

March 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,

Back in February I wrote about being on the “same page.” Being on the same page is a phrase I hear used all over the place—in musical ensembles, choirs, sports teams, construction crews. We know what it means: everyone working together toward the same goal.

For us that means being on the same page with where we’re putting our energy, effort, and resources for ministry. To help in that, during our visioning process we wrote out (and adopted) the “one pager” that has our mission, vision, core values, tagline, and strategic objectives for the next 2-3 years.

For me, it’s important to remember that this wasn’t a way of saying much that was new. We named what is already true about who we are, and how we can take the next right steps to be more of who God wants us to be and how God is leading us in mission.

This isn’t just a nice set of ideas we’ll tuck away in a folder or slap on a website. It’ll drive our priorities and decisions. For instance, one of our main objectives is to “optimize staff and space for ministry with children, youth, and young families.” That’s why the #1 priority for SPPRC is hiring Nursery Workers and a Family Ministries Director. Our vision is to “build communities of hope where all people experience belonging and abundant life.” That’s why a top priority for Trustees is finishing the Community Room (below the sanctuary) where various groups are meeting every week.

Each week during the season of Lent, in my preaching, I’m looking at each of our core values through the lens of the life and teachings of Jesus as recorded by Matthew. Those values are:

- ⇒ Relationships
- ⇒ Hospitality
- ⇒ Generosity
- ⇒ Faithfulness
- ⇒ Service

These are values that get to the “core” of who we already are. They are our bread and butter. And we want to purposefully lean into them in everything we do.

I find our vision to be especially compelling: “to build communities of hope where all people experience belonging and abundant life.” Isn’t that what people are looking for?

(Continued on Page 2)

(Continued from Page 1)

“Belonging” means more than just “you can come if you want.” It means, “We want you here. As you are. Your burdens and gifts, your faith and questions. And when you’re not here, we miss you.”

“Abundant life” is what Jesus came to give everyone. That means a life full of the fruit of the Spirit—love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. And it also means a life where you have what you need—food, shelter, economic stability, a community you can call on.

How do you see that vision (that picture of the future we’re working toward) already coming to life? How can you help bring it into reality? Who will you invite to come to church, to join you and us on that journey?

Abiding in Christ,

Pastor Wil

Follow Your Celtic Call Retreat



**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

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.



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



Mission Team News

The Mission Team continues to support local, regional, national, and international projects. In the near future, the team will visit The Still Place in Hayesville. This remarkable facility hosts families with children who have serious illnesses so that they can experience a vacation in a comfortable, stress free environment. The members of the Mission Team hope to help with this project.

Members of the Mission Team will be sprucing up the front flower beds and the prayer garden before Easter. Watch for the announcement of dates and come help us make our church even more beautiful for Easter.

In March, **FLOWERS**

for the altar each
Sunday will be
provided by:

March 5—OPEN
March 12—OPEN
March 19—OPEN
March 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 2023: \$423,665
Donations needed weekly: \$8,147

As of January 31, 2023:

General Oper. Funds Received YTD:	\$ 25,846.68
Designated Funds Received YTD:	\$ 1,355.37
Total Oper. Funds Avail. thru 1/31/23:	\$ 127,455.62
Total Desig. Funds Avail. thru 1/31/23:	\$ 66,571.01

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.

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.



Daylight Savings Time begins the weekend of March 11-12. Don't forget to set your clocks AHEAD 1 hour.



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

Monday, Mar. 27th, 2023



The Greeting Card Ministry will resume this month and will meet an hour before the Willing Hands Circle meeting on Wednesday, March 15th in Fellowship Hall. If you have questions, contact Sharon Francis at 828-646-1105 or sharonk1017@gmail.com.



The Communications Committee is looking into using TEXT options in addition to the phone calls that go out through the One Call System. Many people use some type of text message option and may be able to access the messages easier than answering a phone call or listening to a voice mail. It is the wish of the Communication Team that every member of the congregation receives as much information as possible. Sharing within the church family and between groups is so important as we move forward. Remember, if you are NOT receiving the phone calls through One Call, let the church office know.

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-
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MURPHY UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH,
73 VALLEY RIVER AVE.
MURPHY



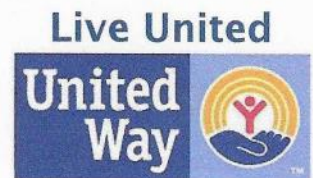
CHEROKEE COUNTY UNITED METHODIST MEN

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, and 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 .

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.

MUSIC News

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 5:15pm 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.

Trustee on Call for March:
Tori Hughes (828-361-6161)



Nursery Workers Needed



Children & Family
Ministry



Sunday School
Volunteers

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.

