

THE NUGGET

NOVEMBER 2026
VOLUME 24 ISSUE 11

Open Door United Church of Christ

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

THERE
OUR
HEARTS
WILL BE

Stewardship Sunday will be on November 8. Pledge packets are being distributed in preparation. Bring your pledge cards and join us for a potluck meal as we celebrate the intentions we have set for the upcoming year!

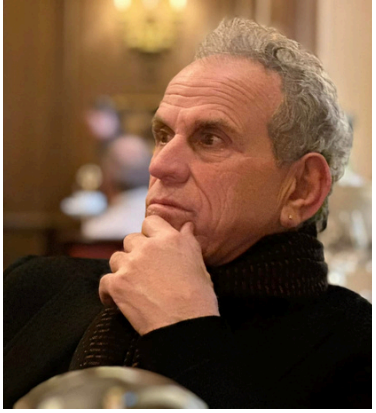
GIVING MADE SIMPLE HELP SUNDAYS

Giving Made Simple is a new way to automate your regular contributions and special offerings through online giving via Engage. If online giving is new to you, we are offering two Help Sundays this month, **November 1 and November 15**, to walk you through the process. Simply bring your smart phone or tablet with you to church on one of these Sundays and a volunteer will be right there to help. No computer experience is required!

Please note that online giving in an option, not a requirement. We are still happy to receive your offering by check or through the Sunday offering during worship.

You're invited to a Lunch and Learn!

We have two new opportunities to learn more about our church and life at Open Door UCC.
November 8 or November 22.
Join us for lunch immediately after worship and coffee hour.
Attend one or both events!
Open to New Members, Prospective Members, and anyone who wants to learn more.



Pastor's Corner

Beloved,

The month of November begins with All Saints Sunday and ends on a grace filled note of Thanksgiving, which leads us into Advent.

On All Saints Sunday we will honor our *kapuna*—a beautiful Hawaiian word signifying "the ancestors." One of the most beautiful truths of our faith is our belief in "the communion of saints." The ones who have come before us show us the path into our future. They are very much present with us, and we may call upon them and fully expect that they will arrive in time to offer us help and support. The saints are all around us and beside us, unseen but very much present, a "great cloud of witnesses" urging us on, encouraging us, as we run the race of life.

One of the things I have stressed since my arrival is the truth that church decline is not inevitable and thriving is entirely possible. Open Door UCC is a thriving church. How much is it worth to you to be part of a faith community that is Open and Affirming in its inclusive welcome to all God's children in Calaveras County?

As we move through November from All Saints to Thanksgiving, take a moment to list all the things that you are grateful for. Yes, make a "gratitude list." You may be surprised at long the list becomes the more you record your blessings. At the top of my list, along with gratitude to God for my family and friends is my gratitude for Open Door Church.

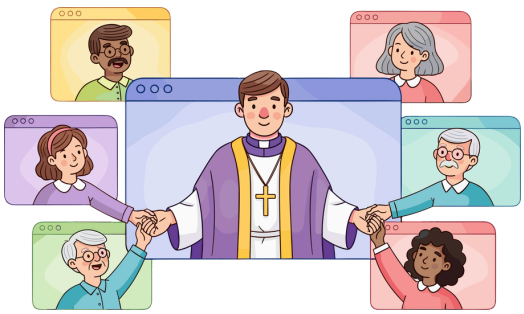
Grateful people are people who give back. This month we will be asking you to give back to God a portion of what God has graciously given you. "Proportional Giving" means that your financial contributions are determined as a **percentage of income or prosperity** rather than a fixed, flat-dollar amount. As you discern how much to contribute to Open Door this coming year, I ask that you prayerfully consider a goal of setting aside 5% percent of your income for God through the ministry of this church. It may surprise you to know that most Protestants give at a level far below 5 %—somewhere around 2.2%. (Around 35% of Protestants do not contribute financially.) You may not be able to get to 5% this year, or even next year. *It may take years for you to reach 5%, but will you consider making this your goal, to get there?*

On November 8th after worship, we will share a delicious potluck meal while the pledges are counted. We are counting on you to continue to support the ministries of this church. I hope you'll be there. I hope that you will make a pledge in support of the marvelous things that God is doing in our communities through Open Door UCC. This is a very special place. I could not imagine my life without this church. I plan to pledge again this year, increasing the amount I give, and I hope you will consider doing the same.

