

**January 2024**

**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,

What a beautiful Advent season! Thank you for how generous you were with your time, giving, singing, and your spirit of joy.

As I write, it is the 4<sup>th</sup> day of Christmas. Christmas is its own season, like Advent, and lasts 12 days, so keep on singing those Christmas carols.

On Sunday (12/31) in worship, there will be a service of "covenant renewal." This has been a traditional New Year's Eve service for United Methodists for centuries. It is a time to recommit ourselves to Christ at the start of the new year. Here is an excerpt from that service (the full insert is included in the newsletter):

**Leader:** Let us gathered here before the Lord now in covenant commit ourselves to Christ as his servants. Let us give ourselves to Him so that we may fully belong to Him. Jesus Christ has left us with many services to be done. Some of these services are easy and honorable, but some are difficult and disgraceful. Some line up with our desires and interests, others are contrary to both. In some we please both Christ and ourselves, but then there are other works where we cannot please Christ except by denying ourselves. Jesus Christ, we offer You this prayer:

**People:** Let me be Your servant. Let me follow your commands. I will no longer follow my own desires. I give myself completely to your will.

There are some big prayers we pray, and big commitments we make in this service—never made lightly. I hope at the start of this new year, if you aren't able to be in worship 12/31, that you'll take time to consider how you will seek first God's kingdom in 2024.

Are there ministries you will recommit yourself to in 2024? If you're still looking for a way to get involved, will you commit to trying something new before the end of January—maybe serving at Soul Table, helping with childcare, volunteering in the office, helping lead worship? Or maybe you'll join a Sunday school class, or start a new group?

In thinking about this Covenant Renewal service, I remember how one of our 5 Core Values as a church is Faithfulness. That's something this congregation identified together—that it is important to us that we are faithful to God and to the church.

Community takes commitment. For the church to be a community, we show up not just for ourselves but for one another. We get to know each other—who can you meet for coffee or a walk to get to know better? We think of the interests and needs of others. Our commitment (our Faithfulness) isn't to programs; it is to people...to Relationships (another of our Core Values).

Lots to celebrate about what God is doing in the life of Murphy FUMC, and I'm looking forward to continuing to grow with you in 2024!

Merry Christmas,

Pastor Wil

## Pastor Wil Away on Vacation

I am away on vacation Wednesday, Dec. 27 – Wednesday, January 3. If you need to speak with a pastor during that time, Rev. Rob Rollins is available and you can call him at (828) 557-8734.

It has seemed that in the past when I've been away, that's when scam text messages and emails come out in my name asking for gift cards, help or some favor. If you receive anything like that, please delete and report as spam.

# Contacts

Pastor Wil Posey

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

Music—Suzanne West

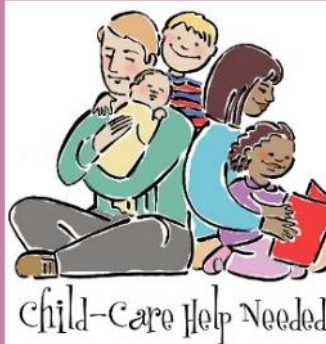
[music@murphyfirstumc.org](mailto:music@murphyfirstumc.org)

Maggie Corrigan—Admin Asst

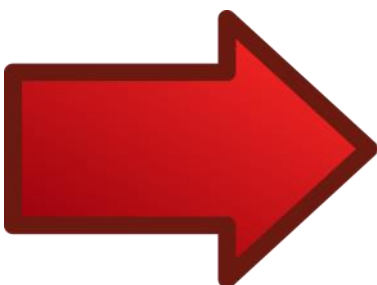
[admin@murphyfirstumc.org](mailto:admin@murphyfirstumc.org)

Jack Frahm—Treasurer

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



With so many little ones in our congregation, we are always grateful for help from our big ones. If you are interested in helping with childcare on Sunday mornings or during the Wednesday morning Mom's group, please contact Pastor Wil ([pastor@murphyfirstumc.org](mailto:pastor@murphyfirstumc.org)).



As a reminder, anyone or any group needing to use any of the spaces in the Sanctuary or the Education Building **must** notify the church office by email ([admin@murphyfirstumc.org](mailto:admin@murphyfirstumc.org)) or by phone (828-837-2718) **in advance**. It is important that any building use is scheduled on the church calendar. Thanks so much for helping us keep the calendar and the cleaning crew updated.

