

May 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

Website: www.murphyfirstumc.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/fumcmurphy/



Our **Mission** is to:

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

Our **Vision** is to:

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

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Dear Murphy First,

You've heard me talk and seen me write about the visioning work we did as a congregation a few months ago. In fact, during Lent, I preached on our 5 Core Values—Relationships, Hospitality, Service, Faithfulness, and Generosity. You're going to start seeing our mission and vision statements showing up on bulletins and newsletters.

Since the get-go, I said the point of all that wasn't to create a nice document with bold statements that would sit on a shelf. That would be a waste. Instead, the idea was to discern how God is leading us into our 101st year in downtown Murphy. How can we be more of who we are? Who is God leading us to be in ministry with?

The idea was (is!) whatever we landed on would guide our decision-making, focus our energy, and rally us together. The idea is, the outcomes would actually determine ministry.

Here's a snapshot of how we're putting into action the things we talked about:

- One strategic objective is to optimize staff and space for ministry with children, youth, and young families—SPPRC has been working diligently to fill our nursery worker positions and the Family Ministries Director. As of now, we have 2 new nursery workers: Patti and Mary—hooray!!! The Trustees have been working to get the Community Room more fully operational—and this space has already been a huge blessing to community groups, including many programs centering around children and families.
- Another strategic objective is to experiment with solutions for families needing childcare. We have a diverse group of folks in a program through the NC Rural Center doing just that! In fact, the team is working on a plan for what it would look like for FUMC to start a part-time preschool. If it comes together this would mean some rearranging and adjustments. Please keep this initiative in your prayers and stay tuned for updates!
- Another goal is having regular intergenerational service projects. This falls under the objective of sharing stories and connecting across generations. Service Sunday was a great example of that coming to life, as will be some upcoming service projects with Alpha and in VBS.

What I want you to see is that we're taking action. We didn't go through some motions in order to say, "Well, we got through that." We're trying to live into the vision of "building communities of hope where all people experience belonging and abundant life."

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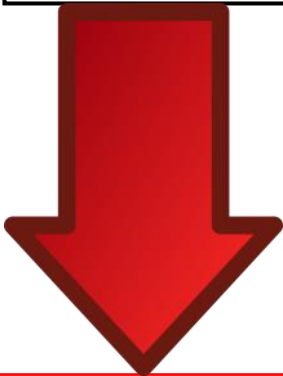
All of this is an expression of our mission, which says who we are. Our mission is to live as a community transformed by God's grace, sent to love and serve like Jesus.

I love that. Our mission is to be a community. A bunch of people bound together, filled with, and changed by God's grace. This mission statement you all came up with feels right on target for Murphy FUMC.

I'm grateful to be here with you, living and serving alongside you all, within this community that is continually being transformed by God's amazing grace.

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Pastor Wil



SCAM EMAILS

Friends, several of you received a scam email from someone alleging to be me. I'm very sorry that happened! This is not the first time, and I am far from the only pastor this has happened to. Many of you sniffed out the scam or at least suspected something was up, and let me know. Thank you!

A couple of things to keep in mind in the event that something like this happens again:

- I will never ask you to take a picture of a gift card or any financial information, and ask you to send it to me.
- My name is spelled with one "l" (Wil), not two.
- If something seems off: 1) check in with me and do not take any action unless you actually talk with me; 2) check the email address and see if it's truly mine (pastor@murphyfirstumc.org or wposey@wnccumc.net); 3) report the incident.

I'm so thankful for the generous heart of this congregation, and regret that there are those who would take advantage of others. We pray for them, that they might one day have a Jesus-story like that of Zacchaeus who gave back even more than what he took from others.

-Pastor Wil



Helen Gibson will begin leading a Community Woodcarving Class at the church on Wednesday, May 3rd at 10am. The second class will move to Monday, May 15th, at 10am. In June, the class will be held every other Monday, starting on June 5th. For more information or to sign up, contact the church office at 828-837-2718.



