

THE CHURCH AT WORSHIP

January 4, 2025

Epiphany Sunday

WELCOME AND GREETING

Rev Wil Posey

God is Good All the time.

All the time God is Good

PASSING OF THE PEACE

PRELUDE  
INTROIT

CALL TO WORSHIP

Esther Manchester

We gather as people looking for the star,  
a sign that God is at work in the world.  
**God, help us find your glory.**  
We gather as people listening for the whispers of the Spirit,  
hints of the good news in the least likely places.  
**God, help us notice your glory.**  
We gather as people yearning for Love's presence,  
the assurance that we are not alone and Love will have the last word.  
**God, help us encounter your glory.**  
On this Epiphany Sunday, may the Light of Love shine among us,  
revealing divine glory through neighbors known and unknown,  
vulnerable children, and unexpected gifts.  
**God, reveal to us anew the glory of your expansive Love**  
**that gathers us together and sustains us**  
**in loving service to one another and all creation. Amen.**  
Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, July 2025.

\*\*HYMN OF PRAISE

“We Three Kings”

UMH 254

\*\*OPENING PRAYER

Esther Manchester

**Light of God, illumine the path that leads us to healing, hope, and salva-  
tion. Glory of God, fill this sanctuary and expose the darkness that stalks  
our souls. Light of God, shine with such brightness that we marvel in  
awe. Glory of God, fill each temple of the Holy Spirit present today.  
Light of God, Glory of God, we welcome you in this place.**  
Written by Kwasi I. Kena, The Africana Worship Book, Year A (Nashville: Discipleship Resources, 2006), 53.

PROCLAMATION

\*\*SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 2: 1-12

Leader: The Word of God for the people of God.  
**People: Thanks be to God.**

\*\*Gloria Patri

Glory be to the Father and to the Son  
And to the Holy Ghost;  
As it was in the beginning, is now,  
And ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

SERMON

Rev. Wil Posey

RESPONSE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Ann Smith

Moments of silent prayer & personal confession.

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION:**  
**Loving God, we confess our sins against you and one another and pray**  
**that you will fill us with your light, that we may live our lives as true disci-**  
**ples in your name, without counting the cost. In the name of Christ, the**  
**one who showed us the way, we pray. Amen.**

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**  
God's light is present in this world. Present in the Christ child, born to lead us  
out of darkness. Present in the star, in all that guides us to love. God's light is  
in the world, and the darkness did not overcome it. God's grace is in the world,  
and our missteps will not overcome it.  
**We are loved; we are forgiven. Alleluia! Amen.**

RECEIVING OF GOD’S TITHE AND OUR OFFERINGS


OFFERTORY

Ways you can give

Leave a gift in the Offering Plate

Online: [www.murphyfirstumc.org/donate](http://www.murphyfirstumc.org/donate)

Mail: PO Box 86, Murphy, NC 28906



Scan to give

\*\*DOXOLOGY

Sung to the tune of O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;**  
**praise Him, all creatures here below;**  
**praise Him above, ye heavenly host;**  
**praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**  
**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

\*\*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Ann Smith

HOLY COMMUNION

UMH 13

(Individual Communion cups are available if you prefer.)

**THE LORD’S PRAYER**  
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.  
Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us  
this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive  
those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but de-  
liver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for-  
ever and ever. Amen.

\*\*HYMN

“Joy To The World”

UMH 246

BLESSING FOR RENEWAL LEAVE

SENDING FORTH

BENEDICTION

Rev. Wil Posey

\*\*BENEDICTION

“May The Lord Bless You”

**May the Lord bless you, May the Lord Keep you,**  
**May the Lord lift up His face to shine on you,**  
**May the Lord bless you, May the Lord Keep you,**  
**May the Lord lift up His face to shine on you.**

Chiming of the Trinity

POSTLUDE

RESPONSE

The light goes before us into the world.

UMH: United Methodist Hymnal

TFWS: The Faith We Sing

**\*\* Rise in body or spirit**  
**Our Service of Worship has ended**  
**Our Worship through Service begins**  
**All are welcomed to Worship.**

Please assist us by registering your attendance in the App or notebooks  
located in the pews, if you have changed your address or phone number.

Please be aware that we are live streaming and recording this service and  
will be posting it to social media.

PRAYERS and CONCERNS

Ukraine and its people; Maria Mcleod; Bill and Barbara Hughes; Ken Brant; Keith Barber; Billy Major; Michele Leone; Carl Auvil; Pam Meintel; John & Susan Satto; Jeff King; Melanie Rogers; Mathew Stiles; Joe Hartman; Libby Simpson; Carl Ei-cher; Sarah Gleason; Harry Burgis; Richard Douglass; Jack Cassady; Anne Hy-men; Wally Avett; John Morton; Jake, Hanna and baby Samuel; Earl Riggs; Deb-bie Pounds sister; The Family of Dell Douglass; Sharon Harkness.

