CENTERING THOUGHT
“For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God” (Romans 8:19). Lay your ear to the ground or to the trunk of a giant poplar or sturdy oak, listen to the blue jay’s caw. Can you also hear God calling?

WELCOME AND GREETING
Alleluia! Christ is risen!
Christ is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

PASSING OF THE PEACE

PRELUDE Wesley Ringers

INTROIT Honor & Praise
Righteous and holy in all of your ways;
we come before you with honor and praise.
Here to adore you for all of our days,
we come before you with honor and praise.
Lord of the heavens, how faithful you are.
Shine down upon us, O bright Morning Star.
Righteous and holy in all of your ways;
we come before you with honor and praise.

**CALL TO WORSHIP**
The heavens are telling the glory of God;
and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.
Day to day pours forth speech,
and night to night declares knowledge.
There is no speech, nor are there words;
their voice is not heard;
yet their voice goes out through all the earth,
and their words to the end of the world.
With glad and thankful hearts we raise our voices
to sing your praise and join the chorus
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn
of grateful praise!

**OPENING PRAYER**
God of wonders, the resurrection of our Lord Jesus, was proclaimed in word and deed, and with the help of all creation: bread and fish that proved he was flesh and bone; and a miraculous catch of fish that showed creation’s eager obedience to the risen Lord. Thank you for these witnesses to Christ’s resurrection! Teach us again to marvel at and care for your creation, and to remember that we also are part of it. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.

CHILDREN’S MOMENT

**GOSPEL READING**
John 21:1-14

Leader: The Word of God for the people of God.
People: Thanks be to God.

*Gloria Patri
Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now,
and ever shall be, world without end.
Amen.

**HYMN OF PRAISE**
“For the Beauty of the Earth” UMH Page 92

**SERMON**
“Gone Fishing” Wil Posey

**APOSTLES’ CREED**
I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord: who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.
CALL TO PRAYER

Lord, Listen to Your Children
On bended knee with needy hearts we come and pray.
Lord, listen to your children.
With willing hearts and open arms we come and pray.
Lord, listen to your children.
With simple words of heartfelt thanks we come.
Believing in your promises, we come.
On children, listen to your children.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

WASHINGTON
Moments of silent prayer & personal confession.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

THANKSGIVING

RECEIVING OF GOD’S TITHE AND OUR OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

“Come Just As You Are”
Linda Potter, 11:00am Service

Ways you can give
Mail:
PO Box 86
Murphy, NC 28906
Online:
www.murphyfirstumc.org/donate

**DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Him, all creatures here below; praise Him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

**HYMN

“Christ for the World We Sing”
UMH Page 568

SENDING FORTH

BENEDICTION

Alleluia! Christ is risen!
Christ is risen, indeed! Alleluia!
Open our eyes, Lord, we want to see Jesus.
To reach out and touch him, and say that we love him.
Open our ears, Lord, and help us to listen.
Open our eyes, Lord, we want to see Jesus.

RESPONSE

The light goes before us into the world.
Chiming of the Trinity

Our Service of Worship has ended
Our Worship through Service begins

UMH: United Methodist Hymnal    TFWS: The Faith We Sing

SANCTUARY FLOWERS

The flowers in the Sanctuary are presented to the Glory of God by Freddy Lochaby in memory of Mary Helen.

May 2: Charlene Smith
May 9: Kathi Taylor

PRAYERS and CONCERNS

Ruth Vespasian; Emelene Crouch; Elleree Clonts; Kathy Kephart; Catharine 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; Jamye Christy; Mary Hettinger; Project AGAPE and Armenia due to military conflict; Liberia Group of ZOE Ministries; Tony Licata; Matt Licata; the family of Pam Glass; Georjah Allen; Harrell Barfield; Chad Simmons; Students and Teachers; Wanda Carringer; the Moody family in their time of loss; Glen Crawford.

PRAYER TEAM:

Email: prayfumc@gmail.com

In an effort to have room for all prayer requests we will rotate off the names every 3 weeks unless indicated, either by a notation on the blue prayer request card or by calling the church office.

Prayer Requests can be submitted on our Facebook page, YouTube live stream or by calling the church office.
APOSTLES' CREED

Do you believe in God the Father?
I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ?
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, is seated at the right hand of the Father, and will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

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Free Tax and Financial Clinic
Serving households with incomes under 225% of federal poverty level and seniors on a fixed income. Free services include:
- Tax preparation
- Representation in tax resolution matters
- Assistance with Marketplace and Affordable Care Act issues
- Financial counseling

By Appointment Only • Call (866) 862-2220
Remote services are also available. Be sure to mention remote services when calling.

Starting Tuesday February 16th at:
First United Methodist Church
73 Valley River Avenue
Murphy, NC

Services provided by Zacchaeus Financial Counseling, Inc., a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization www.ZacchaeusFinancial.org

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Church Picnic
Cherokee Lake Recreation Area
This afternoon 4pm-7pm

Directions to Cherokee Lake
Hwy 64W towards Ranger
Go through the light at Hwy 129 for 2.5 Miles
Turn right onto Hwy 294 and go 2.5 miles
Turn right at the Cherokee Lake sign
Follow the dirt road to the lake (approximately ½ mile)

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*** MISSIONS NEEDS YOUR HELP ***
The Missions Team is gathering information so they can help support college ministries. If your family has a student in college, we need to know. Please send us the name of the student, the college, and the student’s address. You can call the church office at 828-837-2718 or send an email to admin@murphyfirstumc.org.