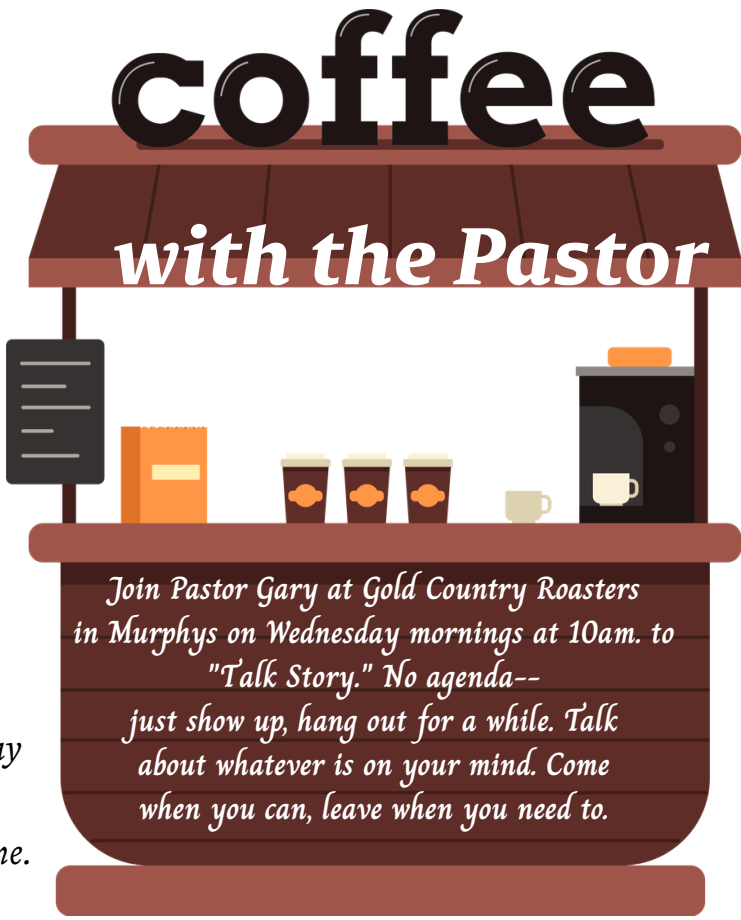
Aloha nui loa,

Gary

Morning Prayer Wednesdays at 8:15am



*Looking for connection to God and Church more often than Sunday Worship? Join Gary and Friends for Morning Prayer online on Wednesday mornings and enjoy fellowship from the comfort of home. Join via Zoom **here**. Hope to see you there!*



Tuning in With Our Music Director



The November music program gets off to a beautiful start with Chris Marques singing "Be Not Afraid," a moving song by Bob Dufford, SJ. "SJ" is the abbreviation of "Society of Jesus," the formal name of the Jesuit order, founded in 1540 by St. Ignatius of Loyola. Ignatius was born in Spain, but founded the order when he was living in Paris. Bob Dufford began writing songs with fellow novices and seminarians at St Louis University John Foley, Tim Manion, Roc O'Connor and Dan Schutte in the early 1970s. Their goal was to write to write simple, guitar-based congregational songs after the Second Vatican Council loosened restrictions on musical participation.

Also on November 1 the choir will sing a new arrangement of "The King of Love My Shepherd Is," requested by Pastor Gary. I first learned a version of the hymn with four beats per measure, and later learned the more well-known three beats per measure version. I like them both, so I made an arrangement for the choir that goes from four to three and back again.
For Stewardship Sunday, November 8, I will sing "Use Me' by Rickie Byars. The chorus is a statement of faith that we will be shown how we can serve:
"Use me, Oh God, I stand for you
and here I'll abide as you show me
all that I must do."
We get to hear Nancy Burton's uplifting solo trumpet twice in November. On the 22nd she'll play a rousing rendition of "We Gather Together" and on the 29th the more meditative "Air" by J.S. Bach, with organ accompaniment. Also on November 29 she will accompany the choir on "I Believe" by contemporary American composer Mark A. Miller. The lyrical interwoven melodies and text, "I believe in the sun, even when it's not shining," is an inspiring sentiment for Advent.
HULA A dozen people gathered together at Kumu Mikilani's first hula class at Open Door on October 19. We learned about Hawaiian traditions, and began work on our first hula with Kumu, Kawika, a kahiko (ancient) hula that honors King David La'amea Kalākaua, the last Hawaiian monarch. King David is credited with bringing hula back into the open after nā haole suppressed traditional Hawaiian culture. Hula Kahiko is accompanied by traditional instruments such as ipu (gourd). Hula 'Auana is accompanied by contemporary instruments such as guitar and ukulele. The next hula class will be on Monday, November 16, 2:00-4:00. All are welcome. The class is free; donations welcomed.
MUSICAL SANCTUARY
Forgiveness is the topic on November 18. We know that forgiveness is essential for spiritual well-being. "Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as, in Christ, God forgave you." - Ephesians 4:32 The Bhagavad Gita tells us "…valor, forgiveness, fortitude, purity, freedom from hatred and vanity - these are the qualities of one who possesses divine nature." Buddha taught that "Hatred never ceases by hatred, but by love alone is healed. This is the ancient and eternal law." But just *how* do we forgive? We will practice the Connect & Glow Pono (make right) exercise, visualizing those we find disturbing glowing with peace, joy, and inner light - seeing to the inner reality of each person. 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.

All Blessings!