# FINANCIALS:

Total Operating Budget for 2023: \$423,665

Donations needed weekly: \$8,147

**As of November 30, 2023:**

**General Oper. Funds Received YTD: \$ 262,124.19**

**Designated Funds Received YTD: \$ 208,285.23**

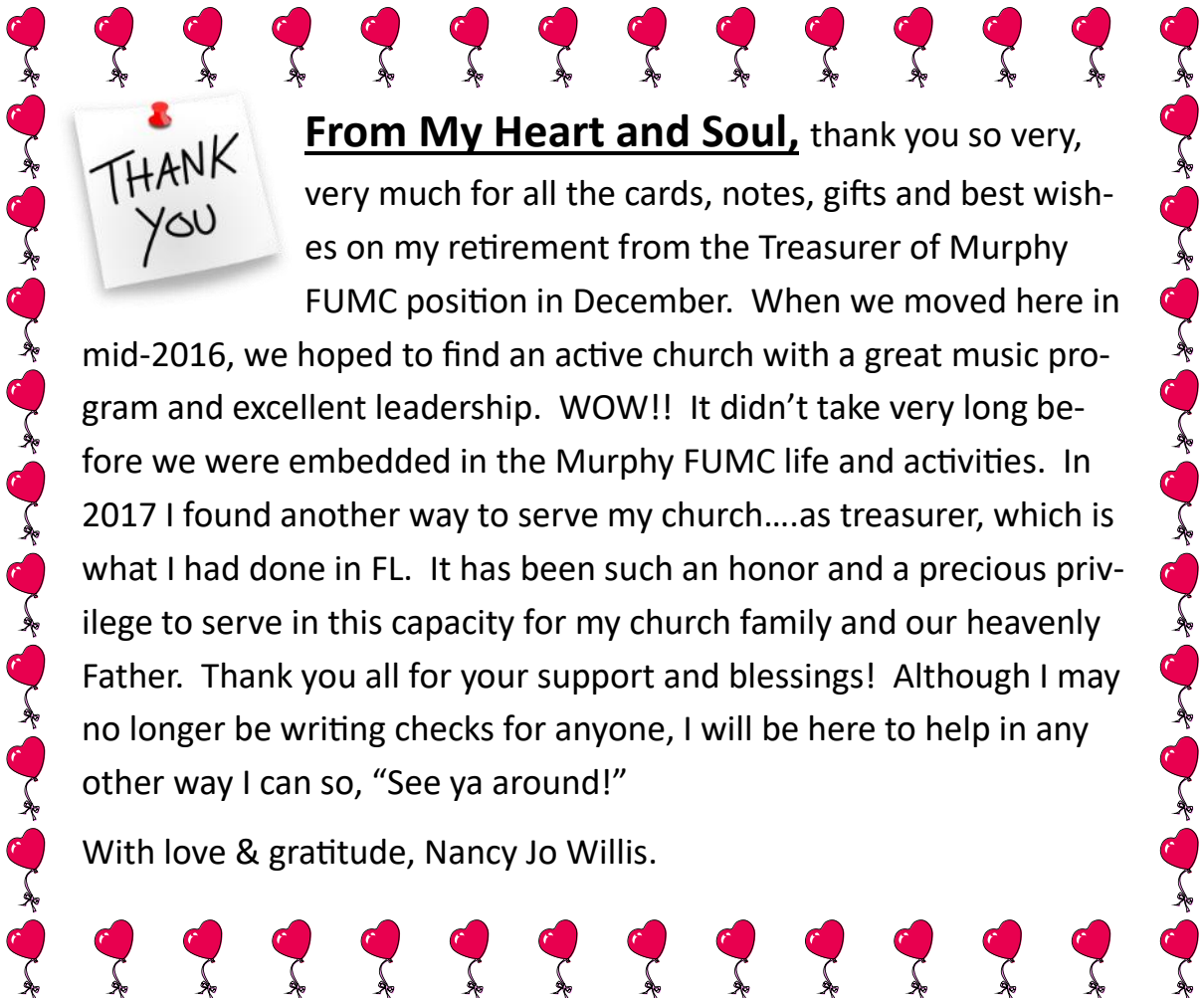
**Total Oper. Funds Avail. thru 11/30/23: \$ 100,899.92**

**Total Desig. Funds Avail. thru 11/30/23: \$ 112,750.70**

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 funds of the church, plus Designated Funds for Trustees, Harshaw, New Staff, Music, Miscellaneous and Preschool. They do not include any information on Foundation funds. (2) If you have any questions, please contact Jack Frahmman, Treasurer, at [treasurer@murphyfirstumc.org](mailto:treasurer@murphyfirstumc.org).



