

May 2025

First United Methodist Church of Murphy

P. O. Box 86 (73 Valley River Avenue)
Murphy, NC 28906

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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,

Phew! What an Easter celebration! Y'all, what a great day—from Sunrise Service, to an amazing potluck breakfast, and a joy-filled celebration in Worship. I loved being with you through every minute.

So now we coast into summer, right? Not exactly.

Sometimes we think of Easter as the finish line, like it is the culmination of Lent, the grand finale. But, in truth, Easter isn't the finish line; it is a starting point. Easter is a season that lasts 49 days. That's 7 times 7, or, in Bible language, "a week of weeks." It is a time period that expresses fullness.

One way to think about the fullness of the season is through the very important Christian practice of feasting! After his resurrection, Jesus is eating with people all the time. He extends the table, adds new leaves, and the table is overflowing with grace and joy. That's what this time is all about.

I wonder how you can add more Jesus-style feasting to your life this season? Think of it as a discipline. Gather folks around the table with you, or on the picnic bench, give thanks to God, break bread, notice the presence of Jesus among you.

During the Easter season, our Bible Year readings will be taking us through all four gospels. That comes right after a sprint through the "minor prophets," including Amos and Micah. Between these prophets and Jesus, we get invited into a way of life that so often feels like swimming upstream. We're going to explore that in worship on Sunday mornings.

This is also the perfect time to jump into one of our Bible Year study groups. The Seeker's Sunday School class or the Wednesday afternoon Bible study groups are great ways to find good community and learn to receive the ways of Jesus as our own. The Seeker's Class meets at 9:45am on Sundays on the main level of the education/office building; and the Wednesday group is Wednesdays at 1:30pm in the Fellowship Hall with Pastor Wil.

There's lots of goodness ahead in the month of May: Kickball at Konehete, signing up for the Summer Mission Trip, growing tomatoes for Community Canning Days later in the summer.

I'm grateful to be with you on the journey,

Pastor Wil

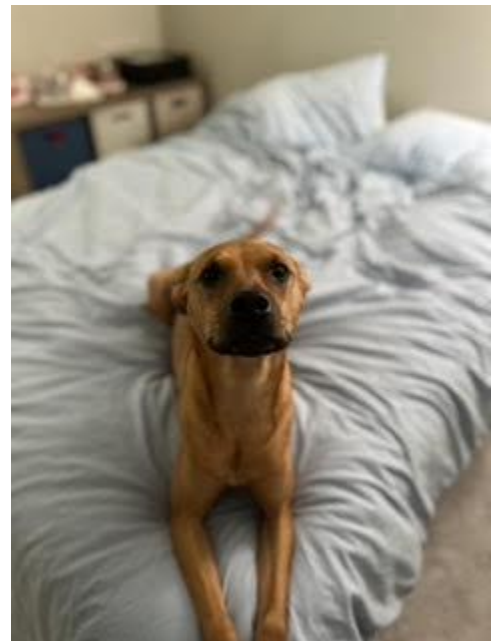
Introducing...

We're thrilled to be hosting Julianna Reeves this summer as our Ministerial Intern from Duke Divinity School. Her first Sunday will be June 1, and she'll be here through August 10. I hope you will welcome Julianna to FUMC this summer—invite her over for meals or to join you for a hike, a movie, or time on the water. We're looking forward to having her with us in ministry this summer.



Hello, my name is Julianna Reeves and I am so excited to be serving with y'all in Murphy this summer! I was born and raised in Houston, Texas and lived there for most of my life, with the exception of attending the University of Arizona in Tucson, Arizona, my freshman year of college. I ended up transferring to the University of Houston in my sophomore year of college where I graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Human Development and Family Studies and a minor in Education in May of 2024. While at the University of Houston, I served as the Associate Youth Director at my home church, St. Paul's UMC, for over three years as I discerned my call to ministry and discovered my passion for intergenerational and cross-cultural ministry. I am a Certified Candidate for Ordination in the UMC on the Elder track and am finishing up my first year at Duke Divinity School working towards a Master of Divinity. I

have thoroughly enjoyed living in North Carolina and experiencing all it has to offer including stunning views, my first real snow day, and Duke basketball! I have family from Hendersonville, North Carolina and my grandparents met at UNC Chapel Hill, and lived in Hillsborough for a few years. (Don't worry, they gave me their blessing to attend Duke!) My family is extremely important to me, so I have enjoyed getting to learn more about my family history during my time here. Outside of school, I love spending time with my friends and family, reading, and playing with my two-year-old puppy, Paisley. I am an extrovert and enjoy connecting with others, so I am always willing to meet for a cup of coffee or a "sweet treat." I look forward to learning and serving alongside y'all this summer and exploring Murphy with Paisley!