Kate

Choir Rehearsal Schedule

Handbell:

Saturday, November 21 10:00
Saturday, November 28 10:00

Vocal Choir:

Sunday, November 1 9:00
Saturday, November 7 9:30
Sunday, November 22 9:00
Sunday, November 29 9:00



Treasurer's Report

Things are stable financially, as I continue to get familiar with the Treasurer duties. We are behind about $10,000 year to date on pledges and offerings, so if you've gotten behind, we'd love it if you were able to get caught up. I know there are constant asks for your dollars, especially in the run-up to the mid-terms, but Open Door UCC counts on friends and members to allow us to keep offering the variety of services and support we offer.

It's budget time of year so leadership will be working hard on estimated costs and inflows for 2027. November 8th is Stewardship Sunday, and we will be getting the pledging packets out to you in late October. Please plan on joining us for a celebratory potluck (sign-up sheet in the Social Hall) that day and be sure to bring your pledge card with you!

Darlene Davis and a few of us will be offering training on how to use the on-line giving link on our web site, called "Engage", on November 1st and 15th , following worship. These are called "Giving made simple" sessions. Automated on-line giving is one way churches and other non-profits smooth out the ups and downs of cash flow throughout the year. I've been giving on-line for a year or more, and it sure simplifies things. There are many causes you can give to on Engage, whether it be pledging, five-for-five giving, hymnals and other special needs, etc. Check out the new web site – it's completely secure and safe, and if you have questions or need help, be sure to come to one of the help sessions.

See you in Church!

Carrie Shinn, Treasurer

Christian Education Recap



We welcome Trish McCormick to our Sunday school team. We are so glad to have her as an assistant teacher whenever her schedule allows!

We are still in need of ONE more person we could occasionally call on to be a substitute. Safe church policy states we must have two adults in the room, so our teacher is always supported. If you'd like to be a back-up please let me know!

This year's Advent calendars have arrived for our Sunday school students. They will be passed out November 22 and 29. If your child won't be with us on those days, let me know and we'll make other arrangements to get the calendar to you.

ADVENT WORKSHOP is Sunday, December 6th from 3-6pm. If you have a craft to share or you'd like to lead a craft that we provide, please sign up in the social hall. **A soup supper will follow the crafting extravaganza!**

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT is scheduled for December 20 during the church service. We'll need ALL the children 's participation. It will be similar to last year with narration and and pantomime. We'll also be looking for some audience participation so let us know is you're interested.

OPEN DOOR BOOK CLUB

Our first meeting was a success! Overall, we enjoyed our book, Vera Wong's *Unsolicited Advice for Murderers*. It was wonderful to have such a variety of ideas and views that come from reading the same book! Our next selection is *Gilead* by Marilynn Robinson. The next meeting is set for Monday November 16 at 10a.m. at Evelyn's home. Please join us! The novel has been around a while, so it should be easily available at the library or on Audible.

Submitted by Evelyn Betts



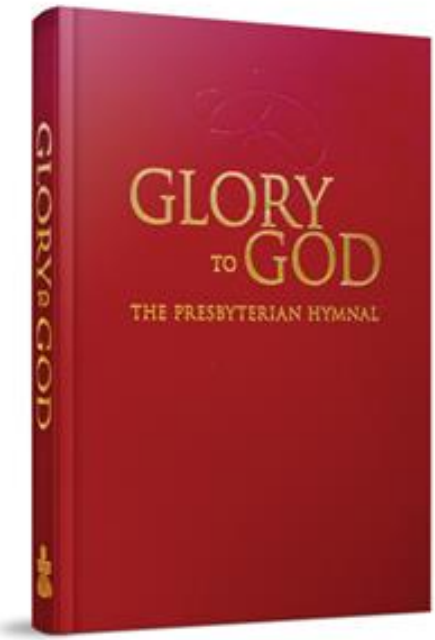
Moderator's Musings

Wow! We are heading into November already, with the holiday season approaching. For those of you who will be in town for Thanksgiving, we will once again be hosting a traditional dinner in our church hall for the community, thanks to Wendy Glessman and her "crew." If you are not planning to (or don't want to) make Thanksgiving dinner yourself, this is a wonderful opportunity to join with other community members to celebrate. All you have to do is sign up in the next couple weeks, so that Wendy knows how many people to plan dinner for. Nothing else is required! However, many church members will once again want to help make this community dinner a reality. When I checked with her, Wendy said that she could use various side dishes the most, as well as some turkeys. If you choose to provide a turkey, Wendy request that it be 15 to 16 pounds, and that they be delivered on Monday of Thanksgiving week if frozen or on Tuesday if thawed. Green bean casseroles, macaroni and cheese, potatoes, bags of stuffing mix, cranberry sauce of either kind, and rolls would all be helpful. Again, check with Wendy to confirm how you can best help. She may need a couple more people who are able to help serve the meal, or help with cleanup. This is always an event filled with joy, so come and give it a try if you can, and invite a friend or two.

