

THE NUGGET

Open Door United Church of Christ

Welcome our new Music Director!



Kate Moody is a composer and pianist who has produced eight CDs of her work, ranging from solo piano to symphonic works. Her music is inspired by nature and by her studies of spiritual philosophy - "Being attentive to the field of awareness," (Amit Goswani). Kate's first church job was in 1990 as Choir Director at Suquamish UCC in Suquamish, Washington, with Rev. Dick Kroll. Working with choirs and congregations has inspired many choral pieces - originals and arrangements. Kate looks forward to creating meaningful moments of uplifting music with all of you at Open Door!



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

*We are in
the Season
After
Pentecost
and the
color is
green.*



Interim Thoughts

Hiking last week at Big Trees South Grove, we noticed the dogwood trees taking on color. Aspen leaves were preparing

to golden. Everything is alive with the hint of Fall. Kids are back at school. Clouds can be seen over the mountains. The changing of the seasons is upon us.

Speaking of seasons, in worship this September we will observe, "The Season of Creation." As the season of Pentecost is so long many churches have elected to use the month of September to focus attention on the beauty of God's good creation, as well as the threats to it.

This is the 20th year since Hurricane Katrina, and the devastation it brought to NOLA. I remember going to New Orleans on the first Monday of every month, working with Dr. C.T. Vivian to partner predominantly White congregations with Black churches to bring back the people in a project that Dr. Vivian called "Churches Helping Churches."

Remember the devastation wrought on the Ninth Ward? I listened to the laments of many of the Black pastors from the Ninth and other parts of NOLA—their churches occupied the low ground, of course. Environmental racism helps ensure that those who are the most vulnerable feel tragedy first. The White churches that assisted the Black churches of NOLA reported that the relationships they formed were life changing—transformational.

When a hurricane is coming you don't say, "What is your race? What's your gender? What's your politics?" No—you say, "Pass the sandbag."

As we hear of new challenges to our environment in recent days, it is good to remember that we are not powerless. People of good will coming together can make a huge difference. Margaret Mead put it this way: Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.

Finally, a word about loneliness.

Loneliness has become an epidemic in modern America. More people live alone than at any time in our history. Many never know the joy of human touch—for months, even years.

It's possible to feel alone, even in church.

Two things I'd like for us to do:

- 1) Use the "Connection Card" during Sunday worship to send me a personal message. I promise to reach out to you within a day of receiving your message. I will take you for coffee or come to your home. We can talk. Tell me where it hurts.

- 2) If you see someone in church who is sitting alone during worship, do not stand idly by. Go sit with them. Your family will understand. No one should ever have to worship alone.

May the peace of the Risen Christ be with you, always, Gary

Musical Offerings



MUSICAL SANCTUARY: SIMPLY BEING Musical Sanctuary is a contemplative service of music, readings, and guided and silent meditation, exploring different topics and principles related to spiritual growth and healing. The service uses the Connect & Glow meditative technique which helps us experience ourselves and all of life as benevolent, dynamic energy. Connect & Glow begins with Connect the Dots - visualizing energy centers - followed by Being Glow, adding a few energy centers, and exploring the qualities of each center. The deep relaxation and openness brought on by the Connect & Glow practice helps the release of patterns of tension, and supports personal growth. This self-healing technique is suitable for beginning as well as seasoned practitioners.



September Choir Schedule:

Sunday, Sept. 7 9:00 am
Hymn warmup & rehearsal

Saturday, Sept. 13 10:00 am
Saturday rehearsal

Sunday, Sept. 14 9:00am
Hymn warmup & rehearsal

Sunday, Sept. 21 9:00am
Hymn warmup and rehearsal

Sunday, Sept. 28 9:00am
Hymn warmup & rehearsal





Vice-Moderator's Musings

The Nugget is one of the major ways that we keep in touch with the friends of our church who are not able to join us on a regular basis, so I will be trying to keep all of you informed as we proceed with our search for a “settled” pastor over the next year or so.

It is an important time in the life of our church, and we want to involve as many of the people who care about us as possible.

