

February 2023

First United Methodist Church of Murphy

P. O. Box 86 (73 Valley River Avenue)

Murphy, NC 28906

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GROWING IN FAITH
GOING IN SERVICE
ENGAGING IN WORSHIP

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Dear Murphy First,

During the last week of January, I did something I've never done before—well, 2 things really. 1) With the support of SPPRC (and a lot of help from worship and ministry leaders!), I took 1 week of Spiritual Renewal Leave—thank you! 2) I filled that time with a beginner clawhammer banjo class at the John C. Campbell Folk School.

At the closing ceremony for the week, our class got on stage and played one of the songs we'd been learning. Afterward, someone said what happened up there was somewhat of a miracle. A miracle because there were 15 banjos all playing the same song in rhythm with each other and (more or less) in tune! The same song. In rhythm. In tune.

Another way of saying that is, we were all on the same page.

We hope for that same sort of "miracle" with what we're about as a church. That's a big reason we went through a visioning process at the end of 2022—to get clear on who we are (what's our story?), what we're about (our mission), and what's most important right now.

I'm so thankful for everyone's involvement during those three months of meetings and conversation. It kept in the front of my mind what a remarkable congregation this is, and what an exciting season we are in!

One of the outcomes of that process—from listening to everyone's feedback and ideas—was writing a one page document that summarized all of our work. On that document (shared in this newsletter) you'll find statements of Mission, Vision, Values, our Tagline, Primary Neighbors (to be in ministry with), and Strategic Objectives, as well as a Foundational Scripture that ties it all together.

At our January 30th Administrative Council meeting, we voted to adopt this for Murphy FUMC. This document isn't just a nice page we'll tuck in a binder. It's something that we'll be referring to as a way of guiding our priorities, decision-making, and where we focus energy and resources. It's something we can point to and say, "This is who we are."

Now, there's lots to "unpack" in each statement, and we'll take time to do that over the next several months. But let me give you one example of how these statements describe who we already are.

We are saying our mission is "to live as a community transformed by God's grace, sent to love and serve like Jesus." On Sunday January 29, we heard from several church members about some "lightbulb moments" in their life of faith. These were stories about how God put a light on the path and showed them the way—sometimes a new way! I heard in each of their stories how they experienced transformation by God's grace. AND how that transformation then meant they were sent to love and serve like Jesus.

I'm excited for this moment at Murphy FUMC, and for our next steps together. And I'm grateful to be with you.

In our newsletter look out for information about events and offerings related to the start of Lent, including a really fun dinner on "Shrove Tuesday," 2/21!

Abiding in Christ,

Pastor Wil



Murphy First UMC– Vision and Strategy

Foundational Scripture: *Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you. (John 20:21, NRSV)*

Mission: Live as a community transformed by God’s grace, sent to love and serve like Jesus.

Vision: Build communities of hope where all people experience belonging and abundant life.

Values:

- Relationship
- Hospitality
- Service
- Faithfulness
- Generosity

Tagline:

Growing in faith, going in service, engaging in worship

Neighbors:

- Children, youth and young families seeking belonging
- People experiencing trauma, homelessness, economic instability and loneliness

Strategic Objectives:

- Optimize space and staff for ministry with children, youth and young families
- Offer opportunities for sharing stories and connecting across generations
 - * Cross-generational service projects
- Experiment with solutions for families needing childcare
 - * Start small - within church - 1 time per month for a morning outing for 4 hours
 - ◇ UMW reading program w/ kids
- Invest in solutions that are already working for vulnerable children and adults
 - * Expand Soul Table to 2 days/mo and involve other churches
- Treat the root causes of trauma and homelessness of our neighbors

Teams *and* COMMITTEES

As each church Task Force, Team and Committee gather for their first meetings of the new year, when leaders are selected for each group, PLEASE notify Maggie in the church office. In addition, if your group membership has changed, please send a membership roster to the church office as soon as possible. Thank you.



Congratulations to Patrick Allen, who made the dean's list in the fall 2022 semester, to Asher Brinke for making the President's Honor Roll, and to Micah Nelson on being named to the Cherokee County Chancellor's List and the WCU Dean's List! Excellent job, gentlemen!



for submitting information for the **March** edition of the newsletter!

