

January 2025

First United Methodist Church of Murphy

P. O. Box 86 (73 Valley River Avenue)

Murphy, NC 28906

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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,

I don't know how you're doing with our Bible Year readings—maybe you're behind, maybe you're right on schedule, or you never started. But wherever you are, the new year is a great time to start fresh!

On January 7 we start in the Psalms. Join us! Don't try to catch up. Don't feel like you can't start in the middle. Jump in!

We'll be in the Psalms for a full month: January 7 through February 11. The Psalms have always been at the heart of the devotional lives of Christians (and our Jewish siblings). They are the prayer book and the song book of the Bible. They chart the topography and geography of a life of faith, taking us to soaring heights of joy and the rock-bottom depths of despair. And they testify that at every place, God is with us.

I'll be preaching from the Psalms on Sunday mornings starting January 5. Come join us for Bible study—Sunday School at 9:45 or mid-week Bible study on Wednesdays at 1:30 (starting back on 1/8/25).

On the journey with you,

Pastor Wil

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
12/29 Nehemiah 11 - 13	12/30 Esther 1 - 4	12/31 Esther 5 - 10	01/01 Job 1 - 5	01/02 Job 6 - 14	01/03 Job 15 - 21	01/04 Job 22 - 31
01/05 Job 32 - 37	01/06 Job 38 - 42	01/07 Psalms 1 - 4	01/08 Psalms 5 - 8	01/09 Psalms 9 - 12	01/10 Psalms 13 - 16	01/11 Psalms 17 - 20
01/12 Psalms 21 - 24	01/13 Psalms 24 - 28	01/14 Psalms 29 - 32	01/15 Psalms 33 - 36	01/16 Psalms 37 - 41	01/17 Psalms 42 - 45	01/18 Psalms 46 - 49
01/19 Psalms 50 - 53	01/20 Psalms 54 - 56	01/21 Psalms 57 - 59	01/22 Psalms 60 - 63	01/23 Psalms 64 - 68	01/24 Psalms 69 - 72	01/25 Psalms 73 - 75
01/26 Psalms 76 - 78	01/27 Psalms 79 - 84	01/28 Psalms 85 - 89	01/29 Psalms 90 - 95	01/30 Psalms 96 - 101	01/31 Psalms 101 - 104	02/01 Psalms 105 - 107



Following worship on January 5th, please plan to stay, if possible, and help us un-decorate the church. Thank you!!



If you are not receiving the church newsletter or other email correspondence, your email address is still not registered in our system. You must give us permission to send email to you. Please use this link to enter your email address, and then follow the instructions on the resulting email you receive from **no-reply@servantkeeper.com**.



Stay in Touch

<https://partner.servantkeeper.com/FUMCMurphy/subscribe>

CREATION CARE TEAM



We are forming a Creation Care Team to explore, dream and enjoy God's Creation. If this is something close to your heart and you'd like to get involved, reach out to Sarah-June Ely-McCollum at 828-361-1330.



The Preschool is welcoming three new families this month! Our enrollment will be a total of 14! In December, students completed many holiday-themed music, works, and crafts, developing fine motor skills and their sense of creativity and order. Thank you so much for your support in the last two weeks of December, when Bridget was out to recover from lacerating her liver in a bicycle accident. Healing is slow, but she is stronger daily and will return to teaching after Winter Break. We welcome donations if you are clearing out toys or other useful items for the New Year! Next month will be our big Fundraiser for Scholarships!!!

Happy New Year!

Bridget Esterhuizen
Director & Lead Teacher



Become Part of Our Church Family

If you are interested in joining Murphy FUMC as a member, please contact Pastor Wil (pastor@murphyfirstumc.org). We will have a "Joining Sunday" on Sunday January 19.

Membership of a local church is a great blessing and responsibility. It is a way of committing yourself to living our faith through the ministries of this church—through your prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness. We are on this journey together.

Church is Us. It's everyone—using their gifts, serving God and one another and our neighbor, making ministry possible, caring for one another.

If you want talk more about what that means to be a member, let me know!



COMING SOON!

Pledge Drive

Part of what comes with a new year is a renewed focus on commitments to the things that matter most to us. One way we're inviting you to a commitment that we believe makes a big difference is an invitation to regular giving.

