

August 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,

Don't you love a good set of "before and after" photos? Like, "Here's what our old living room looked like...Now, check it out after the remodel!" Or, "Remember that overgrown front lawn? Not anymore: behold, our newly landscaped paradise!"

Of course, there's the "before and afters" for exercise programs, skincare regimens, and a new hairdo. There was that show—can't remember what it was called—but their big saying was "Move that bus!" On the other side was a house that had been totally transformed (if you stuck around after the commercial break).

When it sometimes feels like we're surrounded by the same old same old—even stuck in it?—there's an excitement that comes with seeing that transformation is possible.

So what about transformation that goes deeper than cosmetics, aesthetics, and appearance? What about transformation of the mind? Transformation of the heart? Even transformation of our lives? Can you imagine a community—maybe the community called "church"—transformed in a deep, lasting way?

We can tell when someone gets a new hairdo, or their bathroom has had a fresh makeover. What does it look like when our heart gets changed? How can someone tell that our community called church is different than what they expected?

Several months ago, we adopted a new mission statement, saying:

**Our mission is to live as a community transformed by God's grace,
sent to love and serve like Jesus.**

Starting August 27th, we're going to explore what it looks like to be transformed by God's grace. I'm excited to dive into this series because I think there's such a hunger in our own lives and in the world for something...different. We're longing to see that transformation is possible, that hope is possible.

That Sunday is also the Sunday before school starts back for our K-12 students. We will have a special blessing as part of the worship service that morning, and be on the look-out for some back-to-school fun that afternoon.

The start of a new school year is a great time to invite someone to church. I want to encourage you to invite someone to join you—in service, in worship, in study or fellowship—as we move into this new season.

Peace,
Pastor Wil



Common Ground Trip to MLK, Jr. National Park and The National Center for Civil and Human Rights



Karah Thompson from the group shared this after the trip: “In the experience of seeing where MLK Jr grew up on his street with legacy families still occupying some neighborhood homes, I felt the beauty of the ordinary. How a boy growing up in painful and unjust times could become the man who brought such hope and change by his consistent commitment to nonviolence and love of enemy. Sitting at the lunch counter reenactment unexpectedly moved me to tears. The abject bravery of people to face such very real threats and cruelty with courage, I was just overwhelmed. “



Genesis Choir

We will be starting two children's choirs this fall on Wednesday afternoons. Kids that are pre-k through 5th grade are invited to participate. Kids will need to be dropped off at the church at **3:15pm** and picked up at **4:30pm**. All children will either go to the Fellowship Hall in the Education Building, or the Choir Room below the Sanctuary. The **Genesis Choir** (pre-k thru 2nd grade),



Revelation Choir

will have choir from 3:30-4pm while the **Revelation Choir** (3rd-5th grades), has a snack, plays outside and does some homework. Then at 4-4:30pm we will switch. Parents will receive links to Google forms online to sign up their child or children after they have called the office.



In our mission statement, we talk about living as a community transformed by God's grace. One of the most powerful ways to experience God's transforming grace is by seeing God together in a group, such as a Sunday school class or other small group gathering.

Be on the lookout for developing plans for children and adult Sunday school classes starting this fall.

If you're interested in being part of starting a new group—meeting on Sunday mornings or week-day—and need support, let me (Pastor Wil) know.

Our church has a subscription to Amplify Media (a branch of Cokesbury), which allows us to stream quality Bible study content just like you would through Netflix or Prime. This is a great resource for any existing or newly forming group.

Preschool FAQ

Where will it be located? In the Community Room (beneath the Sanctuary). This room has been many things in FUMC's history—Sharing Center, youth center, fellowship hall, and kindergarten/preschool. This space is ideal for a Montessori-based program and allows us to serve the most kids/families, and does not impact offices or other routine operations.

What are the days/times of operation? It will be 3-days/week, 3.5hrs/day.

Who will it serve? Children 3-6yrs old. It will be available to families in the church and wider community. The preschool plans to have "scholarship" or needs-based spots available in order to provide a high quality education to kids who otherwise might not have that opportunity.

How much will it cost? \$250/month, which is comparable to other similar programs in our area.

When will it start? Our goal is to start at the beginning of the new year when the Cherokee County Schools return from winter break. There are several factors at play, including work in the room, ironing out details of the program, advertising and enrolling. We agree that a good start is more important than a fixed timeline.

