

OCTOBER 2024 VOLUME 22 ISSUE 10

# THE NUGGET

Open Door United Church of Christ

M E N T A L   H E A L T H   J U S T I C E   F O R   A L L

## Mental Health is a Universal Human Right

*"God will not falter or lose heart until justice prevails throughout the earth." (Isaiah 42:4)*



UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST  
NEIGHBORS IN NEED 2024  
[ucc.org/nin](http://ucc.org/nin)

***We will be having our Neighbors in Need offering on Sunday, October 6. Neighbors in Need is a special mission offering of the UCC that supports the ministries on Justice and Compassion throughout the United States.***



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

## *Pastor's Article*

*Fall is one of my favorite times of the year. I love the cool nights and the warm days and all the beautiful colors. Changes are taking place in nature and also in our lives. Children and teachers returned to school and life takes on a new pace. It's the same truth for the activities in our parish. While there was a bit of a slow down over summer, we are now running full steam ahead with great joy!*



*Our new confirmation class has started. We are excited about the program and the students and mentors. This is a wonderful opportunity for our congregation to see the growth in our young people.*

*The Outreach and social justice team has been busy with the Sierra walk and the Pride in the Park event. Our Bible study has begun. Small groups are back in full swing. Adult choir and bell choir are singing and ringing!*

*We are examining some really hard topics. We are looking at faith and politics, decision-making in confirmation, and interpretation of Luke in our modern day world. All the while trying to make sense of how all this fits into our lives.*

*With the upcoming election, you might feel overwhelmed at all that is going on in the world. However, worship and christian fellowship can offer a great respite. This Sunday we will have our 'Taize' service which will enable us to sit in God's presence and with one another to gain strength.*

*As you fill up your calendar. I pray that you will make church gatherings a priority. Your presence is a gift to all of us. May you find a peaceful pace in the joyful journey of following Jesus, Pastor Bonnie.*





# *Moderator's Message*

Fall is officially here and wow, there are a lot of activities on the calendar the next few months. BE SURE to read your weekly email, and the Nugget to keep on top of all the events.

Stewardship season will run October 27-November 3rd this year. You'll want to plan to be in attendance those two Sundays as we have some really exciting speakers planned for you. We will wrap up

with a Stewardship Appetizer buffet to celebrate on 11/3. We'll have a sign-up sheet out for those of you who can bring something to share. But first, we have one of our 5 for 5 special offering opportunities coming up...

The Neighbors in Need offering, which we will receive on October 6, supports the UCC's ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCCs Love of Church Unit to fund a wide array of local and national justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects. Working with members of the UCC Justice and Peace Action Network (a network of thousands of UCC justice and peace advocates), the Love of Church Unit continues its strong policy advocacy work on issues such as the federal budget, voting rights, immigration, health care, hate crimes, civil liberties, and environmental justice.

Neighbors in Need also supports our American Indian neighbors in the UCC. One-third of the offering supports the UCCs Council for American Indian Ministries (CAIM). Historically, forebears of the UCC established churches and worked with Lakota, Dakota, Nakota, Mandan, Hidatsa, Arickara, and Hock in North and South Dakota, Wisconsin, and northern Nebraska. Today there are 20 UCC congregations on reservations and one urban, multi-tribal UCC congregation in Minneapolis, Minnesota. These churches and their pastors are supported by CAIM. CAIM is also an invaluable resource for more than 1,000 individuals from dozens of other tribes and nations who are members of other UCC congregations in the U.S.

With your assistance, we together can help our Neighbors in Need.

Please give generously. And remember, contributions to Neighbors in Need can be made online anytime using the Engage app on our website.

Carrie Shinn  
Moderator

# *Christian Education*

School is back in session and the Family Program has started on a new day and time. This school year we are having the Family Program on the 2nd and the 4th Sundays of the month after Church from 12:00-2:00. We have organized this so the whole family can participate.



Pastor Bonnie has started a confirmation class for five of our high school and junior high youth. Parents are meeting with Evelyn Betts and Helen Yost for their small group. We are excited about having time for more community projects and fun activities during the day. Pastor Bonnie has also started her Bible study on Mondays at 2:00. Many people have requested Bible study so it is nice to have one available now. We are planning the Advent workshop, which will be December 1st. This is a fun event for everyone. There will be more information in November. The Christmas Program will be on December 22nd this year, so mark your calendars. It is a busy time of year for us. Thanks for your support during our root beer float and Sunday School open house. Patty



Confirmation classes for our youth will be held on the second and fourth Sunday of each month from 12pm to 2pm, at the same time as Family Program. We will be using the curriculum, Decision Point and it has been well received by our mentors and they are looking forward to using it.



