

**April 2023**

**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](mailto:admin@murphyfirstumc.org)

Website: [www.murphyfirstumc.org](http://www.murphyfirstumc.org)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/fumcmurphy/](https://www.facebook.com/fumcmurphy/)



GROWING IN FAITH  
GOING IN SERVICE  
ENGAGING IN WORSHIP

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Dear Murphy First,

Holy Week is upon us. For plenty of people, it's just a week. Or the week before spring break.

Or the last minute to get taxes done.

For us, we call this week "holy." Why? This week is different from others because we are invited to stay near to Jesus in these moments that are so rich and sacred, so holy. The worship services this week are among my favorite throughout the whole year. The stories, and ways we re-enact them, are so profound. They hardly need interpreting, just re-telling. And they are best told and heard together.

I once participated in a service called the Great Easter Vigil, a service that once was common for all Christians, but has lately fallen off. Maybe because it lasted 4 hours long. It was 4 hours of telling the stories of God's mighty deeds of salvation throughout history, singing, enacting the story. About half-way through, I realized what we were doing. We weren't anonymous worshippers who happened to be in the same place following the directions in the bulletin. We were a family, gathered together, telling stories. Remembering. Laughing. Crying. Hoping.

That is what we do during these services during Holy Week. Here is the schedule:

- 4/6 - Maundy Thursday service at 7pm
- 4/7 – Cross Walk (starting at St. William Catholic Church) 10am; Community Good Friday service at 12pm
- 4/9 – Sunrise Service (Harshaw Chapel) at 7am; NEW Breakfast (Fellowship Hall) at 9:45am; Easter Worship at 11am

If there's ever a time for God's family to be gathered together, this is it. I hope you'll join us for these Holy Week and Easter services.

In the newsletter, you'll find lots of other important information about things coming up in April. Some are now part of our annual rhythm, like Service Sunday on 4/23 and Picnic on the Grounds (at Harshaw Chapel) on 4/29. Others are new, like the carwash fundraiser on 4/29 to help send kids to Camp Tekoa this summer.

As we head into Holy Week and April, I hope we can keep reflecting on how we live into who we are as a church—a congregation that's all about Relationships, Hospitality, Service, Faithfulness, and Generosity.

(Continued on Page 2)

(Continued from Page 1)

This is an especially good time of year to practice Hospitality. Hospitality is about invitation. Who will you invite to join you for worship, or one of the other special things happening this month? Hospitality is about welcome. How will you go out of your way to help people feel welcome in worship? Maybe make it a point to speak with someone you don't know. How can you help someone who is new feel comfortable?

Abiding in Christ,

Pastor Wil



## Follow Your Celtic Call Retreat

### Following Our Celtic Call

A Pilgrimage in the West of Ireland and Newgrange  
with Paintings and Poems



"The complex Cornishman light carrying all this  
to an unseen vanishing point full of  
beauty, love, spirit."

**Friday-Sunday  
April 28-30, 2023**

Led by Kathy Michaud (artist) and  
Patty Smitherman (poet)

Hinton Rural Life Center  
2330 Hinton Center Road, Hayesville, NC

**Experience Celtic vespers, singing, bonfires, silence, creative  
activities, and the celebration of spring renewal.**

**Register by 4/14 at [www.hintoncenter.org/retreat](http://www.hintoncenter.org/retreat)**

## Spring Transformation through Celtic Spirituality

For detailed information, go to

<https://www.hintoncenter.org/2023/01/27/follow-your-celtic-call-2/>

If you'd like to attend, and need assistance with the tuition, please call the church office.





He is  
Risen!

**Join the FUMC Children for an intergenerational  
Easter celebration with breakfast, an impromptu  
Easter pageant, and more!**

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**Easter Sunday, April 9, at 9:45  
in the Fellowship Hall**



**EASTER LILIES:** If you would like to place an Easter Lily in our beautiful sanctuary on Easter Sunday, in honor or in memory of loved ones, please complete the form included in this newsletter, and turn it in to the church office by **Monday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>**.



Our heartfelt sympathies to the family of Roger Stiles, brother to Sheila Jordan.