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



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; Debbie Shelten; David Cole; Joyce Lunsford; Henry, Brenda and Wanda Ware; Raven Chiong; Steven & Kayla Kirby; Karey & Eric Sneed; Roger Stiles; Chris Hett; Sheila Snow; David Chapman; John Morton; Tri-County School Students' travel mercies.

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.



The Soul Table continues to grow and flourish. Chef J.P. and the volunteers have cleaned and rearranged the kitchen, gathered supplies, and planned menus. The plans for the future include having members of other churches and businesses in to help. The staffs of Steven Aft State Farm and Carolina Mtn. Homes have agreed to host and help with the lunches. Members of the Episcopal Church of the Messiah will host at a future date as well. Plans also include moving to two Thursdays a month!! The outpouring of support for the Soul Table has been incredible. If you are interested in helping, please contact Cobby Barfield.





TRUSTEES

The work to renovate the basement room has begun! Volunteers have begun scraping, sanding, removing old materials, and getting ready for paint. A kitchen will be installed for use by groups and gatherings. Volunteers are needed! Contact Diane Barfield if you are interested in helping (especially if you have skills in repairing walls, painting, or electrical work).

Trustee Diane Barfield is beginning an initiative to make our church more accessible and compliant to ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act). There will be a committee which will explore ways to make sure our church (both the building and the congregation) are welcoming and helpful to people with differing abilities. If this is something that interests you, please contact Diane Barfield.

Thank You!



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



03/02—Laura Smith
 03/03—Sue Crawford
 03/04—Scott Freel
 03/05—Totsie Gentile
 03/06—Wil Posey
 03/08—Noland Smith
 03/09—Tony Teston
 03/18—Tori Hughes
 03/19—Jakob Edwards; Kathi Taylor
 03/20—Rob Robertson
 03/23—Bill Gill
 03/24—Emma Stroup
 03/25—Anne Hymen
 03/26—Vera Confer
 03/28—Ryan Kephart
 03/29—Leighton Brown
 03/31—Asia Mendoza; Ethan Palmer;
 Charlene Smith

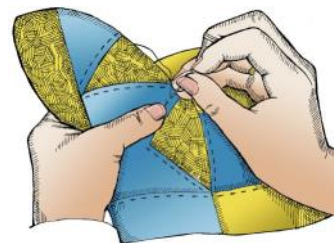


Joyful Stitches

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.



Camp Tekoa

Camp Tekoa is a United Methodist summer camp for kids ranging from 7yrs old through High School, located in Hendersonville, NC. If you are interested in your child going to camp, plan for an informational meeting on Sunday right after worship 3/12 in the Community Room (beneath the Sanctuary).

Check out their website at www.camptekoa.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.



Join Pastor Wil for a study of Matthew this Lent in the Community Room (beneath the Sanctuary) each Sunday morning at 10am. We are following the daily reading plan shared with the congregation, and N.T. Wright's Matthew for Everyone as companion reading.



Did you know that the ashes we used for Ash Wednesday were made from the palm fronds we waved last Palm Sunday? And did you know that for the last 2 years it's been Alpha that's burned the palms so that we could have ashes?

Rituals are important in our lives. They help give meaning and rhythm, and at just the right time remind us of what's important. Like considering what we need to let go of (toss in the fire). And that ritual palm-frond-burning is an important way to connect our youth to the bigger ministry and rhythm of the church.

We're on the search for a March service project that we can share in together!

**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, Mar 06,13: Liz Pipes	Mar 07: Janie Forrister/Karen Watson
Tuesday, Mar 07,14,21: Linda Ray	Mar 14: Anne Hymen/Anita Sloan
Tuesday, Mar 28: Anne Hymen	Mar 21: Dottie Wershing/Janie Forrister
Wednesday, Mar 01,08,15,22,29: Marilyn	Mar 28: Karen Watson/Anita Sloan
Monday, Mar 20,27: open	
Every Thurs: Dottie Wershing	

STEWARDSHIP OF TIME & TALENTS FOR MARCH***

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: Celia Larson ***

Acolytes: Vivian McNabb ***

Worship Leader: Rev. Will Posey ***

Lay Reader/Liturgist: Lydia McNabb ***

Greeters: The McNabb Family***

Offering Prayer: Kathryn Jenkins ***

Pew Maintenance: Welcoming Committee

Communion Preparation: Worship Committee

Fellowship Lunch Host: N/A

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

Office Volunteers: Linda Ray, Liz Pipes, Marilyn Jones, Anne Hymen

TRUSTEE On Call: Tori Hughes (828-361-6161)

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

*** Substitutes can occur.



United
Women
in Faith

WILLING HANDS moving forward: Our next Willing Hands meeting will be on Wednesday, March 15th, at 12 noon in the Fellowship Hall. At this meeting, we will enjoy our Spring Fling Auction, with Head Auctioneer Barbara Hughes leading us! We will raise funds for Easter baskets and other spring projects coming up.