FINANCIALS:

Total Operating Budget for 2023: \$423,665

Donations needed weekly: \$8,147

As of March 31, 2023:

| | |
|--|----------------------|
| General Oper. Funds Received YTD: | \$ 76,340.11 |
| Designated Funds Received YTD: | \$ 37,193.91 |
| Total Oper. Funds Avail. thru 3/31/23: | \$ 118,901.39 |
| Total Desig. Funds Avail. thru 3/31/23: | \$ 99,283.52 |

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, plus Designated Funds for Trustees, Harshaw, New Staff, Music and Miscellaneous. They do not include any information on 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.



Cobby Barfield is leading the project to help the Still Place by putting benches on their hiking trail. If you can help construct simple benches and help install them on the trail, contact Cobby at cobbyb@yahoo.com, call or text 8285572433, or see him at church!

FUMC KAYAKING & HIKING GROUP

The Hiking and Kayaking Group has started up again! We started in April with a warm-up hike at Lake Nottley followed by a hike to the Panther Top fire tower and a kayak/picnic at Cherokee Lake. Future plans include Siler Bald, Fires Creek, parts of the AP and Jackrabbit. We'd love for you to join us! If you want to be on our email group, send your email address to cobbyb@yahoo.com or follow us in our Facebook group:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/263176598339074>



**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, May 01, 08, 15, 22: open | May 02: Janie Forrister/Catherine Brown |
| Tuesday May 02,09,16,23,30: Linda Ray | May 09: Karen Watson/Dottie Wershing |
| Wednesday May 03,17,24,31: Marilyn Jones | May 16: Janie Forrister/Catherine Brown |
| Wednesday May 10: open | May 23: ?/? |
| Thursday May 04: Dottie Wershing | May 30: ?/? |
| Thursday, May 11,18,25: open | |

STEWARDSHIP OF TIME & TALENTS FOR MAY***

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: Ricky Hill ***

Acolytes: Luke Timson ***

Lay Reader/Liturgist: Agnes & Agna Jallah ***

Offering Prayer: John Morton ***

Greeters: Esther Manchester & Martha Palmer***

Pew Maintenance: Welcoming Committee

Communion Preparation: Worship Committee

Fellowship Lunch Host: N/A

Counters: Janie Forrister, Karen Watson, Dottie Wershing, Catherine Brown

Office Volunteers: Linda Ray, Dottie Wershing, Marilyn Jones

TRUSTEE On Call: Diane Barfield (828-557-9408)

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

*** Substitutes can occur.



On Palm Sunday, the Mission Team sponsored a “hoodie” drive. Forty one hoodies were donated by members of the congregation. They were given to Murphy Elementary School, Murphy High School and REACH.

Soul Table continues to serve members from the community as well as members of the congregation. At the April Soul Table, around fifty meals were served. There were eleven volunteers who served, visited with community members, collected prayer requests and needs and enjoyed the meal. The next Soul Table is May 4th. Cobby Barfield has written and submitted a grant which may help fund the meal in the future and allow for the program to grow to two lunches a month.

The Mission Team is supporting The Still Place. The Still Place is a facility in Hayesville which is available for families with sick children to have a vacation. The Still Place is run by two doctors who provide care for the children so that the families can participate in activities during a week long visit. The Still Place is located in beautiful Tusquittee Valley. While there, families go hiking and fishing, visit local attractions, play games, have cooking competitions and much more. Volunteers are needed to be with the families and help during their week at The Still Place. Anyone wishing to volunteer should contact Diane Barfield (dianefbarfield@gmail.com).

Service Sunday:

Thanks to the wonderful leadership by Anita Sloan and incredible participation of all of the volunteers, our Service Sunday was a great success. Members of FUMC Murphy picked up trash, cleaned storefronts, landscaped the Senior Center and Friendship House, joined MountainTrue on a river walk, made greeting cards and seed bombs, cleaned tombstones at Harshaw and helped a friend with yardwork. Pictures of all the teams and their activities have been posted to the private Facebook Group for you to see.

The Greeting Card Ministry will meet at 11am before the Willing Hands Circle meeting on Wednesday, May 17th in Fellowship Hall. If you can use a glue stick, come and lend a hand. We make cards for our members who may not be able to attend church or need a kind word. Contact Sharon Francis if you have any questions (828-646-1105) or sharonk1017@gmail.com.



