



**July 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/)



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,

In last month's article, I shared some notes about progress we're making on our church's vision and goals, including the hiring of new nursery workers! We're thrilled to have Mary Lee, Patty Singer, and Marlene Gray on staff with us, and Ellie Martin as a summer nursery worker.

Related to another goal, on Sunday, June 25 you heard about how Soul Table has been awarded a grant through the United Methodist Appalachian Ministries Network (UMAMN). That grant will help Soul Table expand to two times a month.

This month, I want to share with you some more progress on another of our goals. At our June Administrative Council meeting, the Council approved moving forward with starting a part-time, Montessori-based preschool at Murphy FUMC! This came directly out of our goals of experimenting with solutions for families needing childcare and optimizing space and staff for ministry with children, youth, and young families.

I've put together a brief Preschool FAQ that's also included in this newsletter, but wanted to take a few minutes to share what I think is special about all of this:

One of the things I've tried to learn to do in ministry is pay attention to what picture is emerging when the Spirit starts putting puzzle pieces on the table. Usually it means God is up to something!

God's been putting pieces of this puzzle on the table for a while now. Here's what I mean:

- Over the last few years, I've heard from people inside our church and in our community wondering about what it would look like for FUMC to start a preschool.
- During our visioning process, you all confirmed what I've seen and heard for the last 5 years: FUMC has a heart for kids and wants to serve our community, so we set a goal for experimenting with childcare solutions for young families.
- At the same time, we were invited to apply for and were accepted into a program through the NC Rural Center to help us address a community challenge and an up-to \$50,000 grant. (Can you see how dots were starting to connect?)
- And at the same time, we have had a couple of outstanding women (Bridget Esterhuizen and Monica Matthews) connecting with the church in different ways, both of whom happen to have teaching certifications, experience with Montessori teaching, and their finger on the pulse of preschool and childcare need in our area. (Now bells are going off, right?)

Can you see the picture taking shape?!

Now, none of that is to say that things have been effortless and that we don't have our work cut out for us. This is a big undertaking. But when the Spirit starts putting pieces together, we do well to take notice, and ask for the faith and courage to take that bold next step.

Stay tuned, ask questions, join with us in prayer, and let's keep journeying together in the future God has for us!

Peace be with you!

Pastor Wil

The **2023 Western North Carolina Conference** was a wonderful weekend filled with God's grace, the opportunity to connect with one another and with God, and the holiness of our commitment to love God and one another. Below are some highlights of our time together in holy conferencing.

#### The Annual Conference:



1. **Commissioned** 16 Emerging Community Pastors, recognized 86 Lighthouse Churches, celebrated a grant of \$5.2 million over the next five years to reinvest in areas of disaffiliation and with a commitment not to abandon our members in these areas.
2. **Committed** ourselves to be a Church that welcomes anyone and everyone: welcoming immigrants; reckoning with the realities of racism; developing a more strategic response to strengthen the Black church; honoring the faith of people across the political aisle from wherever we are sitting; and including LGBTQIA+ persons in all aspects of the life of our church. We also heard witnesses from those who are offering ministry through storytelling, hosting diversity conversations in rural contexts, and church planting in digital spaces.
3. **Ordained**, commissioned, and licensed 29 clergy for ministry in local churches and extension ministries and commissioned a deaconess for ministry. The service concluded with an invitation to clergy to renew their vows of ordination, and a number of persons stepped forward to explore a call to ministry.
4. **Passed** two creation care resolutions, which asked each church to make this ministry one of their priorities and urged our denomination to add fossil fuels to the filters for responsible investing; elected three new lay delegates to the 2024 Jurisdictional Conference; and learned about the Western North Carolina Conference's role in co-hosting with the North Carolina Conference, the 2024 General Conference next year in Charlotte.
5. **Communicated** a consistent focus on grace, connection and holiness as our pathways to healing in the midst of a difficult season in our nation and in our communities. The Bible Study focused on the great commandments of Jesus (Matthew 22) and the great commission (Matthew 28). Bishop Carter preached on holiness as love of God and neighbor and the closing service included prayers and anointing for healing for lay and clergy leaders returning to their communities.
6. **Received** an offering of almost \$50,000 which will help to plant new churches in Ukraine and in areas of Europe where Ukrainians are living as refugees, and which will train laity and clergy in response to trauma in our communities. We also approved a budget that represents a 2% decrease in the conference and general church apportionment to each local church.
7. **Announced** the appointment of pastors to our 757 churches and extension ministers to chaplaincy, campus ministry, community development, higher education, justice and mercy ministries, and missionary service; commissioned the district superintendents as missional strategists for the coming year; experienced inspiring worship and beautiful music; and left with a renewed sense of identity as a people called to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the 44 western countries of Western North Carolina and beyond.