Wednesday, Feb. 22nd, 2023

Mission Team News

The mission team finished 2022 by contributing to the Sharing Center. Thanks to the congregation's generosity, a donation was made that will hopefully help in feeding more families. The team continues to sponsor the Soul Table. Look for new and exciting developments in the new year.



Our hearts grieve with Hazel Harris and family on the sudden loss of her son, Kenric.



The History committee met on January 17. A decision was made to place memorial hymnals in the sanctuary in memory of Joy Watson, Kenric Harris, Dick Taylor, Gary Crump, Lori Mercer, and Mary Hettinger. The committee is interested in recruiting volunteers to help update the church history book. The last history book was written in 1996 and only a few copies are remaining. If you or someone you know is interested in writing, researching and compiling information for this project, please reach out to Maggie in the church office, Charlene Smith or plan to come to our February meeting. The next meeting is planned for Ash Wednesday on February 22 and will be held 45 minutes prior to the Ash Wednesday service. We will meet in the room beside Pastor Wil's office in the education building. All who are interested are welcome to attend.



FREE TAX CLINIC

FREE SERVICES INCLUDE:

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MURPHY UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH,
73 VALLEY RIVER AVE.
MURPHY

HELLO FEBRUARY



CHILDREN'S HAPPENINGS

Sun Feb 12th: Valentine's card making for shut-ins during childrens' church. Family Valentine's Day devotional sent home

Sun Feb 19th: special Sunday School and children's church for pre-lent FUN

Tues Feb 21st: Shrove Tuesday dinner, children's parade, and pancake games. Family Lent devotional sent home.

Wed Feb 22nd: Ash Wednesday service 3:30 for children and families

Every Sunday

10:00 children's music followed by activities and games

11:00 worship with nursery and children's church provided after the children's moment



In February,
FLOWERS
for the altar each
Sunday will be provided by:

February 5—OPEN
February 12—OPEN
February 19—OPEN
February 26—OPEN

To reserve a Sunday in 2023 to provide altar flowers, please call the church office at 828-837-2718. Thank You!

FINANCIALS:

Total Operating Budget for 2022: \$353,241

Donations needed weekly: \$6,793

As of December 31, 2022:

General Oper. Funds Received YTD: \$316,816.49

Designated Funds Received YTD: \$128,490.60

Total Oper. Funds Avail. thru 12/31/22: \$142,760.35

Total Desig. Funds Avail. thru 12/31/22: \$ 66,900.34

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, History, Harshaw or Foundation funds.



REMEMBER that we always have space for new members in our choir and hand bell groups. We really need more voices in the choir, and we have a missing spot in our hand bell group that we'd like to fill.

The choir rehearses on Wednesdays at 5:30pm and meets in the choir room at 10:30 am each Sunday morning to review Introits, Benedictions, and anthems.

The Wesley Ringers hand bell choir rehearses on Wednesdays at 4 pm and ring in church at least once a month in the spring, with special focus on the season of Lent, Palm Sunday and Easter.

If you have music in your heart and want to share it, come join us or contact Suzanne West at 828-557-7926 or music@murphyfirstumc.org.



Nursery Workers Needed



Children & Family Ministry



Thank you to all our Nursery and Children's Church volunteers who have been blessing our children and helping us get underway with this new schedule.

Sunday Child Care Schedule:

Time	Ages 0-2 (Seedlings)	Ages 3-5 (Sprouts)	Ages K-2nd grade
10:00-10:45	Nursery (rm. 202)	Children's Music & Play (rm. 203, all children 3yrs+)	
11:00-12:00*	Nursery (rm. 202)	Nursery (rm. 203)	Children's Church (rm. 304, upstairs Ed. Bldg)

**Nursery rooms are open from 9:45am-12:15pm, but children can come to "big church" and then go to their rooms when released after Children's Time. Children 3rd+ remain in worship.*

If you are willing to volunteer in the Nursery or with Children's Church, please call the church office.