Why only part-time? In our own research and research we accessed through larger agencies, we learned that there are multiple needs related to childcare and preschool in our area. Part-time preschool is a clearly identified need, and is a place where we as a church are suited to step in and meet a need.

What does that mean for space? The Preschool will take up most of the Community Room, but there will be a portion that will be available for adult use at non-school operating times. Handbell and Choir rooms are unaffected. It's great that more and more groups are using church spaces; it also means it's increasingly important that all events/meetings get scheduled through the church office.

How will it be funded? Grant funding will help with start-up costs and material/training purchases. As it gets underway, student tuition will make the school be a self-supporting ministry of Murphy FUMC. It's likely we'll have a Preschool fundraiser as part of our annual rhythm. Donations to help with scholarship slots are always welcome!

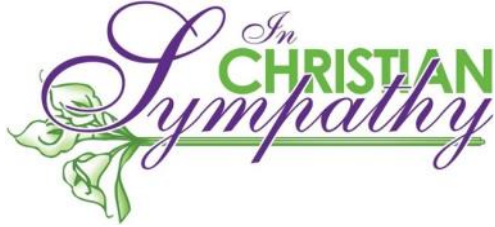
Who will oversee it? The Preschool will be run by a Lead and Assistant Teacher. They will be employees of the church, and report to a Preschool Committee appointed by Admin Council, including a representative from SPPRC, Trustees, Finance, Pastor, a preschool parent, and other members as needed.

What can we do? Pray! This is a big undertaking, and it is one we believe is right in line with God's vision for Murphy FUMC. We ask everyone to be praying for the Preschool and the potential kids/families blessed by its existence. If you want to make a donation to support the preschool, that is another great way to help get the school going and help us offer scholarship slots.



TRUSTEES

The Trustees continue work on the community room and all buildings. Volunteers are needed to pressure wash the education building and to paint all the handrails. The parking lot will be repainted with changes in the handicapped parking areas.



... Our heartfelt sympathies to Diane Barfield and her family upon the passing of her brother, Dennis Forte.

Safe Sanctuary Training

On Sunday, August 20 at 9:30am we will have a Safe Sanctuary training at the church. Specific location is TBD. Anyone who volunteers with children, youth, or vulnerable adults, **MUST** take this training every 2 years.

While many have taken online training over the last year or so, there's nothing like doing the training in person with fellow church members.

If you volunteer in the nursery, help with VBS or Alpha, children's music, or special programs, please sign up. Reach out to Maggie (admin@murphyfirstumc.org) to register for the class.

After worship, you have the opportunity to take a CPR and First Aid certification class. Lunch will be provided. There is a cost for certification. Let us know if you are interested.



The Mission Team continues its work with The Still Place in Hayesville. Volunteer opportunities include: hiking with families, cooking with families, picnics at Fires Creek, helping prepare the houses for new families to arrive, gardening and much more. You can volunteer by visiting The Still Place website and signing up to volunteer.

On August 7 and 14, the Mission Team will be giving out bags of non-perishable foods to families with students in the Cherokee County Schools. The summer feeding program stops on July 28. School does not start until August 28. We are trying to help bridge the gap and give families food for that time period. We will be collecting items up until August 6. Please consider dropping off items at the church office. These might include Ramen soup, canned soup (with pop tops), mac and cheese, peanut butter, crackers, individual cookies or dessert cakes. Each family will receive a grocery bag full of food that will help them feed their children during the week. We hope to give out 30 bags each week, but it depends upon donations. Remember that many children are home alone so make your choices kid friendly and easy to open. Families will pick up the bags at our church.



Community Events

SHARING TABLES MEETING NEIGHBORS LEARNING STORIES

Common Ground is a grassroots organization working for peace and justice in WNC through education, advocacy, & community building that is inclusive & intentional. We believe in the sacred worth of every person and are committed to finding & creating common ground where everyone can flourish & belong.

Purpose

We create spaces to grow in love, acceptance, respect, and understanding of all.

Contact

Karah Thompson

828-835-6470
greenchickadee@gmail.com

Sue Corley

561-329-4111
pastorsuecorley@gmail.com

Wil Posey

386-647-6181
wilposey@gmail.com

Common Ground(s)

We typically meet for coffee on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month. 1pm @ Rare Bird Emporium. Purchase a drink and join in sharing what you're learning. Books, podcasts, stories, experiences. We're all here to learn & grow.

