Murphy First
United Methodist Church

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FUMC Communicator – July 2026

Dear Friends,

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

I am so delighted that Kellie, Porter, and I are joining you at Murphy First UMC! In our first visit, we were so impressed with the hospitality we were shown, the beauty of your sanctuary, and the vibrant ministries that were happening across the church grounds. Even in that short visit, I saw so many people serving with smiles and a genuine love for their church, and that was encouraging to me because I love God's Church as well.

For me, the life of the Church - its worship, its fellowship, its service - is where I encounter Jesus most frequently. In the Church, I get to see Jesus transforming lives, creating friendship across divisions, and bringing individuals and whole communities healing and comfort, and I can already see Jesus doing all that and more at Murphy First. I feel privileged that I get to serve as your pastor and join in all that Jesus is doing among you.

A bit about me and my family: I grew up in High Point, NC, and spent most of my early adult life in Asheville after moving there for college. My work prior to my calling into the ministry was music and arts focused. I worked in radio and recording studios, played in a few locally touring rock bands, and managed a movie theater. Music is still a great love of mine, and I try to play, sing, and write songs as often as I can. As a Methodist nerd (a Metho-nerd?), I have also written a bunch of new tunes to Charles Wesley's beautiful hymns.

Kellie is from Lawndale, outside of Shelby. She and I met at UNC-Asheville, where she studied literature and education. She worked as a high school English literature teacher up until three years ago, when she became a full-time mom.

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Porter is four and is a lover of all things blocks, be it Lego or chunky wooden blocks. He is genuinely excited to be attending the Murphy First Children's Center in August.

I am beginning my eleventh year of pastoral ministry as I come to Murphy First, and it's an immense joy to serve Christ's Church in this role. I am passionate about spiritual formation, which is the life-long process of receiving the gospel into our mind, our heart, and our body. I'm passionate about it because I believe a church thrives when its people are seeking to walk together in the way of Jesus. I also think that our world is hungry for the Methodist vision of Christianity that is less about escaping hell or getting into heaven and more about "a recovery of the divine nature; the renewal of our souls after the image of God, in righteousness and true holiness, in justice, mercy, and truth," to quote John Wesley.

I am excited to meet you and worship with you. I hope you will consider coming to one of the listening sessions that will be happening in the first few weeks after my arrival. These will be a great opportunity for us to get to know each other and will greatly help me know how to best be your pastor at this moment.

Know that you are in my prayers during this time of transition. Change is never easy, but God is faithful. "The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness" (Lam. 3:22-23).

With peace and gratitude,

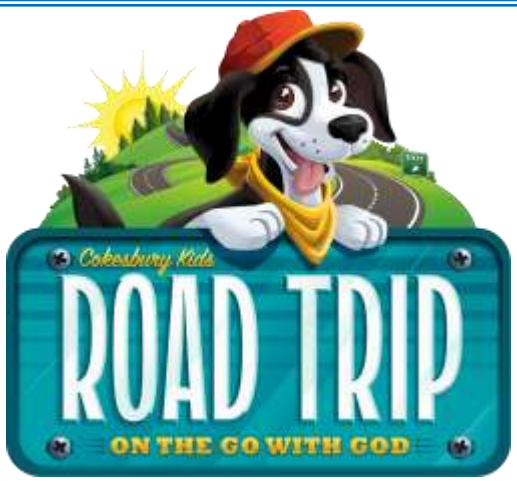
Pastor Evan

John Joyner Snow, IV

John Joyner Snow, Jr.

Bill "Doc" Dyer

Within the historic setting of Harshaw Chapel, join us on Thursday, July 9 at 6 p.m. for a Taizé service, providing a time for peaceful reflection. Invite a friend! Led by Ann Smith.



Register kids NOW for our July Vacation Bible School session! Our program will begin on Sunday, July 19 and run through July 23. Each night will begin at 5:30 with a light meal in Fellowship Hall and end in the Sanctuary at 7:30.

Scan this QR code to open the registration form or use the church app under Happenings.

Trustee on Call for July

Tim Nicholson

Prayers Please

Keep the following in your thoughts and prayers:

Ukraine and its people; members of the Armed Forces; people on the island of Mindanao Philippines; Bill and Barbara Hughes; Carl Auvil; Cissy Dyer; Marion Forsyth; Rex Odom; Rosemary Vicknair; Gary Hall; Susan Lee; Bob Parker; Eric Brant; Keisha Licata; Karen Forker; Matt Heltzel; Natalia Donley-Telmosse; Evangeline & Mother Sonia; Sheila Snow; Laura; Martha Cane; Family of Bill Dyer; Janet Jones; Venezuelan earthquake victims.

