



Murphy First

United Methodist Church

November 2025



Dear Murphy First,

Thank you for the kind and generous ways you blessed me and our family on Pastor Appreciation Sunday! It is a joy to get to serve as your pastor, and I am so thankful that we get to share in ministry and life together.

As we approach Thanksgiving, some folks think of this as a season of gratitude. Making time, more than just on that one day, to express thanks to God and others for the gifts of their life.

I know a budget can feel like a mysterious thing, like it's imaginary numbers that don't mean much. But really a budget is our way of saying, "Here is the ministry we want to do in the year ahead, and here's what we believe it takes to make that possible."

I like that nationally we have a holiday that's centered around gratitude. Practically speaking, it might be overshadowed by a stronger and less virtuous impulses toward consumerism or gluttony. But the idea is there. Maybe in your household, the reality too.

Gratitude is a keystone habit. That is, when we practice gratitude, other important habits and virtues come with it. Gratitude moves us to humility. When we give thanks for the food on the table, it moves us to recognize that our life depends on the lives of others: the animals and plants that are not on our plates: the people who grew, raised, processed, packaged, sold, and bagged the turkey and dressing. We are not self-made. We are dependent.

Humility moves us to places like wonder. How amazing to learn to see ourselves as part of the ecosystem of God's creation and kin(g)dom?! And what then would it mean to live a life worthy of the work and sacrifice of others? How do we honor creation? How do we bless those siblings we might never meet, but whom we depend upon for our dinners?

Gratitude moves us to generosity. We are Christians. We build longer tables not taller walls. (In fact, we are people who tear down walls that divide us—literal ones, and metaphorical ones.) We share what we have—whether food, material goods, space in our homes, our time with others.

Our congregation starts November, as we do each month, with Holy Communion. The older name for that meal is "Eucharist," meaning "thanksgiving." When we're around the table, we give thanks for God's saving grace, AND, as part of that thanksgiving, we commit to offer ourselves as a "holy and living sacrifice in union with Christ's offering for us."

This month, this Thanksgiving, may you marvel and wonder at the generosity of God, and the gifts—big and small—that are in your life. May you be filled with God's love, that then pours out of your life.

On the journey,

Wil



November is loaded with special gatherings for our youth! The calendar is below. We try to serve dinner whenever our group gathers. If you are interested in helping provide a dinner for the youth group, one time or on a rotation, please reach out to Sarah June

(sarahjunemurphync@gmail.com).

Nov. 2 (3-6pm) – Kickball at Konehete + dinner and devotion

Nov. 9 (5-7pm) – Service Day! Meet at the church, then go out to rake leaves, dinner back at the church

Nov. 16 (5-7pm) – Friendsgiving at FUMC. Stay tuned for details!

Nov. 23 – NO youth

Nov. 30 (5-7pm) – Youth at FUMC

Heads Up!

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



OUR NEW MOBILE APP IS AVAILABLE FOR DOWNLOAD

Use this link <https://mobile.myamplify.io/landing/W9NP> to get our app from your 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 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.



United
Women
in Faith

WILLING HANDS – LET'S LEND A HAND!

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, November 19th, 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.

We were able to raise \$686.36 from our Fall Festival Snack Table and learned a lot of good lessons.

Next, we will be soliciting donations for our Christmas Box Project where we provide gifts and gift cards for Murphy Elementary, Middle and High School students.

We will also be getting ready for "Memories with Santa" which will be held on Saturday, December 6th, from 3:30pm to 5:00pm in the Fellowship Hall. We will shop and decorate the Fellowship Hall on Friday, December 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!



11/02—John Morton
11/13—Jackson Matthews
11/15—Jay Jenkins
11/18—Robin Burnette
11/20—Mary Ellen Kelley
11/25—Ursula Lasky
11/28—Paul Schutes

11/15—Paul & Gerri Schutes
11/24—Chris & Monica Mintz

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP NIGHT

Saturday 11/8 at the Liber's home. 5-8pm

113 Wooten Drive
Topton, NC 28781

Coming together for fellowship, good food, and encouraging each other in our faith.

Sign up and let us know you're coming with this link:

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1Ue0hi-rEnyju470QNLT-FkDtYRH6GUojZ3_FxwBsHnzK/edit?usp=sharing

Questions or want to carpool? Contact Pastor Wil (pastor@murphyfirstumc.org) or David Liber (apdliber@hotmail.com)



On October 26, we hosted 8 other United Methodist Churches for a Cluster Charge Conference. This sort of gathering is something United Methodists have been doing since the Movement began. For us it's a way to celebrate and embody our "connection."