The Trustees continue to do all they can to improve the buildings and grounds. Maintaining, repairing and improving our buildings is a huge task. The Trustees always welcome help from members of the congregation. If you have skills in: construction, painting, sheetrock installation, wood sanding and staining or pressure washing, please let Ricky Hill or any Trustee know. Everyone wants to see progress made on our facilities and all hands are welcome.



**Trustee on Call for May:
Diane Barfield (828-557-9408)**



Prayers
lease

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

*Ruth Vespasian; Scott Adams; Tony Licata;
Matt Licata; Trina Iurilli; Christine Iurilli; Ka-
ren Bateman; Carl Swanson; Ukraine and its
people; Paul Britten; The Rogers family; Kelly & Scott Blazen; Laure Thomp-
son; Baby Penny and Colvin Family; Raven Chiong; Karey & Eric Sneed; Chris
Hett; Veronica Bright; Arlene Murphy; Alexis; Harrell Barfield; new baby in
the Hill Family; Kaci Jones & Family; Beckie; David Hotchkiss; Craig Nelson;
Allen Durant.*

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.

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT COMMITTEE

There is a new committee in our church! The newly formed ADA (Americans with Disabilities) Committee will be looking at ways to make our church building and grounds more accessible for people with differing abilities. There will be new announcements, some changes in the facilities and opportunities for all of our church family to become more familiar with the challenges some of our members face. We want to make sure we can welcome ALL to our building. Watch for a new feature in our Newsletter and on our webpage that will be provided by Maria McLeod. Meanwhile, as you attend our services and use our buildings, let us know if there is something that would make it easier for you to enjoy your time at FUMC. Sometimes simple changes can make life safer for everyone.



Our May Soul Table will be held on Star Wars Day, Thursday, May 4th from 11:30am to 1pm and will feature turkey tetrazzini. We would appreciate and welcome serving-sized desserts if any would care to provide them. Everyone is welcome to come and enjoy the feast and participate in the fellowship. We have applied for a Grant to help with expenses. If you are interested in helping, please contact Cobby Barfield (828-557-2433).



for submitting
information for
the
June edition of
the newsletter!
***Thursday, May
25th, 2023***



**CCUMM All U Can Eat
Spaghetti Supper
4:30-6:30pm May 13th
Fellowship Hall
\$9 at the door
\$8 in advance
(church office)**

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

May 7—OPEN
May 14—OPEN
May 21—OPEN
May 28—OPEN

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



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) Chil-
dren aged Kindergarten through 2nd
grade are invited to attend Children's
Church after they are dismissed from
the worship service. All other chil-
dren should remain with their parents
in worship.



05/01—Bud & Diane Sims;
John & Renee Teel
05/05—Bill & Dawn Tanner;
Tony & Judi Teston
05/06—Brian & Wendy Leatherwood
05/08—Bill & Sandy Graves
05/15—Rob & Mary Robertson
05/16—Reid & Sharon Francis
05/22—David & Melanie Hughes
05/25—Rusty & Lori Edwards
05/28—Carl & Myrt Auvil;
Joseph & Heather Watson
05/29—Mark Mobley & Erin Brophy
05/31—Blake & Julie Hughes

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

leajsposey@gmail.com

Patty Singer—Nursery Assistant

Mary Lee—Nursery Assistant



John Allen, Bill & Cissy Dyer's grandson, graduates from MHS this month. His plan after high school is to attend Western Carolina University and study to become a nurse while working as a CNA. Way to go, John!!!



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



Meet our new nursery workers!

Ms. Patty Singer

&

Ms. Mary Lee

Let's make them feel welcome!



**We've started planning for our
2023 VBS scheduled for
July 30—Aug 3rd, 5:30-7:30pm.**

**We need everyone's help!
Please reach out to Lea Posey to
get involved.**



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. 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).

Experimenting with solutions for families needing childcare.



