



# Murphy First

## United Methodist Church

**March 2026**



Dear Murphy First,

I've been thinking a lot about spiritual practices. This Lent, we have some amazing opportunities: Art and Soul (Wednesdays at 1pm), Centering prayer (Tuesdays at 12:00 noon), Lectio divina (Mondays at 12:00 noon), a daily reading plan through John, and daily devotions written by church members. Perhaps some of those practices are new to you. If so, consider taking this as a season to try out a new way of connecting with God. In addition to these seasonal offerings, we also have Bible study (Wed. at 1:00pm), Mom's spiritual formation (Thurs. at 9:30am) and Yoga (Mon. at 10:30am). And I would say choir, hand bells and service through areas like Soul Table and with children's ministries are also spiritual practices.

Our United Methodist heritage teaches us to refer to all of these opportunities as "means of grace," channels by which God changes us from the inside out. "Practices is another good term."

I am convinced there is tremendous value in being part of a community of practice, a group of people who are all engaged in the same practice. We are practicing, learning, trying, growing together. A community of practice comes with accountability and encouragement, same as being part of a team.

I've also been thinking about how these are spiritual exercises. "Spiritual exercises" is a phrase that gets connected with St. Ignatius of Loyola. But we can talk about all of these as exercises. They are ways we work out the muscles of our heart and soul (and I would say mind and strength—because we are whole people!).

When folks commit to a gym membership, they understand it takes time, consistence, and commitment to see the difference—muscle definition, feeling better, losing weight, whatever the goal might be. I think that's the way it is with these spiritual exercises too. Seeing the difference a relationship with God makes in our lives sometimes takes time, because it takes time for God to work on us, to build up our heart and soul...for us to see the fruit of the Spirit being realized more and more in our lives.

Give it a try, make a commitment, and stick with it. The church is a community of practice, a people with whom you train your heart and soul through regular worship together and prayer, through which we push one another in honest conversation, where we stretch ourselves in service.

Stick with it. Stick together, and you'll see the difference God makes in you and through you!

On the journey, Pastor Wil

## HARSHAW CHAPEL RENOVATION PROJECT

We are excited to announce that the chapel renovation project has been completed, and it passed the final inspection. Now, we wait for the electricity to be reconnected. We should be getting our Certificate of Occupancy at the end of February. **We desperately need a place to store the reclaimed beams from the ceiling (see photo). Currently they are in a city warehouse but we need to move them. Do you have an old barn or large outbuilding that would be suitable, or know someone that does?** Please contact Marji Hill at [mt\\_bishir@yahoo.com](mailto:mt_bishir@yahoo.com) if you do, or tell Wil.



If you don't see your group meeting listed on the calendar, you haven't scheduled it with Maggie. Remember that she has to approve activities that take place within our campus.



## YOUTH!

We had a delicious time going out on Progressive Supper on February 22nd, and are looking forward to diving into Lent together in March. We'll be following a study guide called "Sticky Faith Every Day," on how we can notice God at work in us and in the world, and how we can be more available to join in God's work.

Here's our schedule for the first 3 weeks of March:

3/1—Youth Group @ FUMC 4-6pm. NOTICING: lesson, games, dinner

3/8—Youth Group @ FUMC 4-6pm. UNPLUG: lesson, games, dinner

3/15—Youth Service Night @ FUMC 4-6pm.

Parents stay tuned for more information!

We have a handful of folks who have volunteered to cook meals for our youth each night they meet at church. If you'd like to jump in that rotation, please contact Pastor Wil.