**for submitting information for the  
*February* edition of  
the newsletter!  
Thursday, Jan. 25th,  
2024**



**From My Heart and Soul,** thank you so very, very much for all the cards, notes, gifts and best wishes on my retirement from the Treasurer of Murphy FUMC position in December. When we moved here in mid-2016, we hoped to find an active church with a great music program and excellent leadership. WOW!! It didn't take very long before we were embedded in the Murphy FUMC life and activities. In 2017 I found another way to serve my church....as treasurer, which is what I had done in FL. It has been such an honor and a precious privilege to serve in this capacity for my church family and our heavenly Father. Thank you all for your support and blessings! Although I may no longer be writing checks for anyone, I will be here to help in any other way I can so, "See ya around!"

With love & gratitude, Nancy Jo Willis.



# Teams *and* COMMITTEES



As each church Task Force, Team and Committee gather for their first meetings of the new year, when leaders are selected for each group, PLEASE notify Maggie in the church office. In addition, if your group membership has changed, please send a membership roster to the church office as soon as possible. Thank you.



The Trustees have made great strides in repairing the community room. They have also repaired several items around the church. A new ground level ramp will be installed from the parking lot up to the lift. The ramp down to the fellowship hall will also be repaired.



**TRUSTEES**




Look for new signs on restroom doors. If you see a sign indicating an accessible restroom, that means that anyone can use that restroom if they need accessibility features. The men's restroom on the main floor of the education building will be labeled "accessible". Both restrooms in the fellowship hall will be labeled as well. All of these have room for wheelchair access, safe sinks and covered pipes. Soap and paper towels will be placed at lower levels.



## *Joyful Stitchers*

We will be restarting our knitting/crocheting group in 2024 and will have more information to come. If you are interested, please contact Ursula Lasky at 732-684-9012.


 In December, the Mission Team had the smore station during the Christmas parade, shopped for the Angel tree, and had a special Christmas Soul Table meal. In the new year, we are looking for new projects and ideas.



Alex and Brittany Martin welcomed twins **Annie & Lincoln** to the family on December 10th. Grandparents Tim & Lori Nicholson couldn't be happier!



## Newcomer Class

Coming in early 2024! If you are new to Murphy FUMC, either a new member, still getting to know the church, or are curious to learn more about what it means to follow Jesus in the Methodist tradition, please reach out to Pastor Wil ([pastor@murphyfirstumc.org](mailto:pastor@murphyfirstumc.org)) with your interest in this class. We will set a day and time that best suits the group.





**HELP NEEDED!!!!** Ricky Hill **REALLY** needs help in the Sound Booth in order to continue to provide our worship services on the radio and the web. Having the equipment to do this has been a huge blessing, especially during COVID, and continues to be an important service for those who are unable to worship with us in person. If you are willing/interested in helping us continue this ministry, please contact Ricky Hill at [rickyhill16@gmail.com](mailto:rickyhill16@gmail.com). Training will be provided.



We Need  
Your



Folks, we need more help in the office each week to count the offering taken up during worship. Please consider giving a little of your time to

Offering  
Counters



help us with this. Two counters are needed each week on a rotating basis. Training on our procedures is provided.



Thank you to our children, Suzanne West, Lea Posey, and Kendra Fokakis for putting together an outstanding Christmas pageant. The faces of the congregation were all smiles as well as the sheep, penguin, cow, donkey, star etc. There were comments stating that the children's voices could be heard all the way to the back pew! Well done!

The Mother's Group will start again January 10th.

Children's Sunday School begins again on January 7th along with Worship Readiness during church service.

# COVENANT RENEWAL

**Leader:** Let us gathered here before the Lord now in covenant commit ourselves to Christ as his servants. Let us give ourselves to Him so that we may fully belong to Him. Jesus Christ has left us with many services to be done. Some of these services are easy and honorable, but some are difficult and disgraceful. Some line up with our desires and interests, others are contrary to both. In some we please both Christ and ourselves, but then there are other works where we cannot please Christ except by denying ourselves. Jesus Christ, we offer You this prayer:

**People:** Let me be Your servant. Let me follow your commands. I will no longer follow my own desires. I give myself completely to your will.