The Pastoral Search Committee has been collecting some initial feedback from various members by asking a few basic questions about who we are, and who we want to be. If you want to participate in this process, we would love to hear your own answers to these questions:

- 1) What do you like best about Open Door United Church of Christ?***
- 2) What do you like least about Open Door United Church of Christ?***
- 3) What is most important to you in a pastor?***
- 4) What are the most important things to convey to candidates about Open Door?***

Please take a little time to think about these questions, and consider providing your response to one of the members of the search committee, or send an email to me, at olivierleigh2@gmail.com , and I will share your response with the committee.

I must admit that I did ask a question of our readers in my last article, but sadly did not receive any responses. Maybe that is because I did not print my email address in the article. I look forward especially to hearing from those of you who cannot give your answers in person!

Submitted by Barbara Olivier

Do you know the members of the pastoral search committee?

Seven people were chosen to be members of the pastoral search committee at last

January's congregational meeting. Each of them takes this task very seriously, and they are doing their best to complete the task of selecting what is known as a “settled” pastor for our church. You are welcome to speak to any one of them about this process.

**Tami Chesnut
Noel Helmbrecht
Mark McCormick
Barbara Olivier
Judy Regalia
Penny Sarvis
Carrie Shinn**

Please keep them all in your prayers.

Treasurer's Report

Please attend the Congregational meeting on September 14th to discuss the parking lot repairs bid. I propose that we take money from the Union Church sale to do this repair. We currently have \$93,184 in that account. There has many discussions in Finance and Facilities about using the Union proceeds to maintain our facilities. Please call me if you have any questions. Thanks for your continued financial support for the running of the Church. Patty



Christian Education Recap

The Christian Ed committee has been busy planning for rest of the year. We have an upcoming open house, September 7th with root beer and orange floats. Come and visit the Sunday School room, see the curriculum and enjoy the refreshments. The Advent workshop will be December 7th from 3:00-6:00. Come enjoy making Advent decorations and enjoy a soup supper. The children's program will be December 21 during worship. Pastor Gary and I will be working on a script for this event. We will end the year with our New Years Eve party from 7-9 at the Church, everyone welcome. We are also planning on our Big Trees camp out in June of 2026. So, mark your calendars and come join us!! Hope everyone is enjoying the cooler fall weather. Patty

Welcome to our new Childcare Worker!

We are pleased to announce that we have hired a new childcare worker for our Sunday School program, Abby Fuqua. Many of you know her because her mom is the church secretary. She is happy to be working here at Open Door and already feels very welcome and supported.



Reaching Out

By Open Door Church's Outreach & Social Justice Team

The goings on and workings of Outreach and Social Justice Team through this year

Who are we?

The Outreach and Social Justice Team is a group of 10 church members who work to advocate for Earth and Social Justice in Open Door Church. In January of 2024 the team came up with three statements that we agreed reflect the team's mission. We want to nurture the congregation to be mission locally, nationally, and internationally. We want to work towards social and earth justice locally, worldwide, and with our partners in ministry. We want to promote and encourage hands-on mission opportunities for the whole church. This year, three new members joined the team who represent the church's youth, the church's new members, and prior members of the Union Church. With them we have a diverse, creative, and vibrant team and we can't wait to put together more opportunities and events for the church and community!

Planned Activities for 2025

The Outreach and Social Justice Team is moving into an event filled next couple of months. With members of our congregation and members of the Faith Lutheran Church we will have an informational booth at the annual LGBTQ Pride in the Park event at the Murphys Community Park on September 6 from 12 noon to 4:00 p.m. On September 14, the Team will be hosting a presentation by Merita Callaway about her charitable work in Ukraine. We will providing a Ukrainian themed lunch to go with the presentation. If you're interested in attending this fascinating presentation please RSVP on the sign up sheet in the Social Hall or by calling Lynne Bird at 209-768-8677. In October, we will again be doing a Halloween Candy Drive for the folks who live on Rocky Hill Road (the county's "Halloween Central". The team will again be asking for Christmas gifts for the Calaveras Crisis Center (a group housing victims of domestic violence) and Golden Nursing Home in San Andreas. We are also planning to again bring Christmas cheer to the residents of Golden Nursing home through song, refreshment, gifts, and fellowship.