Sadly, not everyone in our community is able to join us, or to purchase the food they might need to have a Thanksgiving dinner. Calaveras County is fortunate to have the Resource Connection Food Bank, and they too provide the fixings for Thanksgiving Dinners to those in need. Our outreach and social justice committee will gather donations for the food bank during the month of November, and delivered them before Thanksgiving. I checked with The Resource Connection to verify how we can best help them provide for those in need. As you probably know, cash is very helpful to them, because they can purchase certain foods at 90% discount! They also will need side dishes like green beans, macaroni and cheese, bags of stuffing mix, and cranberry sauce. They have little space to store refrigerated items, such as turkeys, but they will accept turkeys with the understanding that they will distribute those turkeys the same day that they receive them.

So, once more, our church has multiple opportunities to have an impact on our community during this holiday season, with our open door, and open hearts. May you all feel the blessings of this season.

Submitted by Barbara Olivier



New Hymnals are on their way!
After much discussion, the Worship Committee voted to replace our current New Century Hymnal with a newer, more diverse, aesthetically pleasing hymnal, the Glory to God Hymnal. We are expecting them to arrive before Advent. If you would like to make a contribution to dedicate one (or more!) hymnals to the church, you may do so online, by mail, or in person. The hymnals are $20 each. All purchased copies may have a dedication stocker on the front cover. Contact Jenny at the church office for more details.

Open Door Members Attend NCNC Annual Gathering

by Tami Chesnut, Membership & Calling Chair



Last Weekend Evelyn Betts, Pastor Gary, Resea and I attended the annual meeting for the Northern California Nevada Conference of the UCC in Oakland at The City of Refuge church. The theme, Better Together, was proper as it inspired us to strengthen our connections across congregations, ministries, and communities as we worshiped learned and built networks across our conference.

I was glad to reconnect with contacts from Camp Tam and Outdoor Ministry who can help us plan our 2027 youth mission to San Francisco. We also learned that Open Door is the only congregation unaffiliated with an association, prompting us to explore joining either the Sacramento or Sequoia Association—a decision that will require thoughtful consideration and prayer.

After learning about them, we voted on three resolutions: Renew the Church witness on End of Life care, establishing a church wide study on End of Life care, and study on Entheogenic and Psychedelics Medicines. These resolutions passed.

Evelyn and I attended several workshops, including Psychedelic Medicines for Healing, Justice, and Spiritual Growth; Stories from the Taiwan Mission Trip; Boundary Awareness for Lay Leaders; and SMOG Check for Churches.

All together we felt that it was worthwhile for us to attend. I would recommend any of our members attend next year.







Life outside of church

Open Door in the Wild!

On October 15th, four members of Open Door UCC ran into eachother while hiking up at Heiser Lake. Jeff Sather, Alan Horvath, and Pam Kimes were hiking along when who did they see on the trail? None other than fellow Open Door member, Nancy Burton! It is such a blessing to have such wonderous places to immerse in God's majesty right in our backyard!







The 2026 Halloween Candy Drive was a huge success!



Many thanks to everyone, especially Lynne Bird, Connie Bowser, Susan Medieros, Patty Haskell, Joe Jackson and Jenny Fuqua for making the 2026 Candy Drive such an amazing success! Almost every house participating got a bag on candy. This is such a wonderful community outreach event!





Poet's Corner

It's hard to believe that it has already been ten years since this poem by Maggie Smith went viral in 2016. It is not difficult to see why so many people connect with the poem. It tells the truth, and like a good song, we can sing it by heart.
It's a poem you may wish to return to, year after year. We could make this place beautiful.

Good Bones

by Maggie Smith

Life is short, though I keep this from my children.
Life is short, and I've shortened mine
in a thousand delicious, ill-advised ways,
a thousand deliciously ill-advised ways
I'll keep from my children. The world is at least
fifty percent terrible, and that's a conservative
estimate, though I keep this from my children.
For every bird there is a stone thrown at a bird.
For every loved child, a child broken, bagged,
sunk in a lake. Life is short and the world
is at least half terrible, and for every kind
stranger, there is one who would break you,
though I keep this from my children. I am trying
to sell them the world. Any decent realtor,
walking you through a real shithole, chirps on
about good bones: This place could be beautiful,
right? You could make this place beautiful.

———

From Good Bones, Tupelo Press, 2017,
by MAGGIE SMITH.





Remembering Sally Smith

Rev. Dr. Sally S. Smith, a beloved pastor of Union Church from 1991-1995 died August 23 in Salinas at the age of 95. Sally graduated from Wellesley College, earned her MA from Pacific School of Religion and her Doctor of Ministry from San Francisco Theological Seminary.
After serving several congregations in Arizona and California with her beloved second husband, Rev. Walter Smith, she retired to Sonora, but accepted a part-time pastorate at Union. Assisted by both Walter and Rev. John Anderson, a retired UCC minister, she worked full-time on a part-time salary.
She published several books, most notably Voices from the Story, a series of sermons told in first person by characters in the Bible.