Connection is about how we share resources, doctrine, hymns, etc. We sang together from our UM Hymnal, and we blessed each other's work and ministry. Connection is also about sharing in mission with one another. We do that through our apportionment giving, which is part of our budget and funds vital ministries around the world. And on 10/26 we shared in mission through assembling 250 Hygiene Kits which will go to areas affected by disaster. Connection is also about relationships. That is at the heart of it. We belong to one another. We are a body. Aspects of the connection function like connective tissue that keep our body strong and active.

Thank you for how you supported our shared work, worship, mission, and relationships at Charge Conference this year!



We are excited with the progress on the Harshaw Chapel! We do not have an estimated date of completion, but hope by early December we can have a "re-dedication" or "re-opening" of the Chapel—a time of worship, giving thanks, and exploring the Chapel and grounds. Stay tuned!

HELP! A handful of volunteers did a lot of "white-washing" to get ceiling boards ready to be installed—thank you! And we're grateful for the faithful crew that's been mowing the grass. We always need more help. Invite a neighbor or friend to come along.

- If you can help with grounds keeping (mowing, leaf blowing, etc.), contact Ursula Lasky (frankandursula@comcast.net)
- If you can help with projects like painting, contact Ricky Hill (rickyhill16@gmail.com)

We're excited and grateful that Wayne Collier is selling items on his wood working website to benefit the Chapel! <https://buyabench.com/contribution-to-the-friends-of-harshaw-chapel-serving-board/> Take a look and share with others.



**Set your clocks
back 1 hour on
Saturday,
Nov. 1st.**

Ann Smith is leading two weekly yoga classes, one on Monday mornings from 10:30-11:30 and another on Wednesday afternoons from 5:45-6:45. Both classes are accessible for beginners, and are open to all. Classes are held on the third floor of the sanctuary building. Contact Ann at 478-731-9025 or annsmith828@gmail.com with any questions.



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!



Senior Adult Sunday School meets at 10am in Fellowship Hall.

Young Adult Sunday School meets at 10am in Room 301 in the Education Building.

Seekers Sunday School meets at 10am in the Library in the Education Building.

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.

Trustee on Call for November:
Mark Mobley

Our November
Fellowship Luncheon will be hosted by the Trustees on the 19th following worship. **JOIN US!**



Monthly Potluck Lunch



Keep the following in your thoughts and prayers:

Ukraine and its people;
Maria Mcleod; Peter Close; Jason Long; James Dennis Plavcan; Curt

Vansickle; Bill and Barbara Hughes; Ken Brant; Debbie Cocalis; Karen Terkowski; Keith Barber; Billy Major; Michele Leone; Carl Auvil; Anne Hymen; Dell Douglass; Scottie Draa; Alice Haughboo; Melinda Smith; Pam Meintel; John & Susan Satto; Eleanor Vaughn; Jeff King; Sharon; Melanie Rogers; Mathew Stiles; Mary Anderson; Gail Posey; Crystal; Joe Hartman; Libby Simpson; Carl Eicher; Sarah Gleason; Harry Burgis.

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.



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.

THANK YOU!



Click on the graphic for more information and to register.



Early Response Team TRAINING

December 6, 2025

Franklin United Methodist Church
Franklin, NC

\$30 / Lunch Included
wnccumc.org/DM-trainings

Let's be **ready** for next time.
Get trained as an
Early Response Team



Connecting Neighbors. Loving God.
Rebuilding Lives and Homes



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

LEGACY PLANNING

"Your opportunity to create a thoughtful and unique legacy"

A.J. Thomas from the United Methodist Foundation will join us for an informational breakfast in the fellowship hall prior to worship on Sunday, Nov. 9. Please put this event on your calendar.

Topics we'll cover on Sunday, Nov. 9:

- Wills and bequests
- Gifts of appreciated assets
- Retirement plans and life insurance
- Supplementing your current income with an additional life income

LOVE OFFERING

We love our dedicated FUMC staff, and we want them to feel appreciated. For this reason, SPRC is collecting a "Love Offering" to give staff members Christmas bonuses.

Donations will be collected from November 30th through the 15th of December. They will be presented at the December 21st church service. You can place envelopes designated "Love Offering" during the church services, mail or bring donations to the church office.

Spiritual Renewal Leave

Pastor Wil is going to be embarking on a four week-long Spiritual Renewal Leave. Wil is taking time at the beginning of 2026 from January 5th to February 1st to focus on his spiritual health. This practice encouraged by the United Methodist conference allows ministers to take a month every four years to revitalize their own spiritual health so they can continue to minister to others. SPPRC and the Administrative council support Wil using this leave and have helped him to plan for this time away. We wish him well as he cares for his spiritual well-being.