We want to give you a heads up that we'll be sending everyone a letter that includes a "pledge card", inviting you to prayerfully make a financial commitment to the ministries of FUMC. Your commitment helps us plan for and carry out our mission and vision. Think about some of your recurring monthly expenses, like subscriptions, streaming services, dining and entertaining. Why not add the Church? You can easily set up an automatic weekly, monthly or one-time gift either in your online banking system or by using the online giving link from the church website provided here: [FUMC Online Giving](#) or this QR code.



USHER HELP NEEDED!

Every week our worship service depends on the help of several folks who serve as ushers. These folks receive the offering, and they also do other essential tasks, including operating the lift, making sure doors are locked, and ensuring that the offering is securely delivered to the office after worship.

We need your help! This is an invitation for men and women to be part of this ministry. If you can be part of this essential ministry, please let the office know **ASAP**. Thank you!



Faith in Politics

During our Purple Church group several folks talked about what it would look like to keep the conversation going. How do we put our faith into action in public life? What does Christian politics look like?

We're going to be drawing from resources from The UMC to explore contemporary issues and how we might love our neighbor through concrete action.

Our next gathering is Monday, January 13 at 12pm in the Library/Meeting Room beside Pastor Wil's office.

Let Pastor Wil know if you want to know more (pastor@murphyfirstumc.org).



Christmas
Eve Offering

... Celebrating your generosity! The offering we collected on Christmas Eve was dedicated to the ongoing recovery efforts for our Western North Carolina neighbors affected by Hurricane Helene. We were able to send \$1325 toward their recovery efforts!



Mission Team News

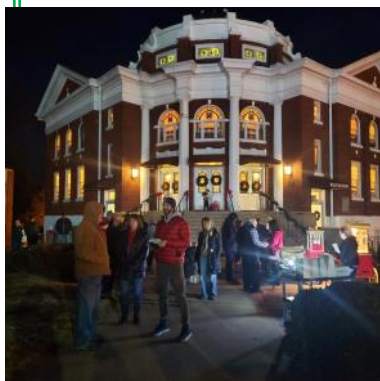
Thanks to all who donated to local charities through the Mission Team's Alternative Christmas. Around \$2000 was collected and many people and animals will benefit from the generosity of the congregation.

The Smore's and Popcorn station was a success and a huge THANK YOU goes out to all who came and helped!

Soul Table held a special Christmas lunch on December 19th and a VERY SPECIAL guest dropped by! Soul Table will be held on **January 9 and 23**. All are welcome.

The Mission Team has purchased sleeping bags for those who might need them during this cold season. Many of our neighbors are sleeping outside with no shelter. If anyone would like to donate new sleeping bags or blankets, please contact Anita Sloan.

A huge thank you to the carolers who braved the cold and blessed so many. What a wonderful ministry.





**THIS MONTH'S
anniversaries**

01/05—Rick & Debbie Alringer
 01/23—Tom & Linda Pritchard
 01/29—Matt & Jennifer White
 01/30—Dave & Sharon Hotchkiss



**THIS MONTH'S
birthdays**

- 01/03—Diane Fitts
- 01/05—Cobby Barfield
- 01/06—Tyra Nelson; John Teel
- 01/07—Tyler Edwards; Sherry Garland
- 01/09—Debbie Delevan
- 01/10—Keith Todd
- 01/11—Ron Lewis; Mark Mobley
- 01/12—Sheila Jordan; Edward Palmer
- 01/16—Ricky Hill
- 01/17—Richard Douglass; Linda Pritchard
- 01/21—Charles Garland
- 01/23—Kyle McClure
- 01/24—Bohdi Budzinski; Bud Sims
- 01/28—Amy Brown
- 01/29—Mary Robertson



The staff wishes to let everyone know how thankful they are for the generosity of the congregation in this year's staff appreciation gifts!