### Keep the following in your thoughts and prayers:

*Ruth Vespasian; Scott Adams; Tony Licata; Matt Licata; Trina Iurilli; Christine Iurilli; Karen Bateman; Carl Swanson; Ukraine and its people; Steve DeReamer; Paul Britten; The Rogers family; Kelly & Scott Blazen; Erin Brophy; Laure Thompson; Baby Penny and Colvin Family; Raven Chiong; Karey & Eric Sneed; Chris Hett; Debra Aplin; Bob Ortolano; Arlene Murphy; Martha Palmer; Alexis; Matt Heltzel; Harrell Barfield; John & Sheila Snow; The Family of Jack Hedden; Sam Davis; Enalyn Goings; The Family of Sue Mashburn; Karen Moore; Rod and Tessa Anthony; The family of Cindy Taylor; Cynthia; Veronica Bright.*

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](mailto:prayfumc@gmail.com).



# April children's happenings

Dates to save for April children's ministry

**April 2nd Palm Sunday-** children will begin worship waving palm branches. Bring a hoodie to lay down on the alter. Children's choir is singing.

**April 9th Easter Sunday:** 9:45 Breakfast in fellowship hall for families. Activities and fun for kids!!!

**April 16th:** no Sunday school and children's choir

**April 23th:** church wide Day of Service- no Sunday school. Short worship service followed by community service projects.

**April 29th (Saturday):** Car wash 1-5pm to support kids going to Camp Tekoa this summer

**April 30th:** resume children's choir 10:00am

## 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](mailto:rkjenkins330@gmail.com).

## FINANCIALS:

Total Operating Budget for 2023: \$423,665

Donations needed weekly: \$8,147

**As of February 28, 2023:**

**General Oper. Funds Received YTD:** \$ 49,638.75

**Designated Funds Received YTD:** \$ 2,706.47

**Total Oper. Funds Avail. thru 2/28/23:** \$ 118,601.62

**Total Desig. Funds Avail. thru 2/28/23:** \$ 67,004.95

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.

## EASTER LILIES



If you would like to place an Easter lily in the church on Easter Sunday in honor or memory of someone, please complete the information below and turn this form into the church office by Monday, April 3rd. The cost of each Easter Lily is \$ 15.00.

Name:

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

# of Easter Lilies: \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Amt Pd: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Cash [ ]    Check [ ]



## 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
    - United Women in Faith reading program with kids
- Invest in solutions that are already working for vulnerable children and adults
  - Expand Soul Table to 2 days/month and involve other churches
- Treat the root causes of trauma and homelessness of our neighbors





The Mission Team has changed leadership. Anita Sloan is the new chairperson. The Mission Team has been under the capable and spiritual leadership of Janie Forrester for five years! We have accomplished so much, and under the leadership of Anita Sloan we will continue to serve the community, the region, the nation, and the world through our efforts and support.

The Day of Service will be April 23. There will be opportunities for members of the congregation and guests to help with projects in the community. The lists will be posted on church bulletin boards during the next two weeks. Please choose a project and sign up to help. Wear your church t-shirt and come be part of our worship through service. Lunch will be served before we go out and work.

The Soul Table continues to grow thanks to the hard work of the volunteers and chef J.P. The next Soul Table will be April 6 and will be a special Easter meal. Ham, green beans, potato salad, bread and desserts. All are welcome to come. Donations of desserts and breads are welcome! We will be cooking on Tuesday, April 4 at 9 a.m. Come join us and help and then come eat and enjoy great company on April 6.

The Mission Team will soon be visiting and helping to support the Still Place in Hayesville. This facility hosts families with children who are facing life long battles with illness. The directors give these families a place to enjoy the outdoors while having a safe place with medical care for their children. The Still Place offers hiking, gem mining, cooking, campfires, gardening, visits to local farms, and much more for the families. If you are interested in this project, please contact Anita Sloan (850-428-3800).

The Senior Center needs help with drivers for the Meals on Wheels program. If you are able to do any delivery of meals, please contact Diane Barfield.



***The Greeting Card Ministry has resumed and will meet an hour before the Willing Hands Circle meeting on Wednesday, April 19th in Fellowship Hall. If you have questions, contact Sharon Francis at 828-646-1105 or [sharonk1017@gmail.com](mailto:sharonk1017@gmail.com).***



## **AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT COMMITTEE**

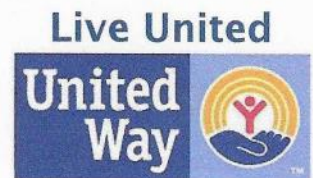
The ADA committee (Diane Barfield, Cobby Barfield, Reid and Sharon Francis, Maria McLeod, Anita Sloan, Sue Bell) have begun discussing ways in which our church can be more welcoming to people with differing abilities. You will see some changes in the near future both on the grounds and in our online presence. It is important that we make our church as accessible as possible to all who might want to attend.