**TUESDAY FEB 21ST 5-7PM
IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL**

SHROVE TUESDAY

**JOIN US FOR A
POTLUCK, PARADE,
AND PANCAKE GAMES**

**ALL ARE INVITED FOR A FUN
PRE-LENT EVENT!!!
HERE'S WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT:**

**5-5:30 CHILDREN'S CRAFTS AND
WAGON/STROLLER DECORATING**

**5:30-6:00 CAJUN INSPIRED POTLUCK
DINNER (ALL DISHES WELCOME)**

**6:00-7:00 KREWE OF KIDS PARADE
FOLLOWED BY
PANCAKE GAMES**

More info: call or text Kendra Fokakis 601-466-3089 or Lea Posey 386-688-3329

Art & Soul

Experience this Lenten season with a time of holy wondering, contemplation, and creation!

Wednesdays 10:00-11:00 am in Room #300
Begins Ash Wednesday February 22nd—March 29th

Materials supplied.

No artistic experience required!

For more information, contact Rev. Sue Corley at
pastorsuecorley@yahoo.com or call (561) 329-4111



The kitchen is sparkling again! Thanks to chef J.P. our gas stove and griddle are ready to use once again. The kitchen has been cleaned, organized, rearranged for safety and convenience. Now that we are serving the public, we are following health department regulations in the kitchen. Thanks to members of the mission team and hours of work by our newest volunteer, J.P., everything is ready for cooking and serving meals.

The next Soul Table is Thursday, February 2nd. We will be cooking Spaghetti. The hours are from 11:30-1:00. Please come and help serve and clean up. We especially need folks to come and talk with our guests!



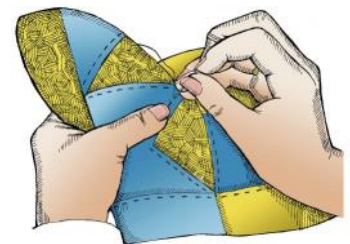
The Trustees of FUMC Murphy held their first meeting of 2023 and elected new officers: Chairperson Ricky Hill, Vice Chair Rob Robertson, Secretary Diane Barfield. The Trustees are working on numerous projects to repair, improve, and renovate parts of the church building. One of the main projects will be to install a kitchen into the basement room and finish the main area. To do this, the Trustees need to find certified and skilled individuals. If you have experience in electrical, heating and air, painting, wood working, plastering, please consider contacting Ricky Hill. We can only finish this and other projects if we have the skilled workers needed to do the work. Other projects include building safety improvements including working toward a better environment for those with disabilities.



Joyful Stitchers

CALLING ALL NEEDLE AND FABRIC CRAFTERS!

Our prayer shawl ministry has dwindled down to only a few knitters, and our supply of shawls and baby blankets is running low. If you **knit, crochet, sew, weave or quilt**, and are willing to provide hand-made items for the church to gift to newborns or anyone who needs a special, loving "hug", **please** help us continue this loving ministry. There are no "rules", only that prayer is worked into the item to bless the recipient. Make whatever you feel called to create and God will direct it to the right person. You can bring your gifts to the church office, and if you have any questions, you can contact Karen Crump at **828-361-4505** or kcrump629@gmail.com.



FEBRUARY SUPPLIES NEEDED FOR HURLBURT-JOHNSON FRIENDSHIP HOUSE

Our church rotates with others through the year to supply the homeless shelter with needed supplies, and February is our month. The kinds of items we are asked to supply are:



- Large jugs of liquid laundry detergent
- Large (64 load) boxes of laundry powder
- Toilet paper
- Paper towels
- Half-gallon bottles of dish soap
- Gallon jugs of all purpose cleaner concentrate
- Windex
- Toilet bowl cleaner
- Large & kitchen sized trash bags

If you can help us provide any of the above items, you can bring them to the church office and we will transport them to the homeless shelter. Thank you for your generosity!

february anniversaries

02/10—Noland & Charlene Smith
02/19—Thomas & Becky Nelson

february birthdays

02/02—Connie Madden; Pati Sims
02/04—Carmen Lance; Judi Teston
02/05—Chris Mintz; Linda Ray
02/07—Kathryn Jenkins
02/12—Caleb Fokakis; Karen Watson
02/14—Anna Brinke
02/16—Sara Sherrill
02/20—Janet Ramsey
02/21—Roy Mendoza
02/23—Caesar Campana; Lucas Fokakis
02/25—Julie Hughes;
John Parker & Joseph Brady Watson
02/26—Bill Schuller
02/28—Bill Vespasian

SERVING IN WORSHIP



Serving in Worship

If you are interested in serving as a Liturgist, Crucifer or Acolyte (age 7+), please contact Kathryn Jenkins at (404) 395-2390 or rkjenkins330@gmail.com.