**Trustee on Call for January:
Freddy Lochaby (828-226-2900)**



Keep the following in your thoughts and prayers:

Scott Adams; Tony Licata; Ukraine and its people; Harrison Gray; Michael Diosko and family; Israel and peace and the people of Gaza; Oscar & Dolores Olsen; Cal & Marissa Todd; Jacob Mason; Bobby Lovingood; Vick Peterman; Bronson Orton; Rusty Rhodes; Karen Strine; Jackson Donley; Carol Lambert; Don & Penny Folton; Kathy; Blake VanBrunt; Dennis Plavcan; Rachel and Mickey; Paul & Alison Robinson; Dixie Major; Olivia Robinson; Carl Auvil; Hope Hughes; storm victims; David Farr; Susie Woods; Jimmy Jordan; Marvin Perkins; Pam Richardson; Dave & Sharon Hotchkiss; Alex Batdorff; John McCarley; Danny Lawrence; Dell Douglass; Chris Herron; Carl Hymen; Maria McLeod; Christian Manchester; Banks Anderson; Mark Woods; Diane Barfield; the Family of Noah Setliff; Dee; Marilyn; John & Renee Teel; the Family of Dan Hughes.

Prayer Team: prayfumc@gmail.com. *In an effort to have room for all prayer requests we will rotate off the names every 3 weeks unless indicated, either by a notation on the blue prayer request card or by calling the church office. Prayer Requests can be submitted on our Facebook page, YouTube live stream or by calling the church office.*



Genesis & Revelation Children's Choirs - Christmas 2024





Murphy FUMC

Youth Group



Weekly meetings coming soon.

Looking for volunteers!

Along with studying the Bible and learning about Jesus, we love to have fun and to serve others. Each meeting involves games, a Bible lesson, and small group discussion. We will also offer occasional service opportunities!

Helping Students Find Their True Identity & Purpose

**Christian comedian
and motivational
speaker**

**Transportation
available!**

KETRIC NEWELL

Brought to you by the Cherokee
County child collaborative

FREE EVENT

January 22nd, 2025

5pm-7pm

Tri-County Community
College Enloe Building,
Murphy location

**Register
today!**

**TOP
YOUTH
SPEAKERS®**





United
Women
in Faith

WILLING HANDS WELCOMES YOU! 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.

Through your generous donations this year, our Christmas Box Project was able to help 53 students/children at our Murphy Elementary, Middle and High Schools.

Thank you!

“Memories with Santa” on Saturday, Dec. 7th saw 35-40 children coming to see Santa Claus and getting their pictures taken with him. A good time was had by all!

On Wednesday Dec. 18th, we celebrated the holidays by going to lunch together at The Chop House.

We continue to collect supplies in the “Blessing Box” we’ve placed in the narthex of the sanctuary. Each week, one of us will take the donations to the Child Development Center in Murphy behind the Elementary School. Easily opened canned goods, non-perishable food items, and small packages of personal toiletries are always welcome to benefit folks who are struggling



For further information about the Circle, please call Nancy Jo Willis at 850-428-3636. Remember: All ladies of the church are invited to attend any of our meetings or other events! Our next meeting will be held in the Fellowship Hall on Wednesday, January 15th beginning at 10:30am with our Greeting Card Ministry, followed by the Circle meeting. Please consider joining us!



SERVING IN WORSHIP



Serving in Worship

If you are interested in serving as a Liturgist (reader), Crucifer (cross bearer), or Acolyte (age 7+), please contact Kathryn Jenkins at (404) 395-2390 or rkjenkins330@gmail.com.

Contacts

Pastor Wil Posey

pastor@murphyfirstumc.org

Drew Ellis—Director of Family Ministries

families@murphyfirstumc.org

Suzanne West—Director of Music

music@murphyfirstumc.org

Maggie Corrigan—Admin Asst

admin@murphyfirstumc.org

Jack Frahmann—Treasurer

treasurer@murphyfirstumc.org

Bridget Esterhuizen—Preschool Director

preschool@murphyfirstumc.org



Adult Sunday School meets at 10am in Fellowship Hall led by Wally Avett.

The Bible Year Classes meet at 10am in the Education Building and above the sanctuary.

The Nursery (Room 202) is available for children aged 0 yrs to Kindergarten from 9:45am-Noon.

Children's Sunday School meets in the Education Building at 10am.

Worship Readiness (Room 304) for children aged Kindergarten through 4th grade meets during worship following the Pastor's children's moment.


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.