PRAYER TEAM:


Email: 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](mailto:admin@murphyfirstumc.org), **Prayer Requests can be submitted on our Facebook page, YouTube live stream or by calling the church office.**

THANK YOU!

A big Thank you to all the wonderful people who donated to the staff Appreciation. Thanks so very much.

Heads Up! - New Technology for the Church




Our new church software package allows us to send notic-  
es to folks by email, text message and phone call. So if you  
receive a text from the code, 22383, that's us.


DOWNLOAD OUR NEW MOBILE APP  
Use this link <https://mobile.myamplify.io/landing/W9NP> or search “My Church Home” in your app/play store. Once you have installed it, if you wish to use all of the available features, you must first be registered as a user in our Amplify system. To receive an invitation, reach out to Sue Bell at [suzie1028@gmail.com](mailto:suzie1028@gmail.com) and she will initiate the invitation to register yourself. You MUST have either a unique cell phone number or email address . If you share email, register with your cell phone number.  
**The app includes the church directory.**

ONLINE GIVERS we’ve changed our giving platform.

Please use the new QR code in today’s bulletin or the online button on the web page. Please also turn off your Vanco donation if you are already giving online—for help send an email to [admin@murphyfirstumc.org](mailto:admin@murphyfirstumc.org)



Parents of Young Children



During Worship (11am)\*

Nursery (2 rooms) - Birth-2, and 3-5 year olds

Worship readiness—K-5th Grade

No Worship Readiness on Communion Sundays. Kids stay in church.

\*Nursery is open from 9:45am-12pm, though children are welcome in wor-  
ship and will then be released after Children’s Time to return to their nursery  
or Worship Readiness or remain in the Sanctuary

254 We Three Kings

1. We three kings of O - ri - ent are; bear - ing  
2. Born a King on Beth - le - hem's plain, gold I  
3. Frank - in - cense to of - fer have I; in - cense  
4. Myrrh is mine; its bit - ter per - fume breathes a  
5. Glo - rious now be - hold him a - rise; King and

gifts we tra - verse a - far, field and foun - tain,  
bring to crown him a - gain, King for - ev - er,  
owns a De - i - ty nigh; prayer and prais - ing,  
life of gath - er - ing gloom; sor - rowing, sigh - ing,  
God and sac - ri - fice: Al - le - lu - ia,

WORDS: John H. Hopkins, Jr., 1857 (Mt. 2:1-12)  
MUSIC: John H. Hopkins, Jr., 1857

KINGS OF ORIENT  
88.446 with Refrain

BIRTH AND BAPTISM

moor and moun - tain, fol - low - ing yon - der star.  
ceas - ing nev - er, o - ver us all to reign.  
voic - es rais - ing, wor - ship - ing God on high.  
bleed - ing, dy - ing, sealed in the stone - cold tomb.  
Al - le - lu - ia, sounds through the earth and skies.

Refrain

O star of won - der, star of light, star with roy - al beau - ty bright,

west - ward lead - ing, still pro - ceed - ing, guide us to thy per - fect light.

246 Joy to the World

1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
2. Joy to the world, the Sav - ior reigns!  
3. No more let sins and sor - rows grow,  
4. He rules the world with truth and grace,

Let earth re - ceive her King; let  
Let all their songs em - ploy; while  
nor thorns in - fest the ground; he  
and makes the na - tions prove the

ev - ery heart pre - pare him room,  
fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
comes to make his bless - ings flow  
glo - ries of his righ - teous - ness,

WORDS: Issac Watts, 1719 (Ps. 98:4-9)  
MUSIC: Arr. from G. F. Handel, 1741, by Lowell Mason, 1848

ANTIOCH  
CM with Repeat

and heaven and na - ture sing, and  
re - peat the sound - ing joy, re -  
far as the curse is found, far  
and won - ders of his love, and

and re - peat the na - ture  
re - far as the sound - ing  
and won - ders of his

heaven and na - ture sing, and  
peat the sound - ing joy, re -  
as the curse is found, far  
won - ders of his love, and

sing,  
joy,  
found,  
love,

and re - peat the na - ture  
re - far as the sound - ing  
and won - ders of his

heaven, and heaven, and na - ture sing.  
peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
as, far as the curse is found.  
won - ders, won - ders of his love.