Partners in Ministry

We currently have 3 partners in ministry. Our partners are non-profits in the community who we support by providing volunteers, goods, services, and money. Sierra Hope, The Resource Connection, and Habitat for Humanity are our 3 partners. We are reaching out to their board to find out how we can best support their incredible work. Sierra Hope is going to be hosting an event for the unhoused community at Utica Park in October. We have reached out to Sierra Hope to find out how we can best support their event and will be reaching out to the church via the Weekly Email and announcements at the Church Service advising you all what we're doing. The Food Drive in the Social Hall is still going on for the Resource Connection and we are hoping more members will contribute. Food items brought in are taken by members of the team to the Resource Connection in San Andreas Regularly. Habitat for Humanity is actively working on their Angels Camp Project and

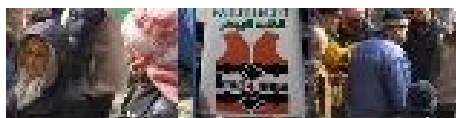
we will be letting the Church know how we can best support them. We will also be sharing volunteer opportunities with other non-profits and service organizations with the church as we hear of them.

Looking Ahead

Some of our events and activities have not been completely finalized yet. We're hoping, thanks to Alan Horvath, to have an online course on the United States Constitution soon. We're hoping to come up with some events/activities for the teenagers in the community. We're looking into hosting a welcome celebration with church and community members to welcome Pastor Gary and Resea. Please read your Weekly Email to keep informed as to what the Outreach and Social Justice Team is doing. We are looking at lots of opportunities and events in the Spring as well. We'll post another Nugget Article as Spring approaches.

Hands On Global (Merita's Charity)

According to their Website, "Hands on Global serves disadvantaged, underserved, and displaced people hand-to-hand and heart-to-heart by providing medical support". Hands on Global is working in Gaza, Syria, India, Resettlement Camps in the US, and other Refugee Camps worldwide. As of April the charity has made 6 visits to Ukraine providing medical supplies and support to the Ukrainian people devastated by the war. Merita has gone on a few of these missions. For more information on Hands on Global or how to donate for much needed medical supplies please go to www.handsonglobal.org.



*"... You must continue
this work."*

~ His Holiness the Dalai Lama

Partners in Ministry



Feeling Overwhelmed? You're Not Alone.



Rev. Molly Baskette is the lead pastor of First Church Berkeley UCC and the author of books about church renewal, parenting, spiritual growth and more. Sign up for her author newsletter or get information about her newest book at mollybaskette.com.

Then [Jesus] said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few, therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.” - Matthew 9:37-38 (ESV)

One of my fatal flaws is thinking it all depends on me: my labor, my know-how, my commitment to getting the job done. I call this Little Red Hen mode.

Remember her? She sowed the seed, weeded the field, harvested and milled the grain, baked the bread, inviting her fellow farm animals into the work at every step. They begged off, but when they smelled that bread baking, they sure came running.

The hen let them watch while she carbo-loaded that whole loaf by herself. I would never. Instead, I would feed everybody while harboring bitterness that no one had helped me along the way.

My church recently made a big thing happen: creating an emergency shelter for LGBTQ+ asylum seekers. I was overwhelmed with many tasks and found it hard to delegate. Among other things, we needed new mattresses.

An agency gave me the name of a mattress store that might be willing to donate. I almost didn't call. I feared red tape and, frankly, rejection: either because we were a church or because we were supporting trans refugees.

But I'm trying to change my attitude, so I called. Joe answered on the second ring. He was warm, receptive. He joked, “If I can get corporate to donate the mattresses, maybe you can pray for me in exchange?”

Playing along, I said, “I'll pray for you even if you don't get us the mattresses. What do you want?”

He turned shy. “Well...every night my family prays for other families—all kinds of families, however they got here. That everyone can live in peace and safety.”

“I'll join you in that prayer.” Corporate didn't donate the mattresses. But Joe and his employees all chipped in and paid for them anyhow.