# 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 within a month of the start of Cherokee County Schools. 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 is available to 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.



The Trustees continue to work toward improving the church buildings. In June, a group of volunteers helped clean the church and trim the front bushes. Diane Barfield organized the event. The front of the church was pressure-washed, walls were cleaned, the sanctuary wood was polished, windows and doors were cleaned of mold and insect nests, handrails were scraped in preparation for painting. The weather was horrible with pouring rain, but the volunteers pushed through. HUGE thanks to everyone who came and helped. You really put faith into action! There will be more projects in the future with plenty of opportunities to volunteers.



The Trustees are also getting quotes from electricians, contractors, painters and construction experts in order to repair and bring the sanctuary building up to modern safety codes.



## COMMON GROUND ROAD TRIP!

On Monday, June 26th, several folks from the church and the Common Ground group traveled to Cherokee to see the "Unto These Hills" presentation by the Eastern Band of the Cherokee Nation.

The next outing planned is a trip to the Martin Luther King Jr. National Historic Park and National Center for Civil and Human Rights in Atlanta on Tuesday, July 25th. There is a charge for Civil Right Center of \$17.99 seniors/\$19.99 adults/\$15.99 youth 7-12. Departure time TBA. We will arrange transportation based on the number of people signing up. Please see Sue Corley, Janet Jones, or Esther Manchester after service to sign up or call Sue at (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; Paul Britten; Veronica Bright; Arlene Murphy; Harrell Barfield; Becky Blair; David Hotchkiss; Craig Nelson; Allen Durant; Nannette & Family; Stephen & Kayla Kirby; David Chapman; Mandy Agudong; Marty Ward; Susie Pauley; Nancy W; Ashley; Ella; Misty; Ken Brant; Ernie Perez; Wes Cate; Royce Hughes; Trish & Eric Anderson; Danny Lawrence; Carl Auvil; Family of Dr. Cecil Airde; Dor Schmid; Family of Dennis Forte; Dorothy Purcell.*

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).



## FINANCIALS:

Total Operating Budget for 2023: \$423,665

Donations needed weekly: \$8,147

**As of May 31, 2023:**

**General Oper. Funds Received YTD: \$ 132,620.66**

**Designated Funds Received YTD: \$ 152,936.96**

**Total Oper. Funds Avail. thru 5/31/23: \$ 122,429.94**

**Total Desig. Funds Avail. thru 5/31/23: \$ 100,633.08**

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 Chapel, 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](mailto:rkjenkins330@gmail.com).

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

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:** \*\*\*

**Acolytes:** Nathanael Posey & Declan Fokakis\*\*\*

**Reader/Liturgist:** Wally Avet\*\*\*

**Offering Prayer:** Jonathan Franz \*\*\*

**Greeters:** Carl & Anne Hymen\*\*\*

**Pew Maintenance:** Welcoming Committee

**Communion Preparation:** Worship Committee

**Fellowship Lunch Host:** N/A

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

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

**TRUSTEE On Call:** Grant Corrigan (727-282-9607)

**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 3,10,17,24,31: Liz Pipes	July 03: Catherine Brown, Anita Sloan	July 02: Robin B, Monica Mintz, Liz Pipes
Tuesday, July 11,18,25: Linda Ray	July 11: Janie Forrister Catherine Brown	July 9: Joe & Catherine Thorley, Kendra Fokakis
Wednesday, July 5,12,19,26: Marilyn Jones	July 18: Anne Hymen Dottie Wershing	July 16: Terri S, Monica Matthews, Katrina Palmer
Thursday, July 6:,13,20,27 Dottie Wershing	July 25: Karen Watson Janie Forrister	July 23: Rob & Mary Robertson, John or Rachel Snow
		July 30: Adam/Kayla Clonts, James/Paywalla Jallah, Vera Confer





