



Murphy First

United Methodist Church

May 2026



Dear Murphy First,

This past Sunday morning—in our church and every United Methodist congregation in our conference—was Announcement Sunday. Kathryn Jenkins, our SPPRC Chair, and I shared the news that effective July 1, FUMC (Murphy) will be receiving a new pastor, Rev. Evan Hill, and I will begin serving as the senior pastor at FUMC (Waynesville).

Hearing the announcement, I expect for many, felt abrupt. Yet, as Kathryn shared, the process of making appointments is a long, thoughtful, and prayerful process, and the Holy Spirit is at work in the midst of all of it.

Our United Methodist practice of appointing and sending clergy may feel like a familiar rhythm to many of you, and for others it might not be. With that in mind, I share this excerpt from comments posted by Bishop Carter on April 26 that gives some insight into the process and what I feel is the “pastoral heart” of our Bishop:

“The decisions are the result of a several month process that involves the cabinet of the conference, the staff-parish relations committees and the clergy. Each has a voice and a role. There are many individual and group meetings. The focus is on the needs of the whole conference and not one particular church. All of this is defined in the Book of Discipline.

For twenty-eight years I was the one who was sent to churches and I served in very different areas of the conference--the Piedmont Triad, Charlotte and the Mountains. Our children moved to new schools, my wife (also a clergy) began in new ministries, we left behind close friendships and formed new ones. And we entrusted the ministry to someone who would follow us. For the last years I have been a part of the sending process.

Change is an emotional process and I do not take it lightly. I am grateful for leaders who do this work with maturity, thinking of others as well as themselves, and keeping in mind the larger mission. At the same time taking care of one’s self is crucial. Change is a part of life. Change is grief and loss. And change is the pathway to new life. Change is death and resurrection.”

...Continued on Page 2

Continued from Page 1...

While this is an ending of my time serving as pastor here, it is also a transition. Just as I have been able to live and minister within this amazing congregation and community, you will have a new pastor who will step into all this good and life-giving work. You are an amazing church, and Pastor Evan, his wife Kellie, and son Porter will be blessed to be here with you just as we have been.

These days, I am finding spiritual companionship with the Apostle Paul who reminds us, "I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth" (1 Cor 3:6). Paul goes on to describe how ministers of the gospel are themselves different, and engage in ministry in different seasons, yet they share a common goal, and it is ultimately God who gives growth.

I am thankful to have been here in a season where I have seen fruit come to bear from work that started long before I arrived, and I have been able to join you in some planting and watering also. And it makes me smile to think of the many ways God is nurturing fruit in this church.

For me and our family, we're holding 2 things together at once: We are sad to leave you who have been our people, this place that has been our home, and this church in which we have been part of such fulfilling season in ministry. And we are excited about where are going and look forward to this next season in life and ministry in Waynesville.

The word that is anchoring my prayers right now—especially for the families and churches in transition—is "open." I find that when I am open to being surprised by God, I almost always am. I invite you to join with me in that prayerful posture of openness and expectation to God's movement among us.

We are here through the end of June—supporting the ongoing work of the church, ensuring a smooth, healthy transition, and soaking up the remaining time we have here.

Grateful to still be on the journey with you,
Pastor Wil



Connecting Neighbors, Loving God,
Rebuilding Lives and Homes



Disaster Ministries: Hurricane Helene
Western North Carolina Conference
The United Methodist Church

Summer Mission Trip

Below are our tentative plans for a summer mission trip to continue the post-Helene recovery work.

When: July 12-17

Where: West Jefferson, 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. Total ~ \$250/person

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 Paul Schutes (pschutes@me.com) or David Lamb (Caneitbetru@yahoo.com). Our goal is to have a final roster by the end of April so that we can gather as a team in May in order to get to know each other and get ready.



Worship Help

Worship is the “work of the people.” It amazes me to look out and see all the people it takes to make Sunday morning possible. If you’ve ever wanted to try one of the following areas of service, please reach out to the coordinators listed in parentheses:

- o Ushers (Freddy Lochaby – freddylochaby@yahoo.com)
- o Greeters (Pastor Wil – pastor@murphyfirstumc.org)
- o Liturgist (Pastor Wil) – the folks who lead the Call to Worship and Opening Prayer
- o Worship Leader (Pastor Wil) – lead the Creed and Prayers of the People
- o Acolyte (Pastor Wil)
- o Carry in the Cross (Pastor Wil)
- o Musician (Suzanne – music@murphyfirstumc.org)
- o Sound and Streaming (Kevin Mendoza – kevinnbmendoza@gmail.com)



We aim for 1 Sunday a month being devoted to serving our neighbors, but this past month that's seemed to be our focus! Between Service Sunday and then being able to help at a church member's home, we've been learning what it means to “lose ourselves in service to Christ.”