**Leader:** The power and strength to live as true servants is given to us in Christ. We accept the place and work that He gives us, acknowledging that He alone will be our reward.

**People:** I am not my own. I am Yours alone. Make me into what You will. Rank me with those You will. Put me to use for You. Put me to suffering for You. Let me be employed for You. Let me be laid aside for You. Let me be lifted high for You. Let me be brought low for You. Let me be full or let me be empty. Let me have all things or let me have nothing. With a willing heart, I freely give everything to Your pleasure and disposal.

**Leader:** Christ is Savior to those who are His true servants. He is the source of all salvation to those who obey. To be His servant is to consent fully to His will. Christ accepts nothing less. Christ will be all in all, or He will be nothing.

*During the offering, I invite you now to take a minute for reflection of how you might make this covenant a reality in your life--through commitments of prayer, study, self-reflection, service, or other ways of turning to God. How might you rely on God's grace and strength, and trust in God's promises? Identify 1 or 2 friends with whom you will share your intentions.*

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**Prayer:** Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, you have now become my Covenant Friend. And I, through Your infinite grace, have become Your covenant servant. You are mine and I am Yours. So be it. May this covenant that I have made here on earth be ratified in heaven. Amen.

# FUMC Children's Center

We have a work day on Saturday, January 13 starting at 8am for our new preschool! It will go through the afternoon. Many hands make light work, and many hands also make for a fun morning serving together.

There's lots of little things and some big things we need help with—something for everyone. From wiping down and painting furniture, to assembling shelving, helping sort materials, and maybe even pressure washing the sidewalk outside.

The Children's Center is a ministry of the church. Please sign up by sending a message to Pastor Wil ([pastor@murphyfirstumc.org](mailto:pastor@murphyfirstumc.org)) to let us know you're coming so we can most effectively steward your time.

If you want to make a donation toward the preschool, you can do so by purchasing from one of the wish lists (below) or making a donation to the preschool scholarship fund:

<https://www.for-smallhands.com/wishlist/5E8AF7FDEA4231943B10C1EF6C8C240A>

<https://www.amazon.com/registries/gl/guest-view/1WDD62UZ1IZJH>

Thank you!



01/05—Rick & Debbie Alringer  
01/30—Dave & Sharon Hotchkiss

**Trustee on Call for January:**  
**Ricky Hill (919-222-3551)**



**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 9:45am-Noon.

**Children's Music and Play** (Room 203) is available for children aged 3 and older from 9:45am-10:45am (music w/Miss Suzanne)

**Worship Readiness** (Room 304) Children aged Kindergarten through 2nd grade.

Children are welcome in worship and will then be released after Children's Time to return to their nursery or Children's Church. Older children (3rd grade+) should remain with their parents in worship.





**Monthly Potluck Fellowship Dinner on Sunday, January 21st, hosted by the Missions Team, following the worship service.**

**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).

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

January 7—poinsettias  
January 14—OPEN  
January 21—OPEN  
January 28—OPEN

To reserve a Sunday in 2024 to provide altar flowers, please call the church office at 828-837-2718. Thank You!



01/03—Dianne Fitts  
01/05—Cobby Barfield  
01/06—Tyra Nelson  
01/07—Tyler Edwards; Sherry Garland  
01/09—Debbie Delevan  
01/11—Ron Lewis; Mark Mobley  
01/12—Sheila Jordan; Edward Palmer  
01/16—Ricky Hill  
01/17—Richard Douglass  
01/21—Charles Garland  
01/23—Kyle McClure  
01/24—Bud Sims  
01/28—Amy Brown  
01/29—Mary Robertson



Our prayers are with the Vespasian families on the passing of Ruth Vespasian.



# Volunteer Schedule



| OFFICE VOLUNTEERS                                      |
|--|
| Office <b>CLOSED</b> Jan 01 & 15                       |
| Monday, Jan 08: Liz Pipes / Monday, Jan 22: Anne Hymen |
| Tuesday, Jan 02,09,16,23,30: Linda Ray                 |
| Wednesday, Jan 03,10,17,24,31: Marilyn Jones           |
| Thursday, Jan 04,11,18: Dottie Wershing                |
| Open Dates: Thursday, Jan 25; Monday, Jan 29           |



## Keep the following in your thoughts and prayers:



*Scott Adams; Tony Licata; Matt Licata; Trina Iurilli; Christine Iurilli; Carl Swanson; Ukraine and its people; Paul Britten; Misty Graves; Carl Auvil; Dorothy Purcell; Elizabeth Thompson; Beth Loudy; Harrison Gray; Michael Diosko and family; Sara Stiles; Israel and peace and the people of Gaza; Marilyn Wade; David Potter; Joseph Wenger; Thornton family; Fred Davis; Joyce; Patty Singer; BJ Thompson; Ora Lee Hayes; Keith Mays; Mary Capellas; Tim Schulz; Oscar & Dolores Olsen; Joe Watson; Maggie Corrigan.*

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).