Summer Mission Trip

When: July 27-August 2

Where: Reeves Chapel in Asheville, NC

Who: Youth (14+) and Adults

How Much: Suggested love offering of \$10-15 per person per night for lodging. \$15.00 per team member for the background check. Cost of food for team TBD.

What: Volunteers will help get families back in homes that are safe, sanitary and secure. The people we serve were impacted in different ways, so the work we will do is varied and can change daily. While some homes were flooded, others incurred damage from fallen trees, wind and landslides. Our typical work can include drywall, flooring, roofing and debris removal.

Sign up or learn more by contacting Pastor Wil. My goal is to have a final roster by the end of May so that we can gather as a team in June in order to get to know each other and get ready.



The WNCC is offering a free online Safe Sanctuaries training on Tuesday, May 13th at 7:00 pm. During this training, Rev. Michelle Foster-Beckerleg will provide an overview of Safe Sanctuaries. This is a great learning opportunity for folks who are new to Safe Sanctuaries as well as those who need a refresher on the basics. The link is found below:

<https://wnc-reg.brtapp.com/SafeSanctuaries05132025>

Every church in the United Methodist denomination is required to have Safe Sanctuary procedures and policies. Murphy First UMC has developed and had implemented our own Safe Sanctuary plan that fits our needs and the requirements of the policy. Anyone who volunteers with children's ministry, youth ministry, or ministries related to vulnerable adults is encouraged to get trained every two years.

Please reach out to Drew Ellis to let him know you attended, so we can update our files.



Everyone welcome!
Sponsored by Murphy FUMC Family
Ministries

**MAY 18,
2025**

ICE CREAM AT THE PARK



JOIN US FOR KICKBALL

AND OTHER FUN!

Starting at 2:00!



May 4	Connect w/Heritage/The Call of Harriet Tubman
May 11	A Faith to Decide
May 18	A Faith to Confirm
May 25	MEMORIAL DAY
June 1	Service Walkthrough
June 8	Confirmation Sunday



CHURCH FINANCIAL UPDATE

. . . from the Finance Committee: A big “thank you” to all who have increased their giving in response to our message of need. We are definitely trending in a more positive direction for March and April. We just need to keep this momentum going in order to fulfill our budget commitments. Your Finance Committee is working with various groups to adjust spending wherever feasible to help in this effort. Together, we can continue to make our church a beacon and a blessing for the community.

	April	Jan-Apr 25
WE RECEIVED	37,034.64	122,784.49
WE SPENT	34,049.69	127,572.32
AHEAD/BEHIND	2,984.95	-4,787.83



United
Women
in Faith

WILLING HANDS – LOOKING FOR SOME FELLOWSHIP and WORTHWHILE PROJECTS?

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.

On Wednesday, May 21st, the Greeting Card Ministry will gather at 10:30am to make more lovely cards for our church family and friends. At 11:30am we will meet for our regular monthly meeting. We had great fun putting together Easter Baskets and Comfort Bags in April; and all who received Easter Baskets were very appreciative! Before we even get to our May meeting, we will have provided doughnuts for all the teachers in the Murphy system, in appreciation for their hard work and efforts with our community of students. We are working on hosting a Blood Drive at our church in the near future. Willing Hands will also be hosting our May FUMC Fellowship Luncheon on May 18th.

Remember: All ladies of the church are invited to attend any of our meetings or other events. Please consider joining us!



Murphy First UMC

JUNE 8-12

Campers will connect with and learn ways to trust God through music, drama, storytelling, games, art, and science!

5:30-7:30



Registration for our 2025 VBS program is now open. Children aged pre-k through rising 5th grade are invited to participate. Each evening will begin with a light meal. Pre-K and Kindergarten children will be in a class together and kids in 4th and 5th grade will participate in Kid Serve.

Bible in a Year Readings for May

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
04/27 Jonah 3 - 4	04/28 Micah 1 - 4	04/29 Micah 5 - 7	04/30 Nahum	05/01 Habakkuk	05/02 Zephaniah	05/03 Haggai
05/04 Zechariah 1 - 4	05/05 Zechariah 5 - 9	05/06 Zechariah 10-14	05/07 Malachi 1 - 2	05/08 Malachi 3 - 4	05/09 Matthew 1 - 2	05/10 Matthew 3 - 4
05/11 Matthew 5	05/12 Matthew 6	05/13 Matthew 7 - 8	05/14 Matthew 9 - 10	05/15 Matthew 11 - 12	05/16 Matthew 13	05/17 Matthew 14 - 15
05/18 Matthew 16 - 18	05/19 Matthew 19 - 20	05/20 Matthew 21	05/21 Matthew 22 - 23	05/22 Matthew 24 - 25	05/23 Matthew 26	05/24 Matthew 27 - 28
05/25 Mark 1 - 3	05/26 Mark 4 - 5	05/27 Mark 6	05/28 Mark 7 - 8	05/29 Mark 9 - 10:45	05/30 Mark 10:46 - 12:34	05/31 Mark 12:35 - 13