Contacts

Pastor Wil Posey

pastor@murphyfirstumc.org

Music—Suzanne West

music@murphyfirstumc.org

Maggie Corrigan—Admin Asst

admin@murphyfirstumc.org

Lea Posey—Interim Nursery Director

leajposey@gmail.com



Adult Sunday School meets at 10am in Fellowship Hall led by Wally Avett.

The Nursery (Room 202) is available for children aged 0-2yrs from 10am-Noon.

Children's Music and Play (Room 203) is available for children aged 3 and older from 10am-10:45am (music w/Miss Suzanne)

Children's Church (Room 304) Children aged Kindergarten through 2nd grade are invited to attend Children's Church after they are dismissed from the worship service. All other children should remain with their parents in worship.

**Trustee on Call for February:
Blake Hughes (828-557-3354)**



Wednesday, February 15 through Friday, February 17 we will be cleaning, scraping paint, and preparing the basement room kitchen for painting and renewal! If you can volunteer any time for this project, please contact Diane Barfield or just show up! Cleaning supplies will be provided. Hours 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. each day.



CHEROKEE COUNTY UNITED METHODIST MEN

Did you know that we have a dedicated group of Methodist Men who meet on the second Saturday of each month at 8am? It is a time to meet for Breakfast and also a time to meet other Methodist Men from our County! There is always an interesting program too! This group supports several local groups:

- * Hurlburt Johnson Friendship House....\$500
- * Cherokee County Sharing Center....\$500
- * Big Brothers Big Sisters...\$500
- * Haven...\$500
- * Good Samaritan Fund..\$200
- * Renewed Hope...\$300,

...just to list a few. We sponsor an annual Chili Supper and Spaghetti Supper to raise funds for these groups. Please come for a time of spiritual fellowship and some great stories! Contact...Cobby Barfield @ cobbyb@yahoo.com or Dave Hotchkiss @ dahotch@brmemc.net .



During January, Alpha prepared and served a meal to the residents of the Hurlburt-Johnson Friendship House. And for February we have a few ideas for other service projects.

Currently we are meeting on a monthly basis for a service project. For those who have volunteered in the past to provide a meal, thank you! We hope to get back to sharing a meal at those monthly gatherings and will resume that schedule once we have a more established rhythm.



Keep the following in your thoughts and prayers:

Ruth Vespasian; Scott Adams; Tony Licata; Matt Licata; Trina Iurilli; Christine Iurilli; Karen Bateman; Carl Swanson; Adrienne Brown; Ukraine and its people; Steve DeReamer; Paul Britten; The Rogers family; Karen Kwan; Chris Kelly; Daniel Lawrence; Kelly & Scott Blazen; Erin Brophy; Laure Thompson; Steve Smith; Melissa Alderman; Gretchen Wenger; Carson Wenger; Eric Brant; Ken Brant; Melissa Matthews; Doug Aplin; Makenna Cook; L.C. Newton Family, Baby Penny and Colvin Family; Debbie Shelten; David Cole; Joyce Lunsford; Henry, Brneda and Wanda Ware; Raven Chiong

If you have specific prayer needs, fill out and submit a blue Prayer Request Card, or call the church office or pastor (828-837-2718), or email the Prayer Team at: prayfumc@gmail.com.

STEWARDSHIP OF TIME & TALENTS FOR FEBRUARY***

We ask that you come to church on Sundays or continue to watch our Sunday worship livestream platform and stay in touch with your friends and family.