Calendar *requires reservation for planning purposes

- **June 26, 2023**
Unto These Hills Event- Cherokee, NC
\$45/person* Leave Murphy 5pm
- **July 25, 2023**
National Center for Civil & Human Rights
Martin Luther King, Jr National Historic Park
\$30/person* Leave Murphy AM return PM
- **August 10, 2023**
Community Supper & Stories
FREE and fun! 6pm - 7:30pm
- **September 14, 2023**
Community Supper & Picnic at Konaheta Park
FREE and fun! 6pm - 8pm (weather permitting)
- **October 12, 2023**
Community Supper & Stories
FREE and fun! 6pm - 7:30pm
- **November 9, 2023**
Community Supper & Stories
FREE and fun! 6pm - 7:30pm
- **December 21, 2023**
Service of Hope
Refreshments provided
- **February 2024**
Celebrate Black History Month & MLK Jr Day
TBD

Connect with us

Sign up here to receive updates & hear more about events

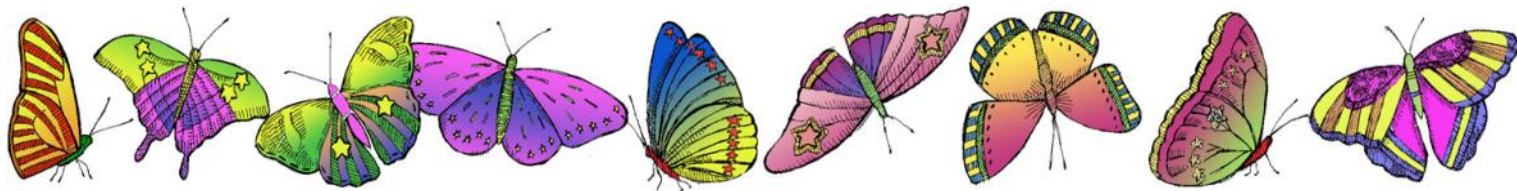




Keep the following in your thoughts and prayers:

Ruth Vespasian; Scott Adams; Tony Licata; Matt Licata; Trina Iurilli; Christine Iurilli; Karen Bateman; Carl Swanson; Ukraine and its people; Paul Britten; Veronica Bright; Arlene Murphy; Harrell Barfield; Becky Blair; David Hotchkiss; Allen Durant; Nannette & Family; David Chapman; Susie Pauley; Nancy W; Ashley; Ella; Misty; Ken Brant; Ernie Perez; Wes Cate; Royce Hughes; Danny Lawrence; Carl Auvil; Dor Schmid; Dorothy Purcell; Elizabeth Thompson and family; Mendoza family; Matt Heltzel.

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 AUGUST***

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: Patrick Allen***

Acolytes: Nathanael Posey & Declan Fokakis***

Reader/Liturgist: Janet Jones***

Offering Prayer: ***

Greeters: Rick & Debbie Alringer***

Pew Maintenance: Welcoming Committee

Communion Preparation: Worship Committee

Fellowship Lunch Host: N/A

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

Office Volunteers: Liz Pipes, Linda Ray, Marilyn Jones, Dottie Wershing

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

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

*** Substitutes can occur.



Children's Volunteer SCHEDULE

OFFICE VOLUNTEERS	OFFERING COUNTERS	NURSERY HELPERS
Monday, July 31 August 14,21,28: Liz Pipes	August 01: Catharine Brown, Anita Sloan	August 06: Ricky Hill, Robin B, Nikki Washburn
Tuesday, August 1,8,15,22,29: Linda Ray	August 8: Dottie Wershing Karen Watson	August 13: Terri Stroup, Nikol Edwards, Lea Posey
Wednesday, August 2,9,16,23,30: Marilyn Jones	August 15: Catharine Brown Karen Watson	August 20: Lea Posey, Monica Matthews, Liz Pipes
Thursday, August 3,10,17,24: Dottie Wershing	August 22: Karen Watson Janie Forrister	August 27: Erin Brophy, Rob Robertson, Kendra Fokakis
OPEN: Monday, Aug 7; Thursday, Aug. 31	August 29: Anita Sloan Karen Watson	



United
Women
in Faith

WILLING HANDS On The Job: Our next Willing Hands meeting will be on Wednesday, August 16th, 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. Come early and help us if you can.

We will be providing dinner for VBS on Monday, July 31st . We' re also working on UWF Sunday which will be August 20th . Our ladies' group will be leading the service on that day and talking about the many pathways to service that United Women in Faith offers us.

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.

LOOK FOR MORE WAYS TO HELP THE HOMELESS!