**Young Adult Sunday School** meets at 9:45am in Room 301 in the Education Building.

**Seekers Sunday School** meets at 9:45am in the Library.

**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.



3/10—Ron & Alice Lewis

3/27—Marcella & John Nytz

3/30—Cobby & Diane Barfield



03/01—Courtney Sumpter

03/04—Scott Freel

03/06—Wil Posey

03/08—Noland Smith

03/09—David Lamb, Tony Teston

03/17—Joyner Edwards

03/18—Tori Hughes

03/19—Jacob Tyler Edwards

03/20—RobRobertson

03/23—Bill Gill

03/24—Emma Stroup

03/25—Anne Hymen

03/26—Vera Confer

03/31—Asia Mendoza, Ethan Palmer,  
Charlene Smith

If your birthday does not appear above, something happened with our software update and we do not have a valid date for you. Please contact Maggie in the church office to correct this.



As each church Task Force, Team and Committee gather for their first meetings of the new year, and leaders are selected for each group, **PLEASE** notify Maggie in the church office. In addition, please review your group member list in the app and let us know of any additions or deletions.

## Lent Devotional 2026

Ash Wednesday was just a week ago and, already, we are well into the Lenten season. The Lent Devotional 2026 booklet that has been put together for our church family has many wonderful reflections, memories and outlooks on what Jesus Christ's extraordinary gift of salvation to all of us means.

We want to say "thanks "from the bottom of our hearts to everyone who felt led to write something for this project. Sharing your personal stories and beliefs are just another way for us to be in community together.

There are still a few copies of this devotional remaining in the narthex of the church so if you want to pick one up on Sunday, please do so....and let us continue our journey toward Easter together.



**SPRING WORK DAY** - The Trustees have decided to have a spring work day on Saturday, March 21st, with a raindate of March 28th, from 9:00am to 12:00 noon. The purpose will be to help beautify around the church (weeding, trimming, mulch, etc.) and Harshaw chapel (garbage, weed eating, mowing, etc.) If you'd like to help, please sign up on the app under Happenings or click this link: [Spring Work Day](#) or contact Ursula Laskey, Trustee (732-684-9012).



## Save the Dates! — June 5-7 WNCC Pilgrimage to Cherokee

You have a wonderful opportunity to experience the Pilgrimage to Cherokee on June 5-7, 2026. There will be an option to stay there for Friday and Saturday (June 5-6) only. You will be able to hear stories, narratives, and experiences of the Cherokee people, to hear about their reality, pain, and hope, and to honor them by listening to them. Please save the dates. Forthcoming is a full registration.



# LENTEN LECTIO DIVINA

Mondays, 12:00 Noon to 12:45 pm

Lectio Divina is an ancient way of reading Scripture that invites you to read a text slowly, savoring the words, listening for a word or phrase that speaks to you. It is a way of reading that bids the Holy Spirit to speak to you a word for that particular time and place in your life. Each week we'll practice lectio divina with texts for the Lenten season. Feel free to drop in for any or all of the weeks. For questions, contact Ann Smith at [annsmith828@gmail.com](mailto:annsmith828@gmail.com).

## SOUL TABLE:

Soul Table is a ministry of our church to feed the food insecure in our community by serving a warm, nutritious lunch every Thursday from 11:30am to 1:00pm. Participation continues to grow with the record of 77 meals served. New efforts are beginning to promote and streamline Soul Table.

Grant Corrigan, along with a small committee, worked to complete and submit a grant with Resourceful Communities which would fund Soul Table for the remainder of the year. Please add it to your prayers as it would answer a lot of our prayers!

Matthew 25:40: "The King will reply, 'I tell the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.'"



**Church Family, we need your help! Please consider becoming an offering counter. We count**



**on Tuesday mornings and will train you on our procedures. Please contact Maggie in the church office if you are interested in helping. Thank you!**

The candle may go out, but the memory of its light remains.



