



Murphy First

United Methodist Church

September 2025



Dear Murphy First,

It's been almost 12 months now since we embarked on the journey to the Bible in a year! Can you believe it? We've covered a lot of ground, told lots of stories, asked lots of questions, and laid a foundation for how we meet God through Scripture, and how these sacred words are for the transformation of our heart and life.

I keep joking with our Wednesday Bible study group that there'll be a test on our last day of the study. There won't be any test, but I think it is worth taking time to review what we've learned. Some of the key ideas I hoped to have shared throughout our study this year are:

- ◆ The Bible is not primarily about what, why, when, or how. It is about Who. Who is God, who are we.
- ◆ We are made in the image of God, to imitate God, in the mission of God.
- ◆ The Bible is a window into the heart of God, not a weapon to wield against others.
- ◆ We are invited to search the scriptures for the sake of transformation (of heart and life), not gathering information.
- ◆ The message we have heard from the beginning is: God is love; love one another.
- ◆ The Bible is meant to be read, understood, and lived in community with one another.

I wonder: what have been some of your big takeaways from our year in the Bible together?

I know I have plenty of other things that have stuck in my mind and heart. I've been blessed by being part of a weekly Bible study where our collective wisdom is greater than any of us would have on our own. We've encouraged each other, opened each others' minds, and encountered God in new ways.

As The Bible Year is ending, there are new groups forming. A mid-week Bible study on *Reclaiming The Wesley's Vision* will be starting soon, and the Sunday morning Seeker's class will be studying *Becoming Everyday Missionaries*. Our children's Godly Play Sunday school class and young parent's class will start back up on 9/14.

One thing I've learned from experience, and through our study of the Bible, is that being part of a small group –whether in study, service, singing, etc. – is a significant part of 1. Growing in our faith, and 2. Really being part of a community.

If you don't already have a group you are part of, I hope you'll find one to jump in with this fall.

On the journey,

Pastor Wil



Harshaw Chapel

We are making exciting and historic progress with the Harshaw Chapel. We expect within the next 4-6 weeks the new roof and steeple will be completely finished! That is a huge accomplishment, and has been possible thanks to your generosity.

There are more detail jobs to be done once that's finished in order to get the Chapel back in order to host services and events—like painting, interior detail work, and putting furniture back in place.


Once we have a clear view of when the Chapel is ready to host worship services, we'll post a series of opportunities to join in worship and story-telling.

Thank you!

The Harshaw Chapel Team

ONLINE GIVERS: We've changed our online giving platform from Vanco to Amplify. Please use the new QR code in the church bulletin or the online button on the web page or here. For help, please send an email to admin@murphyfirst.org.





HOLY SMOKE!!

5:30 PM ON THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18TH

AT ST. WILLIAM CATHOLIC CHURCH

\$15.00/PERSON FOR DELICIOUS BBQ AND OTHER FOODS

THIS IS A FUNDRAISER FOR THE CHEROKEE/CLAY COUNTY

MINISTERIAL ASSOCIATION.

A GOOD TIME WILL BE HAD BY ALL!

THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO HELPED WITH AND DONATED TO OUR BLOOD DRIVE!! We were able to collect **19** pints of blood for the Red Cross and hope to do this on a more regular basis in the future!





United
Women
in Faith

WILLING HANDS – HELPING OTHERS!

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, September 17th, the Greeting Card Ministry will gather at 10:30 am to make some more lovely cards for our church family and friends. At 11:30 am we will meet for our regular monthly Willing Hands meeting.

- The Back to School Blessing Service was terrific and we collected **78** backpacks and tons of school supplies for our Murphy schools
- We also hosted a successful Blood Drive and obtained **19** pints for the Red Cross
- We are now working on Project AGAPE Christmas Shoeboxes for the children of Armenia (see elsewhere in the newsletter for more details).
- In September, we will also be collecting supplies for CHOICES, our pregnancy and parenting center.
- In addition we will be preparing for our food vendor booth at the annual John C. Campbell Arts & Crafts Festival on October 4th & 5th.