When we get embittered that we are the only one doing God's work, we might stop and ask ourselves if we have prayed and acted in ways that invite others in to find their place in it.

Prayer

Holy Farmer, may I sometimes stop my voluntary stoop laboring to look around and find fellow field hands, and trade bitterness for playfulness.

Outdoor Worship at White Pines

Our annual Outdoor Worship at White Pines was pretty magical. The worship - message and music - was wonderful! The flock of geese flying over the lake right after Gary read "Wild Geese" by Mary Oliver was pretty spectacular. Make sure to check in our Facebook group to see videos of the service. Many thanks to all of the unsung heroes who work so hard to make this event happen. We couldn't do it without you!



BELIEVE
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BELIEVE

Small Group Schedule:

First Fridays
Friday, Sept. 5
2pm
Alan Horvath

South Grove Bunch
Monday, Sept. 8
5:30pm
Faye Morrison

The Seekers
Tuesday, Sept. 16
5pm
Faye Morrison

Faith & Friends
Thursday, Sept. 18
10am
Pam Kimes

The Wanderers
Friday, Sept. 19
10:30am
Marilyn Baisel

Angels Angels
Weds., Sept. 24
11am
Barb Olivier

DECLARATION FOR AN END TO GENOCIDE IN PALESTINE**A Resolution of Witness****TEXT OF THE MOTION**

WHEREAS international bodies and agencies including the UN General Assembly,¹ The International Criminal Court,² Genocide Watch,³ Amnesty International⁴ and Human Rights Watch⁵ have each conducted investigations within the past 18 months and concluded that the actions of the State of Israel in Palestine constitute war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide; and

WHEREAS more than 200 journalists and media workers have been killed in targeted attacks by the Israeli Defense Force making it the deadliest ever conflict for journalists⁶; and

WHEREAS medical providers in Gaza⁷ have reported that there is a pattern of children having been killed by single gunshot wounds to the head or torso indicating targeted killing, medical aid and supplies have been blocked from entering Gaza by the Israeli military, over 1,000 medical workers have been killed by Israeli forces,⁸ and hospitals have been targeted by the Israeli Defense Force⁹; and

WHEREAS as of March 22, 2025, *at least* 50,523 Palestinians in Gaza and 905 Palestinians in the West Bank have directly been killed by the Israeli Defense Forces since October 7, 2023, of which an estimated 15,781 were children¹⁰; and

WHEREAS between October 7, 2023, and September 30, 2024, an estimated 67,413+ Palestinians in Gaza were killed indirectly by starvation, lack of access to medical care, and water contamination¹¹; and

WHEREAS since March 2, 2025, the State of Israel, has blocked aid supplies including food, fuel, water, and medicine from entering Gaza, and the Israeli defense minister, Israel Katz, said, "Israel's policy is clear: no humanitarian aid will enter Gaza"¹²; and

WHEREAS on March 18, 2025, the State of Israel resumed airstrikes on Gaza ending the ceasefire agreement¹³ a mere two months after the ceasefire was agreed to¹⁴; and

WHEREAS the U.S. federal government has used tax-funded dollars to give the State of Israel approximately \$34 billion in military weapons, arms, and other financial support between October 2023 and March 2025, at least 69% of Israel's arms imports come from the US, and US made military vehicles and weapons have been identified as being used to conduct acts of genocide¹⁵; and

WHEREAS the U.S. Government has violated the federal Leahy Law which prohibits the U.S. Government, "from using funds for assistance to units of foreign security forces where there is credible information implicating that unit in the commission of gross violations of human rights (GVHR)."¹⁶; and

WHEREAS the U.S. government has disregarded the International Criminal Court's arrest warrants¹⁷ for Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu and former Defense Minister Yoav Gallant, and instead welcomed Netanyahu as a guest to the White House¹⁸ and Congress¹⁹; and

WHEREAS U.S. President Donald Trump and Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu have plans underway to relocate Palestinians in Gaza to other countries, permanently displacing them, and taking their homeland to use as a real estate project²⁰; and