sing,  
joy,  
found,  
love,



Next Week: January 11, 2026  
Baptism of the Lord Sunday

This Week's Ministry Opportunities

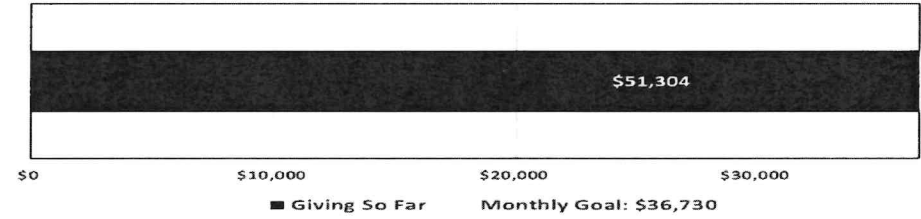
<b>Sunday, January 4</b>		<b>Thursday, January 8</b>	
Sunday School	9:45 am	Mom's Spiritual Formation	9:30 am
Worship Service	11:00 am	Soul Table	11:30 am
Children & Youth			
Epiphany Party	5:00 pm		
<b>Monday, January 5</b>		<b>Friday, January 9</b>	
Yoga	10:30 am	Preschool	8:00 am
Chair Exercise class	11:30 pm	Chair Exercise class	11:30 pm
<b>Tuesday January 6</b>		<b>Saturday, January 10</b>	
		Al Anon	10:00 am
<b>Wednesday, January 7</b>		<b>Sunday, January 11</b>	
Preschool	8:00 am	Sunday School	10:00 am
Worship Meeting	10:00 am	Worship Service	11:00 am
Chair Exercise class	11:30 pm	Youth	4:00 pm
Potluck lunch January 18 with Children's Ministry the Hosts.			


Thank You for your Faithfulness on Christmas Eve the offering to the Community Food Initiative was \$3,537. Thank You!

**OUR FAITHFULNESS 2026**

Worship attendance December 28 165  
Received December 28 \$ \$16,615  
Detailed Financial information is available at the church office upon request.

**Monthly Giving Report December 2025**





FROM THE CHURCH MOUSE

If there's a song in your heart, sing it.  
If there's love in your soul, show it.  
If there are dreams in your mind, chase them.  
Your life is meant for living,  
don't ever be afraid to share the real you  
Steven Atchison

**\*\*\* Counters Needed \*\*\***  
We need Counters for Tuesday to count the Sunday offering. If you are interested or would like more information please send an email to Maggie at: [admin@murphyfirstumc.org](mailto:admin@murphyfirstumc.org).

You will find a **"Blessing Box"** in our narthex. We are asking for and accepting all donations to keep the Blessing Box at the Child Development Center in Murphy stocked with food and other items for families who have a need. We are looking for easily opened cans and packages of food which folks, without much in the way of personal items, can access and utilize. Small packages of personal toiletries will also be gladly accepted. If you have any questions, please call Nancy Jo Willis (850-428-3636).

**BOOKS OF THE BIBLE**

L E I S T C A M J K K R A M H  
U P R D I M U C F K E A W D T  
K J O N A H J U D G E S B E U  
E D P S S V A E I D X K I Z U  
R W J O S H U A S M C V H E P  
O M J L A I S A I A H K F K M  
Q Z G J O H N E S D O W G I A  
S R J E T A H O E J E B C E E  
W E P X J F D S N K P Q W L S  
E H J O B A P C E E O W X L O  
R T A D K U S O G B O J K N H  
B S K U T Q A L E I N A D D N  
E E P S X L L J M E K J T N K  
H P U Z T K M T R U T H W J W  
V R O M A N S F V E Z R A U P

**WORD LIST**

ACTS	EZRA	JOB	LUKE
DANIEL	GENESIS	JOHN	MARK
ESTHER	HEBREWS	JONAH	PSALMS
EXODUS	HOSEA	JOSHUA	ROMANS
EZEKIEL	ISAIAH	JUDGES	RUTH

*Homemade*  
GIFTS MADE EASY

**TRUSTEE ON CALL**

December—Blake Hughes

**Staff**

**Rev. Wil Posey, Pastor**  
[pastor@murphyfirstumc.org](mailto:pastor@murphyfirstumc.org)  
386-647-6181

**Suzanne West, Director of Music**  
[music@murphyfirstumc.org](mailto:music@murphyfirstumc.org)

**Maggie Corrigan, Administrative Assistant**  
[admin@murphyfirstumc.org](mailto:admin@murphyfirstumc.org)

**Jack Frahmman, Treasurer**  
[Treasurer@murphyfirstumc.org](mailto:Treasurer@murphyfirstumc.org)

**Patty Singer, Nursery Worker**  
**Mary Lee, Nursery Worker**  
**Marlene Gray, Nursery Worker**

**Bridget Esterhuizen, Preschool Lead Teacher/ Director**

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

**JoAnn Moore, Preschool Teacher**

**Everyone, Ministers**

**Church Office Hours**

Tuesday - Thursday 9:00 am - 1:00 pm  
Monday and Friday Closed

**First United Methodist Church  
Murphy, NC**



**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.

73 Valley River Avenue, P. O. Box 86  
Murphy, NC 28906  
(828) 837-2718 - Office

Website: [www.murphyfirstumc.org](http://www.murphyfirstumc.org)  
WiFi: MFUMC-Guest pw fumcguest1!  
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/fumcmurphy>