Here's our schedule for May:

5/3 – Youth Group @FUMC 4-6pm. Sticky Faith Every Day: lesson, games, dinner

5/10 – NO Youth Group – share some love with your mother

5/17 – Kickball @ Konehete 3-5pm (plus parent meeting)

*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 Carole Goffus (carole.goffus@gmail.com)



Join Ann Smith at the next Taizé service at 1st UMC

Franklin on Sunday, May 3 at 5pm. If you'd like to join her, contact Ann via phone or email.





The finance committee would like to extend our gratitude to Marilyn Jones. For the second year she has offered to perform an audit on our finances. An audit of our finances ensures that your money is being handled properly. We appreciate the time and effort she put into this audit.



Roots345 is a program specifically designed for children in third, fourth and fifth grade that meets Sunday evenings once a month from 4-6. During this time, kids engage in spiritual formation activities and fun fellowship with their friends. Dinner is provided.

May 17 kickball at Konehete Park from 3-5, all ages are invited to attend!

May 24 will be the last day of Sunday school before the summer break.



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. Link to register:



[https://wnc-reg.brtaapp.com/
PilgrimageCherokee](https://wnc-reg.brtaapp.com/PilgrimageCherokee)

A HUGE thanks to our Soul Table volunteers. These folks have been faithfully serving our neighbors for three years! Cobby and Diane would like to thank all of the volunteers for their service to the community doing God's work. Thank you also to everyone who has supported us through donations, desserts and prayer. We wish everyone success and growth as Soul Table continues without our involvement. (Not pictured, Gail Peck).



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.



In compliance with ¶246.7 of the 2024 Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church, this letter is sent to authorize a special charge conference for First (Murphy) UMC Monday, **May 18 at 5:30pm**. The sole purpose of this charge conference is to **approve the sale of a designated parcel of land owned by FUMC Murphy** and to authorize two agents (usually Trustees Chair, but not necessarily, and one other) to serve as agents of the sale.

Summer Kick-Off Cook-Out!

Come out and celebrate the beginning of summer with your friends from Murphy First! Join us for an afternoon of fellowship, fun and of course, good food! We will provide the meat, tea, water and paper products. Feel free to bring your favorite summer side dish or dessert. Let us know if you can make it and what you would like to contribute.

Saturday, June 13 - 1:00-4:00

David and D'Anna Liber, 113 Wooten Drive, Tipton, NC, 28781

To RSVP, or with any questions, contact David at 770-853-6817, D'Anna at 770-853-6814 or email liber765@comcast.net



Prayers
Please

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

Ukraine and its people;
Bill and Barbara Hughes;

Carl Auvil; Teresa; Lori; Emma; Alice & Ron Lewis;
Cindy; Carolyn; Carl & Christy Osborn; Joe Hartman;
Michee Leone; Earl Riggs; Cissy Dyer; Marion Forsyth;
Rex Odom; Rosemary Vicknair; Gary Hall; Susan Lee;
Bob Parker; Eric Brant; Keisha Licata; Grant Corrigan;
Members of the Armed Forces; Diane Sims; Karen
Forker.

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 through our mobile app, on our Facebook page, YouTube live stream or by calling the church office.

Contacts

Pastor Wil Posey

pastor@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 Dir.

preschool@murphyfirstumc.org

SERVICE SUNDAY PICS



Greeting Card Ministry



Rock painting with the kids

2026 Grand Re-Opening Schedule



Celebrate renewal, resilience, and community
as we reopen our restored chapel. All events open to the public.

Thursday April 30th

Shuttle service from Murphy First UMC Lot	6-7 pm
Worship service - Harshaw Chapel	7-8 pm
Reception at Harshaw	8-8:30pm
Shuttle service back to FUMC	8:15-9pm

Friday May 1

Location: Harshaw Chapel	
Restoration and Reopening Ceremony	10 am
Open House	10-2 pm
Cemetery Tours	11 am and 1 pm

Saturday May 2

Location: Harshaw Chapel and Harshaw Cemetery	
Decorating Day Events	10 am
and Open House	10-2 pm
Cemetery Tour	11 and 1 pm
Gravestone Cleaning Demonstration	12 pm

Free flags available to put on veteran's graves.