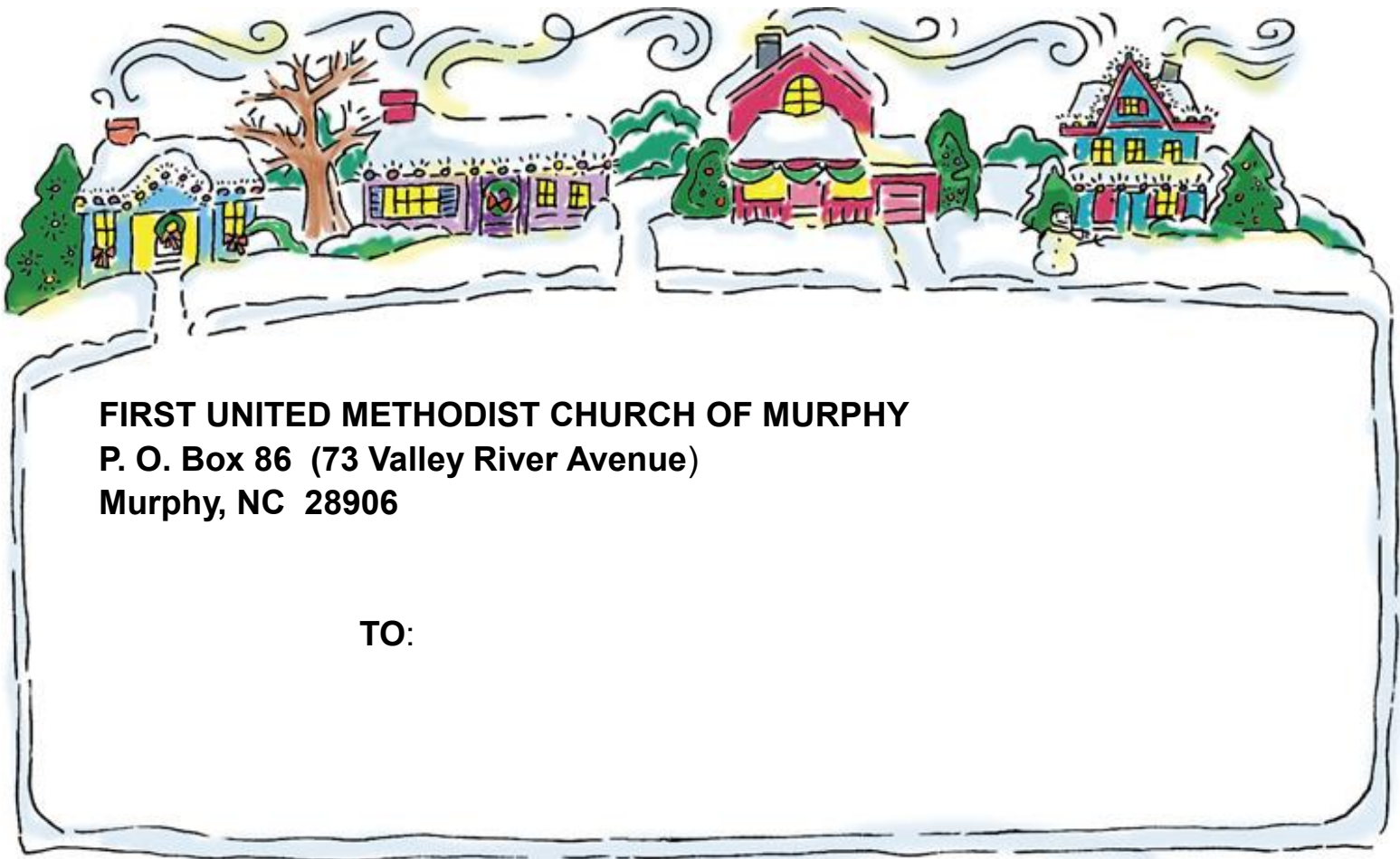


The Friends of Harshaw Chapel Committee is thrilled to share that we've been awarded a

\$35,000 grant from the Cherokee County Tourism Development Authority! This, in addition to other grants awarded and funds raised, gets us to a place where **we are ready to move forward with the roof and steeple!** We are always grateful for additional gifts that help us fully restore the Chapel. Thank you for all your generosity that's gotten us to this point!