**Our sympathies** are extended to Bruce Peck and family upon the passing of his brother Chris.

**February and March 2026**  
**Lenten Readings: The Gospel of John**



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<b>FEB.</b>			<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
			John 1: 1 - 28 Ash Wed.	John 1: 29 - 51	John 2	John 3: 1 - 21
<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
	John 3: 22 - 36	John 4: 1 - 42	John 4: 43 - 54	John 5	John 6: 1 - 21	John 6: 22 - 71
<b>MAR.</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
	John 7 1 - 24	John 7: 25 - 52	John 8: 1 - 11	John 8: 12 - 39	John 9	John 10: 1 - 21
<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
	John 10 22 - 42	John 11: 1 - 44	John 11: 45 - 57	John 12: 1 - 10	John 12: 12 - 36	John 12; 37 - 50
<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
	John 13 1 - 20	John 13 21 - 38	John 14	John 15	John 16	John 17
<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
	John 18 1 - 14	John 18 15 - 40	John 19	John 20: 1 - 23	John 20: 24 - 31	John 21





# Free Tax & Financial Clinic

Serving households with incomes under 225% of federal poverty level.

## Free Services Include:

- ◆ Tax Preparation
- ◆ Tax Resolution Assistance
- ◆ Affordable Care Act Help
- ◆ Financial Counseling & Planning



**By Appointment Only • Call (866) 862-2220**

Remote Services Available – Mention "Remote Services" when calling.

**Starting Tuesday, January 27<sup>th</sup> at**



**Murphy First**  
United Methodist Church

**Come renew your soul and tap into your creativity  
with**

**Art & Soul**

**A contemplative art experience exploring themes such as  
wilderness, self-reflection, and compassion.**

Using visual art and writing prompts, we will take time to breathe, contemplate, and create. No art background required. Materials provided.

At The Cherokee County Arts Council

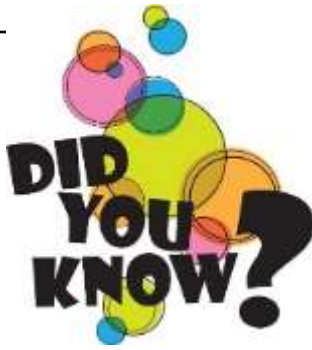
Wednesdays from 1-2pm on the following dates in 2026

February 25th March 4th March 11th March 18th

Sponsored by Murphy First UMC, The CCAC, and Common Ground

To sign up-call Sue Corley 561-329-4111 or email [pastorsuecorley@yahoo.com](mailto:pastorsuecorley@yahoo.com)

**We have a Church App!!!** It has the directory, events, calendar, giving, a way to check in on Sunday morning (that's right you can register your attendance with the app!), and a lot more.



You can find it by searching your app store for "My Church Home", it is free, and available on any smart phone. You'll need to get "authenticated" in order to have access to things like the directory, so first email Sue Bell ([suzie1028@gmail.com](mailto:suzie1028@gmail.com)) for access.

**And** we have a new look for our website! [www.murphyfirstumc.org](http://www.murphyfirstumc.org) The services are now live streamed to both the website and our FaceBook page and is always available on our YouTube channel.



**Keep the following in your thoughts and prayers:**

Ukraine and its people;  
Bill and Barbara Hughes;  
Carl Auvil; Jack Cassady; Teresa; Lori; Emma; The Family of Christopher Peck; Alice & Ron Lewis; Cindy; Carolyn; Carl & Christy Osborn; Baby Arlo; Baby Scottie; Joe Hartman; Michee Leone; Earl Riggs; Cissy Dyer; Marion Forsyth; Rex Odom; Rosemary Vicknair; Gary Hall; Alden Rohen; Susan Lee; Family of Sandy Parker; Tri-County Students for travel mercies.

**Prayer Team:** [prayfumc@gmail.com](mailto: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 through our mobile app, on our Facebook page, YouTube live stream or by calling the church office.**

**Trustee on Call for March  
Bruce Peck**

# Contacts

Pastor Wil Posey

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

Suzanne West—Director of Music

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

Maggie Corrigan—Admin Asst

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

Jack Frahmann—Treasurer

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

Bridget Esterhuizen—Preschool Dir.

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

**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 **66** when room is not in use.
3. Lock doors.
4. Following Sunday worship, please take your bulletin & inserts home with you.