# United Way of Cherokee and Clay Counties

P.O. Box 1658  
Murphy, NC 28906  
uwcherokee@yahoo.com

*Making a difference together!*



January 6, 2023

Dear Friends,

The United Way of Cherokee and Clay Counties is planning its Second Annual Easter Egg Hunt and Rubber Ducky Race in April and we would be delighted to have your church and your church families participate! Last year the event attracted about 350 families!



It will be held Saturday April 8, at Konehete Park in Murphy. The Easter egg hunt and attendance at the ducky race is free. Proceeds from sale of duckies (for those who wish to purchase them) will benefit 14 local non-profit agencies, including four food pantries, Murphy homeless shelter, REACH, Haven Children's Advocacy Center, and the Dolly Parton Imagination Library.

Your church can be part of the event by donating to the cost of plastic eggs and candy; helping to "stuff" eggs with candy or small toys; helping with the "hunt" on the day of the event; or having a booth for your church and a simple children's activity such as face-painting, "fishing", a spoon-race or beanbag throw. (Of course families from your church are welcome to attend whether or not the church wishes to take an active part.)



If you might be interested in helping, please contact Christie Standish at 828-644-3290. We look forward to the possibility of hearing from you!

Sincerely,

Karen L. Borchers, Ed.D  
Executive Director

**Partner Agencies receiving United Way support:** Cherokee County Food Pantry (Andrews); Cherokee County Sharing Center Food Pantry; Clay County Food Pantry; Matt's Ministry Food Pantry; Hurlburt-Johnson Friendship House; H.A.V.E.N. Children's Advocacy Center; REACH of Cherokee County; REACH of Clay County; Hayesville Hands of Hope; St. Vincent DePaul Society (Cherokee County); St. Vincent DePaul Society (Clay County); Matt's Ministry Dolly Parton Library; Cherokee County 4-H, and Special Olympics.



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

April 2—OPEN  
April 9—OPEN  
April 16—OPEN  
April 23—OPEN  
April 30—OPEN

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



for submitting  
information  
for the  
**May** edition of  
the news-  
letter!

**Monday, May 24th, 2023**



Welcome Our  
New Members!  
**Ron & Alice Lewis**  
**and Kyle McClure**



The church hiking/kayaking  
group is planning a "warm  
up" hike for April 13th.  
Contact Cobby Barfield for  
details  
and to  
make sure  
he has  
your  
digits! 😊



**Church  
Picnic**



Dinner on  
the  
Grounds!  
Pack your  
picnic  
basket,

blankets and chairs and  
come to Harshaw Chapel  
on April 29th at  
4:30pm to enjoy the  
springtime weather and  
each other's company!







## SOUL TABLE

A PROGRAM OF FIRST  
UNITED METHODIST  
CHURCH  
OF MURPHY, NC

Our Easter Soul Table will be held on Thursday, April 6th from 11:30am to 1pm and will feature ham, potato salad and green beans. We would appreciate and welcome serving-sized desserts if any would care to provide them. Everyone is welcome to come and enjoy this special feast and participate in the fellowship. If you are interested in helping, please contact Cobby Barfield (828-557-2433).



# FREE TAX CLINIC

### FREE SERVICES INCLUDE:

- TAX PREPARATION
- REPRESENTATION IN TAX RESOLUTION MATTERS
- ASSISTANCE WITH MARKETPLACE AND AFFORDABLE CARE ACT ISSUES
- FINANCIAL COUNSELING CONSULTATION



BY APPOINTMENT  
ONLY, MUST  
QUALIFY

**Call 866-862-  
2220**

SERVICES PROVIDED BY  
**ZACCHAEUS FINANCIAL COUNSELING, INC**  
A 501C3 NON PROFIT ORGANIZATION



MURPHY UNITED  
METHODIST CHURCH,  
73 VALLEY RIVER AVE.  
MURPHY



**We welcome Joyner Philip Edwards, born March 17th to Tyler and Nikol and big brother, Jakob!**



**We celebrated the baptisms of Millie Bonnie McClure and her daddy, Kyle McClure, on Sunday, March 26th during the worship service! Hallelujah!**



**Nursery Workers Needed**



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. 205, beside Wil's office)

*\*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 (828-837-2718).