Cross Bearer: Alex Budzinski ***

Acolytes: TBD ***

Worship Leader: TBD ***

Lay Reader/Liturgist: Morgan Budzinski ***

Greeters: TBD ***

Offering Prayer: John Morton ***

Pew Maintenance: Welcoming Committee

Communion Preparation: Worship Committee

Fellowship Lunch Host: N/A

Counters: Janie Forrister, Karen Watson, Dottie Wershing, Theresa Smith, Anita Sloan

Office Volunteers: Linda Ray, Dottie Wershing, Marilyn Jones

TRUSTEE On Call: Blake Hughes (828-557-3354)

Communications Team: [Sue Bell](#), [Nancy Jo Willis](#), [Lori Nicholson](#), [Diane Barfield](#), [Marji Hill](#)

*** Substitutes can occur.

**We Need
Your**



COUNTERS & OFFICE VOLUNTEERS & CHILDREN'S VOLUNTEERS

We need volunteers in the office to answer the phones each week from Monday through Thursday from 9:00-12:30 and to help with counting the offering on Tuesday mornings around 9:30. We also desperately need your help with our little ones on Sunday mornings. If enough people will step up in a rotation, no one person will be over burdened. Please call the church office at 828-837-2718 to add your name to any of the volunteer rotations. Thank you!



OFFICE VOLUNTEERS	OFFERING COUNTERS
Monday, Feb 06,13,20,27: open	Feb 07: Janie Forrister/Karen Watson
Tuesday, Feb 07,14: Linda Ray	Feb 14: Dottie Wershing/Janie Forrister
Tuesday, Feb 21,28: open	Feb 21: Dottie Wershing/Theresa Smith
Wednesday, Feb 01: Marilyn Jones	Feb 28: Karen Watson/Anita Sloan
Wednesday, Feb 08,15,22: open	
Thursday, Feb 2,9,16,23: Dottie Wershing	

Children's Volunteer SCHEDULE

SEEDLINGS O-2yr	SPROUTS 3-5yr	CHILDREN'S CHURCH K-2nd Grade
Feb 05—Morgan Budzinski/ open	Feb 05—Lea Posey/ open	Feb 05—Liz Pipes/ open
Feb 12— open/open	Feb 12—Lea Posey/ open	Feb 12—Liz Pipes/Katrina Palmer
Feb 19—Robin Burnett/ open	Feb 19—Lea Posey/ open	Feb 19— open/open
Feb 26—Kathryn Jenkins/ open	Feb 26—Lea Posey/ open	Feb 26— open/open



United
Women
in Faith

WILLING HANDS into 2023: Well, we are moving into a new year with lots of ideas on how to contribute and help the women, children and youth in our community and around the world. We are going to try meeting on the third Wednesday of each month at 12:00 noon in the Fellowship Hall. This means we hope to see you on Wednesday, February 15th.

Remember that in February we are collecting supplies for the Hurlburt-Johnson Friendship House (homeless shelter) and a list of suggested items can be found on page 10 of this newsletter.

Know that all women in our church family and also the community are invited to these meetings. Feel free to contact any member of our United Women in Faith group or call Karen Watson (828-361-9520) or Nancy Jo Willis (850-428-3636) with questions, comments, ideas, etc.



SCOUTING

At the current time, neither the Cub Scout Pack 400 or Boy Scout Troop 400 are chartered for 2023. We are working on an Affiliated Agreement and a Facilities Use Indemnity Agreement that are special 2023 UMC requirements. Also, all of the past leaders and participants have left the units. A new field of boys and girls and their leaders needs to be replaced. Anyone desiring to be in the new 400 Pack or Troop as youth or leaders can contact Dave Hotchkiss at

dahotch@brmemc.net to add their name and email address to the queue.