The Mission Team continues to find ways in which to support local, regional, national and international missions. Soul Table is growing and in the fall will expand to two meals a month! Cobby Barfield wrote and received a grant to help with the funding and, as usual, members of FUMC congregation have been extremely generous with their donations to support this cause. Our next Soul Table will be July 6 and will be a hotdog picnic!!! Come join us, help and eat!



The Mission Team is also helping The Still Place by volunteering to help with activities including hiking with the families, maintaining the trail, picnicking with the families and many more activities. Our ZOE group continues to do well. Soon we will have a virtual visit via Zoom with our group!



The Mission Team plans to help with the Cherokee County Board of Education Summer Feeding Program. The feeding program stops on July 28 and school does not start until August 28. During that month we hope to provide non perishable food to families. Look for more information in the near future and please plan to support this effort.

The Mission Team will provide the Sunday night meal for VBS. The team also donated \$500 to the Pregnancy and Parenting Center and \$500 to the Cherokee County Ministerial Association Good Samaritan Fund. Dottie Wershing presented some hats she and others are making for the comfort bags and Project Agape shoeboxes. She has recruited several people to help crochet the hats BUT could use more help!



## 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.



Our 2023 Vacation Bible School is scheduled for Sunday, July 30—Thursday, Aug 3rd, from 5:30–7:30pm.

Children from K-5th grade, plus a special preschool class for 3-4 year olds can be registered by clicking this link:

[REGISTER HERE](#)

If you are interested in helping, please reach out to Lea Posey at [leajsposey@gmail.com](mailto:leajsposey@gmail.com) to get involved.

### *...from the desk of Pastor Sue Corley, NC Education Corps Ambassador*

I had the amazing experience of being a tutor at Martins Creek School through the North Carolina Education Corps. This organization has partnered with the NC State Board of Education and the NC Governor's Office to help K-5 students who were impacted by the loss of classroom instruction during the pandemic.

We need tutors, and it could be you! Part-time, paid (\$15-\$20 per hour), flexible positions. You will receive all the training you need. To learn more, click the links or call me at (561) 329-4111. You can make a difference!

[Join the waitlist!](#)

[Register for a Q&A Session](#)

[NC Education Corps](#)



#### EVERYDAY CITIZENS. EXTRAORDINARY IMPACT.

North Carolina Education Corps is made up of entrepreneurs, stay-at-home parents, retirees, college students and other individuals from all walks of life who are driven by a common mission: **determination to make a difference.**

Become a part-time literacy tutor for your local school district and add critical capacity in elementary schools across North Carolina.

NC Education Corps expects to help raise reading proficiency for **thousands of students** across the state in the 2023-24 school year. Visit [nceducationcorps.org](http://nceducationcorps.org) to become a part of this pivotal impact.



## APPLY. TRAIN. TUTOR!

Our high-impact training equips new corps members to serve K-5 students as literacy tutors. We're actively recruiting North Carolinians who are:



**Flexible** enough to commit at least three days a week in-person (10-15 hours minimum).



**Positive**, upbeat and excited to make a difference.



**Passionate** about supporting students, teachers and public schools.



**Does this sound like you?**

Submit an interest form to connect with a school near you!