We continue to transfer donated items from the Blessing Box in our narthex to the Blessing Box at the Child Development Center in Murphy which is stocked with easy-to-open food and other items for families in need.

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



**HELP
WANTED**

Urgent help needed in the Sound and Video booth on Sunday mornings. The system is simpler than it has been in the past and our three regular volunteers can help get new volunteers up to speed, so they can be part of the rotation. Reach out to Kevin Mendoza if you are interested: KevinNB-Mendoza@gmail.com. More hands make a lighter load!



CHRISTMAS BOXES FOR PROJECT AGAPE



**AGAPE = American Greater Armenian
Partnership Efforts**

Project AGAPE, a ministry to Armenia, is a collaborative effort of the North Carolina and the Western North Carolina Conferences of The United Methodist Church in a joint effort with the Armenian Apostolic Church.

As you may or may not know, the Western North Carolina and North Carolina Conferences formed a partnership with the Armenian Apostolic Church in Armenia during the 1990's to help support its missions and ministries. Out of this effort came Project AGAPE, Inc. This ministry serves the Kashatagh region, the sole humanitarian aid partnership licensed by the Republic of Artsakh (Nagorno-Karaakh) government. Long-standing, multi-layered conflict prevents any other humanitarian group from working with the people of this area, who struggle with this way of life. In more than two decades of ministry, Project AGAPE has shared the love of Christ by continuing early projects and adopting new efforts for and with the people of Armenia and Artsakh, as this ministry serves those in Kashatagh and border villages.

As a part of this effort, Willing Hands of UWFaith and our church family have tried to provide Christmas ShoeBoxes for the Armenian children each year in the fall. Due to Covid and major unrest and fighting in their region, we have not been able to do this for several years. We are going to do Christmas ShoeBoxes again this year and hope that many of our church family will feel led to participate in this exercise. On the next page are copies of the instruction sheets for creating boxes for boys and girls from the age of infant to 18. You can prepare one box or several and pick the age and gender you would like to provide for. We will collect these Christmas ShoeBoxes from August 31st thru September 7th. Pastor Wil is going to bless these on the 7th, and then we will transport them to another location in North Carolina for processing and shipping.

We Americans are so blessed to live in a country where all people have the chance to succeed in life. This effort gives us an opportunity to provide for children elsewhere in the world who do not have a stable life.

2025 Project AGAPE Christmas Boxes for the Children of Armenia (Packing List)

1. Please use only plastic shoe size (6 qt.) boxes with lids. An example of this is made by Sterilite Plastic Box. Please do not use a cardboard shoe box. The plastic boxes with lids will be useful in other ways to the children and their families.

2. Feel free to include in your box a note of greeting and encouragement. You may want to include a picture of yourself or a group in your church. Also, if you want to correspond with the child who receives your box, please include your postal address.

3. Please enclose \$5 in cash or check for transportation costs for each box. Checks are to be made out to: "NC Conference" & marked for Agape Christmas Boxes. Checks may be placed inside of the box ON TOP of the gift items or mailed to NC Conference, PO Box 890202, Charlotte, NC 28289-0202. Checks from Churches may include the total amount of the shipping cost for boxes that are sent from that Church. All boxes should be taken to the MERC Mission Warehouse at 876 Community Drive in Goldsboro. Many Districts will have drop-off points in those Districts. Special deliveries can be arranged by contacting Bill Haddock at revbillh@ncconference.org or at 910-262-3831. All boxes and items for the boxes are needed at the MERC Warehouse no later than October 1, 2025.

4. Please choose the age level and sex of the child for whom you want to prepare a box. Fill the box as specified below. LIST EVERYTHING YOU PUT IN YOUR BOX AND THE AMOUNT USING THE CHECK LIST AND TAPE IT SECURELY TO THE OUTSIDE OF THE BOX. If you add anything that is not listed, please write it in under "other." Wrap box with 3 rubber bands to secure the lid.

Please write in the number of items included on the blank lines instead of a check mark if the quantity is other than the mentioned one.