United  
Women  
in Faith

**WILLING HANDS on the go:** Our next Willing Hands meeting will be on Wednesday, January 17th, 11:30 am in the Fellowship Hall. The Greeting Card Ministry will gather at 10:30 am to create more special cards for our church members and friends.

At this meeting, we will discuss our planned projects for the year and see what else we can do for our community.

Thanks to your generosity, we were able to help 51 local middle and high school students have a happier Christmas through our Christmas Box Drive.

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.



Christmas  
Box  
Drive



... a note from Esther Manchester,

A big THANK YOU to all the beautiful people who came to my home on December 17th singing Christmas carols. You lifted my spirit tremendously and warmed my heart with renewed faith and love.

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

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: TBD \*\*\*

Acolytes: TBD \*\*\*

Worship Leader: TBD \*\*\*

Lay Reader/Liturgist: TBD \*\*\*

Greeters: TBD \*\*\*

Offering Prayer: Marji Hill, John Morton

Pew Maintenance: Welcoming Committee

Communion Preparation: Worship Committee Fellowship Lunch Host: Mission Team

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

TRUSTEE On Call: Ricky Hill (919-222-3551)

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

\*\*\* Substitutes can occur.





# 2024

| Sun  | Mon   | Tue  | Wed  | Thu   | Fri                                  | Sat   |
|--|---|--|--|---|--------------------------------------|---|
| <b>31</b><br><b>10:55am Worship</b><br><b>11:15am Children's Church (K-2nd)</b><br>5pm AA Mtg  | <b>1 NEW YEARS DAY</b><br>10am Wood Carving<br>11:45am Chair Exercises                | <b>2</b><br>9am Little Melodies                                      | <b>3</b><br>11:45am Chair Exercises  | <b>4</b><br>10am Quilters<br><b>11am-2pm Soul Table</b>                   | <b>5</b><br>11:45am Chair Exercises  | <b>6</b>                                    |
| <b>7</b><br><b>10am Adult SS Class</b><br><b>10am Music &amp; Play</b><br><b>10:55am Worship</b><br><b>11:15am Children's Church (K-2nd)</b><br>5pm AA Mtg                               | <b>8</b><br>11:45am Chair Exercises   | <b>9</b><br><b>5:30pm Trustees</b>                                   | <b>10</b><br><b>9:30am Mom's Morning</b><br>11:45am Chair Exercises  | <b>11</b><br>10am Quilters  | <b>12</b><br>11:45am Chair Exercises | <b>13</b><br><b>8am Pre-school Work Day</b> |
| <b>14</b><br><b>10am Adult SS Class</b><br><b>10am Music &amp; Play</b><br><b>10:55am Worship</b><br><b>11:15am Children's Church (K-2nd)</b><br>5pm AA Mtg                              | <b>15</b><br>10am Wood Carving<br>11:45am Chair Exercises<br><b>12pm Mission Team</b> | <b>16</b>  | <b>17</b><br><b>9:30am Mom's Morning</b><br><b>10:30am Card Ministry</b><br><b>11:30am Willing Hands</b><br>11:45am Chair Exercises<br><b>5:30pm Choir Rehearsal</b>   | <b>18</b><br>10am Quilters<br><b>11am-2pm Soul Table</b>                  | <b>19</b><br>11:45am Chair Exercises | <b>20</b>                                   |
| <b>21</b><br><b>10am Adult SS Class</b><br><b>10am Music &amp; Play</b><br><b>10:55am Worship</b><br><b>11:15am Children's Church (K-2nd)</b><br><b>12pm Potluck Lunch</b><br>5pm AA Mtg | <b>22</b><br>11:45am Chair Exercises<br><b>5pm SPPRC</b>                              | <b>23</b><br><b>10am Family Home Childcare Session</b><br>5:30pm VRR | <b>24</b><br><b>9:30am Mom's Morning</b><br>11:45am Chair Exercises<br><b>3:30pm Childrens Choirs</b><br><b>4:30pm Wesley Ringers</b><br><b>5:30pm Choir Rehearsal</b> | <b>25</b><br>10am Quilters<br><u><b>Deadline for Newsletter Input</b></u> | <b>26</b><br>11:45am Chair Exercises | <b>27</b>                                   |
| <b>28</b><br><b>10am Adult SS Class</b><br><b>10am Music &amp; Play</b><br><b>10:55am Worship</b><br><b>11:15am Children's Church (K-2nd)</b><br>5pm AA Mtg                              | <b>29</b><br>10am Wood Carving<br>11:45am Chair Exercises                             | <b>30</b><br>5:30pm VRR  | <b>31</b><br><b>9:30am Mom's Morning</b><br>11:45am Chair Exercises<br><b>3:30pm Childrens Choirs</b><br><b>4:30pm Wesley Ringers</b><br><b>5:30pm Choir Rehearsal</b> | <b>1</b><br>10am Quilters<br><b>11am-2pm Soul Table</b>                   | <b>2</b><br>11:45am Chair Exercises  | <b>3</b>                                    |