Keep the following in your thoughts and prayers:

Ukraine and its people; Maria Mcleod; Patricia Rogers; Marilyn Hartness; Mildred Pullium; Peter Close; Richard Potter; Robin Burnette; Polly; Dell Douglass; Tony Jadwin; James David Hubbard III; Rev Kate Gilbert; Deanie Avett; Jason Long; Charlie Todd; Larry Muller; Debbie Cocalis; Elvie Marikit; Paul Britton; Sue Hubbard; Abigail Bryson; Family of Whitney Johnson; Theresa Smith.



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.

828-837-2718 or email: admin@murphyfirstumc.org

Prayer Requests can be submitted on our Facebook page, YouTube live stream or by calling the church office.



The mission team purchased tickets for the Empty Bowl event at John C. Campbell Folk School. All who received tickets attended and Marji Hill said everyone enjoyed the event.

Soul Table is seeing an increase in the number of guests attending. As budget cuts affect the local food banks we expect more people to be dependent upon the Soul Table ministry. We are seeking donations of produce from local gardeners and farmers. As we get into the growing season, please keep Soul Table in mind. Any produce will be welcome to help us provide healthy meals to our guests.

The Mission Team supports several local charities and will continue to do so as the budget



CREATION CARE TEAM SPRING HIKE ON THE WASILICK POPLAR TRAIL



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

Trustee on Call for May:

Blake Hughes (828-557-3354)



Adult Sunday School meets at 10am in Fellowship Hall.

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 after the 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.



May 01 - Agnes & Agna Jallah

May 04 - Vikki Fortner

May 05 - Morgan Budzinski; Grover Smith

May 06 - Lindsay Campana

May 07 - Charles Murphy

May 09 - Kevennie Westmoreland

May 12 - Teresa Wiley

May 14 - David Hughes

May 16 - Frank Barber

May 18 - Paywala Jallah; Bruce Peck

May 19 - Susan Satto

May 21 - Freddy Lochaby

May 22 - Russell Matthews

May 26 - Cheryl Schuller

May 27 - Alex McClure

May 29 - David Hettinger; Thomas Nelson



May 01 - Bud & Diane Sims

May 03 - John & Renee Teel

May 05 - Rob & Judy Eicher;
Tony & Judi Teston

May 15 - Rob & Mary Robertson

May 16 - Reid & Sharon Francis

May 21 - Alex & Brittany Martin

May 22 - David & Melanie Hughes

May 28 - Carl & Myrt Auvil;
Joseph & Heather Watson

May 29 - Mark Mobley & Erin Brophy;



May 31 - Blake & Julie Hughes

Palm Sunday, Good Friday Cross Walk & Easter Sunday Worship & Festivities




SERVICE SUNDAY




 **Grow a Tomato Plant - Fight Food Insecurity!** 

Join The Murphy First UMC Justice Team!


 **Did you know?**

Cherokee County has one of the highest rates of food insecurity — the lack of access to enough food for an active, healthy life.

YOU can make a difference — one tomato plant at a time!

 **Here's How You Can Help:**

- **Grow ONE tomato plant** at home!
 - **Harvest** your tomatoes by **end of July or early August**.
 - **Join our community canning day!** (No experience? No problem — we'll teach you!)
 - **Take your canned tomatoes home** or **donate to those in need!**
-

 **Tips for Growing Tomatoes:**

Types of tomatoes:


- Some popular choices include Early Girl, Better Bush, or Beefsteak.

In a Pot:

- Use a large, well-draining container (18" wide, 2' deep).
- Use high-quality potting mix.
- Ensure **6+ hours of direct sunlight** daily.
- Water thoroughly when the top inch of soil is dry.
- Support plants with stakes, cages, or trellises.



In the Ground:

- Use rich, compost-amended, well-draining soil.
 - Bury seedlings up to the first set of true leaves. First leaf that looks like a tomato leaf.
 - Water deeply and regularly.
 - Pick ripe tomatoes often to encourage more fruit!
-

 **Remember When?**

- Helping your Mother or Grandmother in the garden?
- Shelves lined with home-canned jars?
- The sweet smell of fresh veggies?
- The unbeatable taste of homegrown tomatoes?

Let's bring those memories back — and help our neighbors too!