## **Small Groups Check In**

The small groups have begun meeting to discuss Religion and Politics and so far, no raised voices have been heard! In fact, one group of five said they had, with some earnest discussion and blending of understandings, come to consensus on five different black and white statements about religion. "It's not easy, but often we're closer in thought than we first realize," commented one.

"And we learn from one another as well," was another offering. The group just dealt with the first 10 religious statements listed in the guide, and are game to coming back next month to tackle the next 10. After thinking about differences in their religious beliefs, these stalwarts think they'll be ready to work together on how to discuss political disagreements as well.

## **SMALL GROUPS SCHEDULE**

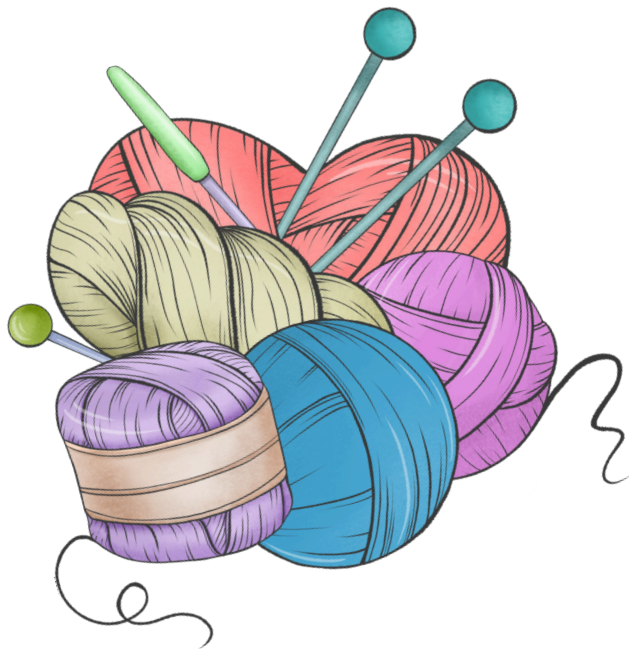
- #1 Marilyn Baisel 3rd Friday at 10am
- #2 Faye Morrison 2nd Tuesday at 5:30pm
- #3 Pam Kimes 4th Thursday at 10am
- #4 Alan Horvath 1st Friday at 2pm
- #5 Faye Morrison 3rd Tuesday at 5:30pm
- #6 Barbara Olivier 4th Wednesday at 11am

If you would like to join a small group, please contact  
Pastor Bonnie.