WHEREAS the right to free speech as protected by the U.S. Constitution has been violated by arrests, imprisonment, deportation, and violent attacks by law enforcement on Pro-Palestinian activists²¹; and

WHEREAS the Thirty-Third General Synod of the United Church of Christ passed a Declaration for Just Peace Between Palestine and Israel²² in 2021, following a tradition of decades of support and advocacy for healing and restitution, and a condemnation of violence;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Thirty-Fifth General Synod of the United Church of Christ adopts the following declaration:

1. We *affirm* that all ~~those~~are made in God's image and are deserving of life free from oppression, persecution, and violence.
2. We *denounce* all acts of the U.S. Government and the State of Israel that contribute to a continuation of the genocide of the Palestinian people.
3. We *affirm* that the ongoing genocide of the Palestinian people perpetrated by the State of Israel and supported by ~~in partnership with~~ the U.S. is a humanitarian crisis that calls for immediate action.
4. We *reject* any theology or ideology including Christian Zionism, Supercessionism, antisemitism, anti-Arab, anti-Palestinian, or anti-Islam bias that would privilege or exclude any one nation, race, culture or religion within God's universal economy of grace²³.
5. We *affirm* the obligation of the U.S. to recognize international law, immediately cease all sales and transfers of military arms and financial support to the State of Israel, and use all legal and diplomatic tools to help bring about a permanent peace which includes: protection of the rights of Palestinians to live in their homeland free from violence, to uphold their human rights, to be released from military occupation, the rights of refugees to return to their homes, and their right to self-determination.
6. We *affirm* the obligation of the State of Israel to immediately end the attacks on Palestinians, end military occupation, and to expedite critical aid to enter Gaza, and pay restitution to the Palestinian people.
7. We *reject* the idea that any criticism of policies of the State of Israel is inherently antisemitic, and we oppose the efforts of U.S. federal and state governments to limit free speech.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all settings of the United Church of Christ be encouraged to receive this Resolution as a prophetic call and commit to:

1. Stand in solidarity with the Palestinian people and to denounce the ongoing genocide whether that be through the context of public witness, legislative advocacy, legal action, or non-violent direct action.
2. Call on our government to cease providing financial sponsorship, military arms, and political cover to the State of Israel for acts of genocide.

3. Denounce hate and violence in all its forms including that rooted in Islamophobia, anti-Palestinian and anti-Arab bias, and antisemitism, as contrary to the teachings of Jesus and the love of God for all humanity.
4. Share this declaration, [pray, and speak](#) ~~and speak~~ within our congregations and communities about the genocide in Palestine.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Thirty-Fifth General Synod of the United Church of Christ encourages the National Setting, Conferences, ~~and Associations~~, [and the Local Church](#) to increase capacity and resources to support and advocate for an immediate end to the genocide of the Palestinian people.

FUNDING: The funding for the implementation of the Resolution will be made in accordance with the overall mandates of the affected agencies and the funds available.

IMPLEMENTATION: The Officers of the Church, in consultation with appropriate ministries or other entities within the United Church of Christ, will determine the implementing body.

¹ "Genocide as colonial erasure - Report of Francesca Albanese, the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967" <https://www.un.org/unispal/document/genocide-as-colonial-erasure-report-francesca-albanese-01oct24/>. Accessed 22 April 2025.

² "Situation in the State of Palestine: ICC Pre-Trial Chamber I rejects the State of Israel's challenges to jurisdiction and issues warrants of arrest for Benjamin Netanyahu and Yoav Gallant." | *International Criminal Court*, 21 November 2024, <https://www.icc-cpi.int/news/situation-state-palestine-icc-pre-trial-chamber-i-rejects-state-israels-challenges>. Accessed 22 April 2025.

³ Condon, Grace, and Frankie Condon. "Genocide is Never Justifiable: Israel and Hamas in Gaza." *Genocide Watch*, 20 February 2024, <https://www.genocidewatch.com/single-post/genocide-is-never-justifiable-israel-and-hamas-in-gaza>. Accessed 22 April 2025.