After retirement, Sally and Walter briefly joined First Congregational UCC in Murphys, but when it was appropriate, she returned to Union as an active member in 2007. She gave her final guest sermon in November of 2021 as she was packing to move to a senior living center in Salinas.



Hula

with

Kumu Mikilani Young

Experience Hawaiian culture and dance the Hula.

November 16, 2 - 4pm
Open Door UCC
509 N. Algiers St.
Murphys, CA

Join Kumu Mikilani Young from Canticle Farm EARTH ABIDES for a monthly Hula dance class. This class is open to the community and all genders are welcome. Kumu offers this class on a donation basis.

MUSICAL *Sanctuary*

Forgiveness

Music and Guided Meditation

with Kate Moody

Wednesday, November 18
5:30 pm
Open Door UCC
509 N Algiers Street
Murphys

by donation





OPEN DOOR UCC ANNUAL THANKSGIVING DINNER

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 26TH 1 - 3PM

We welcome you to bring your families and join us for a Thanksgiving Dinner with all the fixins! We need to have our final count of guests no later than Thursday, November 19th. We also gladly accept food donations for the dinner itself. There are a sign up sheets for guests as well as donations in the social hall at church. Please reach out to Wendy Glessman for more details

In all things, give thanks

PARTNERS IN MINISTRY

The Resource Connection distributes WIC resources here at Open Door Church on the second Thursday of every other month. Their next local distribution date is on Thursday, December 10 from 9am - 4pm.

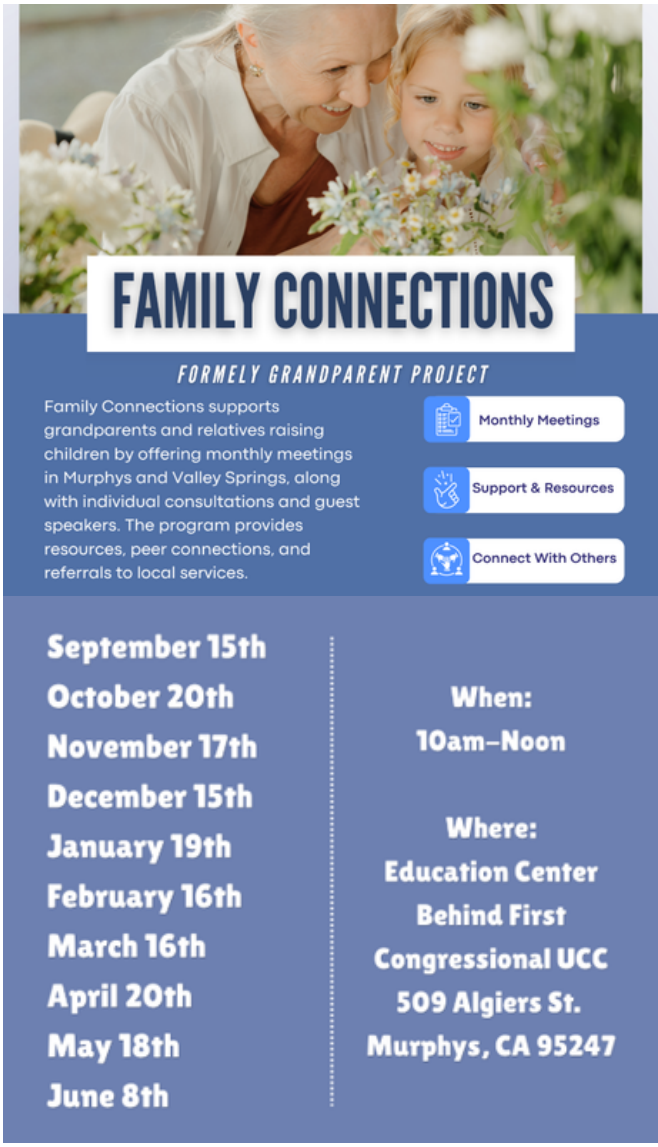
The Resource Connection's Women Infants and Children (WIC) program is funded by the Department of Agriculture (USDA). Through a contract with the California Department of Health and Services, WIC provides nutrition and education programs for low-income pregnant women and mothers of infants and toddlers (birth to 5) throughout Amador and Calaveras counties. Programs and services include:

Vouchers for Nutritious Food
Breast Pump Loan Program
Breast Feeding and Nutrition Support & Education

THE CHRISTMAS FUND

We will collect our Christmas Fund offering on Sunday, December 20th.

For over one hundred years, The Christmas Fund has provided direct financial assistance to United Church of Christ ministers, church workers, and their families. Receiving The Christmas Fund this year ensures they receive the loving support of the Church in their moment of deepest need. Thank you to our community for your continued support!



Family Connections provides services to grandparents and other relatives raising children, including families where a parent also lives in the home.