Later in March we will gather to create those Easter baskets for our shut-ins and older church members. Also, please note that the Greeting Card Ministry will start up again at 11:00 am on March 15th so if you can come early to help, terrific!

We have finished combining our various UWF bank accounts and are now operating with one Willing Hands account.

With the help of our church family, we were able to collect a great supply of items needed for the Hurlburt-Johnson Friendship House (homeless shelter). Thank you to everyone who helped with this effort!

Know that all women in our church family and also the community are invited to these meetings. Bring your friends and neighbors to our Auction and have a great time! 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

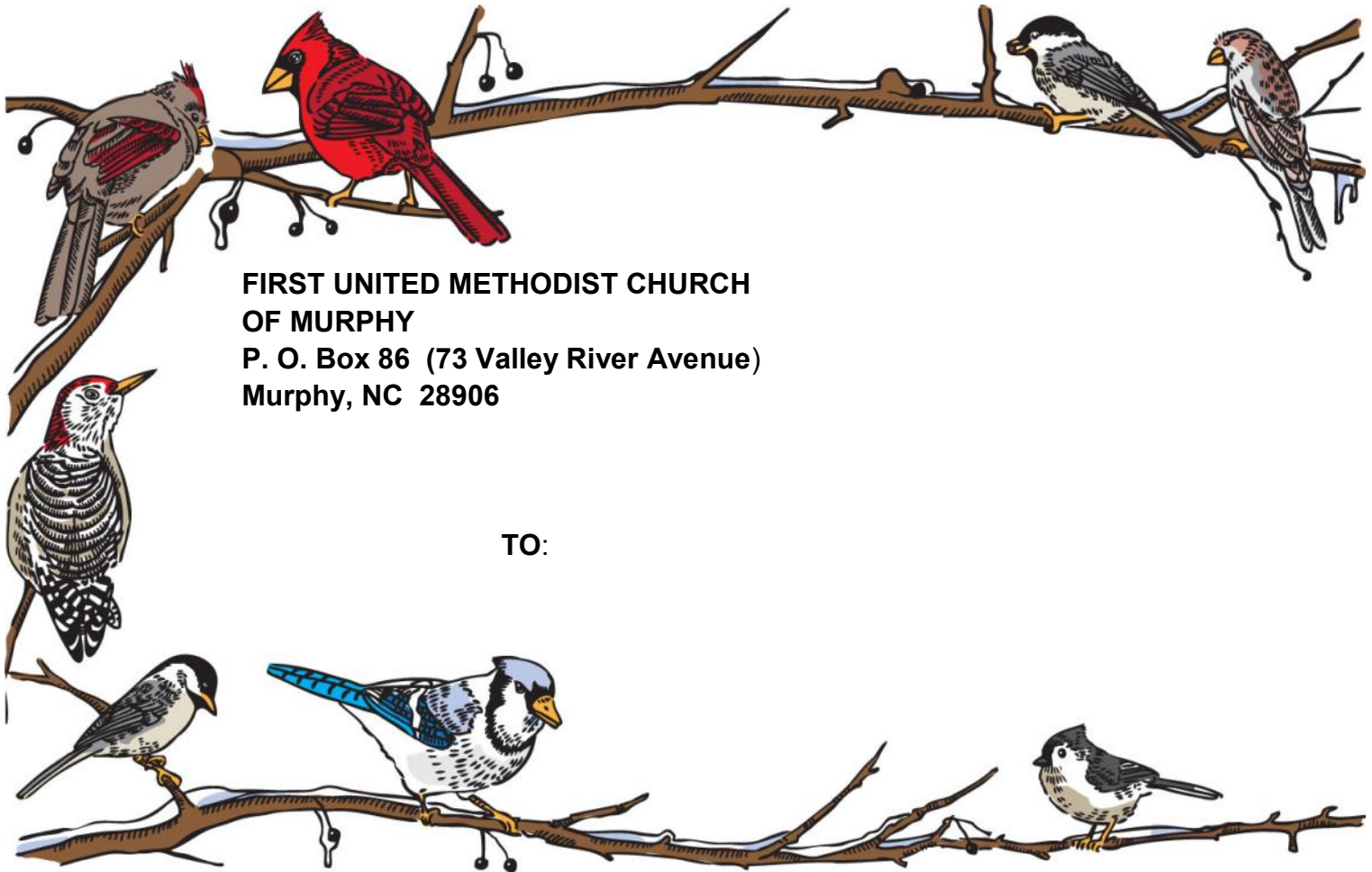
dahotch@brmemc.net to add their name and email address to the queue.