# Cherokee County United Methodist Men



Tom Payne, president of the Cherokee County United Methodist Men, presents a \$500 donation to Haven, represented by Tiffani Johnson, family and victim advocate. Located at Peachtree, Haven works with children in both Clay and Cherokee counties who are victims of abuse, providing counseling, supplies, interviews, medical exams and advocacy.



In this photo, Tom Payne presents a \$500 donation from the Cherokee County United Methodist Men to the homeless shelter in Murphy. Accepting is Rev. Tim Huff and his guide dog, Onyx. The Free Methodist pastor is president of the shelter's governing board. He said that the shelter is currently housing near its capacity and also feeding, but not housing, another 15-20 people.



Sande Kimball, who heads the board of directors of the Sharing Center in Murphy, is shown accepting a \$500 donation from Tom Payne, president of the Cherokee County United Methodist Men. In the background is the twice-monthly Manna truck delivering government food from Asheville. The food bank is currently serving 1000 people monthly and much of its food is purchased locally at wholesale prices. Donations are dwindling and demand is rising.



Here, Tom Payne presents a \$500 donation from his group to Big Brothers, Big Sisters, a local mentoring group that works one-on-one with students. Accepting are, left to right, program coordinators Gloria Dockery, Debra England and Sharon Flushing. They say they have more youngsters signing up for their program than counselors to serve them.

***All photos by Wally Avett. To learn more about the Cherokee County United Methodist Men and their ministries, contact Tom Payne at 828-837-2823.***

The Trustees are continuing to work on the basement room. The demo of the kitchen has been done, the design of the new kitchen is in progress. The walls of the room need repair and we are asking for volunteers who might be able to help.

The Trustees are also looking for members of the congregation who would like to help "spruce up" our church building and grounds. Pressure washing and cleaning the outside areas are a priority. Contact Ricky Hill if you can help.



# COME ENJOY A FREE DINOSAUR PARTY!

FAMILIES WILL GET A CHANCE TO LEARN ABOUT  
A VARIETY OF RESOURCES IN OUR AREA.

KIDS WILL PARTICIPATE IN A VARIETY OF ACTIVITIES  
INCLUDING A MUSIC AND MOVEMENT LESSON AT 4:45!

PRIZES AS SUPPLIES LAST!



CALL, TEXT, OR EMAIL FOR MORE INFORMATION  
828-506-4632 • [MMATTHEWS@RAPC.ORG](mailto:MMATTHEWS@RAPC.ORG)



**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 205) 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.



## *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.

**This group is in need of a Leader. If you are interested, please contact the church office.**







## Preschool Cohort

Friends, as we start our 101st year in downtown Murphy, one of the things we said we want to give time, energy, and resources to is considering how we can be part of a solution for affordable childcare/preschool in our area.



Back in January, we were accepted into the NC Rural Center's "Community Connect Program" in order to explore that very thing. It is an 18-month long program and guided process that comes with an up-to \$50k grant. Our "Community Connect" team includes: Monica Matthews, Bridget Esterhuizen, Sue Bell, Marji Hill, Pastor Wil, Sylvia McLaurin, Amanda McGee, and Jessica Avett. Each person brings unique perspective and experience to the conversation.

We have already identified that there is no such thing as "the need." There are multiple and varied needs for childcare and preschool in our area. One way we see FUMC potentially providing a solution is by opening a part-time, 3-day/week preschool. We are still very much in the exploring and brainstorming phase.

Please pray for this effort! We know—from data and personal experience—how great the needs are, and see this as a way to be part of the solution in a way that fits who we are and what resources we have.

Starting even a part-time preschool will mean making adjustments with how we use certain spaces. I've heard many, proud stories about how we used to have a kindergarten and preschool at our church. Perhaps the Lord will open the door for that to happen again!?

Stay tuned for updates, and stay in prayer as we proceed.

\*Our initial goal was to start small with a monthly Parent's Morning Out, but the group who explored that goal decided we needed a consistent nursery worker who can keep kids (with the help of volunteers), and coordinate the event. That is on hold while we keep looking for nursery help.





