

Murphy Church of Christ
P. O. Box 511
Murphy, NC. 28906

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TIME OF SERVICES

Sunday Morning Bible Class 10:00 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.
Sunday Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday Evening Bible Class 6:00 p.m.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

“ May the God of hope fill you with all
joy and peace in believing, so that by the
power of the Holy Spirit you may abound
in hope. Romans 15:13

BULLETIN



**MURPHY CHURCH OF CHRIST
CHURCH OF CHRIST ROAD**
(Located above King Ford on Highway 64 West)

**P. O. BOX 511
MURPHY, NC 28906**

Website: murphychurchofchrist.com
E-mail murphychurchofchrist@yahoo.com

Minister/Counselor
Roy Stephenson

Cell Phone: 828-557-8882

JANUARY 8, 2023

WELCOME

We welcome you to the Murphy Church of Christ where every visitor is our special guest, and we want to make sure you always remember that. If you are looking for a "family" that will offer you the most important things in life, then why not give us a chance to be part of your family?

Please fill out a visitor's form and drop it in the collection box.

Please do not hesitate to ask any of our members for assistance.

Please join us for first Sunday evening prayer time.

Wednesday 6:00 PM devotional class sign in instruction is included in the bulletin.

On the 5th Sunday of each month, we get together for potluck fellowship meal immediately following morning worship.

Website: murphychurchofchrist.com

The bulletin is posted on the website and hard copies are in the foyer for members and visitors. Be sure to check out the website for articles by Roy Goodlet.



The bulletin hardcopy cover is designed so you can mail a copy to a shut-in, friend, or family member. If you have any suggestions for the website or see an error or want to make a change, please contact Nell Ard and Lula Williams.

Greeters
Lula Williams and Sandy Parmer

Welcome/Song Leader
Jerry Queen

Opening Prayer
Robert Parmer

Lord's Supper Thoughts
Roy Goodlet

Scripture:
Ephesians 4:11-16
Read by: Jeff Leiby

Sunday Sermon:
"Growing in Christ"
Roy Stephenson

Announcements
Roy Goodlet

Closing Prayer
Robert Parmer



Hope the New Year is off to a good start. Always remember, God knows the challenges, the dangers and uncertainties you face every day. In His Word, He offers you promises of hope, courage, healing, and more.

Father God, I trust you to provide protection over me today and to keep me safe from harm and danger in Jesus name. amen

PRAYER LIST

- Sandy Parmer asked that we keep the following people in our prayers: Erik and Ashley Brown, Jim Smith, has Parkinson Disease, Kailyn, who is Sandy's 15 year old granddaughter as she struggles with life challenges. Linda Raymond is receiving chemo therapy for inflammation as a result of COVID. Phyllis Bryant is being treated for pancreatic cancer. Rob Seel surgery to remove the cancer from his duodenum went well. Shirley Lynne doctors trying to find what's causing her eye problem.
- Mindy Scaffa has been given an English bulldog puppy to be trained as a seeing-eye dog should she ever need additional help to move about in the next few years. Check out her Facebook page for updates. She is showing signs of kidney failure and may need a transplant in the future.
- Darlene Queen tires easily and has trouble maintaining her balance and also has an occasional migraine headache. Jerry says she has some good days.
- Darlene's daughter, Tabitha Sutton is still needing a heart transplant.
- Jeanne Horton went to her home in Florida to begin chemo treatments. She thanks you for your prayers. She will finish her second round of chemo in February and begin her third round around April 2023
- Jim Sexton, minister of the Cherokee congregation has stage 4 cancer.

- Sheilah Queen requests prayers for her husband Johnnie and herself. She is doing what she can to avoid having a shunt placed to remove the toxins not being removed by her kidney.
- Richard Hicks, the brother of Norma Leiby, has requested prayers as he goes through chemotherapy for inflammation of the filters inside his kidney.
- Cheri Meaders, of Blairsville, friend of the Stephensons is in hospice.
- Karen Wray continues to improve post surgery on her spine. Dean and Karen thank you for your prayers.
- Ute Chewing's six-month-old great-granddaughter, Aria Lopez had a successful liver transplant in Delaware and is doing well.
- Sheri's co-worker Barbara has a spot on her breast. A biopsy will be done in February to see if it's cancerous. Barbara is a believer but not a church goer so let's pray for her salvation as well.
- You may not be on this list but, we are all in need of prayer.** Pray for all victims of violence which seems to be increasing. The pandemic and flu season has taken and continues to take its toll on many and depression, homicides and suicides are higher. Take time to check on your neighbors!.