For more information please contact Rev. Marji Hill 828-371-5520



- 05/01—Bud & Diane Sims
- 05/03—Rob & Judy Eicher
- 05/05—Tony & Judi Teston
- 05/15—Rob & Mary Robertson
- 05/16—Reid & Sharon Francis;
Aurelien LeCamus & Bonnie Smith
- 05/21—Alex & Brittany Martin
- 05/22—David & Melanie Hughes
- 05/28—Joseph & Heather Watson
- 05/29—Mark Mobley & Erin Brophy
- 05/31—Blake & Julie Hughes

If your anniversary does not appear above, we do not have a valid date for you. Please contact Maggie in the church office to correct this.



- 05/01—Rick Dieffenderfer;
Agnes & Agna Jallah; Anne Silver
- 05/04—Vikki Fortner
- 05/05—Morgan Budzinski
- 05/06—Fiona LeCamus
- 05/07—Charles Murphy
- 05/09—Kevennie Westmoreland
- 05/14—David Hughes
- 05/16—Frank Barber
- 05/18—Paywalah Jallah; Bruce Peck
- 05/19—Susan Satto
- 05/21—Freddie Lochaby
- 05/22—Russell Matthews
- 05/27—Alex McClure
- 05/28—David Hettinger; Thomas Nelson

If your birthday does not appear above, we do not have a valid date for you. Please contact Maggie in the church office to correct this.

Trustee on Call for May David Liber



The **Harshaw mowing crew** will be in action again this year. The **2nd and 4th Thursdays** of the month starting at **8am**. We will probably be starting after the spring cleanup day. We have a new group called Harshaw Crew that you can request to join if you are willing to help out. You can find it under Groups in the app. We will use this to communicate schedules, etc.



KICKBALL AT KONEHETE PARK

MAY
17

3-5 PM

JOIN US FOR THIS FUN
AND
INTERGENERATIONAL,
CHILDREN'S MINISTRY
EVENT!

ICE CREAM AND LOTS
OF LAUGHS PROVIDED
FOR THOSE WHO
WOULD RATHER WATCH
THAN PLAY

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT KENDRA FOKAKIS 601-466-3089 OR PASTOR WIL



KONEHETE PARK FIELD # 699 CONNAHETTA ST. MURPHY NC



Are You interested in having a great time and blessing Murphy's Children this Summer? We need you for Vacation Bible School! Reach out to Bridget Killian (828-541-1222) or Ann Smith (annsmith828@gmail.com) for more information.



United Women in Faith

“United Women in Faith seeks to connect and nurture women through Christian spiritual formation, leadership development, creative fellowship, and education so that they can inspire, influence and impact local and global communities.” In 2026, it is our intention to lean into this, focusing on the four listed requirements to produce the predicted outcome.

March 28 , 2 pm Service.



We hosted a reception honoring the life of Dell Douglas in which we hope to affirm our belief – when we shall see her again.

April 15 , Our last monthly meeting was held at the newly restored Harshaw Chapel. It was humbling sitting in the oldest chapel as well as the first brick building in Murphy. Interestingly, it was completed in 1859, the same year the organization that became the United Women of Faith was formed. Our program, “The Seeds of Growth” was led by Esther Manchester, Robin Burnette, and Penny Dieffenderfer. Please know your efforts have vastly increased our contribution to the Smoky Mountain District. Thank you ladies. And thank you to all the women who pledged and/or paid in full. The money raised has doubled last year’s district pledges.



April 25 , 7 members attended The Day Apart, the quarterly district meeting in Canton, NC. This meeting was a Spiritual Growth program led by the Reverend Beth Crissman. We learned the meaning, and ways to incorporate Shalom into our daily lives. This message will be shared at the local level, hopefully very soon!



A special thank you to Gail Peck who volunteered to deliver our Blessing Box donations for April. Also, thanks to Bruce Peck and Cobby Barfield for repairing the damaged box at the 4 Square Headstart Center. Blessing Box donations of nonperishable food in easy-to-open containers, as well as personal hygiene items, are collected in the church narthex and taken weekly to restock the box at the Center for anyone in need.

Anyone interested in additional information regarding United Women of Faith, please reach out to Sarah June, (828) 361-1330 or Gail Peck (407) 529-9354.

SAVE THE DATES:

May 2, Spring Festival, Noon – 8 pm. Come and visit our booth to say hi.

May 23, Card Ministry 10:30 am and Monthly Meeting 11:30 am – 12:30pm in Fellowship Hall

June 11-13, WNCC Spiritual Growth Retreat, Lake Junaluska.