When we think of homelessness, we often think of those who live in our local shelter, or those whom we see on the sidewalks of our town or in the park. BUT, there are many kinds of "homelessness". Think of the person who works two jobs yet lives in her car because there is NO HOUSING available. Think of the families who become homeless because the dad dies and leaves no income. Think of US, missing a few mortgage payments through sickness or disaster. Any one can become homeless. Now think of this: there are no houses available in Cherokee County for people who want to move from homelessness into living in their own place. There is however, hope and something we can all do. HUD will help pay the rent for those who are trying but can't make enough to pay. HUD will also bring dwellings up to standard by fixing roofs, plumbing, and doing other needed repairs. This is where WE can help. Do you know of a garage apartment, a basement, a building on your property that is not used, a house in your neighborhood that stands empty? HUD is looking for these to improve and use for families. There are some requirements, but if you know of anything that might qualify, please contact Diane or Cobby Barfield and we will put you in touch with those who can help! Just think what your empty space might mean to a family who is homeless through no fault of their own! Look for more exciting news on ways to help the homeless. This is exciting and something our church has included in our vision.

The photo is of Cobby and Stephen Aft, from a local State Farm Insurance Office. Stephen has attended our Soul Table ministry and is helping us think about more ways we can help the homeless.



YOUTH LAKE DAY



On Saturday, August 5th, the church is planning a lake day for youth at Charlene Smith's lake house (410 Jordan Lane, Murphy) from 12-4pm. There will be food provided, time to connect with each other, and plenty of fun to be had at the lake and playing in the water! There will also be a time to reflect and begin to ask questions and dream about what youth ministry at Murphy First United Methodist Church could look like this next academic year. We invite all the youth and their friends to come enjoy the lake and time together!



In July, the United Methodist Appalachian Ministry Network awarded our Soul Table ministry with a \$250 grant that will be used to help us continue and expand this important community ministry effort.



In August,
FLOWERS

for the altar each
Sunday will be
provided by:

August 6—OPEN

August 13—Ricky & Marji Hill

August 20—Catharine Brown

August 27—Ricky & Marji Hill

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

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



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

Monday, August 28, 2023

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

Jonathan Franz—Duke Summer Intern

Jlf101@duke.edu

Music—Suzanne West

music@murphyfirstumc.org

Maggie Corrigan—Admin Asst

admin@murphyfirstumc.org

Patty Singer—Nursery Assistant

Mary Lee—Nursery Assistant

Marlene Gray—Nursery Assistant

Ellie Martin—Nursery Assistant

CALLING ALL ABLE BODIED FOLKS OF THE CHURCH!



A small group of volunteers tries to meet every few weeks, just before Easter Sunday until the fall season, to keep the cemetery at Harshaw Chapel mowed and trimmed. We have access to two riding lawn mowers in addition to string trimmers and battery and gasoline push mowers, but we need more help. If a few additional people would be willing to help us with this work, please contact Flip Watson at 828-361-9519 to add your name to the list. The more helpers we have, the quicker the work.



AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT COMMITTEE NEWS

ADA Committee: The ADA Committee is working to find ways in which to make our church safer for all and easier for people with limited abilities. Plans are now being drawn up by Reid Francis to paint the parking lot with a better arrangement for accessible parking spaces. Please be patient as we complete this project.



FUMC KAYAKING & HIKING GROUP



In July, we had a wonderful hike at Black Rock State Park along the Eastern Continental Divide. After the hike we ate lunch in Clayton, visited Mark of the Potter in Clarkesville followed by The Old Sauttee Store in Helen. The next hike will be later in August. If you want to be on our email group, send your email address to cobbyb@yahoo.com or follow us on our Facebook group:

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





august

birthdays

08/02—Harold Blackmon; Jason Forrister
 08/03—Theresa Smith
 08/07—Jim Jordan
 08/10—Gary Woods
 08/08—Lori Nicholson
 08/11—Janet Jones
 08/12—Elaine Sviti
 08/13—Gary Westmoreland;
 Larry Westmoreland
 08/18—Lochlan Rogers
 08/20—Ceilia Larson
 08/21—Millie McClure
 08/24—Jeff Larson
 08/27—Mallory Barber; Joan Mable
 08/28—Sheila Snow
 08/30—Carl Auvil; Alex Budzinski
 08/31—Foster Stroup



august

anniversaries

08/09—Chris & Tonya Raper
 08/10—Casey & Shannon Stuart
 08/14—Steve & Karen Smith
 08/15—John & Sheila Snow
 08/17—Wayne & Kathy Cofer
 08/22—Carl & Anne Hymen
 08/27—Dub & Sara Sherill
 08/31—Ricky & Marji Hill



questions (828-646-1105) or
sharonk1017@gmail.com.