Just Christians

Come grow with us. If you have any questions or would like to start a home study, contact Roy Stephenson, Minister/Counselor. Phone (828) 557-8882 or email: murphychurchofchrist@yahoo.com.



REACH, Inc. – Community Outreach
Staff are requesting Clorox swipes, cleaning supplies and laundry detergent for the Safe House.

As the staff travel to the schools to discuss domestic violence, they have identified a need for children's underwear and socks of varying sizes. They have also adopted some families to help as well. If you have items of clothing (clean and in good condition), children's books, etc. to donate please place them in the blue bin located in the pantry. Check out the clearance section at Walmart next time you go shopping.

Stacy can always use some **small tote bags** and small travel size items to fill them with, e.g. travel size shampoo and conditioner, toothbrushes, tooth paste, travel size deodorant, hand sanitizer, etc. She is having difficulty finding small bottles of hand sanitizer so next time you go shopping pick up a few bottles..

Please contact the REACH office staff if you have furniture you want to donate to arrange pickup by the Thrift Store volunteers. They also ask for cooking utensils for helping them start over. So, if you have something you no longer want, they could use them. Often the victims leave home with only the clothes on their back, so they are given clothes, furniture, and items for the home from the Thrift Store until they can get back on their feet. They also can use items to help their self-esteem and pass the time until they can be placed in a safe environment. You can provide

puzzles (500 pieces or less), adult coloring books, reading material, make-up, nail polish, hair clips, etc.

Volunteers and donors are always needed. Call the office at 828-837-2097 or 828-837-8064 for more information. Local REACH covers Cherokee and Graham County.

2022 Yearly Statistics

Crisis Calls – 4236

Males – 52

Females – 417

Child – 38

Sexual Assault – 447

Senior Attendance – 159

The focus this month is National Human Trafficking and Stalking Awareness. More information is available in their newsletter posted on the bulletin board and on their Facebook page. They are also requesting for volunteers to be a member of their Support Groups.



We need your help to keep our pantry stocked. If no family or individual has made a special request; then, Lula pulls items off the shelves and the last or first Tuesday of the month she takes them to the Cherokee County Food Bank, Inc. in Andrews, NC.

You can also write a check payable to the Andrews Food Bank, P. O. Box 843, Andrews, NC 28901

The food bank is open to the public on Tuesdays and Saturdays from 10-12.

Since the beginning of the pandemic and with inflation food insecurity has increased.

 **News and Announcements**

Our church's weekly budget is set at \$1,280.00.

Dec. 25 – \$700.00 is under budget by \$580.00.

Jan. 1 - \$1275.00 is under budget by \$5.00.

Bible Study Attendance – no class
Morning Worship Attendance – 16

Members are asked to please check their temperature before deciding to leave home and wearing a mask while inside is optional. Chairs are set up to maintain social distancing in keeping with current guidelines for COVID. They are predicting a high incidence of seasonal flu.

If you haven't had your flu shot, please check with your healthcare provider.

We will start telephone contacts to let you know if anything changes regarding church services. STAY SAFE!

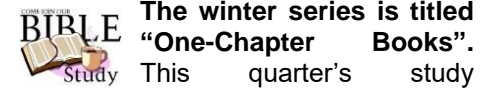
Wayne's Outreach Ministries

If there are folks who would like to participate in the prison ministry, please contact Nell Ard, she can share contact information with you. Wayne was the only person that some of these men had reaching out to them. At Wayne's request, Nell will be continuing to correspond with some of these men since they truly have no one else. Thanks to Dean and Karen Wray for working with her to keep Wayne's prison ministries going.

Wayne was also active with World Bible Study. If you need help with WBS

(World Bible Study) or know someone who has indicated an interest in WBS, please contact Roy Stephenson.

Sundays at 10:00 am.



