



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

MARCH 2025 VOLUME 23 ISSUE 3

# THE NUGGET

Open Door United Church of Christ



*There will be an Ash  
Wednesday service at  
Faith Lutheran Church on  
March 5 at 12pm. All are  
welcome to attend.*



## *It's 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,  
renewal, and  
grace.*



*The Council team  
be hosting a  
Lenten Soup  
Supper on  
Wednesday,  
March 19 at  
5:30pm. There will  
be a sign up sheet  
in the Social Hall.*



## Confirmation Class and Confirmation Retreat

Confirmation Class will meet on March 9 following worship and Patty Haskell will lead the class. The Confirmands along with their mentors, Pastor Bonnie, Patty Haskell, and Tami Chesnut will attend a retreat at Mount Madonna Center on March 22 and 23. The mission of Mount Madonna is to hold space for personal transformation.

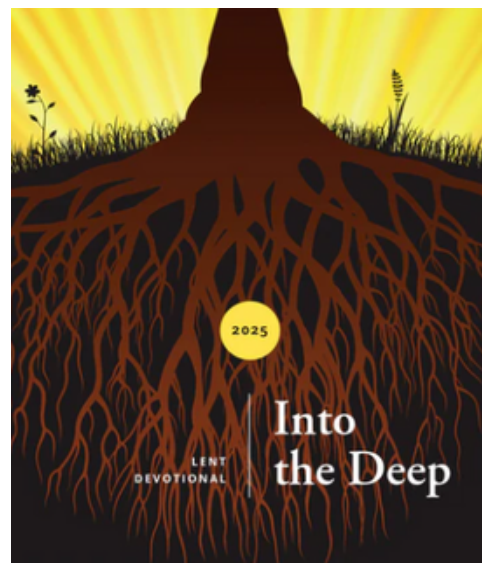
Through a community of practice, stewardship of sacred land, preservation of wisdom, and lifelong learning, Mount Madonna exists to support and foster peace in the world. Please pray for our confirmands and their leaders on this journey. Rev. Penny and Rev Mickey will be preaching March 23.



*You are invited to  
A MEDITATION SERVICE IN THE  
TRADITION OF TAIZÉ*

*Sunday, March 30 at 10am*

*Gather in the candlelit sanctuary for the  
simplicity of music and meditation,  
prayer and silence.*



Lenten Booklets are  
now available!

You can get yours at  
church on

Sunday, March 2.

There is a \$5 suggested  
donation.





# IRISH DAY

## PANCAKE BREAKFAST

**15**  
MARCH



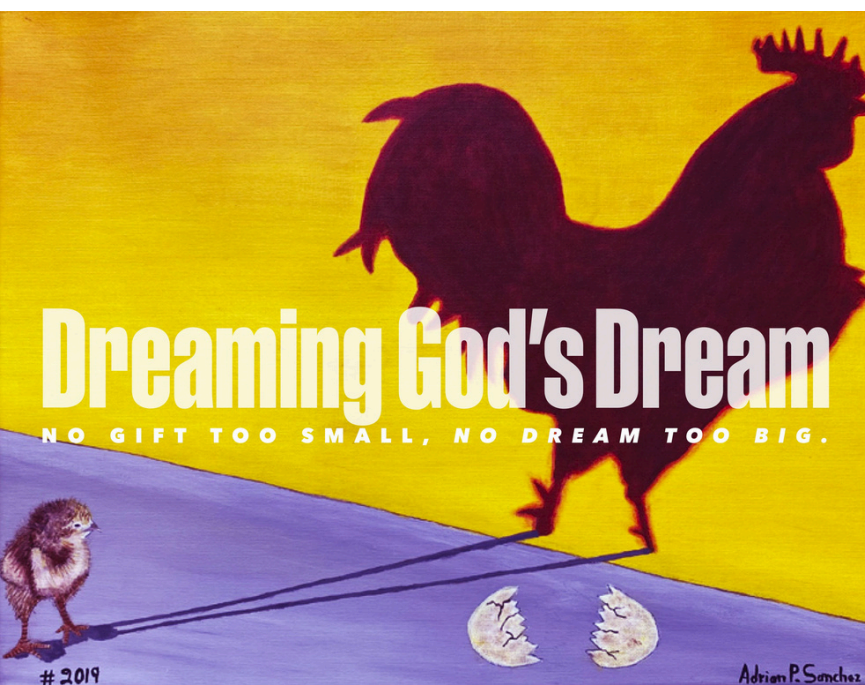
**\$15**  
TICKET

**8:30 - 10:30AM**  
**KIDS UNDER 10 EAT FOR \$10! KIDS UNDER 2 EAT FOR FREE!**

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

**WWW.FCCMURPH.ORG**

TICKETS AVAILABLE ONLINE OR AT THE DOOR  
496 CHURCH ST. (CORNER OF CHURCH AND ALGIERS) MURPHYS  
PH: 209-728-3141



# Dreaming God's Dream

NO GIFT TOO SMALL, NO DREAM TOO BIG.