The scouting age groups are as follows:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| ⇒ 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 | |



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26 <i>10am Adult SS Class</i> <i>10am Music & Play</i> <i>10:55am Worship</i> <i>11:15am Children's Church (K-2nd)</i> 5pm AA Mtg	27 11:45am Chair Exercises <i>5pm SPPRC</i>	28 9am Little Melodies 9am Tax Clinic 5:15pm VRR	1 <i>10am Art & Soul</i> 11:45am Chair Exercises <i>4pm Wesley Ringers</i> <i>5:15pm Choir Rehearsal</i>	2 9:30am Little Melodies 10am Quilters <i>11am-2pm Soul Table</i> <i>5pm Finance Committee</i>	3 11:45am Chair Exercises	4
5 <i>10am Adult SS Class</i> <i>10am Playground Church</i> <i>10:55am Worship</i> <i>11:15am Children's Church (K-2nd)</i> 5pm AA Mtg	6 11:45am Chair Exercises	7 9am Little Melodies 9am Tax Clinic 5:15pm VRR	8 9:30am Mountain Projects G'parents <i>10am Art & Soul</i> 11:45am Chair Exercises	9 9:30am Little Melodies 10am Quilters	10 11:45am Chair Exercises	11 <i>8am CCUMM</i> 
12 <i>10am Adult SS Class</i> <i>10am Music & Play</i> <i>10:55am Worship</i> <i>11:15am Children's Church (K-2nd)</i> 5pm AA Mtg	13 11:45am Chair Exercises <i>12pm Missions Team</i>	14 9am Little Melodies 9am Tax Clinic 9:30am Mountain Projects 5:15pm VRR <i>5:30pm Trustees</i> 6pm CCC Soil & Water	15 <i>10am Art & Soul</i> 11:45am Chair Exercises <i>11am Greeting Cards</i> <i>12pm Willing Hands</i> <i>4pm Wesley Ringers</i> <i>5:15pm Choir Rehearsal</i>	16 9:30am Little Melodies 10am Quilters	17 11:45am Chair Exercises	18
19 <i>10am Adult SS Class</i> <i>10am Music & Play</i> <i>10:55am Worship</i> <i>11:15am Children's Church (K-2nd)</i> <i>5pm ALPHA</i> 5pm AA Mtg	20 9am VAYA Health 11:45am Chair Exercises <i>5:30pm Admin Council</i>	21 9am Little Melodies 9am Tax Clinic 5:15pm VRR	22 <i>10am Art & Soul</i> 11:45am Chair Exercises <i>4pm Wesley Ringers</i> <i>5:15pm Choir Rehearsal</i>	23 9:30am Little Melodies 10am Quilters <i>3pm Community Connect Mtg</i>	24 11:45am Chair Exercises	25
26 <i>10am Adult SS Class</i> <i>10am Music & Play</i> <i>10:55am Worship</i> <i>11:15am Children's Church (K-2nd)</i> 5pm AA Mtg	27 11:45am Chair Exercises <i>5pm SPPRC</i> 	28 9am Little Melodies 9am Tax Clinic 5:15pm VRR	29 <i>10am Art & Soul</i> 11:45am Chair Exercises <i>4pm Wesley Ringers</i> <i>5:15pm Choir Rehearsal</i>	30 9:30am Little Melodies 10am Quilters	31 11:45am Chair Exercises	1 <i>9am Executive UMM Mtg</i>



**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

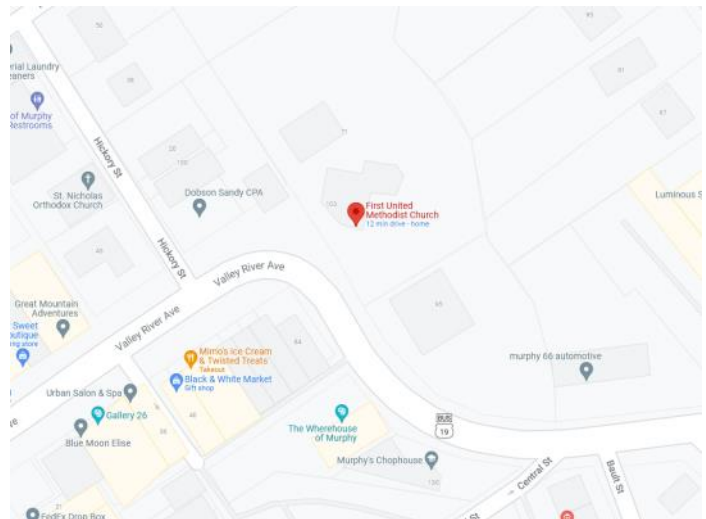
Maggie Corrigan, Admin. Assistant

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.