***The Wesley Ringers will be playing hand bells during Holy Week. These are the pieces you will be hearing.***

***A Day to Rejoice (Palm Sunday).*** “Triumphal entry” are two words that often describe Jesus’ arrival on the occasion we call Palm Sunday. This rhythmic piece is certainly joyful! The composer, Michael Mazzatenta, is a music professor as well as organist at First UMC in Corpus Christi, TX. The music features percussive sounds, not just the reverberating bells you expect from the Wesley Ringers. One technique the ringers use is “martellato,” gently striking the bell straight onto the foam padding of the table instead of in the air. This creates an abrupt effect. Likewise, the triumph of Palm Sunday makes an abrupt turn into the events of Holy Week.



***When I Survey the Wondrous Cross (Palm Sunday).*** One scholar claims that Charles Wesley, who wrote over 6,000 hymns, once said he would have given up all 6,000+ if he could have written just this one: “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross” (text by Isaac Watts; tune by Lowell Mason), #299 in our hymnal. There would seem to be no higher compliment! Watts’ verses of text comprise very complicated theology, and Mason’s tune traces back centuries to Gregorian chant. For the ringers, the challenge lies in serenely playing the mind-boggling four key changes.

***Beneath the Cross of Jesus (Good Friday).*** Elizabeth Clephane, a frail and short-lived Scottish woman, wrote the text of this hymn and several others but was best known in her time for living a life of service, giving away all she could to the poor. Her lyric (UMH #297) expresses the comfort and shelter that she associated with the cross. In this arrangement, the windchimes and random ringing of the smallest bells create an almost supernatural quality while the middle and lower bells sing the tranquil melody. At the end, when the windchimes return, there is the slightest hint of Easter: five low hand chime tones deliberately ascend stepwise, as if to sing “Jesus will arise.”

***Crown Him with Many Crowns (Easter).*** The tune of this Easter hymn (UMH #327), called Diademata, appears in our hymnal four times, but the Easter lyrics are the ones sung most often. The tune was first published in 1868; it is a forward-driving, marching one. Sometimes the listener will hear some bells ring out the melody while others accompany it with marching, xylophone-like tones by leaving their bells on the table and striking them with mallets. At other times, the melody rings out in the middle bells while upper ringers create an echo effect by lightly reverberating their bells downward onto the table and then up again. The ringers wear many little hats. The risen Christ wears all the crowns.



Happy Easter!







# Contacts

Pastor Wil Posey

[pastor@murphyfirstumc.org](mailto:pastor@murphyfirstumc.org)

Music—Suzanne West

[music@murphyfirstumc.org](mailto:music@murphyfirstumc.org)

Maggie Corrigan—Admin Asst

[admin@murphyfirstumc.org](mailto:admin@murphyfirstumc.org)

Lea Posey—Interim Nursery Director

[leajposey@gmail.com](mailto:leajposey@gmail.com)

**Trustee on Call for April:  
 Reid Francis (828-644-1105)**



**Bring your cars to the church on Saturday, April 29th beginning at 1pm for a carwash fundraiser to benefit kids attending Camp Tekoa this summer!**



Our March service project was to cook a lot—I mean a LOT—of taco soup, which we then put in Tupperware and froze. The idea is these frozen meals can be taken to members of our church family in a moment when an easy meal would be a real gift—adjusting to having a new baby at home, losing a loved one, recovering from illness, or simply as a gesture to those who are homebound that they are not forgotten.

Since it's taco soup, we talked about the TACOS prayer pattern. Thanksgiving-Adoration-Confession-Others-Self. We laid hands on the sealed containers and prayed that whoever received the meal would “taste and see that the Lord is good.”

In April, we're looking forward to joining in on the Service Sunday projects!



**Alpha making taco soup to freeze and deliver to home-bound.**

**Pastor Wil, Nathanael, John Morton, and Rick Alringer bowling in a benefit fundraiser for Big Brothers Big Sisters**





**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, Apr 17,24: Liz Pipes	Apr 04: Janie Forrister/Dottie Wershing
Monday, Apr 03: <b>open</b>	Apr 11: ?/?
Tuesday, Apr 04,18,25: <b>open</b>	Apr 18: Karen Watson/Anne Hymen
Tuesday, Apr 11: Anne Hymen	Apr 25: Dottie Wershing/Anita Sloan
Wednesday, Apr 05,12,19,26: Marilyn Jones	
Thursday, Apr 06,13,20,27: Dottie Wershing	