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>29 Covenant Renewal 10am Sunday School Classes 10:55am Worship 11:15am Children's Church (K-2nd) 4pm AA Dinner Mtg</p>	<p>30 12:30pm Chair Exercises</p>	<p>31</p>	<p>01  OFFICES ARE CLOSED</p>	<p>02</p>	<p>03 12:30pm Chair Exercises</p>	<p>04 9:30am Al Anon</p>
<p>05 EPIPHANY 10am Sunday School Classes 10:55am Worship 11:15am Children's Church (K-2nd) 12pm Un-decorate the church</p>	<p>06 12:30pm Chair Exercises</p>	<p>07</p>	<p>08 8:30am Preschool 10m Worship Mtg 12:30pm Chair Exercises 1:30pm Bible Year Study</p>	<p>09 9:30am Mom's Morning 11:30am Soul Table</p>	<p>10 8:30am Preschool 12:30pm Chair Exercises</p>	<p>11 9:30am Al Anon</p>
<p>12 10am Sunday School Classes 10:55am Worship 11:15am Children's Church (K-2nd) 5pm Women's Spiritual Formation</p>	<p>13 8:30am Preschool 11am Missions Team 12pm Faith in Politics 12:30pm Chair Exercises</p>	<p>14 5:30pm VRR</p>	<p>15 8:30am Preschool 10am Worship Mtg 10:30am Greeting Cards 11:30am Willing Hands 12:30pm Chair Exercises 1:30pm Bible Year Study 3:15pm Children's Choirs 4:30pm Wesley Ringers 5:30pm Choir</p>	<p>16 9:30am Mom's Morning</p>	<p>17 8:30am Preschool 12:30pm Chair Exercises</p>	<p>18 9:30am Al Anon</p>
<p>19 JOINING SUNDAY 10am Sunday School Classes 10:55am Worship 11:15am Children's Church (K-2nd) 12pm Potluck</p>	<p>20 MLK DAY 12:30pm Chair Exercises OFFICES ARE CLOSED</p>	<p>21 5:30pm VRR</p>	<p>22 8:30am Preschool 10am Worship Mtg 12:30pm Chair Exercises 1:30pm Bible Year Study 3:15pm Children's Choirs 4:30pm Wesley Ringers 5:30pm Choir</p>	<p>23 9:30am Mom's Morning 11:30am-Soul Table 5:30pm Finance Committee</p>	<p>24 8:30am Preschool 12:30pm Chair Exercises</p>	<p>25 9:30am Al Anon</p>
<p>26 10am Sunday School Classes 10:55am Worship 11:15am Children's Church (K-2nd) 4pm AA Dinner Mtg</p>	<p>27 12pm Faith in Politics 12:30pm Chair Exercises 5pm SPPRC 5:30pm Admin Council</p>	<p>28 5:30pm VRR Deadline for Newsletter Input</p>	<p>29 8:30am Preschool 10am Worship Mtg 12:30pm Chair Exercises 1:30pm Bible Year Study 3:15pm Children's Choirs 4:30pm Wesley Ringers 5:30pm Choir</p>	<p>30 9:30am Mom's Morning</p>	<p>31 8:30am Preschool 12:30pm Chair Exercises</p>	<p>01 9:30am Al Anon</p>



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TO:

#BeUMC

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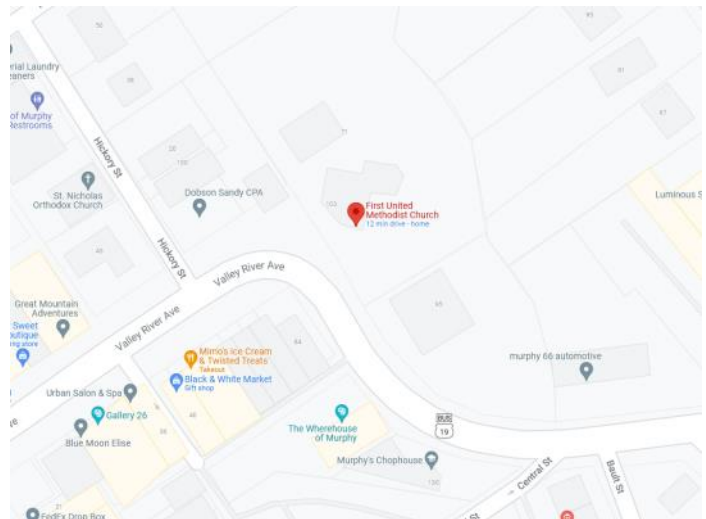
treasurer@murphyfirstumc.org

Suzanne West, Director of Music

music@murphyfirstumc.org

Bridget Esterhuizen, Preschool Director

preschool@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 phone.

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