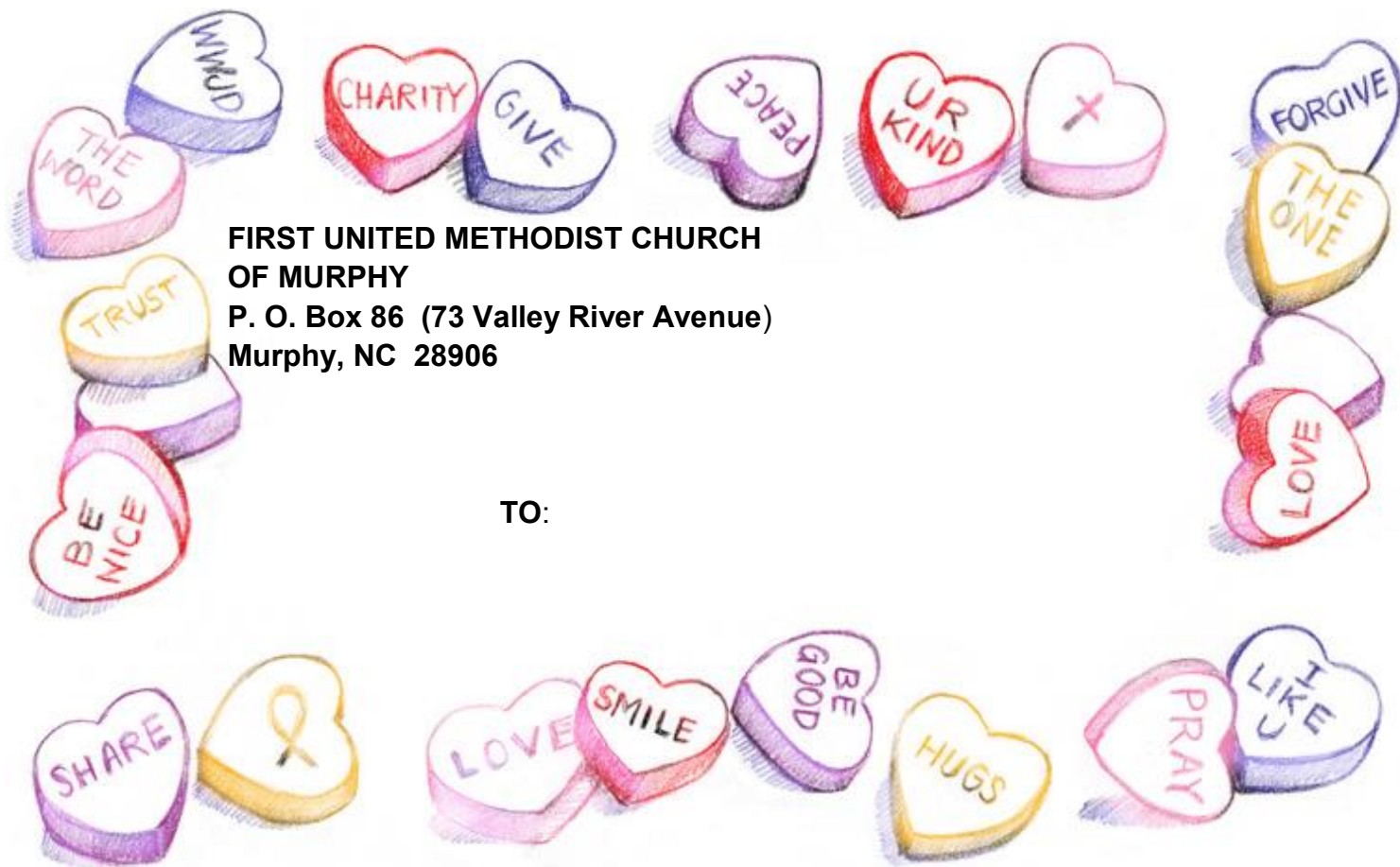
The scouting age groups are as follows:

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|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| ⇒ LIONS—Kindergarten—5 years of age | WEBELOS—4th Grade—9 years of age |
| ⇒ TIGERS—1st Grade—6 years of age | AOL—5th Grade—10 years of age |
| ⇒ WOLF—2nd Grade—7 years of age | SCOUTS—6th Grade—11 years of age |
| ⇒ BEAR—3rd Grade—8 years of age | |