[nceducationcorps.org](http://nceducationcorps.org)



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

July 2—OPEN  
July 9—OPEN  
July 16—OPEN  
July 23—OPEN  
July 30—OPEN

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



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

**Tuesday, July 25th, 2023**



**Trustee on Call for July:**  
**Grant Corrigan (727-282-9607)**

# Contacts

Pastor Wil Posey

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

Jonathan Franz—Duke Summer Intern

[Jlf101@duke.edu](mailto:Jlf101@duke.edu)

Music—Suzanne West

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

Maggie Corrigan—Admin Asst

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

Patty Singer—Nursery Assistant

Mary Lee—Nursery Assistant

Marlene Gray—Nursery Assistant

Ellie Martin—Nursery Assistant



United  
Women  
in Faith

**WILLING HANDS Caring:** Our next Willing Hands meeting will be on Wednesday, July 19th, at 12:00 noon in the Fellowship Hall. The Greeting Card Ministry will gather at 11:00am to create more special cards for our church members and friends. Come early and help us if you can. At this meeting, we will be discussing and

planning several activities over the next few months: (1) We will provide VBS dinner on Monday, July 31st . (2) UWF Sunday will be August 20th . (3) Begin preparations for Project AGAPE shoeboxes (Aug. 15 - Sept. 15).

We recently made a \$500 donation to the Pregnancy and Parenting Center to help with renovations on their new location.

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.

## FUMC KAYAKING & HIKING GROUP



The Hiking /Kayaking group is looking for ideas for hikes ! Any ideas, contact Cobby at [cobbyb@yahoo.com](mailto:cobbyb@yahoo.com). Our next hike will either be the Toccoa Swinging Bridge or Black Rock Mountain in Clayton. If you want to be on our email group, send your email address to [cobbyb@yahoo.com](mailto:cobbyb@yahoo.com) or follow us on our Facebook group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/263176598339074>



Moms' Small Group  
Bible Study

A new small group for moms began June 14th and is held every Wednesday from 9:30-11:30am at the church, led by Lea Posey and Kendra Fokakis. Child care is available. For more information, please contact Lea at [leajsposey@gmail.com](mailto:leajsposey@gmail.com) or Kendra at [rehnerk@gmail.com](mailto:rehnerk@gmail.com).



## THIS MONTH'S birthdays

07/01—Natalie Mintz  
 07/03—Kim Barber  
 07/06—James Jallah, III  
 07/07—Declan Fokakis; Rachel Snow;  
 Heather Watson  
 07/08—Lori Nicholson  
 07/10—Ron Jenkins  
 07/12—Erin Brophy; Becky McCarley  
 07/14—Stella Campana  
 07/16—Carl Hymen  
 07/19—Amanda Barber  
 07/20—Grant Corrigan; Dell Douglass; Han-  
 nah Larson  
 07/22—BJ Thompson  
 07/23—Holden Clonts  
 07/24—Anita Sloan  
 07/25—Esther Manchester  
 07/26—Melanie Hughes; Bonnie Smith  
 07/27—Dottie Snow  
 07/28—Hannah Deweese; Terry Fortner  
 07/30—Nikol Edwards  
 07/31—Jack Lance, III; Joe Thorley