Information Session:

# STARTING A HOME BASED CHILD CARE BUSINESS

Learn all you need to know to get started in this exciting field. Refreshments and child care provided.

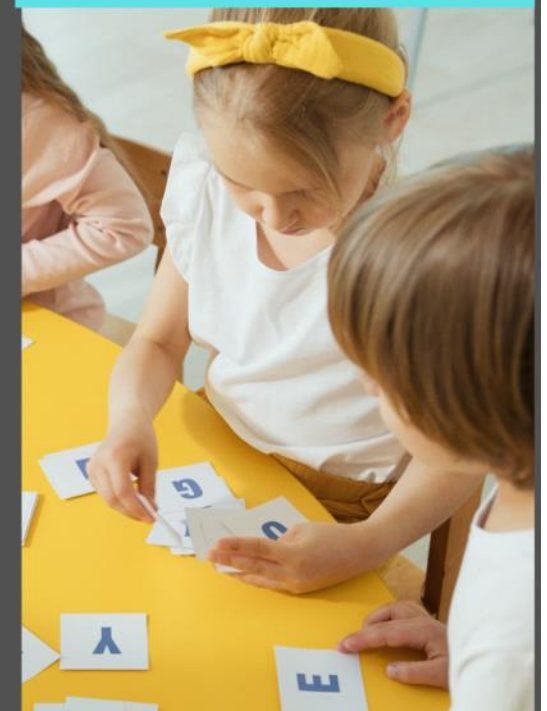
Call 828-837-2718 To reserve a spot.

[Reservations Required by Jan. 22](#)

**JANUARY 23, 2024**  
**10 AM - 11:30 AM**



Murphy First United Methodist Church  
Fellowship Hall  
73 Valley River, Murphy NC



**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**

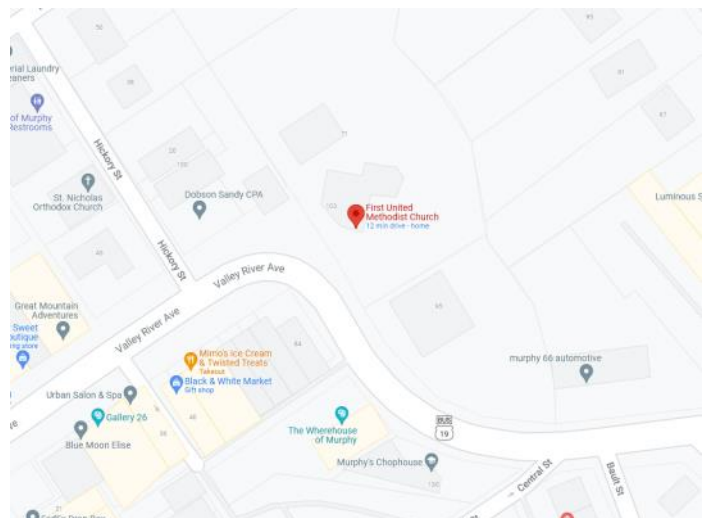
[admin@murphyfirstumc.org](mailto:admin@murphyfirstumc.org)

**Jack Frahmman, Treasurer**

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

**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

*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.*