No Toothpaste, Candy, Gum, Batteries, Used Items or Perishables!
AND, PLEASE, MAKE EQUAL NUMBERS OF BOXES FOR GIRLS & BOYS OF ALL AGES

MALE Infant - 2 years

- 1 Baby Receiving Blanket (Other baby blankets are needed but should not be put into the box. Send separately)
- 3 Bibs
- 3 Cloth Diapers
- 2 Plastic Pants (worn over diapers)
- 4 Socks (pairs)
- Baby Cap or Hat
- 1 Comb or Brush
- 1 Sippy Cup
- 1 Teething Ring
- 1 Book (with pictures for toddler)
- 1 Rattle
- 1 Soft Toy (no buttons or eyes)
- Other items: (please list below)

MALE Ages 3-6

- 1 Cap or Toboggan
- 1 Mittens or Gloves (pairs)
- 3 Socks (pairs)
- 1 Comb or Brush
- 1 Toothbrush
- 1 Book
- 1 Coloring Book
- 1 Box of Crayons (24 pack)
- 1 Pack of Washable Markers
- 1 Notepad
- 1 Stuffed Animal or Beanie Baby
- 1 Ball
- 1 Car
- 1 Toy or Game
- Other items: (please list below)

MALE Ages 7-12

- 1 Cap or Toboggan
- 1 Mittens or Gloves (pairs)
- 3 Socks (pairs)
- 1 Comb or Brush
- 1 Toothbrush
- 1 Coloring Book
- 1 Notepad
- 1 Box of Crayons (24 pack)
- 1 Box of Markers
- 1 Box of Colored Pencils
- 1 Box of #2 Pencils
- 1 Pack of Erasers
- 1 Pencil Sharpener
- 1 Ruler (including metric)
- 1 Ball
- 1 Toy or Game
- Other items: (please list below)

MALE Ages 13-18

- 1 Cap or Toboggan
- 1 Mittens or Gloves (pairs)
- 3 Socks (pairs)
- 1 Underwear
- 1 Comb or Brush
- 1 Toothbrush
- 1 Pack of Markers
- 1 Notepad or Journal
- 1 Box of Colored Pencils
- 1 Box of #2 Pencils
- 1 Pack of Erasers
- 1 Pencil Sharpener
- 1 small Ball
- 1 Measuring Tape (including metric)
- 1 Tool (ex. Set of screwdrivers)
- Other items: (please list below)

FEMALE Infant - 2 years

- 1 Baby Receiving Blanket (Other baby blankets are needed but should not be put into the box. Send separately)
- 3 Bibs
- 3 Cloth Diapers
- 2 Plastic Pants (worn over diapers)
- 4 Socks (pairs)
- Baby Cap or Hat
- 1 Comb or Brush
- 1 Sippy Cup
- 1 Teething Ring
- 1 Book (with pictures for toddler)
- 1 Rattle
- 1 Soft Toy (no buttons or eyes)
- Other items: (please list below)

FEMALE Ages 3-6

- 1 Cap or Toboggan
- 1 Mittens or Gloves (pairs)
- 3 Socks (pairs)
- 1 Comb or Brush
- 1 Hairbands or Bows (pack)
- 1 Toothbrush
- 1 Book
- 1 Coloring Book
- 1 Box of Crayons (24 pack)
- 1 Pack of Washable Markers
- 1 Notepad
- 1 Stuffed Animal or Doll
- 1 Toy or Game
- Other items: (please list below)

FEMALE Ages 7-12

- 1 Cap or Toboggan
- 1 Mittens or Gloves (pairs)
- 3 Socks (pairs)
- 1 Comb or Brush
- 1 Hairbands or Bows (pack)
- 1 Toothbrush
- 1 Coloring Book
- 1 Box of Crayons (24 pack)
- 1 Box of Markers
- 1 Pack of Erasers
- 1 Notepad
- 1 Box of Colored Pencils
- 1 Box of #2 Pencils
- 1 Pencil Sharpener
- 1 metric ruler
- 1 Stuffed Animal or Doll
- 1 Toy or Game
- Other items: (please list below)