⁴ "Amnesty concludes Israel is committing genocide in Gaza." *Amnesty International*, 5 December 2024, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2024/12/amnesty-international-concludes-israel-is-committing-genocideagainst-palestinians-in-gaza/>. Accessed 22 April 2025.

⁵ <https://www.hrw.org/report/2024/12/19/extermination-and-acts-genocide/israel-deliberately-depriving-palestiniansgaza>

⁶ "Targeted, killed, burned alive: Journalists in Gaza attacked by Israel." *Al Jazeera*, 7 April 2025, <https://www.aljazeera.com/features/2025/4/7/targeted--burned-alivejournalists-in-gaza-attacked-by-israel>.

⁷ Sidhwa, Feroze, et al. "Opinion | What Doctors and Health Care Workers in Gaza Saw." *The New York Times*, 9 October 2024, <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2024/10/09/opinion/gaza-doctor-interviews.html>, accessed 22 April 2025, and The Chris Hedges Youtube Channel. *Israel's Eradication of Gaza's Healthcare System (w/ Dr. Feroze Sidhwa)*. 23 April 2025. *youtube*, <https://youtu.be/lp9lEnYa4q0?si=csooUpRy6WLeifJk>. video.

⁸ Doctors Without Borders. "Gaza crisis: MSF response to the Israel-Gaza war." *Doctors Without Borders*, 24 April 2025, <https://www.doctorswithoutborders.org/latest/our-response-israel-gaza-war>. Accessed 24 April 2025, and Doctors Without Borders. "Remembering our colleagues killed in Gaza." *Doctors Without Borders*, 21 March 2025, <https://www.doctorswithoutborders.org/latest/remembering-our-colleagues-killed-gaza>. Accessed 24 April 2025.

⁹ "Timeline: Israel's attacks on hospitals throughout its war on Gaza." *Al Jazeera*, 13 April 2025, <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2025/4/13/timeline-israels-attacks-on-hospitals-throughout-its-war-on-gaza>.

¹⁰ Kiyada, Sudev, et al. "The lives lost in Gaza: A closer look at those killed in the conflict so far." *Reuters*, 1 March 2025, <https://www.reuters.com/graphics/ISRAEL-PALESTINIANS/FATALITIES/byvrxlqeqve/>. Accessed 22 April 2025; and Al-Mughrabi, Nidal, and Emma Farge. "Gaza death toll: how many Palestinians has Israel's offensive killed?" *Reuters*, <https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/how-many-palestinians-has-israels-gaza-offensive-killed2025-01-15/>. Accessed 22 April 2025; and "Israel-Gaza war in maps and charts: Live tracker." *Al Jazeera*, 9 October 2023, <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/longform/2023/10/9/israel-hamas-war-in-maps-and-charts-live-tracker>. Accessed 22 April 2025. ^{xvi} Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs. "The Human Toll: Indirect Deaths from War in Gaza and the West Bank, October 7, 2023 Forward." *Cost of War*, 7 October 2024

¹¹ https://watson.brown.edu/costsofwar/files/cow/imce/papers/2023/2024/Costs%20of%20War_Human%20Toll%20Since%20Oct%207.pdf.

¹² Ellis, Hannah. "No plans to allow any aid into Gaza, says Israeli minister." *The Guardian*, 16 April 2025, <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2025/apr/16/no-humanitarian-aid-gaza-israeli-minister-israel-katz-hamas>

¹³ The Guardian. "Israel strikes that shattered ceasefire 'just the beginning', Netanyahu says, after deadliest 24 hours in Gaza since 2023 – as it happened." *The Guardian*, 18 March 2025, <https://www.theguardian.com/world/live/2025/mar/18/israel-gaza-live-blog-updates-air-strikes-strip-netanyahuhamas>

¹⁴ Wikipedia. "2025 Gaza war ceasefire." *Wikipedia*, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2025_Gaza_war_ceasefire. Accessed 24 April 2025

