October, 2020
First United Methodist Church of Murphy
P. O. Box 86 (73 Valley River Avenue)
Murphy, NC 28906
Phone: (828) 837-2718 (Office)
(828) 837-9735 (Fax)
Email: admin@murphyfirstumc.org
Website: www.murphyfirstumc.org
https://www.facebook.com/#!/groups/MurphyFUMC

OPEN HEARTS...OPEN MINDS...
OPEN DOORS

DEAR CHURCH FAMILY.....LET’S WELCOME NORA ELIZABETH POSEY,
Individuals (but primarily Freddy Lochaby) have been working on getting the new playground ready for installation, etc. The actual install of equipment occurred on Saturday, Sept. 26th. As you can tell from the pictures above, most of the equipment is in. There will be some final adjustments and the mulch will need to be laid. A huge round of applause is due to the following who have helped along the way and with the big push last Saturday: Freddy Lochaby, Gary Crump, Ricky Hill, Chris Raper, James Jallah, Ethan Palmer, Edward Palmer, Katrina Palmer, Ed Morrisroe, Tim Nicholson, Flip Watson, and Bill Schuler.

Also, we got some great news for the repairs and updating we plan to do in the basement area of our church. We were afraid we would have to deal with an asbestos issue but tests have shown that will not be a problem for us!

- Tim Nicholson, Chair
The Covid-19 Relief Fund is still in place for those who need assistance. Members of the Missions Team have continued to support the Hayesville UMAR House. Cobby, Diane, and Anita have worked to improve the landscaping at the house. They have worked on the yard and flower beds and provided an umbrella for the patio so the residents can now enjoy their outdoor areas. They have taken soaps donated by Vera Confer and will continue to stock their supplies closet. The team is also making sure each resident has a birthday celebration. B J. Thompson has graciously agreed to supply a cake for each of their birthdays and members of the team and church are giving small gifts. We continue to look for opportunities to serve God and others due to the generous support given by FUMC.

FINANCIALS:
Total Operating Budget for 2020: $344,292
Donations needed weekly: $6,621
As of August 31, 2020:
- General Oper. Funds Received YTD: $204,254.28
- Designated Funds Received YTD: $41,647.90
- Total Oper. Funds Avail. thru 8/31/2020: $123,335.03
- Total Desig. Funds on hand thru 8/31/20: $28,861.80

NOTE: (1) Copies of the monthly financial statements are available in the church office for those who wish to review them. (2) The financial figures reflect the basic checking and savings funds of the church and do not include any information on Trustee or Foundation funds.

STEWARDSHIP OF TIME & TALENTS
We ask that you continue to watch our Sunday worship livestream platform and stay in touch with your friends and family.
- Lay Reader/Liturgist: various
- Greeters: Livestream worship on YouTube
- Announcements: various
- Offering Prayer: Livestream worship
- Pew Maintenance: N/A
- Communion Preparation: N/A
- Fellowship Lunch Host: N/A
- Counters: Office staff & select counters.
TRUSTEE On Call: Edward Palmer (828-837-9691)
Communications Team: Diane Barfield, Cobby Barfield, Sue Bell, Karen Crump, Nancy Jo Willis, Julie Hughes, Georjah Allen.

Don't Miss the
DEADLINE!
for submitting information for the November edition of the newsletter!
Sunday, October 25th

Trustee on Call for October:
Edward Palmer (828-837-9691)

Watch each Sunday’s service live on our YouTube Channel
ALPHA is still meeting on Sundays @ 4:00 pm in the Prayer Garden. It has really been a great time. We bring our chairs and stay 6 feet apart and just talk about our week and what is going on around us. We have also been talking about “Facing the Unknown.” It’s a 5 part series and we are really getting into what we fear and seeing what God can do through us and for us in these times. Toys for Tots has asked us to help this year again, and we are hoping this will be possible in some way. ALPHA and MHS FCA combined raised the most for each school involved last year. Thank you all for the prayers for our youth. Please keep them coming.

For specific information and more details on ALPHA, please contact Davis Bryant, our Youth Director, at 828-361-0254 or youth@murphyfirstumc.org.

NOTE: No meals needed during this different time of meeting, but we’ll let you know when we get a regular meeting schedule started again!

CONGRATULATIONS!!!