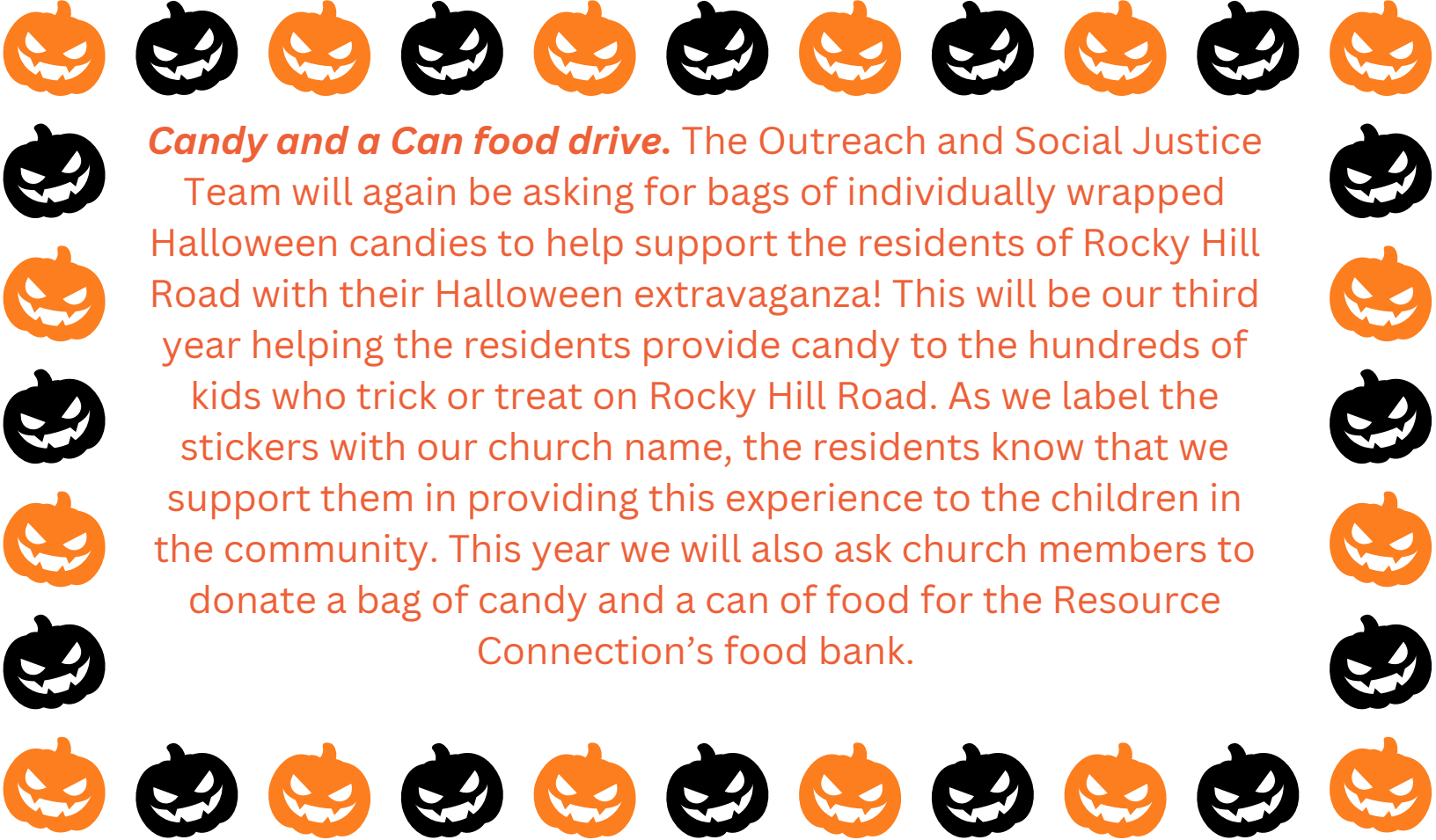
## *Treasurer Report*

This is an exciting time for finances of the Church. We approved at our Congregational Meeting to move money to make necessary repairs on the roof and also the air conditioner. With the generous gift from Dave and Meg Self, we will continue to discuss necessary repairs to our facilities. These repairs, will be presented to the Congregation for approval, when it is time. I signed up 15 new church members on the ESCript program at Sierra Hills and Angels Food Market. So don't forget to give them your phone number when you check out with your purchases. Thank you for all your support and please keep up with your pledges!! These are funds used for the everyday operation of the Church.



**The Knitters and Hookers  
have returned! They will  
resume their regular  
meetings on the 4th Tuesday  
of each month at Liz Tussey's  
house. Please call Liz for  
more details.**





***Candy and a Can food drive.*** The Outreach and Social Justice Team will again be asking for bags of individually wrapped Halloween candies to help support the residents of Rocky Hill Road with their Halloween extravaganza! This will be our third year helping the residents provide candy to the hundreds of kids who trick or treat on Rocky Hill Road. As we label the stickers with our church name, the residents know that we support them in providing this experience to the children in the community. This year we will also ask church members to donate a bag of candy and a can of food for the Resource Connection's food bank.