¹⁵ "US plans emergency Israel arms deals worth nearly \$3 billion." *VOA*, 28 February 2025, <https://www.voanews.com/a/us-plans-emergency-israel-arms-deals-worth-nearly-3-billion/7993398.html>. Accessed 22 April 2025; and Reuters. "Rubio expedites delivery of \$4 billion in military aid to Israel." *VOA news*, 2 March 2025, <https://www.voanews.com/a/rubio-expedites-delivery-of-4-billion-in-military-aid-to-israel/7994060.html>. Accessed 22 April 2025; and Watson Institute for International & Public Affairs, Brown University. "United States Spending on Israel's Military Operations and Related U.S. Operations in the Region, October 7, 2023-September 30, 2024 | Costs of War." *Costs of War*, 7 October 2024, <https://watson.brown.edu/costsofwar/papers/2024/USspendingIsrael>. Accessed 22 April 2025; and The Times of Israel, and Tal Schneider. "Amid arms embargo calls, data shows 99% of Israeli weapon imports are from US, Germany." *The Times of Israel*, 24 March 2024, <https://www.timesofisrael.com/amid-arms-embargocalls-data-shows-99-of-israeli-weapon-imports-are-from-us-germany/>; and Aydin, Yavuz. "Which US-made weaponry does Israel, which stands accused of genocide, use in Gaza?" *Anadolu Ajansi*, 6 June 2024, <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/americas/which-us-made-weaponry-does-israel-whichstands-accused-of-genocide-use-in-gaza/3241486>.

¹⁶ "Leahy Law Fact Sheet - United States Department of State." *State Department*, 20 January 2025, <https://www.state.gov/bureau-of-democracy-human-rights-and-labor/releases/2025/01/leahy-law-fact-sheet>

¹⁷ Al Lawati, Abbas, et al. "International Criminal Court issues arrest warrant for Israeli Prime Minister." *CNN*, 22 November 2024, <https://www.cnn.com/2024/11/21/middleeast/international-criminal-court-issues-arrest-warrant-forisraeli-prime-minister-intl/index.html>

¹⁸ Wilson, Caitlin, and Emily Atkinson. "Netanyahu meets US lawmakers as Trump sanctions International Criminal Court - follow live." *BBC*, 6 February 2025, <https://www.bbc.com/news/live/cvg4zwwcz9et>

¹⁹ Knickmeyer, Ellen, et al. "In fiery speech to Congress, Netanyahu vows 'total victory' in Gaza and denounces US protesters." *AP*, 24 July 2024, <https://apnews.com/article/netanyahu-congress-gaza-hamas-israel-6ea5daf3cd1988b0ad6e874bd450f9bf>

²⁰ "AP report: U.S. and Israel look to Africa for permanent relocation of Palestinians from Gaza." *PBS*, 14 March 2025, <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/world/ap-report-u-s-and-israel-look-to-africa-for-permanent-relocation-of-palestinians-from-gaza>; and "Israel building agency to steer Palestinian 'voluntary departure' from Gaza." *Al Jazeera*, 24 March 2025, <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2025/3/24/israel-building-agency-to-steer-palestinian-voluntary-departure-fromgaza>

²¹ "US detains Palestinian activist Mohsen Mahdawi at citizenship interview." *Al Jazeera*, 15 April 2025, <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2025/4/15/palestinian-student-arrested-at-us-citizenship-interview-over-gazaprotests>; and "Judge allows Columbia graduate Mahmoud Khalil's deportation." *BBC*, 11 April 2025, <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cwy0ngd11yzo>; and "Pro-Palestinian demonstrators who occupied Stanford building are charged with felonies." *AP News*, 10 April 2025, <https://apnews.com/article/propalestinian-stanford-protesters-arrests-charges-88b82d95fd56dfd16f97c0a576f7cd86>; and "A look at the people ensnared in Trump's campaign against pro-Palestinian activism at US colleges." *AP News*, 1 April 2025, <https://apnews.com/article/immigration-detainees-students-ozturk-khalil-78f544fb2c8b593c88a0c1f0e0ad9c5f>

²² Shalom United Church of Christ, New Haven, Connecticut. "DECLARATION FOR A JUST PEACE BETWEEN PALESTINE AND ISRAEL." *General Synod*, 2021, <https://www.palestineportal.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/UCC-General-Synod-2021-Resolution-I-P.pdf>

²³ This is taken from Declaration For A Just Peace Between Palestine and Israel resolution passed at the 33rd General Synod in 2021.