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 Evan Hill
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

FUMC Family, the work of the church is serving the Lord. That means everything from feeding the hungry (as in Soul Table), to teaching the children (as in VBS), to supporting the staff (as in covering the phone or counting the offering, or supporting technology), to welcoming the stranger (as in being a greeter), to ministering to the sick (assisting with congregational care), to celebrating each other (attending potlucks), to serving in worship (serving as usher, lay reader, communion server, musician, etc.).

Them is us, and it's only through us that any of this happens. We are a congregation of volunteers, not staff, and we each need to help in whatever way God calls us, using the unique gifts He has given each of us. Our membership covenant calls us to "faithfully participate in the ministries of the church by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service and our witness, that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ".

On **August 9** following worship, Administrative Council will host a Volunteer Fair in the hopes that we can recruit willing helpers in a number of areas. If you are leading an effort and need helpers, contact Vera Confer (919-626-7892) to reserve a table to advertise your ministry and your needs. If you are someone interested in plugging in, plan to stay that afternoon and explore all the places where your gifts can bless others.

The church is US! Let's be the church.

SAFE SANCTUARY JULY TRAINING SCHEDULE

Wednesday, July 8, 5:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall

Sunday, July 12, 9:45 a.m. in Fellowship Hall

THIS MONTH'S anniversaries

07/02—Mark & Sue Parker
07/04—John Morton & Vera Confer
07/09—Caesar & Lindsay Campana
07/28—David & JoAnn Moore;
Bill & Cheryl Schuller

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.

Find us on Facebook at
www.facebook.com/fumcmurphy.

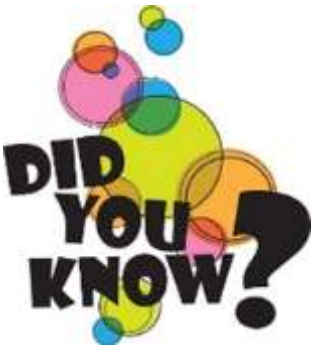
American Red Cross

The Willing Hands circle of the United Women in Faith will be hosting another blood drive on Friday, August 21 in Fellowship Hall. Stay tuned for the opportunity to sign up to donate.

THIS MONTH'S birthdays

07/03—Kim Barber
07/06—James Jallah III
07/07—Declan Fokakis; Rachel Snow;
Heather Watson
07/08—Lori Nicholson; Cash Simons
07/10—Ron Jenkins
07/11—Annie Kate McClure
07/12—Becky McCarley
07/14—Stella Campana
07/16—Carl Hymen
07/17—Sue Corley
07/20—Grant Corrigan
07/22—D'Anna Liber; BJ Thompson
07/23—Holden Clonts
07/24—Anita Sloan
07/25—Esther Manchester
07/26—Melanie Hughes;
Bonnie Smith LeCamus
07/27—Dottie Snow
07/30—Nikol Edwards
07/31—Jack Lance; Monica Matthews;
Ann Smith; Joey Thorley

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.



Rev. Henry Haywood Robbins, Sr. was pastor of our church in 1919-1920. He was the last pastor to serve at Harshaw Chapel, leading our congregation just as the lot for our current sanctuary was purchased. The 1920 census shows him living on Hiawassee Street with his wife and four of their children. Over the course of 55 years in the ministry, he served churches at Badin, Charlotte, Statesville, Asheville, China Grove, Landis, High Point, Murphy, Salisbury, Gastonia, Granite Falls, Cornelius, Cliffside, Avondale, Randleman, Balls Creek and Concord. In fact, our new pastor, **Rev. Evan Hill,** comes to us from one of those communities!

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."

United Women in Faith meet every third Wednesday at 11:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

During our June meeting we heard from Robin Burnette who discussed, *The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek*, by Kim Michele Richardson. Our local organization has joined with The Smoky Mountain District to read and discuss this book during the upcoming District Meeting to be held here at Murphy FUMC on Saturday, October 24. More on that soon!

Our June 19 Blood Drive was a huge success, as United Women in Faith met and exceeded our goal by seven units. Thank you Carole Goffus, Anita Sloan, Nancy Jo Willis and Vera Confer for making this happen. Another Blood Drive is scheduled for Friday, August 21.