**Meet our new nursery workers!**

**Ms. Marlene Gray**

**&**

**Ms. Ellie Martin**

**Let's make them feel welcome!**



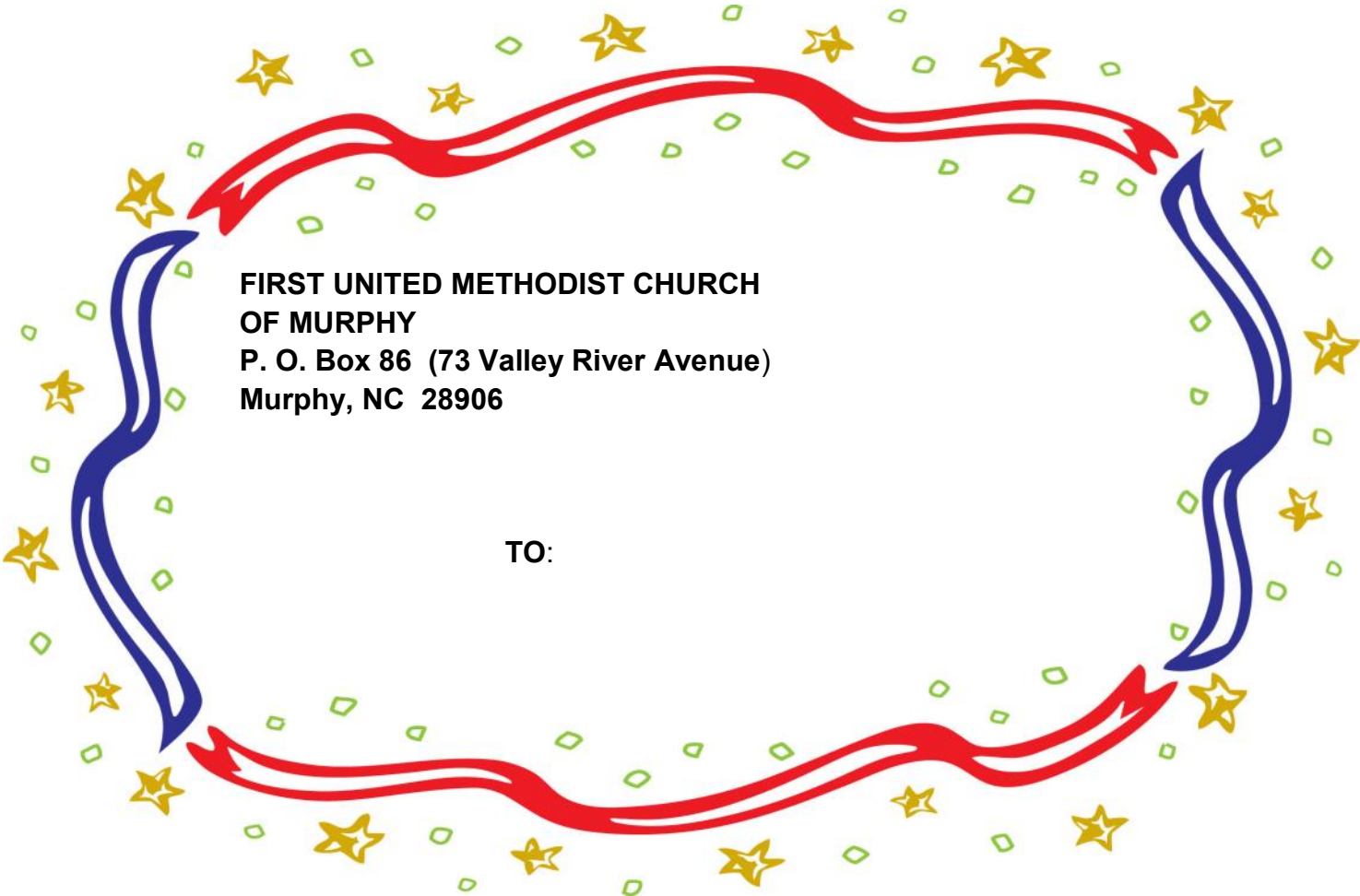
***The Greeting Card Ministry will meet at 11am before the  
 Willing Hands Circle meeting on Wednesday, July 19th in  
 Fellowship Hall. If you can use a glue stick, come and lend a  
 hand. We make cards for our members who may not be  
 able to attend church or need a kind word. Contact Sharon  
 Francis if you have any questions (828-646-1105) or  
[sharonk1017@gmail.com](mailto:sharonk1017@gmail.com).***







Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
25 <i>10am Adult SS Class</i> <i>10am Nursery</i> <i>10:55am Worship</i> <i>11:15am Children's Church (K-2nd)</i> 5pm AA Mtg	26 9:30am Little Melodies 11:45am Chair Exercises <i>5:00pm SPPRC</i>	27	28 <i>9:30am Mom's Bible Study</i> 11:45am Chair Exercises	29 10am Quilters	30 11:45am Chair Exercises	1
<b>2 COMMUNION SUN</b> <i>10am Adult SS Class</i> <i>10am Nursery</i> <i>10:55am Worship</i> <i>11:15am Children's Church (K-2nd)</i> 5pm AA Mtg	<b>3</b> 9:30am Little Melodies <i>9:30am Offering Counters</i> 10am Wood Carving 11:45am Chair Exercises	<b>4 OFFICE CLOSED</b> 	<b>5</b> <i>9:30am Mom's Bible Study</i> 11:45am Chair Exercises <i>5:30pm Choir Rehearsal</i>	<b>6</b> 10am Quilters <i>11am Soul Table</i>	<b>7</b> 11:45am Chair Exercises	<b>8</b> <i>8am UMM Mtg</i>
<b>9</b> <i>10am Adult SS Class</i> <i>10am Nursery</i> <i>10:55am Worship</i> <i>11:15am Children's Church (K-2nd)</i> 5pm AA Mtg	<b>10</b> 9:30am Little Melodies 10am Wood Carving 11:45am Chair Exercises	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> <i>9:30am Mom's Bible Study</i> 11:45am Chair Exercises	<b>13</b> 10am Quilters	<b>14</b> 11:45am Chair Exercises	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b> <i>10am Adult SS Class</i> <i>10am Nursery</i> <i>10:55am Worship</i> <i>11:15am Children's Church (K-2nd)</i> 5pm AA Mtg	<b>17</b> 9am VAYA Health 9:30am Little Melodies 10am Wood Carving 11:45am Chair Exercises <i>12pm Mission Team</i>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> <i>9:30am Mom's Bible Study</i> <i>11am Greeting Cards</i> 11:45am Chair Exercises <i>12pm Willing Hands Meeting</i>	<b>20</b> 10am Quilters	<b>21</b> 11:45am Chair Exercises	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> <i>10am Adult SS Class</i> <i>10am Nursery</i> <i>10:55am Worship</i> <i>11:15am Children's Church (K-2nd)</i> 5pm AA Mtg	<b>24</b> 9:30am Little Melodies 11:45am Chair Exercises	<b>25</b> 	<b>26</b> <i>9:30am Mom's Bible Study</i> 11:45am Chair Exercises	<b>27</b> 10am Quilters	<b>28</b> 11:45am Chair Exercises	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> <i>10am Adult SS Class</i> <i>10am Nursery</i> <i>10:55am Worship</i> <i>11:15am Children's Church (K-2nd)</i> 5pm AA Mtg	<b>31</b> 9:30am Little Melodies 10am Wood Carving 11:45am Chair Exercises	1	2 <i>9:30am Mom's Bible Study</i> 11:45am Chair Exercises	3 10am Quilters <i>11am Soul Table</i>	4 11:45am Chair Exercises	5
Vacation Bible School 5:30-7:30pm, Food Truck Party						



**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**

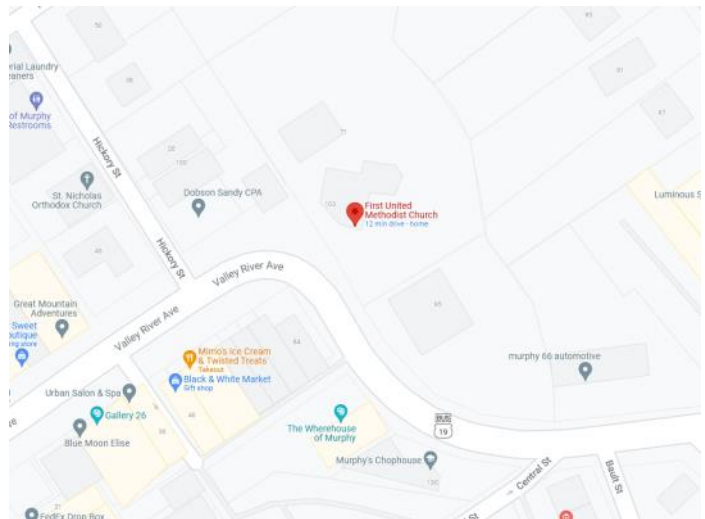
[admin@murphyfirstumc.org](mailto:admin@murphyfirstumc.org)

**Patty Singer & Mary Lee, Marlene Gray &**

**Ellie Martin, Nursery Assts.**

**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.*