***The Celebration Ringers are coming to treat us with a concert by their bell choir on Sunday, November 17 at 1:30pm. Stay tuned for more details!***



*Our glorious choirs are back in full swing!  
Please call Dr. Daryl if you would like to  
participate in singing or playing bells.*

*Adult Choir:*

*1st, 2nd, 4th Sundays Oct. 6, 13, 27 at 9am*

*Bell Choir:*

*Saturdays, Oct. 5, 12, 19, 26 at 10am*



**The Resource Connection will be distributing resources in the Social Hall on the 2nd Thursday of every other month from 9am - 4pm. The next distribution date is October 10.**



**The NCNC UCC Annual Conference Fall Meeting will take place on Saturday, October 26 10:00-11:30 AM. We will worship together and then we will discuss our NCNC Conference draft budget for 2025 and vote on approving our 2025 budget. This is a very important meeting, and all church delegates and ministers with standing are expected to register and attend, as well as any other interested folks. There is no registration fee; the meeting is online.**



# ***Improvements Around the Church***

*Thanks to the approval of our wonderful congregation, we are able to get some much needed repairs complete around the campus. Thanks to Sanchez HVAC and Motherlode Roofing for providing quality work.*



HERE IS THE BRAND NEW, SQUEAKY CLEAN COMPRESSOR THAT DRIVES THE HVAC FOR THE SOCIAL HALL. IT IS NORMALLY HIDDEN BEHIND SOME LATTICE SO YOU MAY HAVE MISSED IT. IT IS BETWEEN THE CHURCH AND THE STREET ON THE EAST SIDE OF THE CHURCH.

THE ROOF OF THE EASTMAN EDUCATION CENTER HAS BEEN REPLACED AND HALF THE ROOF OF THE FISK HOUSE IS IN THE PROCESS OF BEING REPAIRED. THE WORK IS COMING RIGHT ALONG!





Shirley Soderer 5  
 Helen Yost 6  
 Laura Leonard 9  
 Barbara Olivier 9  
 Hazel Shinn 14  
 Alan Armstrong 18  
 Patty Haskell 19  
 Lynne Bird 21  
 Mara Rosenhart 29  
 Tabitha Kremesec 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.

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:

Cindy Luna (Marci Duggan)  
 Ed and Carole Whisman (Wendy Glessman)  
 Sandy Fox-Hill  
 Norma Fritsche  
 Mary Kelly  
 Lynda Goodman (June Perry)  
 Jeannie Koops (Vicky Oneto)  
 Jeff Sather  
 Bob Lewis (Barbara Olivier)  
 Rev. John Randlett  
 Eber Hampton (Jesse Hampton)  
 Corky, Annette, Lars (Mark McCormick)  
 Steve Bouton (Emily Lawrence)  
 Kara, Max, and Allie Bechtel (Penny & Mickey)  
 Dodi Horvath  
 Tabitha Kremesec  
 Laura Miller (Noel Helmbrecht)  
 Daniel Smolich (Liz Tussey)  
 Gail Williams  
 Rev. Marty Williams





# October 2024:

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2 12:30pm AA & Al-Anon 6:30pm Al-Anon	3	4 12pm Women's AA	5 10 - 11am Bell Choir
6 9am Adult Choir 10am worship Holy Communion Neighbors in Need offering	7 9am Exec mtg. Fisk 2pm Bible Study, EEC 6:30pm Al-Anon	8	9 12:30pm AA & Al-Anon 5pm Worship mtg. Zoom 6:30pm Al-Anon	10 WIC in Social Hall 9am - 4pm	11 12pm Women's AA	12 10 - 11am Bell Choir
13 9am Adult Choir 10am worship 11am OSJ mtg. 12 - 2pm Family Program/Confirmation	14 2pm Bible Study, EEC 6:30pm Al-Anon	15 10am - noon Family Connections, EEC 2pm F&F mtg. ZOOM	16 12:30pm AA & Al-Anon 6:30pm Al-Anon	17	18 12pm Women's AA	19 10 - 11am Bell Choir
20 10am worship 11am Council EEC	21 10am Pastoral Relations, EEC 2pm Bible Study, EEC 6:30pm Al-Anon	22 Pastor Bonnie Silent Retreat 10/22 - 10/28	23 12:30pm AA & Al-Anon 6:30pm Al-Anon	24	25 12pm Women's AA	26
27 9am Adult Choir 10am Worship 12 - 2pm Family Program/Confirmation	28 2pm Bible Study, EEC 6:30pm Al-Anon	29	30 12:30pm AA & Al-Anon 6:30pm Al-Anon	31		



God's love echoes through us to all creation.

Webpage: [www.fccmwrph.org](http://www.fccmwrph.org)

Email: [nugget@fccmwrph.org](mailto:nugget@fccmwrph.org)

Phone: (209)728-3141

OCTOBER 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](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.