At our meeting this past month, we reviewed results from a simple survey we had distributed to different groups via email, and it confirmed what we thought—there is strong interest in our area for both preschool and child care. With this validation in mind, we set some goals, some objectives and some tasks. We hope to present a clear and concise plan to the Finance Committee, the SPPRC Committee, and the Administrative Council at their meetings in May and June.

The consensus is to start small by offering a part-time 3-day/week preschool for 3-5 year old children, based on a Montessori model. The questions we are still exploring are:

- FUMC insurance policy impacts
- FUMC budget impacts
- Costs for furnishings and equipment
- Usage of campus spaces
- Program legal, fiscal and reporting structure
- Program core values
- Program tuition and fee structure

We hope that this program will be able to grow, either on our own campus, or as a model for other local churches to pursue. Our desire is to serve as many children and families as God makes possible for us, in whatever ways we can.



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, so we are asking everyone to be flexible and keep open hearts and minds as we try to work out the best arrangements for everyone.

Celebrating some of our high school graduates this month!

- * **John Allen**
- * **Lochlan Rogers**
- * **Nadia Svitil**





THIS MONTH'S birthdays

05/01—Agnes & Agna Jallah;
TJ Parks

05/04—Vikki Fortner;
Nichole Palmer

05/05—Morgan Budzinski;
Grover Smith

05/06—Lindsay Campana

05/09—Kevennie Westmoreland

05/14—David Hughes

05/16—Frank Barber;
Mary Lou Hughes

05/18—Paywalah Jallah

05/21—Freddy Lochaby

05/23—Rick Ramsey

05/26—Cheryl Schuller

05/27—Alex McClure

05/28—Dave Hotchkiss

05/29—David Hettinger;
Thomas Nelson



United
Women
in Faith

WILLING HANDS on the go:

Our next Willing Hands meeting will be on Wednesday, May 17th, 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 hope to put together Comfort Bags for children in distress, (distributed by REACH and the Sheriff's Dept), and discuss other projects coming up.

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.

The Picnic on the Grounds was

held on Saturday, April 29th. Wally Avett gave tours of the cemetery and David Bellino and Dawn Davis provided music. Ricky Hill was able to put a small rover camera under the church to check the conditions of the foundation. According to Ricky, everything looks good and solid!





**Raising \$\$\$
for Camp
Tekoa this
summer!**



**Church
Picnic**



**Our next church picnic will be
held @ Cherokee Lake on June
4th from 4pm—6pm**

**Bring a meal and your toys for
a day of outdoor fun and
fellowship!**





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:

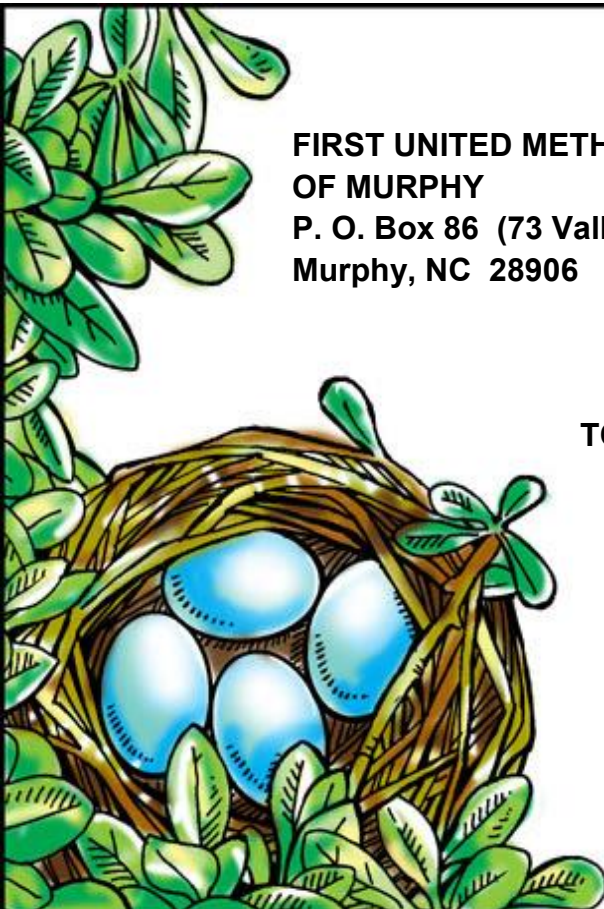
- Children, youth and young families seeking belonging
- People experiencing trauma, homelessness, economic instability and loneliness