#2019

Adrian P. Sanchez

## Dreaming God's Dream

NO GIFT TOO SMALL, NO DREAM TOO BIG.

We will be having our  
One Great Hour of Sharing  
offering on Sunday, March 30.

*"Dream God's dream, Holy Spirit, help us dream of a world where there is justice and where everyone is free to build and grow and love and to simply have enough. The world will change when we dream God's dream."*



## *From Our Pastor*

*Can you believe that we are just about ready for the season of Lent? It begins on Ash Wednesday, March 5. You are all invited to a service at Faith Lutheran Church in Murphys at noon. I do so hope you will attend. I will be on vacation and so Rev. Karen Johnson has graciously invited us all to be part of the service.*

*Lent is a powerful time for prayer and meditation. We surely need to be in intercession for our world and our communities. This year we decided to have only one Lenten Soup supper on March 19 at 5:30 p.m. People have expressed that they are a bit worn out and need a break from so many meetings, so the Worship Team is accommodating that request. The council members will be providing the food for the meal and Pastor Bonnie will lead an interactive time together. Let's come together and bless each other!*

*Sometimes people give up something for Lent but I'd like to suggest that we add on to our lives. Let's add love, forgiveness and kindness. Maybe each day you can do one act of love and reflect on how it changed you or the person on whom you gave the love. I'm sure we will have wonderful stories to tell!*

*I hope you will put all the Lenten and Easter activities on your calendar now so we can celebrate these Holy times together. May the peace of God be with you now.*

*Longing for peace in our world, Pastor Bonnie*



*Pastor Bonnie and Dr. Daryl will be on  
vacation from  
Tuesday, Feb. 25 - Wednesday, March 12.*



# *Christian Education Re-cap*

The Christian Education team has been busy with Sunday school, confirmation class and planning for Easter and Vacation Bible school. The Confirmands and their mentors attended the Islamic Center in Manteca for a very



interesting presentation on Islam and how they practice. This trip was also attended by some church members. They learned about the religion and the problems that they face with their religion.

In March the Confirmands and their mentors will be attending the Mount Madonna Center near Santa Cruz. They will be visiting the Sankat Mochan Hanuman temple and attend an Arati sundown Hindu service. The next morning, they will be attending the Land of Medicine Buddha temple and learn about Buddhism and their teachings.

We are looking forward to our famous Easter egg hunt on Easter morning following the church service. Be sure your children and grandchildren attend. We are also beginning our planning for VBS this summer, we will send out dates soon. Unfortunately we will not have our annual multi-age camping trip to Calaveras Big Trees. Big Trees will have their group camp site closed all summer. If you know of another campground that we can reserve for 40-50 people this summer, please let me know. Thanks, Patty



## *Vice-Moderator's View*

Transition. The next few months will be a major transition time for our church community, as we prepare to say farewell to Pastor Bonnie and Dr. Daryl, who have led us in worship and ministry for the last 12 years. This seems to be a good time to look back, and celebrate some of the things that happened during our time together.

Though I wasn't present for that very first year, I did find a copy of the worship service celebrating Pastor Bonnie's installation here on June 2, 2013. Evidently, she introduced us to Elder Mouse on that very first day. Of course, he is retiring with her, and we will miss his wise discussions during family time. But our family programs blossomed with Pastor Bonnie's loving care and attention.

I was here for a major milestone that occurred in 2014. That was when Pastor Bonnie helped our congregation work through the many issues that had prevented us from adopting an open and affirming statement. We officially became an open and affirming congregation within the United Church of Christ in June of that year. Very shortly afterwards, we worked with local groups to provide support for LGBTQ youth in Calaveras and Tuolumne Counties.

Our music programs have also flourished during this time, and have been a major contributor to the growth of our congregation, in large part due to the wonderful talent and direction of Dr. Daryl. The adult choir, children's choirs, soloists, hand bells, chimes, drums, harps, flutes and other wind instruments, and a new sophisticated organ have all contributed to and inspired our worship services under his direction. We have certainly been making a joyful noise!

And there are so many other stepping stones and leaps that we made during the past 12 years. We have worshiped together, we have danced together, we have sung together, we have celebrated life together, we have served our neighbors, and we have lived our mission. Let's count our blessings and celebrate our good fortune in having Pastor Bonnie Hollinger and Dr. Daryl Hollinger in our midst during these wonderful years.