**THANK YOU!**



The Mission Team looks forward to a year of helping our community through donations to several local charities. Hinton Center, REACH, CC Ministerial Association, the Homeless Shelter, the Sharing Center, and the Senior Center Meals on Wheels will all receive help thanks to the congregation of FUMC Murphy.

**April 12 is SERVICE SUNDAY**

On April 12th all members of FUMC (and guests!) can join in a morning of service to our community. There will be many activities that should appeal to all ages. Some include: picking up trash, cleaning store fronts, painting rocks, making greeting cards, landscaping and planting! This has been a fun and fulfilling day for several years and this year should be no different. There will be sign up sheets placed in the sanctuary and in the fellowship hall. Please watch for these and sign up to help us serve our community.

As of June 1 Cobby and Diane Barfield will no longer be able to lead the Soul Table team on 1st and 3rd Thursdays. We are praying and asking for everyone to think about taking over. You inherit an incredible team of volunteers who have been there since the beginning. You would be responsible for shopping, cooking and serving. Anyone interested can come train with us and then make it your own. You will need to know kitchen regulations and get a USDA food handler certificate (it's a quick course and test). Please think about it. We need at least 2 people in the kitchen and to supervise the meal. You could also serve simple meals, such as soup, sandwiches, pizza. We try to serve healthful, nutritious and tasty meals, but the guests come for the warmth, company and feeling of belonging. That is what makes ST so special. If you would consider this position, please contact Diane or Cobby or Grant Corrigan.



Drop off your children 0-5th grade for a pizza dinner, playtime, and movie with our nursery workers and volunteers

- Friday, March 20
- 5:30- 8:00pm
- FUMC Fellowship Hall

Register in the church app under Happenings or click on this link:

[Parents' Night Out](#)



**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: [KevinNBMendoza@gmail.com](mailto:KevinNBMendoza@gmail.com). More hands make a lighter load!



He is  
Risen!

**Join the FUMC Children for an Easter celebration!**

**Potluck breakfast in the Fellowship Hall at 9:45 and  
Easter Egg Hunt on the playground immediately  
following the Worship Service**

