOM	16 5pm Worship mtg., ZOOM 12:30pm AA & Al-Anon 6:30pm Al-Anon	17 10am Faith & Friends sm. grp. Maundy Thursday Mediterranean Supper 5:30pm	18 10am The Wanderers sm. grp. Stations of the Cross 12 - 2pm 12pm Women's AA	19 11am Bell Choir
20 7am Easter Sunrise Service 8:30am Bell Choir 9am Adult Choir 10am Worship <i>Confirmation</i>	21 6:30pm Al-Anon	22  5:30pm The Seekers sm. grp.	23 10am Exec mtg. ZOOM 11am Angels Angels sm. grp. 12:30pm AA & Al-Anon 6:30pm Al-Anon	24	25 12pm Women's AA	26 11am Bell Choir
27	28 6:30pm Al-Anon	29	30			



God's love echoes through us to all creation.  
Webpage: [www.fccmurph.org](http://www.fccmurph.org)  
Email: [nugget@fccmurph.org](mailto:nugget@fccmurph.org)  
Phone: (209)728-3141

DATED MATERIAL - DO NOT DELAY  
APRIL 2025

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

First Congregational Church of Murphys  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
PO Box 48  
509 N. Algiers Street  
Murphys, CA 95247

THE NUGGET



[www.ucc.org](http://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

#### 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.