Upcoming Events:

June 30, UWF will stock the refrigerator/pantry at the Parsonage for the Hill's arrival.
July 12 immediately after Church UWF will host a Potluck Dinner welcoming the Hill Family.
July 15, 10:30 a.m., Fellowship Hall, Card Ministry.
July 15, 11:30 a.m., Monthly Meeting, Fellowship Hall, Guest Speaker: Jason Forrister, Principal Cherokee County Schools of Innovation. Jason will speak about the Global Studies Program that United Women in Faith has supported in the past.
July 19, Host VBS Meal, 5:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall
August 15, Smoky Mountain District Annual Celebration, gathering in Murphy Fellowship Hall from 9:30 a.m. to Noon. Brunch with a ZOOM meeting to follow.
August 21, Blood Drive, 10 a.m. - 2:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall

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.

FUMC July 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28 *9:45 a.m. Adult SS* *11 a.m. Worship* 4:30 p.m. AA Dinner Mtg	29 *10:30 a.m. Yoga* 11:30 a.m. Chair Exercises	30 *10:30 a.m. Bible Study*	**01** ***10:30 a.m. Worship*** ***Staff Mtg*** 11:30 a.m. Chair Exercises ***1 p.m. Bible Study***	**02** 10 a.m. Quilters ***11:30 a.m. Soul Table***	**03** 11:30 a.m. Chair Exercises	**04** 9:30 a.m. Al Anon
05 ***9:45 a.m. Adult SS*** ***11 a.m. Worship*** ***4 p.m. Youth***	**06** ***10:30 a.m. Yoga*** 11:30 a.m. Chair Exercises	**07** ***10:30 a.m. Bible Study***	**08** ***10:30 a.m. Worship*** ***Staff Mtg*** 11:30 a.m. Chair Exercises ***1 p.m. Bible Study*** ***5:30 p.m. Safe Sanctuary Training*** ***5:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal***	**09** ***8 a.m. Harshaw Mowing*** 10 a.m. Quilters ***11:30 a.m. Soul Table*** ***6 p.m. Taize Worship @ Harshaw***	**10** 11:30 a.m. Chair Exercises	**11** 9:30 a.m. Al Anon
12 ***9:45 a.m. Adult SS*** ***9:45 a.m. Safe Sanctuary Training*** ***11 a.m. Worship*** ***12 p.m. Potluck Welcome*** ***4 p.m. Youth***	**13** ***10:30 a.m. Yoga*** 11:30 a.m. Chair Exercises ***5:30 p.m. Admin Council***	**14** 9 a.m. Mountain Project ***10:30 a.m. Bible Study*** ***5:30 p.m. Trustees***	**15** ***10:30 a.m. Worship*** ***Staff Mtg*** ***10:30 a.m. Greeting Card Ministry*** ***11:30 a.m. UWF*** 11:30 a.m. Chair Exercises ***1 p.m. Bible Study***	**16** 10 a.m. Quilters ***11:30 a.m. Soul Table***	**17** 11:30 a.m. Chair Exercises	**18** 9:30 a.m. Al Anon
19 ***9:45 a.m. Adult SS*** ***11 a.m. Worship*** ***12 p.m. Youth Pool Day*** ***5-8 p.m. VBS***	**20** ***10:30 a.m. Yoga*** 11:30 a.m. Chair Exercises ***5-8 p.m. VBS***	**21** ***10:30 a.m. Bible Study*** ***5-8 p.m. VBS***	**22** ***10:30 a.m. Worship*** ***Staff Mtg*** 11:30 a.m. Chair Exercises ***1 p.m. Bible Study*** ***5-8 p.m. VBS***	**23** ***8 a.m. Harshaw Mowing*** 10 a.m. Quilters ***11:30 a.m. Soul Table*** ***5-8 p.m. VBS***	**24** 11:30 a.m. Chair Exercises	**25** 9:30 a.m. Al Anon
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL						
26 ***9:45 a.m. Adult SS*** ***11 a.m. Worship***	**27** ***10:30 a.m. Yoga*** 11:30 a.m. Chair Exercises ***5 p.m. SPPRC***	**28 Newsletter Input Deadline** ***10:30 a.m. Bible Study***	**29** ***10:30 a.m. Worship*** ***Staff Mtg*** 11:30 a.m. Chair Exercises ***1 p.m. Bible Study***	**30** 10 a.m. Quilters ***11:30 a.m. Soul Table*** 6 p.m. Common Ground	**31** 11:30 a.m. Chair Exercises	01 9:30 a.m. Al Anon

Murphy First
United Methodist Church

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TO:

STAFF:

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#BeUMC

*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.*