COLLEGE ACCEPTANCES (2020-2021):

Georjah Allen - Gardner Webb University; Montreat College; Pfeiffer University

Asher Brinke - Gardner Webb University; Wingate University; Univ. of North Georgia & their Army Corp of Cadets Program

Isaac Brown - Brevard College

Grace Nelson - Wingate University

SELECTED FOR:

Chloe Decker—the College Board National Rural & Small Town Recognition Program
**Senior Adults Class**—Class meets in Fellowship Hall on Sunday mornings at 9:45am. (ON HOLD)

“**Youngish**” **Adults Class**—On break.

**New “Welcome” Adult Class**—Class meets in the “Parlor” above the choir loft on the 3rd floor of the Sanctuary on Sunday mornings at 9:45am. (ON HOLD)

**Youth (high/middle) Sunday School**—led by Davis Bryant and meets in the Education Building on the 3rd floor, Sunday mornings at 9:45am. (ON HOLD)

**NEW* Children’s Sunday School** (for Infant to 4th Grade) - They meet at 10:00 am each Sunday via ZOOM. If interested in participating with your child/children, please contact Terry Stroup at efstroup@frontier.com or call the church office.

**Joyful Stitchers**

Several prayer shawl items were delivered to the UMAR home recently. Thanks to Diane Barfield for making this possible. Requests for shawls, throws, or baby blanket can be submitted to Totsie Gentile at 828-837-3554 or email her at tatzi2347@gmail.com. The Church office can also be contacted at 828-837-2718. We have a great assortment available in many colors, shapes, and stitch variations. All items have been blessed, and are tangible evidence of love and prayers for anyone in need.

**The White Tag Sale**

The White Tag Sale, usually scheduled for the second weekend in September, has been postponed for a TBD date in the Spring. In the meantime, we hope to put several larger items up for sale on the “Murphy Yard Sale” Facebook Group as a way of raising some money for missions in the present.

**The Greeting Card Ministry**

The Greeting Card Ministry will not meet in October. For questions on the card ministry, call or email Sharon Francis, 828-644-1105 or at sharonk1017@gmail.com.
WE HAVE A NEW CHILDREN & FAMILY SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS which has started. It is for families with infants to 4th grade. They meet each Sunday morning at 10:00 am via ZOOM. If you are interested in participating with your child/children, please contact Terri Stroup at efstroup@frontier.com or call the church office.

In October, FLOWERS will be provided for worship by:
- October 4—Jessica Hensley
- October 11—Myrt & Carl Auvil
- October 18—Suzi Perkins
- October 25—Nancy Jo Willis/Anita Sloan
To reserve a Sunday in 2020 to provide altar flowers, call Sheila Snow at 828-361-6009.

School is back in session (sort of), so it’s time to think about assigning prayer partners to our students, especially during this difficult time! We need someone to take on the responsibility of organizing this program for our youth for this school year. It requires coordinating with Davis Bryant, our Youth Leader, and recruiting adults to pair with the youth. Please give this your prayerful consideration and, if you have an interest, please call the church office or Cobby Barfield at 828-557-2433.

Both the church and the ALPHA youth group have a Facebook page. Click on this link to access the church page https://www.facebook.com/groups/MurphyFUMC/ And use this link to get to ALPHA’s page: https://www.facebook.com/FUMCalpha/
The Willing Workers are continuing to stay in touch by email and we continue to be deeply saddened by the loss of one of our own, Lori Mercer. Please also remember to keep Jake Mercer and his girlfriend Cori Tays in your prayers. BJ Thompson has been assisting Jake with anything that he needs. Thank you BJ!

We continue to be out in the Community. In September we were able to help a 4th grader with a monetary donation. Heather Watson was able to purchase items that the student needed. Clothes were also purchased and donated to Murphy Elementary School. If you would like to contribute to Willing Workers, you may do so by either mailing your donation to the church office at PO Box 86, Murphy, NC 28906 or by going to the church website at www.murphyfirstumc.org/donate. If you wish to bring donations by the office, you can drop them in the lock box located at the front door of the church office. Checks can be made payable to the Church and marked Willing Workers. This is a time where we are not able to raise money as in the past but there are still needs within our community and 100% of your donation stays in our county and goes to Women and Children/Families.

Look for updates as we move forward. We will continue to stay in touch with one another through email. If you have a need or are aware of a need within our group, please reach out to Karen Watson (828-361-9520) or Karen Crump (828-361-4504). Please stay well, and we are looking forward to meeting in person again soon!