August 15, Smoky Mountain District Annual Celebration, FUMC Fellowship Hall. 9:30 am – Noon. Brunch with ZOOM meeting to follow.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26 9:45am Sunday School 10:55am Worship 11:15am Children's Church 4pm Youth	27 8am Preschool 10:30am Yoga 11:30pm Chair Exercises 5pm SPPRC <u>Deadline for May Newsltr Input</u>	28 5pm VRR	29 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	30 9:30am Mom's Morning 10:00 Quilters 11:30 pm Soul Table 7pm Harshaw Worship Service	01 8am Preschool 10am Harshaw Ceremony 11:30pm Chair Exercises	02 9:30am Al Anon 10am Harshaw Decorating Day Events 10am Spring Fling - UWF
03 9:45am Sunday School 10:55am Worship 4pm Youth	04 8am Preschool 10:30am Yoga 11:30am Chair Exercises 5:30pm Preschool Mtg	05 5pm VRR	06 8am Preschool 10am Worship Mtg 11:30am Chair Exercises 3:15pm Children's Choir	07 9:30am Mom's Morning 10:00 Quilters 11:30 pm Soul Table	08 8am Preschool 8am Show Me Montessori 11:30am Chair Exercises	09 9:30am Al Anon
10 MOTHER'S DAY 9:45am Sunday School 10:55am Worship 11:15am Children's Church	11 8am Preschool 10:30am Yoga 11:30am Chair Exercises	12 5:30pm Trustees	13 8am Preschool 10am Worship Mtg 11:30am Chair Exercises 1:00pm Bible Study 5:30pm Chancel Choir	14 8am Harshaw Crew 9:30am Mom's Morning 10:00 Quilters 11:30am Soul Table	15 8am Preschool 11:30am Chair Exercises	16 9:30am Al Anon
17 9:45am Sunday School 10:55am Worship 11:15am Children's Church 12pm Potluck Lunch 3pm Kickball	18 8am Preschool 10:30am Yoga 11:30am Chair Exercises 5:30pm Admin Council	19 5pm TCEC Awards	20 8am Preschool 10am Worship Mtg 10:30am Greeting Cards 11:30am Willing Hands 11:30am Chair Exercises	21 9:30am Mom's Morning 10:00 Quilters 11:30 pm Soul Table 5:30pm Finance Committee	22 8am Preschool 11:30am Chair Exercises 6pm TCCC Concert	23 9:30am Al Anon
24 9:45am Sunday School 10:55am Worship 11:15am Children's Church	25 MEMORIAL DAY 10:30am Yoga 11:30pm Chair Exercises	26 5pm SPPRC <u>Deadline for June Newsltr Input</u>	27 8am Preschool 10am Worship Mtg 11:30pm Chair Exercises 1:00pm Bible Study	28 8am Harshaw Crew 9:30am Mom's Morning 10:00 Quilters 11:30 pm Soul Table	29 8am Preschool 11:30pm Chair Exercises	30 9:30am Al Anon
31 9:45am Sunday School 10:55am Worship 11:15am Children's Church 4pm ALPHA 4:30pm AA Dinner	01 10:30am Yoga 11:30pm Chair Exercises	02	03 10am Worship Mtg 11:30pm Chair Exercises	04 9:30am Mom's Morning 10:00 Quilters 11:30 pm Soul Table	05 11:30pm Chair Exercises	06 9:30am Al Anon



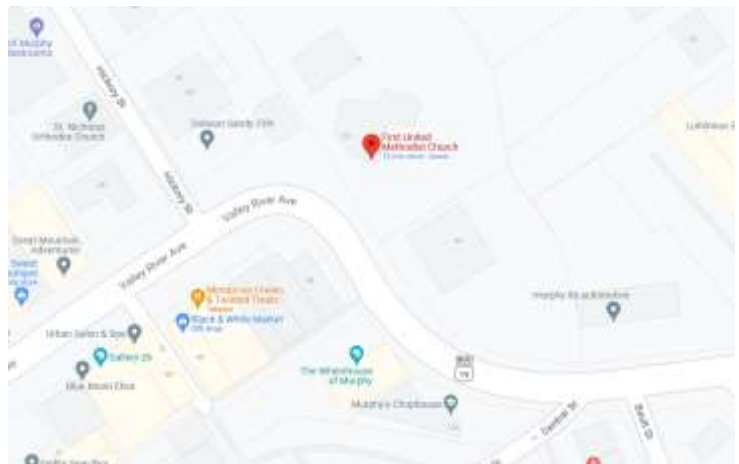
Murphy First

United Methodist Church

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

TO:

#BeUMC



STAFF:

Rev. Wil Posey, Pastor

pastor@murphyfirstumc.org

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.