September Birthdays



Stella Sundberg 1
Maxine Harper 5
Syl Walton 5
Ian Olivas 8
Alice Williams 11
Cathy Kuhn 14
Carol Woods 24
Jim Walton 25
Rose Mulvaney 26
Mickey Williamson 26
Marci Duggan 26
Tanya Sundberg 30

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.

Prayers answered



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

Tabitha Kremesec

Shirley Soderer

Pat Keene

Jodie and Dianne Gibson

Terry Dowell

Lauren Clark Tusa

Tracey Ellifritz

Baby Rowan

Lynne Klein

Matt Olivier

Robin Chesnut

Sandy Fox-Hill

Laura Miller

Adrienne Zimmerman

Tari Takara

Ben Richardson

Bruce (Miriam Thorsen)

Dodi Horvath

Brian Whitehead

Rev. John Randlett

Rev. Marty Williams

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	 <p>1</p> <p>6:30pm Al-Anon</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p> <p>8:15am Morning Prayer, Zoom</p> <p>4:30pm Worship mtg. ZOOM</p> <p>12:30pm AA</p> <p>6:30pm AA</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p> <p>12pm Women's AA</p> <p>2pm First Fridays</p>	 <p>6</p> <p>12-4pm Murphys Pride in the Park</p>
<p>9am Choir rehearsal</p> <p>10am worship</p> <p><i>Holy Communion</i></p> <p>11am - 12pm</p> <p>Sunday School Kick-Off</p> <p>7</p>	<p>8</p> <p>5:30pm</p> <p>South Grove Bunch</p> <p>6:30pm Al-Anon</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p> <p>8:15am Morning Prayer, Zoom</p> <p>12:30pm AA</p> <p>6:30pm AA</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p> <p>12pm Women's AA</p>	<p>13</p> <p>10am Choir rehearsal</p>
<p>9am Choir rehearsal</p> <p>10am Worship</p> <p>12:15pm</p> <p>lunch with</p> <p>Merita</p> <p>14</p>	<p>1:30pm F&F mtg. ZOOM</p> <p>6:30pm Al-Anon</p> <p>15</p>	<p>10:30am Past. Search mtg., EEC</p> <p>12pm M&C mtg. EEC</p> <p>5:30pm The Seekers</p> <p>16</p>	<p>8:15am Morning Prayer, Zoom</p> <p>12:30pm AA</p> <p>6:30pm AA</p> <p>17</p>	<p>10am Faith & Friends</p> <p>18</p>	<p>10am The Wanderers</p> <p>12pm Women's AA</p> <p>19</p>	<p>20</p>
<p>9am Choir rehearsal</p> <p>10am Worship</p> <p>11am Council mtg., EEC</p> <p>21</p>	<p>6:30pm Al-Anon</p> <p>22</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>8:15am Morning Prayer, Zoom</p> <p>11am Angels Angels</p> <p>12:30pm AA</p> <p>6:30pm AA</p> <p>24</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>12pm Women's AA</p> <p>26</p>	<p>27</p>
<p>9am Choir rehearsal</p> <p>10am Worship</p> <p>12:30pm</p> <p>New Member Class</p> <p>28</p>	<p>6:30pm Al-Anon</p> <p>29</p>	<p>30</p>				

God's love echoes through us to all creation.

Webpage: www.fccmurph.org

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SEPTEMBER 2025

DATED MATERIAL - DO NOT DELAY

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UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

First Congregational Church of Murphys

THE NUGGET



www.ucc.org

Staff

Interim Pastor Rev. Dr. Gary Percesepe

Pastor Emeritus Rev. Dr. John Randlett

Music Director Kate Moody

Secretary Jenny Fuqua

Custodian Lucie Tardif

Christian Ed Director Patty Haskell

Childcare Abby Fuqua

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 25th of each month.

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