Our verse for this year is from Matthew:

“In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.” Matthew 5:16

The UMW Helping Hands Circle will not meet in October due to the continued virus restrictions and “social distancing” guidelines in NC. Please continue to stay home and stay safe. Remember to reach out to family, friends, and neighbors in whatever safe ways are available to you. Stay in touch and stay connected. Thanks for your efforts toward completing our 2020 pledges to WNCC UMW by the end of October. Any questions about pledges and finances can be directed to Marilyn Jones (321-258-2498). Any other questions...call Nancy Jo Willis (850-428-3636).

PLEASE NOTE: If anything changes on the schedule, you will be notified!
...a note from Esther Manchester,
President of the FUMC UMW Leadership Team

On behalf of Project Agape I want to express appreciation to all who contributed money and much needed new and gently used clothing for children and youth in Armenia. We were able to deliver six boxes to the designated pick-up facility. THANK YOU!

Also, a BIG THANK YOU to all United Methodist Women who are diligent in fulfilling their pledges to missions here in our local community and to our mission projects around the world. They are dependent on us as they continue to share the good news of Jesus Christ where they are.

The Murphy First United Methodist Women Leadership Team will meet on Thursday, October 15th at 11:30 via zoom. This is the last meeting for 2020 and an important time to reflect on our purpose and begin to plan for 2021. The nominations committee will be reporting on their work of filling all positions on the Leadership Team.

There will be a Virtual Leadership Development Training event for Local Unit Officers on November 14th beginning at 10:00 am. Participants will need to register during the month of October. The website is www.wnccumw.org. Then click on Smoky Mountain District for more information.

ARE YOU MISSING YOUR UPPER ROOM? The September/October copies of “Upper Room” are now in the church office. You can stop by the office on Tuesday mornings from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm to pick up a copy. You can also go to our website, www.murphyfirstumc.org/news, and about half way down that page, there is a link to the PDF format of the September/October issue for “Upper Room”. You can save the document to your computer or tablet or sign in to it daily to enjoy your meditation. We could also mail you a copy (please specify Large Print or Regular), if you will leave a message on the church phone line.

Keep the following in your thoughts and prayers:

Ruth Vespasian; Emelene Crouch; Elleree Clonts; Kathy Kephart; Catherine Brown; WKRK Radio family (Tim, Donna, Tyler); all affected by the Coronavirus in our Country and our communities; Bob & Theresa Smith’s son Scott Adams; Sue Parker’s friend, Lucia; Jodi Alverson; Jean Dyer; families and victims of the fires out west; Michael Adams; Steven Herron; Mary Hettinger; Furman Smith; the firefighters in CO & CA and their families while they are away; Donna Wyтовaks’s son; Gail Sartain & daughters Kristin & Katie; Betty Palmer.

If you have specific prayer needs, fill out and submit a blue Prayer Request Card during the worship service, or call the church office or pastor (828-837-2718), or email the Prayer Team at: prayfumc@gmail.com.
CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR VERY OWN SUE PARKER!!!

Our sympathies & prayers are extended to . . .

◊ The family & friends of Lori Mercer

FUMC KAYAKING & HIKING GROUP

We have a kayaking trip scheduled for Thursday, Oct. 1st. Please look for an email and check with our FUMC FB page. If you’re interested in joining the FUMC Kayaking & Hiking Group, contact Cobby Barfield at cobbyb@yahoo.com or 828-557-2433.

Our own Erik Brinke has begun serving a six month term as Interim General Manager of the Blue Ridge Mountain Electric Membership Corp. According to Erik, this will give the Board of Directors time to determine what direction they want to go in and allow him the opportunity to see if he wants to tackle different challenges or remain in his previous position as Director of Administrative Services & External Relations. Congratulations to Erik!
CHEROKEE COUNTY UNITED METHODIST MEN

In A “Covid “ World....

NO breakfast fellowship meetings.

NO fundraiser projects....... 

No active ministry work.....
So, what are we doing?
Praying for our world.
Praying for our community.
Praying for your health.
Praying for your safety.
And
Praying for each other.

We continue to ask that you support our Scouting Ministry.

> Aluminum can collection
> Pop Corn Purchases
> Camp Cards purchases
> Registration - Official Census using our scouts.

SEE SCOUTING REPORT IN THIS NEWSLETTER FOR DETAILS
SCOUTING!!