FEMALE Ages 13-18

- 1 Cap or Toboggan
- 1 Mittens or Gloves (pairs)
- 3 Socks (pairs)
- 1 Underwear
- 1 Comb or Brush
- 1 Hairbands or Bows (pack)
- 1 Toothbrush
- 1 Pack of Markers
- 1 Notepad or Journal
- 1 Box of Colored Pencils
- 1 Box of #2 Pencils
- 1 Pack of Erasers
- 1 Pencil Sharpener
- 1 Sewing Kit or Manicure Kit
- 1 Game
- Other items: (please list below)

CONTINUING OUR STUDIES...

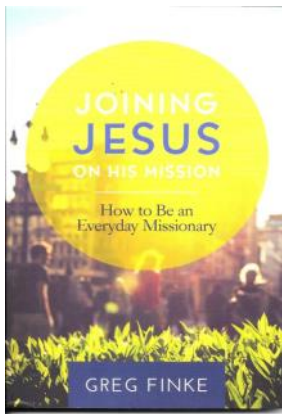
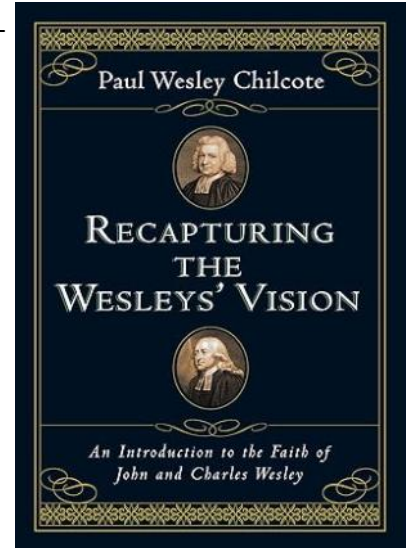
One of our **follow-up book studies** to *The Bible Year* will begin on Wednesday, September 24th. This study group will be examining our Methodist roots by reading about the profound effects both John Wesley and Charles Wesley had on the formation of our Methodist traditions: the foundational beliefs, the structures that formed our practices, and the influences of music as an integral part of our worship.

The audience: Anyone who would like to better understand the beginnings of Methodism and how they influence our worship today.

The book we will be using is *Recapturing the Wesleys' Vision* and is authored by Paul Wesley Chilcote. The paperback can be found on Amazon new for \$12, and much less if purchasing a used copy. If the cost will keep you from attending, let the church office know that you need them to get a copy for you. (Please order the book in time for our first meeting.)

We will meet for 8 or 9 consecutive **Wednesdays from 1:30 to 2:30**, beginning the 24th of September, but will not meet the week of October 8th.

Randy Allman will be the facilitator for this book study. All are welcome!



The **Seeker Sunday School class** invites you on a ten week journey through Pastor Greg Finke's book entitled, 'Jesus On His Mission: How To Be An Everyday Missionary' beginning September 14th and ending November 23. The class meets in the library of the Education Building at 10:00 each Sunday morning. To secure a text for the study please contact David Lamb at 407-314-5226 or the church office at 828-837-2718. We look forward to your joining us.