Monthly meetings are held in several locations in Calaveras County: San Andreas/Valley Springs, Murphys/Arnold. Additional locations may also be added. Facilitators lead the meetings and also provide individual consultations. Meetings often include speakers, and are a great place to meet peers and receive helpful resource information and referrals to county agencies and services.

Family Connections is administered by the Calaveras County Office of Education with Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) funding from Calaveras County Health and Human Services Agency.

Guest Column

Faith leaders unite across religions to counter voter intimidation on Election Day

by DEEPA BHARATH

link to full Associated Press article here

Come Election Day, a Quaker leader will travel from the nation's capital to her home state of Ohio. A Christian minister and a Jewish rabbi will stand vigil outside a polling place in Arizona. A Buddhist nun will offer support to voters in Wisconsin.

In battleground states across the country, these faith leaders and hundreds of their colleagues will assume the role of poll chaplains for one day. They will deploy to nine states — Arizona, Michigan, Georgia, Ohio, Pennsylvania, North Carolina, Wisconsin, Virginia and Texas — where contentious races are expected to raise political tensions.

Faiths United in Saving Democracy, a nonpartisan coalition of interfaith and secular partners, is helping to train and certify this volunteer force of clergy members and lay peacekeepers in time for the Nov. 3 elections.

They'll wear identifying hats and vests, and stay outside the poll centers, with the goal of maintaining a calm, reassuring presence to encourage more voters to exercise their rights without fear or hesitation, said co-founder Barbara Williams-Skinner. As of Oct. 19, they've recruited 1,235 poll chaplains and peacekeepers, she said.

A non-partisan effort to take the fear out of voting

While the idea of poll chaplains has been around for several years, Williams-Skinner said "2026 is going to be different" because there is widespread concern that the presence of federal immigration agents could create a chilling effect.

"The fear is real," she says, worrying that it could deter eligible voters in mixed-immigration-status families and communities of color. Department of Homeland Security officials have consistently said they have no plans to send immigration agents to the polls, although DHS Secretary Markwayne Mullin said they could show up for a specific reason, such as arresting someone if they have a warrant.

The coalition has offered training online and in person. Participants get information about immigrant rights, de-escalation techniques and phone numbers to call in tight situations, Williams-Skinner said.

The initiative, strongly rooted in the Black church, has expanded to include diverse faiths as well as non-religious people, she said.

"This is a movement built by unusual coalitions," she said. "You have white, Mainline Protestants, Quakers, traditional Baptists, Black church leaders, imams, rabbis — all kinds of people who probably would not work together or haven't worked together in the past."

While most participating groups are moderate or progressive, Williams-Skinner says it is a strictly nonpartisan initiative. "We don't get hung up on who's moderate or who's conservative. People just need to be able to vote, unafraid," she said.

Concerns about voter intimidation motivate chaplains

A Pew survey following the assassination of conservative activist Charlie Kirk in September 2025 showed 85% of Americans, across political lines, believe political violence is on the rise.

Polling places have been targeted by protesters in past elections. In 2022, members of a group claiming to monitor ballot drop boxes in Arizona were ordered to stay at least 250 feet (75 meters) away after voters complained about intimidation. In 2020, following Election Day, a crowd stormed a vote-counting center in Detroit, many incited by online conspiracy theories about election fraud.

As the mob banged on the center's doors and windows, the Rev. Steve Bland was among several faith leaders who put their bodies between the building and the crowd. Bland, who leads Detroit's Liberty Temple Baptist Church, is continuing that work as a poll chaplain.

The pastor says de-escalation often involves "using the right words to calm a situation" or giving intimidated voters the moral support and reassurance that they are safe to exercise their civic right. Bland said he did precisely that for an elderly, Black woman during a prior election.

"She left and came back with two of her grandsons who also voted," he said. "Without that intervention, three people wouldn't have voted that day."

The Rev. Bankole Akinbinu, senior pastor of Baptist Grove Church in Raleigh, North Carolina, said training in conflict

resolution and de-escalation has given him the confidence to serve as a poll chaplain. A millennial, he has sought to engage younger people by recruiting peacekeepers from college campuses.

His motivation comes from seeing voter suppression attempts in North Carolina and other states.

"I look at our forefathers and the struggle they had to endure to afford us the privilege of voting," Akinbinu said. "I look at my children and the nation I want to hand them."

Steven Huefner, deputy director of the Election Law Program at The Ohio State University, says poll chaplains might be able to calm the frayed nerves of a voting public that is constantly exposed to divisive rhetoric and news about political violence. While political violence has increased, he says, it's not widespread.

"Election workers are well-trained and can run elections quite well," he said.

Faith leaders have historically played the role of peacekeepers, said Wendy Cadge, professor of sociology at Bryn Mawr College in Pennsylvania and founder of the think tank Chaplaincy Innovation Lab.

And now chaplaincy — beyond traditional worship spaces — is attracting more clergy.

"People are feeling called to chaplaincy because they want to be with people in difficult times," Cadge said. "They don't want to worry about what color the carpet is in the church or if their youth programs are attracting enough people. It's a different kind of work."