CUB PACK 400 & SCOUTING BSA TROOPS 400 & 4400

HOPEFULLY SOME SCOUTING EVENTS WILL COME OFF COVID-19 HOLD SOON

2020 POPCORN ORDERS - Scouts are now taking POPCORN ORDERS for their annual fund raiser. Your order will be delivered after November 11th. Contact Josh Frentz (Cub/Boy Scout Master) (941-286-9827 or dodgehemi1981@yahoo.com). He will put you in touch with a Cub or Boy Scout to tell you the choices and take your order. THANKS!

FOS BROCHURES ARE AVAILABLE IN THE EDUCATION BUILDING ON THE COMMUNICATION WALL. PLEASE MAKE AN ANNUAL FINANCIAL COMMITMENT TO THE SCOUTS.

JUST SEND CHECK TO: DANIEL BOONE COUNCIL BSA, 333 WEST HAYWOOD STREET, ASHEVILLE, NC 28801 — THANK YOU!

CAMP CARDS ARE STILL AVAILABLE. They are a great deal at $5. Ingles will still give you a $5 credit on a $50 purchase. This is the prime Scout fund raiser. Please help us out. Ask Dave Hotchkiss for as many as you want.

STILL NEED A SCOUTMASTER - (Troop 400) (boys) - Our current Cub Master is covering. Need a male or female. Talk to Dave Hotchkiss our Charter Organization Rep. (COR) or John Morton.

Here is the planned schedule...with status still on hold: (church still off limits):

PACK 400
--- (0X/XX/20) - Blue & Gold Banquet/Welcome Back Party (2:00pm-6:00pm) (location not selected)
--- (08/03/20) - POP CORN K/O
--- (XX/XX/20) - Nantahala District Cub Scout Shooting Sports Day (Sheriff's Farm) (Spring 2021)
--- (10/01/20) - RE-CHARTER begins
--- (10/05/20) - District & Roundtable Leadership Meeting (Andrews UM Church) (5:30pm/6:30pm)
--- (10/24-25/20) - CUB/PARENT Weekend (CBD) Register on line.
--- (11/02/20) - District & Roundtable Leadership Meeting (Andrews UM Church) (5:30pm/6:30pm)
--- (11/11/20) - Veterans Day and parade.
--- (11/12/20) - Popcorn Orders delivered.
--- (12/07/20) - District & Roundtable Leadership Meeting (Andrews UM Church) (5:30pm/6:30pm)

TROOP 400 & 4400:
--- (XX/XX/20) - Nantahala District Cub Scout Shooting Sports Day (Sheriff's Farm) (Spring 2021)
--- (10/01/20) - RE-CHARTER begins
--- (10/05/20) - District & Roundtable Leadership Meeting (Andrews UM Church) (5:30pm/6:30pm)
--- (11/02/20) - District & Roundtable Leadership Meeting (Andrews UM Church) (5:30pm/6:30pm)
--- (11/06-8/20) - Annual Lake Fontana Cleanup (Camping)
--- (11/11/20) - Veterans Day and parade.
--- (11/12/20) - Popcorn Orders delivered.
--- (12/07/20) - District & Roundtable Leadership Meeting (Andrews UM Church) (5:30pm/6:30pm)

If you want to enroll a boy or girl in Scouting, please contact our Cub/Boy Scout Master, Josh Frentz: (941-286-9827 or dodgehemi1981@yahoo.com) or Dave Hotchkiss (828-644-3372 or dahotch@brmemc.net) the Charter Organizational Representative (COR).
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**NOVEMBER Newsletter Deadline**
The mission of First United Methodist Church is to grow disciples who know God personally, pray daily, celebrate worship, serve others, and reach out in witness.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
OF MURPHY
P. O. Box 86 (73 Valley River Avenue)
Murphy, NC 28906

TO:

STAFF:
Tracy & Lauren Allen, Custodians
davisbryant@murphyfirstumc.org
Rev. Wil Posey, Pastor
pastor@murphyfirstumc.org
Karen Crump, Admin. Assistant
admin@murphyfirstumc.org
Nikki Washburn, Nursery Director
music@murphyfirstumc.org
Suzanne West, Director of Music

OFFICE HOURS:
During these challenging times our staff is often working from home and other locations. Thus, the church is officially open only on Tuesdays from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm.

If you wish to speak with a member of our church staff, please call the church office at 828-837-2718 and leave a message, or call the desired individual on their cell phone.