CPR & FIRST AID TRAINING ON 9/28/25

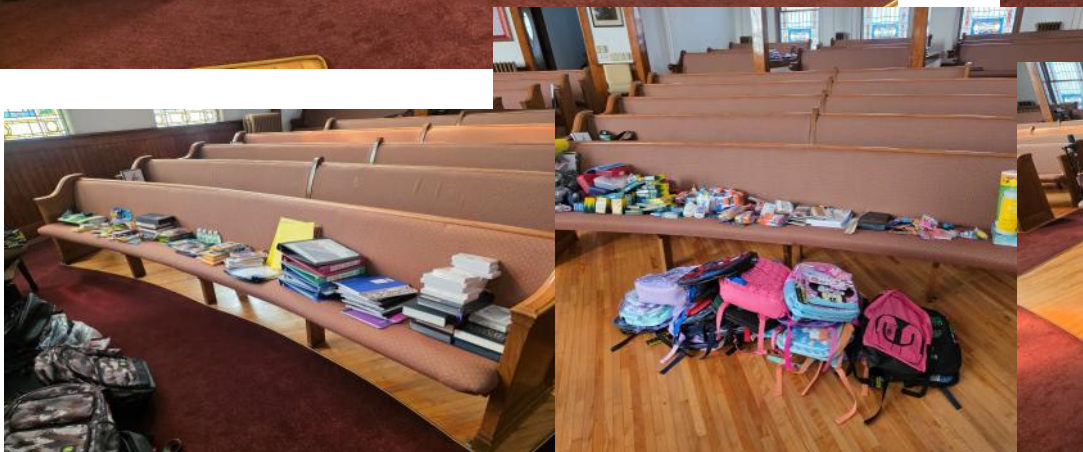
To sign up for this training, contact Pastor Wil. It will be 2 hours, right after worship on Sept. 28th. Cost is \$50/person, or \$75 if you want to get the ecard that shows certification. Certification is good for 2 years.

SAFE SANCTUARY TRAINING

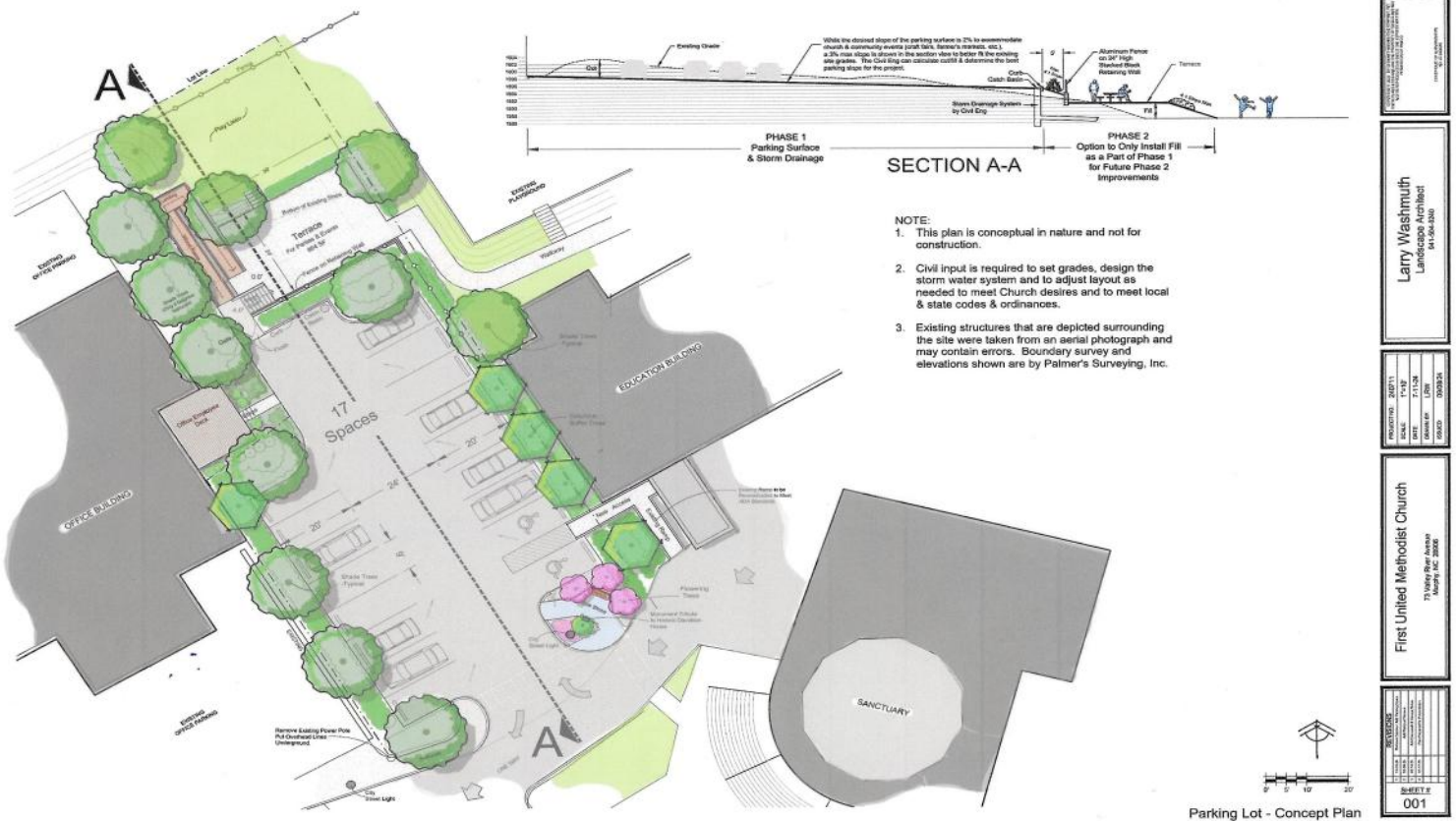
Stay tuned for a Safe Sanctuary training to be scheduled in the near future. Every person who volunteers with children and/or youth needs to complete this training. You can come in person or complete [this online training](#) and send the certificate to admin@murphyfirstumc.org