Chaplains find inspiration in theology

Clergy deploying on Election Day say they are heeding a strong, faith-driven calling to serve as poll chaplains.

In Arizona, Rev. Katie Sexton, executive director of Arizona Faith Network, embraces the initiative as a way to reach across the political divide.

"The ballot box is a place where we're all seen as equal," she said, adding that it reflects the Christian belief that all humans are created in the image of God. "There is such power in that."

On Oct. 6, Sexton and several others participated in a training session — one of the last before the midterms — at Temple Chai, a Reform synagogue in Scottsdale.

Rabbi Emily Segal, who leads the congregation, will be a poll chaplain for the first time next month. The work, she says, aligns with what the Torah and Talmud teach about a healthy and just society.

Throughout American history, interfaith coalitions have created powerful change and served as sources of inspiration, Segal said. "Any time we can come together with faith partners around our shared values for societal good is a real source of holiness for our community."

Bridget Moix, a Quaker leader, will travel to her native Ohio on Election Day.

"In our faith tradition, we think about voting as a sacred act we want to protect," she said.

For Reirin Gumbel, resident teacher at the Milwaukee Zen Center, it'll be a third time, come November.

"As Buddhists, the Metta Sutra we chant says every being has the same rights, and that we should have compassion toward all," she said.

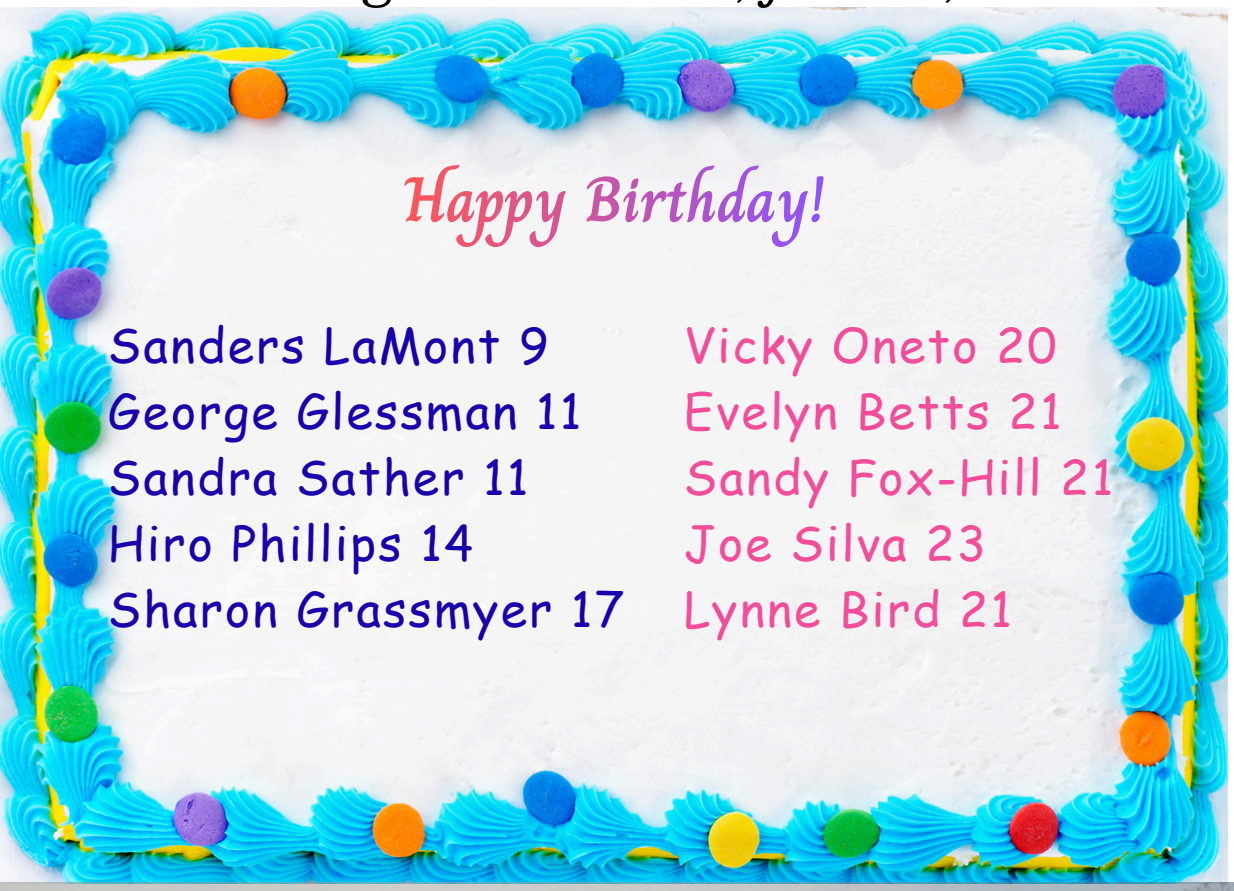
Imam Mohammed Ali Elahi, spiritual leader of the Islamic House of Wisdom in Dearborn Heights, Michigan, is considering becoming a poll chaplain for the first time. In a highly contentious campaign in Elahi's state, Abdul El-Sayed is the first Muslim Democratic candidate to run for a U.S. Senate seat.