## STEWARDSHIP OF TIME & TALENTS FOR APRIL \*\*\*

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:** James Jallah \*\*\*

**Acolytes:** Agnes & Agna Jallah \*\*\*

**Worship Leader:** Cobby Barfield \*\*\*

**Lay Reader/Liturgist:** Tom Payne \*\*\*

**Greeters:** Edward & Katrina Palmer\*\*\*

**Offering Prayer:** Cobby Barfield \*\*\*

**Pew Maintenance:** Welcoming Committee

**Communion Preparation:** Worship Committee

**Fellowship Lunch Host:** N/A

**Counters:** Janie Forrister, Karen Watson, Dottie Wershing, Anita Sloan, Anne Hymen

**Office Volunteers:** Liz Pipes, Dottie Wershing, Marilyn Jones, Anne Hymen

**TRUSTEE On Call:** Reid Francis (828-644-1105)

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

\*\*\* Substitutes can occur.

**WILLING HANDS are staying busy:** Our next Willing Hands meeting will be on Wednesday, April 19th, at 12:00 noon in the Fellowship Hall. The Greeting Card Ministry will gather at 11:00 am to create more special cards for our church members and friends. At this meeting, we will bring in needed supplies for REACH (see enclosed list) and discuss other projects coming up.



At our March meeting, we enjoyed our Spring Fling Auction and made over \$900 to help with clothing needed by the schools and Easter Baskets. We spent almost \$600 on sweatpants, underwear, shoes, etc and prepared 15 Easter baskets which were delivered to shut-ins and other members of our church family who needed a special "hug!" We will also be bringing hoodies to church on Palm Sunday to lay across the altar rail for a Palm Sunday blessing. They will then be given to local students and other community members.



Know that all women in our church family and 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.



## Duke Divinity Summer Intern

We got word at the end of March that we'll be receiving a summer ministerial intern from Duke Divinity School! This summer, we'll be joined by Jonathan Franz. Jonathan is finishing up his first year in seminary. He is pursuing ordination as an elder in The UMC, and is from Starkville, MS. I'll share more about Jonathan as we get to know one another better and as we get closer to the start of his internship, which begins the last weekend of May.

For now, I am looking for housing for Jonathan for his 10-week internship with us. Maybe you have a guest room and would be open to Jonathan staying with your family? Maybe you have a seasonal home, pool house, or otherwise have room to spare. Please reach out to me, if you are interested in potentially hosting Jonathan this summer.

And for everyone, I hope you'll take time to invite Jonathan into your lives and ministry while he's here. Take him out to eat, have him over, go for a hike, bring him along for whatever your passion is in the community and church.

Murphy FUMC is such a great place – and great community – to learn what it means to be a pastor. I'm looking forward to Jonathan meeting you, and for the summer we'll share.