SCHOOL & BACKPACK BLESSINGS FOR ALL ON SUNDAY, AUGUST 24TH:

We had a full complement of students, teachers, and administrators on August 24th for our Back-to-School Blessings Sunday. We also had **78** backpacks and a ton of school supplies which were delivered to the schools on Monday. Our thanks to everyone who brought packs and supplies and to all the "school folks" who participated in the blessing ceremony!



FUMC PARKING LOT PROJECT



Thank you to everyone who has pledged a one-time or recurring gift to this parking lot project! Your investment is helping bring this much needed and long-awaited project into being. If you still want to make a contribution to this project please reach out to the office

NEW MEMBER SUNDAY: If you are interested in joining First UMC as a member, please reach out to Pastor Wil (pastor@murphyfirstumc.org) or 386-647-6181 to learn more about what that might look like. And stay tuned for a New Member class to be scheduled this fall.

Our **Fellowship Luncheons** begin again in September. Missions Committee will be hosting the one on September 21st as part of our ZOE Sunday celebration. **JOIN US!**



FALL ACTIVITIES STARTING UP ONCE AGAIN:

The Chancel choir will begin rehearsals at 5:30 pm on Wednesday, Sept. 10th, in the choir room below the sanctuary. Anyone who has a love of music and singing is invited to join us!



The Wesley Ringers handbell group will begin rehearsals at 4:30 pm on Wednesday, Sept. 10th in the bellroom. Anyone interested in ringing bells with us is urged to come!

The Children's Choir will start again on Wed., September 17th, from 3:15—4:30pm. If parents have any questions about this, please contact Suzanne West.



The preschool has 15 students enrolled for the fall term! 9 are returning students and 6 are new children. If you would like further information on the FUMC Children's Center, please go to our website: murryfirstumc.org and look under Children's Center.





Keep the following in your thoughts and prayers:

Ukraine and its people; Maria Mcleod; Peter Close; Deanie Avett; Jason Long; James Dennis Plavcan; Sam Fanthorpe; Blake Meredith; Charles Garland; Dinette Hubbard;

Aurora Humphries; Curt Vansickle; Bill and Barbara Hughes; Ken Brant; Debbie Cocalis; Karen Terkowski; Keith Barber; Susan Woods; Billy Major; Michele Leone; Carl Auvil; Anne Hyman; Dell Douglass; Scottie Draa; Alice Haughboo; Melinda Smith; Pam Meintel; Susan Satto; Eleanor Vaughn.

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.



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 5th 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 (5th grade+) should remain with their parents in worship.