The imam said he is tired of anti-Muslim vitriol that has surfaced ahead of the midterms.

"As interfaith clergy, we stand for principles not personalities," he said. "The Quran tells us to stand for what's right — truth, justice, peace, human rights and the dignity of human beings, whoever they may be."

Associated Press religion coverage receives support through the AP's collaboration with The Conversation US, with funding from Lilly Endowment Inc. The AP is solely responsible for this content.

Cherishing our members, friends, and community...



Happy Birthday!

Sanders LaMont 9
George Glessman 11
Sandra Sather 11
Hiro Phillips 14
Sharon Grassmyer 17
Vicky Oneto 20
Evelyn Betts 21
Sandy Fox-Hill 21
Joe Silva 23
Lynne Bird 21

Don't see your birthday listed? We promise it isn't on purpose! If you would like to have your special day listed in the newsletter, please call or email the church office.

Prayer List

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:

Angie James (Jenny Fuqua)
Judy Regalia
Diane Day and Family (June Perry)
Elaine Lewis
Mark McCormick's sister, Teta
Linda Winters
Teddie Jackson
Doug Fraser (Doug & Patti Lau)
Miley Sophia (Breen)
Will and parents (Penny Sarvis)
Enoch Samraj
Faye Morrison
Jodie Gibson
Tabitha Kremesec
Lauren, Gordon, Emre, Willow (Jesse Hampton)
Shirley Soderer
Terry Dowell
Robin Chesnut
Tari Takara
Ben Richardson (LaMonts)
Dodi Horvath
Rev. John Randlett
Rev. Marty Williams

November 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 9am Vocal Choir rehearsal Holy Communion *Giving Made Simple Sunday*	**2** 6:30pm Al-Anon	**3** 12:30pm Longest Night mtg., Social Hall 3pm Christian Ed mtg., Social Hall	**4** 8:15am Morning Prayer, Zoom 10am Cofffee with Gary, GCR 10am Worship Comm. mtg., Zoom 12:30pm AA 6:30pm AA	**5**	**6** 12pm Women's AA	**7** 9:30am Vocal Choir rehearsal
8 *New Member Lunch and Learn*	**9** 6:30pm Al-Anon	**10** 10:30am Pastor Search mtg., Zoom	**11** 8:15am Morning Prayer, Zoom 10am Cofffee with Gary, GCR 12:30pm AA 6:30pm AA	**12**	**13** 12pm Women's AA	**14**
15 *Giving Made Simple Sunday*	**16** 2pm Hula Dance with Kumu, Sanctuary 6:30pm Al-Anon	**17** 10am Family Connections, EEC	**18** 8:15am Morning Prayer, Zoom 10am Cofffee with Gary, GCR 5:30pm Musical Sanctuary 12:30pm AA 6:30pm AA	**19** 1:30pm M&C mtg., Fisk 12pm Faith & Friends	**20** 12pm Women's AA	**21** 10am Bell Choir rehearsal
22 9am Vocal Choir rehearsal *New Member Lunch and Learn*	**23** 9:30am Exec. committee mtg., EEC 5:30pm South Grove Bunch 6:30pm Al-Anon	**24**	**25** 8:15am Morning Prayer, Zoom 10am Cofffee with Gary, GCR 11am Angels Angels sm. grp 12:30pm AA 6:30pm AA	**26** Happy Thanksgiving	**27** *Staff Holiday Office Closed* 12pm Women's AA	**28** 10am Bell Choir rehearsal
29 9am Vocal Choir rehearsal	**30** 1:30pm F&F mtg., Zoom 6:30pm Al-Anon					

THE NUGGET

OPEN DOOR UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
PO Box 48
509 N. Algiers Street
Murphys, CA 95247

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

DATED MATERIAL - DO NOT DELAY
NOVEMBER 2026

Phone: (209)728-3141
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Webpage: www. opendoormurphys.org

God's love echoes through us to all creation.

OPEN DOOR UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Open Doors • Open Minds • Open Hearts
All are Welcome Here

www.opendoormurphys.org

Church Office Hours:
Monday - Friday 10am - 2pm

Staff
Interim Pastor Rev. Dr. Gary Percesepe
Pastor Emeritus Rev. Dr. John Randlett
Music Director Kate Moody
Secretary Jenny Fuqua
Christian Ed Director Evelyn Betts
Childcare Abby Fuqua
Ministers at Large: All Members at Open Door UCC!

Officers
Moderator Barbara Olivier
Vice Moderator Patty Haskell
Treasurer Carrie Shinn
Clerk Darlene Davis

OPEN DOOR 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 20th of each month.
The Committee reserves the right to edit submissions for length and content.