***UPPER ROOM***
We have received the May/June edition of the UPPER ROOM. If you would like a copy please contact the church office at 837-2718 or email admin@murphyfirstumc.org

A link to the online version for March/April is still available on our website under the NEWS tab.

*** SANCTUARY FLOWERS 2021 ***
We are working on the list for Altar flowers in the Sanctuary for 2021. If you have a special date during the year that you would like to commemorate, or a date that you would like to put flowers in the church, please contact Sheila Snow at 361-6009.

Good news! With the Governor’s recent easing of restrictions around in-person gatherings, and after corresponding with our church Safety Team, we’re going to begin welcoming 50 people into each worship service on Sunday morning. We are continuing with two worship services: 9am and 11am. You will need to register ahead of time by calling the Church Office at (828-837-2718) or sending an email to admin@murphyfirstumc.org. The first 50 people (for each service time) will be on the list. We will be wearing masks and keeping physical distance throughout the service. Disposable face masks are available for those who need one, and hand sanitizer will be just inside the door.
TRUSTEE ON CALL
April: Tim Nicholson 828-557-8139
May: Freddy Lochaby 828-226-2900

Scripture Readings for May 2
Acts 8:26-40
Psalm 22:25-31
1 John 4:7-21
John 21:15-25

This Week’s Ministry Opportunities
Continue to stay in communication with your group Leader on how you will meet and stay in touch.

Sunday, April 25
Worship Service 11:00am
Children's Sunday School 11:15am
Alpha 4:00pm
Church Picnic 4:00pm—7:00pm
Cherokee Lake Recreation Area

Monday, April 26
MHS Girls' Soccer 6:00pm

Tuesday, April 27
Food Pantry 1:00 pm
Julian of Norwich Study 1:15 pm

Wednesday, April 29
MHS Softball 4:30pm

Friday, April 30
Food Pantry 1:00pm
MHS Baseball 4:30pm

Saturday, May 1
Playground Church 11:00am

Sunday, May 2
Worship Service 11:00am
Communion
Children's Sunday School 11:15am
Alpha 4:00pm

OUR FAITHFULNESS 2021
Worship attendance last Sunday 144 Views
Total Budget for 2021 $344,678
Needed weekly $6,629
Received April 18 $5,257
Needed thru April 18 $106,064
Received thru April 18 $107,517
Difference $+1,453

Staff
Tracy & Lauren Allen, Custodians
828-361-0254 youth@murphyfirstumc.org

Davis Bryant, Youth Director
828-361-0254 youth@murphyfirstumc.org

Karen Crump, Administrative Assistant
828-361-4504 admin@murphyfirstumc.org

Rev. Wil Posey, Pastor
386-647-6181 pastor@murphyfirstumc.org

Nikki Washburn, Nursery Director
828-557-7926 music@murphyfirstumc.org

Suzanne West, Director of Music
828-557-7926 music@murphyfirstumc.org

Church Office—Closed
The church office is closed during the week. We are working remotely and check voicemail and email daily. If you have a need you can leave a message at 837-2718 or contact any of the staff via email. Minimal staff and volunteers are in the office on Tuesday for necessary office work. If you come by, please remember the 3 W's: Wear (a mask), Wait (6ft apart), and Wash (your hands). The Sharing Center will remain open Tuesday and Friday from 1:00-3:00 pm. If you have an emergency and need to reach out to someone immediately, please call or text Pastor Wil. Updates on the churches ministries and programs will be posted on our website www.murphyfirstumc.org or our Facebook page. Continue to stay in contact with your group leaders on how you will meet and stay in touch.
Litany for Sunday after Earth Day, 2021

Lord, we knew we would find you in gardens.
**We knew we would find you in water.**
We knew we would find you on mountaintops.
**We knew we would find you in wilderness.**
But God, we never expected to find you in a trough.
**...in a marketplace.**
...among women.
**...at dinner parties.**
...on a cross.
**We expected to find you in a tomb.**
And we still struggle to believe we can find you in our midst.
**We still struggle to believe that the matter of this world really matters to you.**
Still, you show up in your physical body with messy wounds to eat a real meal in the material world.
**You show up in a world that is degraded and scarred by the same forces that mocked and broke your body on the cross.**
You show up preaching a word of repentance and forgiveness to those who are broken and to those who break.
**Lord, we are the broken.**
Lord, we are the ones who break.
**Make us healers as you heal us.**
Bind us in creaturely solidarity with you and with all of creation.
**Impel us to permeate the world with justice, equity, sustainability and hope.**
We long to join you in co-creating your kin-dom on earth as it is in heaven.
**Amen.**

Church Picnic
Cherokee Lake Recreation Area
4pm-7pm

With nearly 20 picnic tables, a covered pavilion, a big fishing dock, a trail for walking, and a field for playing…and plenty of room for appropriate social distancing, we finally have a way to all gather together!

Bring your own dinner—whether take out, homemade, or you might want to use one of the many charcoal grills at the Rec. Area. We’ll share in a brief devotion and blessing over our meal around 5pm.

Come when you can. Stay as long as you can.

As we enjoy the gifts of being in God’s creation together, I also want to encourage us to care for it as best as we can. That means leaving no trace behind, and even picking up trash that’s already there.

Wouldn’t it be a great message to the public and the Forest Service if we left the Rec. Area in even better shape than we found it?!

Come and let’s celebrate this to be together as a joyful body of Christ!

Directions to Cherokee Lake
Hwy 64W towards Ranger
Go through the light at Hwy 129 for 2.5 Miles
Turn right onto Hwy 294 and go 2.5 miles
Turn right at the Cherokee Lake sign
Follow the dirt road to the lake (approximately ½ mile)