HOUSEKEEPING HELP! Whenever a group or event you are part of is ending, please be sure to:

1. Turn off the lights
2. Reset thermostat to 75 when room is not in use.
3. Lock doors.
4. Following Sunday worship, please take your bulletin & inserts home with you.



LIKE TO QUILT? DO HANDICRAFTS? Join us every Thursday morning in the Library (beside Pastor Wil's office) from 10am to 12pm for friendly conversation and project support. Bring what you're working on and come join us.

Contacts

Pastor Wil Posey

pastor@murphyfirstumc.org

Suzanne West—Director of Music

music@murphyfirstumc.org

Maggie Corrigan—Admin Asst

admin@murphyfirstumc.org

Jack Frahmman—Treasurer

treasurer@murphyfirstumc.org

Bridget Esterhuizen—Preschool Dir.

preschool@murphyfirstumc.org

FUMC YOUTH GROUP: Weekly

Youth Group for Middle and High School students is starting backup on Sept. 14th at 5:00 pm at the church. Every month we'll grow in our faith, go out in service, and have lots of fun!

If you're interested in providing a meal for the group on Sunday evenings, contact Pastor Wil—could be homecooked or something you pickup.

Congratulations to Bonnie Smith and Aurelien Lecamus upon the birth and baptism of their daughter, Fiona Helen Lecamus.



THIS MONTH'S birthdays

Sept 4—Nora Posey
Sept 5—Hope Dyer & Bill Hughes
Sept 6—Dawn Tanner
Sept 7—Janie Forrister & Marji Hill
Sept 9—Diane Sims
Sept 11—John Joyner Snow IV
Sept. 12—Bette Feistkorn, Sharon Hotchkiss, Ellie Martin
Sept 13—Martha Palmer & Nadia Svitil
Sept 14—Alaina Palmer
Sept 15—Matt White
Sept 17—Cora Edwards (90!)
Sept 22—Duncan Sumpter
Sept 24—Nancy Cate & Marie Kumar
Sept 27—Dottie Wershing
Sept 28—Patty Singer & Dan Stroup
Sept 29—Debbie Alringer & Andrew White
Sept 30—Harbour Clonts & Bill Tanner

**Trustee on Call for September:
Freddy Lochaby**

THIS MONTH'S anniversaries

Sept 1—Tim & Lori Nicholson
Sept 3—Tom & Jane Payne
Sept 4—Flip & Karen Watson
Sept 8—John & Rachel Snow III
Sept 19—Jim & Sheila Jordan
Sept 25—William & Connie Madden
Sept 26—Karen & Daniel Lawrence
Sept 28—Grant & Maggie Corrigan
Sept 30—Patrick & Elaine Svitil