-Pastor Wil





# April 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>26</b> 10am Adult SS Class 10am Music & Play 10:55am Worship 11:15am Children's Church (K-2nd) 5pm AA Mtg	<b>27</b> 11:45am Chair Exercises 5pm SPPRC 	<b>28</b> 9am Little Melodies 9am Tax Clinic 5:15pm VRR	<b>29</b> 10am Art & Soul 11:45am Chair Exercises 3:30pm Wesley Ringers 5:15pm Choir Re-	<b>30</b> 9:30am Little Melodies 10am Quilters	<b>31</b> 10am Preschool Theater 11:45am Chair Exercises	<b>1</b> <b>9am Executive UMM Mtg</b>
<b>2 Palm Sunday</b> 10am Adult SS Class 10am Playground Church 10:55am Worship 11:15am Children's Church (K-2nd) 4pm Bishop Carter at Franklin UMC 5pm AA Mtg	<b>3</b> 11:45am Chair Exercises	<b>4</b> 9am Little Melodies 9am Tax Clinic 5:15pm VRR	<b>5</b> 11:45am Chair Exercises 3:30pm Wesley Ringers 5:15pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>6</b> 9:30am Little Melodies 10am Quilters <b>11am Soul Table</b> <b>7pm Maundy Thursday Svc</b>	<b>7</b> 10am Preschool Theater 11:45am Chair Exercises <b>12pm Good Friday Svc</b>	<b>8</b> <b>8am CCUMM</b>
<b>9 Easter Sunday</b> Sunrise Service/ Harshaw Chapel 9:45am B'fast 10:55am Worship 11:15am Children's Church (K-2nd) 5pm AA Mtg	<b>10 OFFICE IS CLOSED TODAY</b> 11:45am Chair Exercises	<b>11</b> 9am Little Melodies 9am Tax Clinic 5:15pm VRR	<b>12</b> 11:45am Chair Exercises 3:30pm Wesley Ringers 5:15pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>13</b> 9:30am Little Melodies 10am Quilters	<b>14</b> 10am Preschool Theater 11:45am Chair Exercises	<b>15</b>
Pastor Wil on Vacation Through Sunday						
<b>16</b> 10am Adult SS Class 10am Music & Play 10:55am Worship 11:15am Children's Church (K-2nd) 5pm AA Mtg	<b>17</b> 9am VAYA Health 11:45am Chair Exercises <b>12pm Missions Team</b>	<b>18</b> 9am Little Melodies 9am Tax Clinic 5:15pm VRR	<b>19</b> 11:45am Chair Exercises <b>11am Greeting Cards</b> <b>12pm Willing Hands</b> 3:30pm Wesley Ringers 5:15pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>20</b> 9:30am Little Melodies 10am Quilters 4:30pm Children's Partnership	<b>21</b> 10am Preschool Theater 11:45am Chair Exercises 4:30pm Dinosaur Party	<b>22</b>
<b>23 Service Sunday</b> 10am Adult SS Class 10:55am Worship 11:15am Children's Church (K-2nd) 5pm AA Mtg	<b>24</b> 11:45am Chair Exercises 5pm SPPRC 	<b>25</b> 9am Little Melodies 5:15pm VRR	<b>26</b> 11:45am Chair Exercises 3:30pm Wesley Ringers 5:15pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>27</b> 9:30am Little Melodies 10am Quilters <b>3pm Preschool Community Connect</b>	<b>28</b> 10am Preschool Theater 11:45am Chair Exercises	<b>29</b> <b>1pm Carwash Fundraiser</b> <b>4:30pm Picnic @ Harshaw Chapel</b>
<b>30</b> 10am Adult SS Class 10am Music & Play 10:55am Worship 11:15am Children's Church (K-2nd) 3pm Bell Concert at Ranger UMC 5pm AA Mtg	<b>1</b> 11:45am Chair Exercises <b>5pm SPPRC</b>	<b>2</b> 9am Little Melodies 5:15pm VRR	<b>3</b> 11:45am Chair Exercises 3:30pm Wesley Ringers 5:15pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>4</b> 9:30am Little Melodies 10am Quilters 11am Soul Table 5pm Finance Committee	<b>5</b> 10am Preschool Theater 11:45am Chair Exercises	<b>6</b> UMM Planning Mtg

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

**TO:**



### **STAFF:**

**Rev. Wil Posey, Pastor**

[pastor@murphyfirstumc.org](mailto:pastor@murphyfirstumc.org)

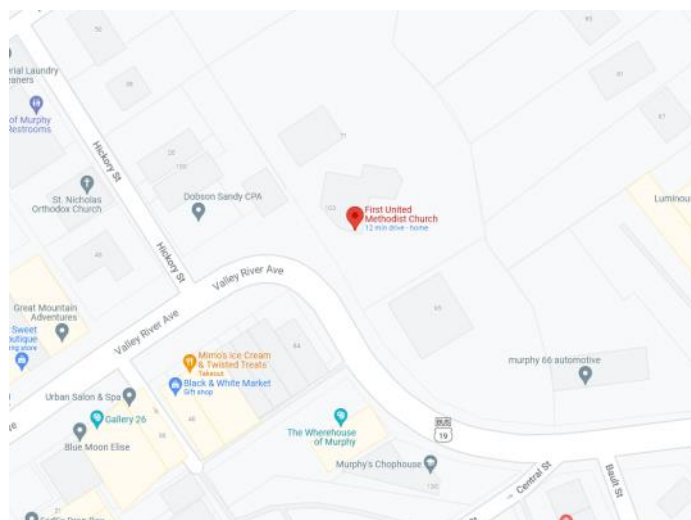
**Maggie Corrigan, Admin. Assistant**

[admin@murphyfirstumc.org](mailto:admin@murphyfirstumc.org)

**Lea Posey, Nursery Worker**

**Suzanne West, Director of Music**

[music@murphyfirstumc.org](mailto: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.***