Ann Smith and Pastor Wil have started talking about the possibility of an occasional (monthly?) Taizé worship service at the Harshaw Chapel. This worship service

comes to us from the tradition of Taizé, a modern group of monks in France from every denomination and Christian tradition, who are committed to promoting and praying for reconciliation, peace, unity, and healing throughout the world. These monks established a worship style using meditative singing and silence as a method of prayer. Services draw heavily on the style used by the Taizé community. In that spirit, during the service, simple repetitive songs are sung, which become sung prayers as you rest into the lyrics, dwelling with them. If you're interested in learning more or being part of planning for this, contact Pastor Wil (pastor@murphyfirstumc.org) or Ann Smith (annsmith828@gmail.com). Consider joining Ann for a trip to Franklin FUMC on Sunday 11/2 to experience their Taizé service.



Food Community is a collaborative response from organizations across Cherokee County to address the urgent need for food for individual and families at this time.

Thank you!



FOOD DRIVE

To host a food drive collection at your Cherokee County business or organization, please fill out our sign-up form.



tinyurl.com/drivefoodcommunity



DONATE

Your tax-deductible donation to Murphy First United Methodist Church will be distributed to Cherokee County Food Pantries.



tinyurl.com/givefoodcommunity



VOLUNTEER

To donate your time to assist at a local food pantry, please fill out our volunteer form.



tinyurl.com/volunteerfoodcommunity

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

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.**



Soul Table will have a special Thanksgiving meal on November 20. The menu will include ham, turkey and all the trimmings! Home made desserts are ALWAYS welcomed! There will also be a Christmas meal on December 18. During the meal the mission team will hand out free socks, gloves and knitted hats. A VERY special guest will be there as well (Ho Ho Ho!!!)

The Mission Team keeps "blessing bags" in the fellowship hall cabinets as well as in the church office. These bags contain non-perishable foods, toiletries, a mylar blanket and other comfort items. If you know of anyone needing these items, please let Anita Sloan or Maggie Corrigan know. We also keep a supply of sleeping bags for those who might need them.

Alternative Christmas will be sponsored by the Mission Team again this year. Announcements and information will be provided on November 23 and 30. Donations will be taken on December 7 and 14. For those new to our church, Alternative Christmas is an opportunity to give a donation to a local charity in the name of a loved one or friend instead of buying a traditional gift.

The annual S'Mores and Popcorn station will take place on December 6 starting at 4:00p.m. and ending when the Murphy Christmas parade begins. Join the mission team for this fun event. Everything is free! ****WE ARE IN NEED OF A SMALL FIREPIT. IF YOU HAVE ONE WE COULD USE, PLEASE CONTACT COBBY BARFIELD****

Members of the Mission Team will shop for items requested on the Angel Tree during the Christmas season. The Angel Tree has requests from children in the community who would otherwise not have a Christmas, primarily foster children. Each year the Mission Team picks requests off the tree at Walgreens and shops for and wraps as many items as possible. Anyone wishing to donate or help with this project should contact Anita Sloan.

HELP!! We are continuously trying to clean out and organize the Fellowship Hall. We are trying to make space for some shelves that can hold food items. As Soul Table and other food initiatives expand, it becomes more and more important to use the space efficiently. Please help by replacing furniture and cleaning up as your group uses the room. Please store supplies and items in the third floor storage room.

CHRISTMAS IS COMING!

October is barely over, and we're already in Advent and Christmas mode. There's always more to announce about Advent and Christmas than we can squeeze in one space, so please stay tuned for communications in the month ahead on these opportunities:

- 11/23 (after worship) Decorating Sanctuary for Advent/Christmas. We'll share a pizza lunch.
- 11/30 Hanging of the Greens (in worship)
- 12/6 Memories with Santa (3:30-5pm)
- 12/6 S'Mores at the Parade (4-6pm)
- 12/7 Children's Christmas Presentation (in worship)
- 12/7 (6pm) Special Advent Service (Los Posados) at Tomotla UMC
- 12/14 Choir Cantata (in worship) and Caroling (3-6pm) followed by dinner together
- 12/17 (6pm) Service of Hope
- 12/24 (6:30pm) Christmas Eve



In addition to these opportunities to worship and share in connection, there will be several ways you can celebrate Christmas through giving: Alternative Christmas Giving, organized by our Missions Team; Christmas Eve Luminaries, that support our Youth Group, special Christmas Eve Offering that will 100% go toward a local ministry.





Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26 10am Sunday School 10:55am Worship 11:15am Children's Church 12pm CCUMC Charge Conf 4:00PM AA Dinner mtg.	27 8am Preschool 10:30am Yoga 11:30pm Chair Exercises	28 5pm Preschool Pumpkin Carving	29 8am 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 5:45pm Yoga	30 9:30am Mom's Morning 10am Quilters	31 8am Preschool 11:30pm Chair Exercises 4:30pm Trunk or Treat	1 9:30am Al Anon
02 10am Sunday School 10:55am Worship 11:15am Children's Church	03 8am Preschool 10:30am Yoga 11:30pm Chair Exercises 12pm Justice Team	04	05 8am Preschool 10m Worship Mtg 11:30pm Chair Exercises 1:30pm Wesley's Vision 3:15pm Children's Choir 4:30pm Wesley Ringers 5:30pm Chancel Choir 5:45pm Yoga	06 9:30am Mom's Morning 10:00am Quilters 11:30am Soul Table	07 8am Preschool 11:30pm Chair Exercises	08 9:30am Al Anon
09 10am Sunday School 10:55am Worship 11:15am Children's Church	10 8am Preschool 10:30am Yoga 11:30pm Chair Exercises 5:30pm Preschool Committee	11 5:30pm Trustees	12 8am 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	13 9:30am Mom's Morning 10:00am Quilters 6pm Common Ground Friendsgiving Meal	14 8am Preschool 11:30pm Chair Exercises	15 9:30am Al Anon
16 10am Sunday School 10:55am Worship 11:15am Children's Church 12:15 pm Fellowship Luncheon	17 8am Preschool 10:30am Yoga 11am Mission Team 11:30pm Chair Exercises	18	19 8am Preschool 10am Worship Mtg 10:30am Card Ministry 11:30am Willing Hands 11:30pm Chair Exercises 1:30pm Wesley's Vision 3:15pm Children's Choir 4:30pm Wesley Ringers 5:30pm Chancel Choir	20 9:30am Mom's Morning 10:00am Quilters 11:30am Soul Table 5:30pm Finance	21 8am Preschool 11:30pm Chair Exercises	22 9:30am Al Anon
23 10am Sunday School 10:55am Worship 11:15am Children's Church	24 8am Preschool 10:30am Yoga 11:30pm Chair Exercises 12pm SPPRC	25 Deadline for Newsletter Input	26 8am Preschool 10am Worship Mtg 11:30pm Chair Exercises 3:15pm Children's Choir 4:30pm Wesley Ringers 5:30pm Chancel Choir	27 THANKSGIVING DAY OFFICE IS CLOSED	28	29 9:30am Al Anon
30 10am Sunday School 10:55am Worship 11:15am Children's Church 12pm AA Dinner Mtg	01 8am Preschool 10:30am Yoga 11:30pm Chair Exercises 12pm Justice Team	02	03 8am Preschool 10am Worship Mtg 11:30pm Chair Exercises 3:15pm Children's Choir 4:30pm Wesley Ringers 5:30pm Chancel Choir 5:45pm Yoga	04 9:30am Mom's Morning 10am Quilters 11:30am Soul Table	05 8am Preschool 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

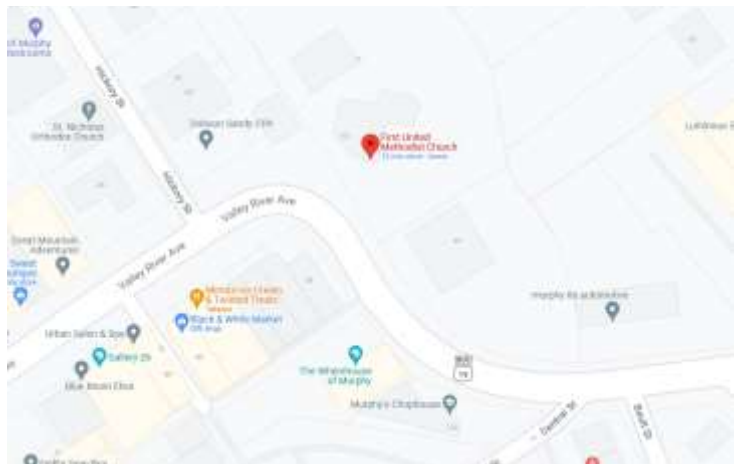
treasurer@murphyfirstumc.org

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.