2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>29 10am Adult SS Class 10am Music & Play 10:55am Worship 11:15am Children's Church (K-2nd) 5pm AA Mtg</p> <p>Pastor Wil out</p>	<p>30 11:45am Chair Exercises 5:30pm Admin Council</p>	<p>31 9am Little Melodies 6:30pm Scouting Leadership</p>	<p>1 11:45am Chair Exercises 4pm Wesley Ringers 5:15pm Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>2 9:30am Little Melodies 10am Quilters 11am-2pm Soul Table 5:30pm Finance Committee</p>	<p>3 11:45am Chair Exercises</p>	<p>4</p>
<p>5 10am Adult SS Class 10am Playground Church 10:55am Worship 11:15am Children's Church (K-2nd) 5pm AA Mtg</p>	<p>6 11:45am Chair Exercises</p>	<p>7 9am Little Melodies</p>	<p>8 11:45am Chair Exercises 4pm Wesley Ringers 5:15pm Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>9 9:30am Little Melodies 10am Quilters</p>	<p>10 11:45am Chair Exercises</p>	<p>11 8am CCUMM</p>
<p>12 10am Adult SS Class 10am Music & Play 10:55am Worship 11:15am Children's Church (K-2nd) 5pm AA Mtg</p>	<p>13 11:45am Chair Exercises 12pm Missions Team</p>	<p>14 9am Little Melodies</p>	<p>15 11:45am Chair Exercises 12pm Willing Hands 4pm Wesley Ringers 5:15pm Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>16 9:30am Little Melodies 10am Quilters 5:30pm Trustees</p>	<p>17 11:45am Chair Exercises</p>	<p>18</p>
<p>19 10am Adult SS Class 10am Music & Play 10:55am Worship 11:15am Children's Church (K-2nd) 5pm ALPHA 5pm AA Mtg</p>	<p>20 11:45am Chair Exercises</p>	<p>21 9am Little Melodies 5:30pm Shrove Tuesday</p>	<p>22 10am Art & Soul 11:45am Chair Exercises 12pm Ash Wed Svc 3:30pm Ash Wed Svc 4pm Wesley Ringers 5:15pm Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>23 9:30am Little Melodies 10am Quilters <u>Deadline for Newsletter Input</u></p>	<p>24 11:45am Chair Exercises</p>	<p>25</p>
<p>26 10am Adult SS Class 10am Music & Play 10:55am Worship 11:15am Children's Church (K-2nd) 5pm AA Mtg</p>	<p>27 11:45am Chair Exercises 5pm SPPRC</p>	<p>28 9am Little Melodies</p>	<p>1 10am Art & Soul 4pm Wesley Ringers 5:15pm Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>2 9:30am Little Melodies 10am Quilters 11am Soul Table</p>	<p>3 11:45am Chair Exercises</p>	<p>4</p>



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OF MURPHY**
P. O. Box 86 (73 Valley River Avenue)
Murphy, NC 28906

TO:



STAFF:

Rev. Wil Posey, Pastor

pastor@murphyfirstumc.org

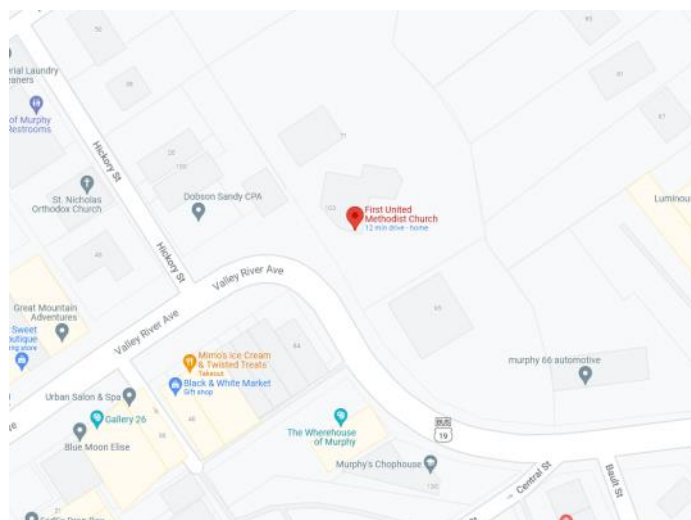
Maggie Corrigan, Admin. Assistant

admin@murphyfirstumc.org

Lea Posey, Nursery Worker

Suzanne West, Director of Music

music@murphyfirstumc.org



OFFICE HOURS:

The church office is open Mondays thru Thursdays 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

The mission of First United Methodist Church is to live as a community transformed by God's grace, sent to love and serve like Jesus.