The Greeting Card Ministry will meet at 11am before the
Willing Hands Circle meeting on Wednesday, August 16th 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





2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>30 10am Adult SS Class 10am Nursery 10:55am Worship 11:15am Children's Church (K-2nd) 5pm AA Mtg</p>	<p>31 9:30am Virtual ZOE Tour 9:30am Little Melodies 10am Wood Carving 11:45am Chair Exercises</p>	<p>1 9:30am Offering Counters</p>	<p>2 11:45am Chair Exercises</p>	<p>3 10am Quilters 11am Soul Table</p>	<p>4 11:45am Chair Exercises</p>	<p>5 12-4pm Youth Lake Day</p>
Vacation Bible School 5:30-7:30pm, Food Truck Party						
<p>6 COMMUNION SUN 10am Adult SS Class 10am Nursery 10:55am Worship 11:15am Children's Church (K-2nd) 5pm AA Mtg</p>	<p>7 9am VAYA Health 9:30am Little Melodies 11:45am Chair Exercises</p>	<p>8 9:30am Offering Counters 5:30pm Trustees</p>	<p>9 9:30am Mom's Bible Study 11:45am Chair Exercises</p>	<p>10 10am Quilters</p>	<p>11 11:45am Chair Exercises</p>	<p>12 8am UMM Mtg</p>
<p>13 10am Adult SS Class 10am Nursery 10:55am Worship 11:15am Children's Church (K-2nd) 5pm AA Mtg</p>	<p>14 9:30am Little Melodies 10am Wood Carving 11:45am Chair Exercises</p>	<p>15 9:30am Offering Counters</p>	<p>16 11am Greeting Cards 11:45am Chair Exercises 12pm Willing Hands Meeting</p>	<p>17 10am Quilters</p>	<p>18 11:45am Chair Exercises</p>	<p>19</p>
<p>20 UWF Sunday 9:30am Safe Sanctuary Training 10am Adult SS Class 10am Nursery 10:55am Worship 11:15am Children's Church (K-2nd)</p>	<p>21 9am VAYA Health 9:30am Little Melodies 11:45am Chair Exercises 5:30pm Admin Council</p>	<p>22 9:30am Offering Counters</p>	<p>23 11:45am Chair Exercises</p>	<p>24 10am Quilters</p>	<p>25 11:45am Chair Exercises</p>	<p>26</p>
<p>27 School Blessing 10am Adult SS Class 10am Nursery 10:55am Worship 11:15am Children's Church (K-2nd) 5pm AA Mtg</p>	<p>28 9:30am Little Melodies 10am Wood Carving 11:45am Chair Exercises 5pm SPPRC?</p>	<p>29 9:30am Offering Counters</p>	<p>30 11:45am Chair Exercises</p>	<p>31 10am Quilters</p>	<p>1 11:45am Chair Exercises</p>	<p>2</p>



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

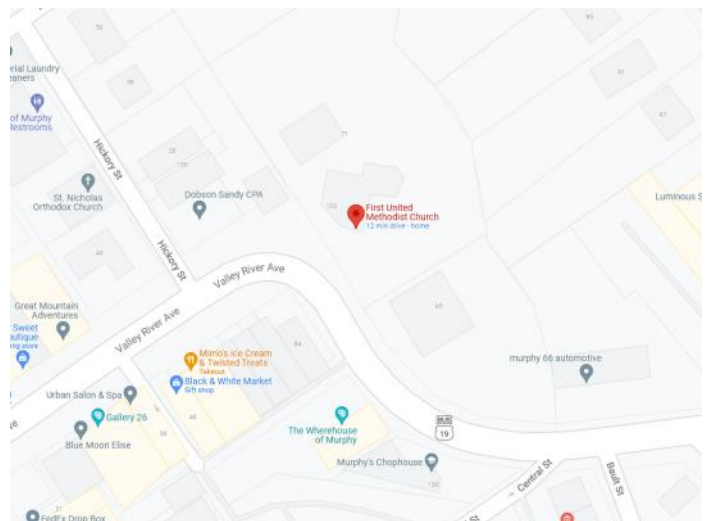
admin@murphyfirstumc.org

Patty Singer & Mary Lee, Marlene Gray &

Ellie Martin, 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.