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



| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|---|--|--|--|--|--|
| 30 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 | 1 11:45am Chair Exercises | 2 4:30pm VRR | 3 10am Wood Carving 11:45am Chair Exercises 5:15pm Choir Rehearsal | 4 10am Quilters 11am Soul Table | 5 10am Preschool Theater 11:45am Chair Exercises | 6 UMM Planning Mtg |
| 7 10am Adult SS Class 10am Playground Church 10:55am Worship 11:15am Children's Church (K-2nd) 12pm Church Meeting 5pm AA Mtg | 8 11:45am Chair Exercises | 9 9:30am Mountain Projects 4:30pm VRR 5:30pm Trustees | 10 11:45am Chair Exercises | 11 10am Quilters | 12 10am Preschool Theater 11:45am Chair Exercises | 13 8am UMM Mtg 4:30-6:30pm UMM Spaghetti Supper |
| 14 10am Adult SS Class 10am Music & Play 10:55am Worship 11:15am Children's Church (K-2nd) 5pm AA Mtg | 15 9am VAYA Health 10am Wood Carving 11:45am Chair Exercises 12pm Mission Team 5:30pm Admin Council | 16 6pm Tri-County Early College Graduation | 17 11:45am Chair Exercises 11am Greeting Cards 12pm Willing Hands 5:15pm Choir Rehearsal | 18 10am Quilters | 19 10am Preschool Theater 11:45am Chair Exercises | 20 |
| 21 10am Adult SS Class 10am Music & Play 10:55am Worship 11:15am Children's Church (K-2nd) 5pm AA Mtg | 22 11:45am Chair Exercises 5:30pm SPPRC | 23 | 24 11:45am Chair Exercises | 25 10am Quilters 1-5pm Preschool Cohort  | 26 10am Preschool Theater 11:45am Chair Exercises | 27 |
| 28 10am Adult SS Class 10:55am Worship 11:15am Children's Church (K-2nd) 5pm AA Mtg | 29 MEMORIAL DAY, OFFICE IS CLOSED 11:45am Chair Exercises 6pm Oaks Academy | 30 | 31 11:45am Chair Exercises | 1 10am Quilters 11am Soul Table 5:30pm Finance Committee | 2 10am Preschool Theater 11:45am Chair Exercises | 3 |



**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

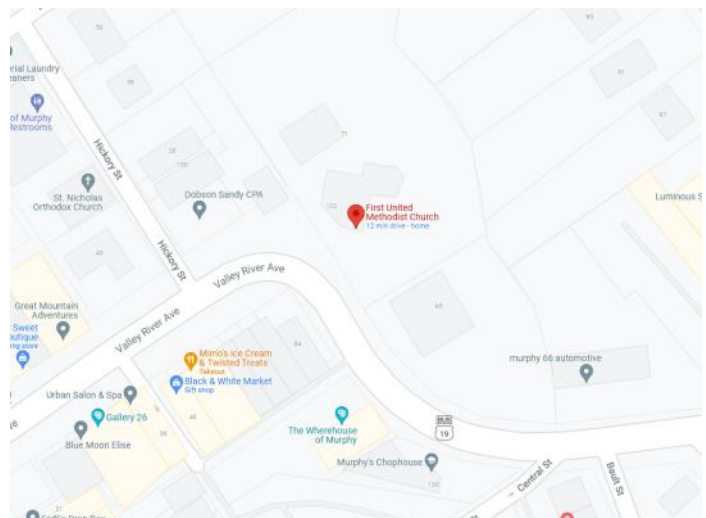
admin@murphyfirstumc.org

Lea Posey, Interim Nursery Director

Patty Singer & Mary Lee, Nursery Assts.

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.