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31 10am Sunday School 10:55am Worship 11:15am Children's Church 4:00pm AA Dinner Mtg	01 LABOR DAY 12:30pm Chair Exercises	02	03 8:30am Preschool 10am Worship Mtg 11:30pm Chair Exercises 1:30pm Bible Year Study	04 9:30am Mom's Morning 10am Quilters 11:30am Soul Table	05 8:30am Pre-school 11:30pm Chair Exercises	06 9:30am Al Anon
07 10am Sunday School 10:55am Worship 11:15am Children's Church	08 8:30am Preschool 11:30pm Chair Exercises	09 5:30pm Trustees	10 8:30am Preschool 10m Worship Mtg 11:30pm Chair Exercises 1:30pm Bible Year Study 4:30pm Wesley Ringers 5:30pm Chancel Choir	11 8:00am Harshaw Mowing 9:30am Mom's Morning 10:00am Quilters 5:30pm Finance	12 8:00am Pre-school 11:30pm Chair Exercises	13 9:30am Al Anon
14 NEW MEMBER SUNDAY 10am Sunday School 10:55am Worship 11:15am Children's Church 3:00pm Women's Spiritual Formation 5:00pm FUMC Youth Group	15 8:30am Preschool 11:30pm Chair Exercises 5:30pm Administrative Council Mtg.	16	17 8:30am Preschool 10am Worship Mtg 10:30am Card Ministry 11:30am Willing Hands 12:30pm Joyful Stitchers 11:30pm Chair Exercises 3:15pm Children's Choir 4:30pm Wesley Ringers 5:30pm Chancel Choir	18 9:30am Mom's Morning 10:00am Quilters 11:30am Soul Table 5:30pm HOLY SMOKE DINNER 5:30pm Finance	19 8:30am Pre-school 11:30pm Chair Exercises	20 9:30am Al Anon
21 ZOE SUNDAY 10am Sunday School 10:55am Worship 11:15am Children's Church 12:15 pm Fellowship Luncheon 5:00pm FUMC Youth Group	22 8:30am Preschool 11am Mission Team 11:30pm Chair Exercises 5:00pm SPPRC	23	24 8:30am Preschool 10am Worship Mtg 11:30pm Chair Exercises 1:30pm Wesley's Vision 3:15pm Children's Choir 4:30pm Wesley Ringers 5:30pm Chancel Choir <u>Deadline for Newsletter Input</u>	25 8am Harshaw Mowing 9:30am Mom's Morning 10:00am Quilters	26 8:30am Pre-school 11:30pm Chair Exercises	27 9:30am Al Anon
28 10am Sunday School 10:55am Worship 11:15am Children's Church 12:15pm CPR & First Aid Training 4:00PM AA Dinner mtg. 5:00pm FUMC Youth Group	29 8:30am Preschool 11:30pm Chair Exercises	30	1 8:30am Preschool 10am Worship Mtg 11:30pm Chair Exercises 1:30pm Wesley's Vision 3:15pm Children's Choir 4:30pm Wesley Ringers 5:30pm Chancel Choir	2 9:30am Mom's Morning 10am Quilters 11:30am Soul Table	3 8:30am Pre-school 11:30pm Chair Exercises	4 9:30am Al Anon Willing Hands all day at Folk School Arts & Crafts Show



Murphy First

United Methodist Church

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

TO:

#BeUMC

STAFF:

Rev. Wil Posey, Pastor

pastor@murphyfirstumc.org

Maggie Corrigan, Admin. Assistant

admin@murphyfirstumc.org

Jack Frahmman, Treasurer

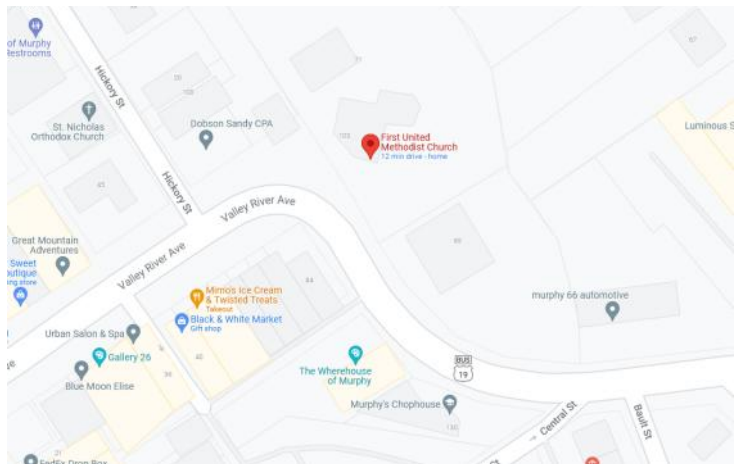
treasurer@murphyfirstumc.org

Suzanne West, Director of Music

music@murphyfirstumc.org

Bridget Esterhuizen, Preschool Dir.

preschool@murphyfirstumc.org



OFFICE INFO:

Hours: Tuesday - Thursday, 9am - 1pm

Phone: (828) 837-2718 (Office)

(828) 837-9735 (Fax)

Email: admin@murphyfirstumc.org

Website: www.murphyfirstumc.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/fumcmurphy/

YouTube: www.youtube.com/

[@murphyfirstunitedmethodist4890](https://www.youtube.com/@murphyfirstunitedmethodist4890)

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.