**Easter Sunday, April 5, at 9:45**





Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> 9:45am Sunday School 10:55am Worship 11:15am Children's Church 4pm Alpha	<b>2</b> 8am Preschool 10:30am Yoga 11:30pm Chair Exercises <b>12:00 Lenten Lectio Divina</b>	<b>3</b> 9am Tax Prep. <b>12pm Centering Prayer Group</b> 5pm VRR	<b>4</b> 10am Worship Mtg 8am Preschool 11:30pm Chair Exercises <b>1:00pm Bible Study</b> <b>3:15pm Children's Choir</b> <b>4:30pm Wesley Ringers</b> <b>5:30pm Chancel Choir</b>	<b>05</b> <b>9:30am Mon's Morning</b> 10:00 Quilters <b>11:30 pm Soul Table</b>	<b>06</b> <b>8am Pre-school</b> 11:30pm Chair Exercises	<b>07</b> 9:30am AI Anon
<b>08</b> 9:45am Sunday School 10:55am Worship 11:15am Children's Church 4:00pm ALPHA	<b>09</b> 8am Preschool 10:30am Yoga 11:30am Chair Exercises <b>12:00 Lenten Lectio Divina</b>	<b>10</b> 9am Tax Prep. 9am Mtn Proj. <b>12pm Centering Pry Group</b> 5pm VRR <b>5:30pm Trustees</b> 6:30pm Soil Conservation	<b>11</b> <b>8am Preschool</b> <b>10am Worship Mtg</b> 11:30am Chair Exercises <b>1:00pm Bible Study</b> <b>3:15pm Children's Choir</b> <b>4:30pm Wesley Ringers</b> <b>5:30pm Chancel Choir</b>	<b>12</b> <b>9:30am Mom's Morning</b> 10:00 Quilters <b>11:30 pm Soul Table</b>	<b>13</b> <b>8am Pre-school</b> 11:30am Chair Exercises	<b>14</b> 9:30am AI Anon
<b>15</b> 9:45am Sunday School 10:55am Worship 11:15am Children's Church <b>12:15pm Potluck Lunch</b> 4pm Alpha	<b>16</b> 8am Preschool 10:30am Yoga <b>11:30 Missions Mtg</b> 11:30am Chair Ex. <b>12:00 Lenten Lectio Divina</b> <b>5:30pm Admin Council</b>	<b>17</b> 9am Tax Prep. <b>12pm Centering Prayer Group</b> 5PM VRR	<b>18</b> <b>8am Preschool</b> <b>10am Worship Mtg</b> <b>11:30am Willing Hands</b> <b>10:30am Greeting Cards</b> 11:30am Chair Exercises <b>1:00pm Bible Study</b> <b>3:15pm Children's Choir</b> <b>4:30pm Wesley Ringers</b> <b>5:30pm Chancel Choir</b>	<b>19</b> <b>9:30am Mom's Morning</b> 10:00 Quilters <b>11:30am Soul Table</b> <b>5:30pm Finance Committee</b>	<b>20</b> <b>8am Pre-school</b> 11:30am Chair Exercises	<b>21</b> 9:30am AI Anon  <b>CLUE: anything in red is related to special Lenten offerings and opportunities.</b>
<b>22</b> 9:45am Sunday School 10:55am Worship 11:15am Children's Church	<b>23</b> 8am Preschool 10:30am Yoga 11:30am Chair Exercises <b>12:00 Lenten Lectio Divina</b> <b>12:00pm SPPRC</b>	<b>24</b> <b>9am Tax Prep.</b> <b>12pm Centering Prayer Group</b> 5pm VRR	<b>25</b> <b>8am Preschool</b> <b>10am Worship Mtg</b> 11:30am Chair Exercises <b>1:00pm Bible Study</b> <b>3:15pm Children's Choir</b> <b>4:30pm Wesley Ringers</b> <b>5:30pm Chancel Choir</b>	<b>26</b> <b>9:30am Mom's Morning</b> 10:00 Quilters <b>11:30 pm Soul Table</b>  <b>Deadline 4 Newsltr Input</b>	<b>27</b> <b>8am Pre-school</b> 11:30am Chair Exercises	<b>28</b> 9:30am AI Anon
<b>29 PALM SUNDAY</b> 9:45am Sunday School 10:55am Worship 11:15am Children's Church	<b>30</b> 8am Preschool 10:30am Yoga 11:30pm Chair Exercises <b>12:00 Lenten Lectio Divina</b>	<b>31</b> 9am Tax Prep. <b>12pm Centering Prayer Group</b> 5pm VRR	1 8am Preschool 10am Worship Mtg 11:30pm Chair Exercises 1:00pm Bible Study 3:15pm Children's Choir 4:30pm Wesley Ringers 5:30pm Chancel Choir	<b>2 MAUNDY THURSDAY</b> 9:30am Mom's Morning 10:00 Quilters 11:30 pm Soul Tb.	<b>3 GOOD FRIDAY</b> 8am Preschool 11:30pm Chair Exercises 12:00 Good Friday Svc	<b>4</b> 9:30am AI Anon 



# 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](mailto:pastor@murphyfirstumc.org)

**Maggie Corrigan, Admin. Assistant**

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

**Jack Frahmman, Treasurer**

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**Suzanne West, Director of Music**

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**Bridget Esterhuizen, Preschool Dir.**

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

### OFFICE INFO:

Hours: Tuesday - Thursday, 9am - 1pm

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

Website: [www.murphyfirstumc.org](http://www.murphyfirstumc.org)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/fumcmurphy/](http://www.facebook.com/fumcmurphy/)

YouTube: [www.youtube.com/](http://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.