 **Let's grow hope, one tomato at a time!** 

Contact The Murphy First UMC Justice Team to get started! Grant.Corrigan@gmail.com or 727-282-9607



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>27 Service Sunday 11am: Devotion, Lunch and Community Service</p>	<p>28 8:30am Preschool 12pm Justice Team 12:30pm Chair Exercises 5pm SPPRC</p>	<p>29 5pm VRR</p>	<p>30 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>01 9:30am Mom's Morning 11:30am Soul Table</p>	<p>02 8:30am Pre-school 12:30pm Chair Exercises 6pm Parent's Night Out</p>	<p>03 9:30am AI Anon</p>
<p>04 10am Sunday School 10:55am Worship 12pm "Money Meeting" 12pm Confirmation Class 3pm Women's Spiritual Formation</p>	<p>05 8:30am Preschool 12pm Justice Team 12:30pm Chair Exercises</p>	<p>06 5pm VRR</p>	<p>07 8:30am Preschool 10m Worship Mtg 12:30pm Chair Exercises 1:30pm Bible Year Study 3:15pm Children's Choirs 5:30pm Choir</p>	<p>08 9:30am Mom's Morning 5:30pm Pre-school Meeting</p>	<p>09 8:30am Pre-school 12:30pm Chair Exercises</p>	<p>10 9:30am AI Anon</p>
<p>11 Mothers' Day 10am Sunday School 10:55am Worship 11:15am Children's Church 12pm Confirmation Class</p>	<p>12 8:30am Preschool 12:30pm Chair Exercises 5:30pm Admin Council</p>	<p>13 5pm VRR 5:30pm Trustees</p>	<p>14 8:30am Preschool 10am Worship Mtg 12:30pm Chair Exercises 1:30pm Bible Year Study 3:15pm Children's Choirs 5:30pm Choir</p>	<p>15 9:30am Mom's Morning 11:30am Soul Table 5:30pm Finance Committee</p>	<p>16 8:30am Pre-school 12:30pm Chair Exercises</p>	<p>17 9:30am AI Anon</p>
<p>18 10am Sunday School 10:55am Worship 11:15am Children's Church 12pn Confirmation Class 12pm Fellowship Lunch 2pm Ice Cream & Kick Ball @ the Park</p>	<p>19 8:30am Preschool 11am Mission Team 12pm Justice Team 12:30pm Chair Exercises</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21 8:30am Preschool 10am Worship Mtg 10:30am Card Ministry 11:30am Willing Hands 12:30pm Joyful Stitches 12:30pm Chair Exercises 1:30pm Bible Year Study 5:30pm Choir</p>	<p>22 9:30am Mom's Morning</p>	<p>23 8:30am Pre-school 12:30pm Chair Exercises</p>	<p>24 9:30am AI Anon</p>
<p>25 10am Sunday School 10:55am Worship 11:15am Children's Church 12pm Confirmation Class 4pm AA Dinner Meeting</p>	<p>26 12:30pm Chair Exercises 5pm SPPRC</p>	<p>27 <u>Deadline for Newsletter Input</u></p>	<p>28 8:30am Preschool 10am Worship Mtg 12:30pm Chair Exercises 1:30pm Bible Year Study 5:30pm Choir</p>	<p>29 9:30am Mom's Morning</p>	<p>30 8:30am Pre-school 12:30pm Chair Exercises</p>	<p>31 9:30am AI Anon</p>

HOPE

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF MURPHY
P. O. Box 86 (73 Valley River Avenue)
Murphy, NC 28906

TO:



#BeUMC

STAFF:

Rev. Wil Posey, Pastor

pastor@murphyfirstumc.org

Drew Ellis, Director of Family Ministries

families@murphyfirstumc.org

Maggie Corrigan, Admin. Assistant

admin@murphyfirstumc.org

Jack Frahmman, Treasurer

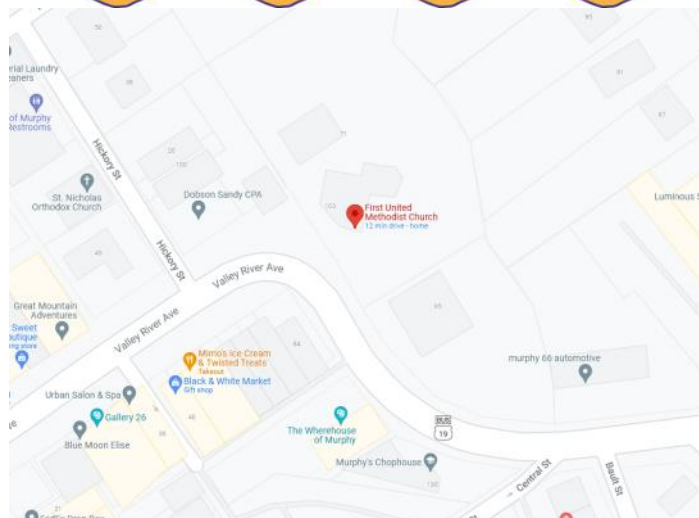
treasurer@murphyfirstumc.org

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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