## *Treasurer's Article*

Congratulations to Judy Regalia and her team for a successful Chocolate festival. I was disappointed I missed it. I know that Wendy Glessman and her team are busy preparing for our next fundraiser, the Pancake Breakfast, on March 15th. We are also receiving money on a monthly basis from the E-script account at Sierra Hills and Angels Food Market. For the last 3 months we have received \$83.00 in this account. Don't forget to let the store know that you have an e-script account and give them your phone number. If you want to sign up, or have questions, please let me know. Thank you to everyone for approving the 2025 budget and your continued financial support of the Church. Patty





## CHOIR REHEARSAL SCHEDULE

BELL CHOIR :

SATURDAY, MARCH 15, 22 AND 29 AT 11AM

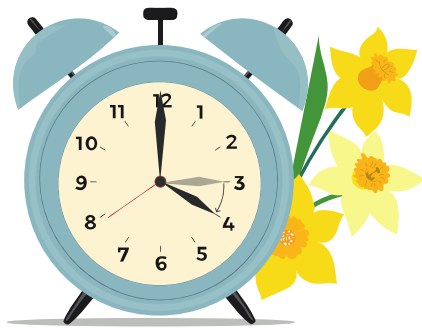
SUNDAY, MARCH 16 AT 9AM

THERE WILL BE NO BELL CHOIR  
REHEARSAL ON SATURDAY  
MARCH 1 & MARCH 8.

ADULT CHOIR:

SUNDAY, MARCH 23 AT 9AM.

THERE WILL BE NO ADULT CHOIR  
REHEARSAL ON SUNDAY  
MARCH 2 AND MARCH 9.



*Spring Forward!*  
*Don't forget to set your clocks*  
*AHEAD one hour on*  
*Sunday, March 9.*



## Small Group Schedule

Friday, March 7:

***First Fridays***

2pm, Vallecito

Tuesday, March 11:

***South Grove Bunch***

5:30pm, Williams Room

Tuesday, March 18:

***The Seekers***

5:30pm, Williams Room

Thursday, March 20:

***Faith & Friends***

10am, Williams Room

Friday, March 21:

***The Wanderers***

10am, Murphys

Wednesday, March 29:

***Angels Angels***

11am, Angels Camp



# Next Month...

## HOLY WEEK

We Believe



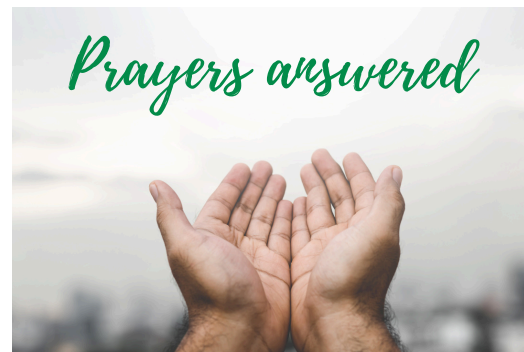
*Palm Sunday*  
*April 13*

*Maundy Thursday*  
*April 17*

*Good Friday*  
*April 18*

*Holy Saturday*  
*April 19*

*Easter Sunday*  
*April 20*



The scriptures tell us:

*“Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for,  
the conviction of things not seen..”*

Hebrews 11 - 11

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:

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

**Joyce Hauck-Swanson 3**

**Diane Campana 8**

**Carl Smith 9**

**Walt Markus 11**

**Daryl Hollinger 17**

**Pete Ryan 23**

**Pam Kimes 24**

**Mary Kelly 26**

**Chris Markus 27**

**Kelsey Markus-Sterrett 27**

**Diane Tussey 28**

**Geroage Haskell 29**

**Phil Hosmer 31**

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.



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						<b>1</b>
<b>10am</b> worship <b>Holy Communion</b> <b>12pm</b> New Member Lunch at Murphys Diggins	<b>6:30pm</b> Al-Anon	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> Ash Wednesday 12pm Service at Faith Lutheran 12:30pm AA & Al-Anon 6:30pm Al-Anon	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 2pm First Fridays sm. grp. 12pm Women's AA	<b>8</b>
<b>10am</b> worship <b>11am OSJ EEC</b> 12 - 2pm Confirmation Class	<b>10</b> 1pm F&F mtg. ZOOM 6:30pm Al-Anon	<b>11</b> 5:30pm South Grove Bunch sm. grp.	<b>12</b> 12:30pm AA & Al-Anon 6:30pm Al-Anon	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> Irish Day Pancake Breakfast 8:30 - 10:30am 11am Bell Choir
<b>9am</b> Bell Choir 10am worship 11am Council EEC	<b>17</b> HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY 12:30pm M&C mtg., Fisk 6:30pm Al-Anon	<b>18</b> 10am Family Connections, EEC 5:30pm The Seekers sm. grp.	<b>19</b> Lenten Soup Supper 5:30pm 12:30pm AA & Al-Anon 6:30pm Al-Anon	<b>20</b> 10am Faith & Friends sm. grp.	<b>21</b> 10am The Wanderers sm. grp. 12pm Women's AA	<b>22</b> 11am Bell Choir Confirmand Retreat at Mount Madonna
<b>9am</b> Adult Choir 10am Worship Confirmand Retreat at Mount Madonna	<b>24</b> 10am Exec mtg. ZOOM 6:30pm Al-Anon	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 11am Angels Angels sm. grp. 12:30pm AA & Al-Anon 6:30pm Al-Anon	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 12pm Women's AA	<b>29</b> 11am Bell Choir
<b>10am</b> TAIZÉ Worship Service OGHS Offering 12 - 2pm Family Program	<b>31</b> 6:30pm Al-Anon					



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

MARCH 2025  
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](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.