The winter series is titled "One-Chapter Books". This quarter's study provides the opportunity to consider the truth in the five one chapter books in the Bible, one in the Old Testament and four in the New. *Please pick up a copy of the Gospel series Advocate located on the back round table and don't forget to bring your Bible and your questions*



6:00 PM Wednesday Bible Study

You can sign in from anywhere. All you need is access to a phone!

Bible Studies via a phone conference call is as easy as calling your friends or family. **About 3-5 minutes before 6:00 PM, dial 1-425-436-6324. You will be asked for your access code. Dial 5155915#. Identify yourself after you dial in and place your phone on mute. Remember to take the phone off mute if you have any questions or want to make a comment.**

Building Maintenance

Dean continues to keep us updated on the status of projects, so if you want to help or if you notice something that needs repair, please let him know.



Our next biggest expense will be the replacement of the fluorescent lights with LED lights.



January Birthdays

Michelle Dockery	26
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January Wedding Anniversaries

Johnny and Sheila Queen	9
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If you do not see your birthday or wedding anniversary listed or the date is incorrect, or your name is misspelled please let Lula know.

Directory Updates

Contact Dean Wray if you need a picture taken for our picture directory located in the foyer or need changes made to the directory print out provided for your reference.

We will initiate telephone or text contacts if services are cancelled. Please make sure the directory has your current contact information.

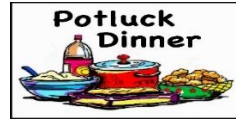
Weather Can Be Unpredictable!

Be careful when driving because of the early morning fog. Wet roads can be hazardous for 'black ice'. Snow and rain can also create visibility issues. Heed the weather alerts and do not drive if you don't need to be out.

People are still suffering through the impact of hurricanes and tornadoes. There have been deaths most recently during the recent blizzards and snowstorms.

New Songs

Do you have a new song you would like the congregation to learn or a favorite song you would like to hear? If you do let Roy Goodlet know.



Please be thinking of what you would like to bring to share. Keep in mind that we are a small congregation when deciding how much to bring. We always extend an invitation to our visitors to remain after morning worship so we can get to know them.

MORNINGS with JESUS: ENCOURAGEMENT FOR YOU SOUL

FAITH STEP:

- *Look at your life as if it were a novel. What events may have caused you to question Jesus's love? Ask Jesus to help you better understand His unconditional love and bring healing to your heart.*
- *Look at your life as if it were a novel. What events may have caused you to question Jesus' love? Ask Jesus to help you better understand His unconditional love and bring healing to your heart.*
- *What does "less is More" mean to you. Evaluate your life. What do you need to get rid of to make more room for Jesus in your day?*



PEACE IN THE MIDST OF PAIN

By J. Robert White

The words of Annie Johnson Flint have helped me through tough, heartbreaking times like those that each of us has experienced.

*God has not promised skies always blue or
Flower-strewn pathways all our lives through.
God has not promised sun without rain,
Joy without sorrow or peace without pain,
But God has promised: Strength for the day.
Rest for the labor, light for the way, grace for the
Trials, unfailing sympathy, undying love.*

This beautiful poem is so true. No life is free from heartache and pain. The issue with which we are forced to deal is not, "How do I live without pain in my life?" but "How can I find peace in the midst of the pain that is inevitable in every life?"

The answer to that question is a personal relationship with God through His Son, Jesus Christ. You, too, can have peace in a troubling world.



Toys for Tots 2023 Campaign.

Now is the time to start planning for 2023. Cherokee county has selected a new local

coordinator but until she completes her training continue to contact Barbara Hudson at 561-312-7807, email barbarahudson727@gmail.com or visit the Toys for Tots Cherokee county, NC on Facebook or check the website murphy-nc@toysfortots.org for contact information If you want to take advantage of some of the toy sales throughout the year for 2023 you may store them in the boxes located in the back classroom.



A Night in Bethlehem 2023

One Night in Bethlehem 2022 was a success! Several people signed up for world bible class, and we gave away all the cookies and children's bibles. If you want to help us, get a head start on the planning for 2023, you can donate funds for the purchase of books and make sure you write on the check for Night in Bethlehem or if you want to give cash let Dean know it is a donation for 2023 "Night in Bethlehem".