

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](http://murphychurchofchrist.com)**

**Minister/Counselor  
Roy Stephenson**

**Cell Phone: 828-557-8882**

**E-mail: [MurphyNCchurchofchrist@gmail.com](mailto:MurphyNCchurchofchrist@gmail.com)**

**DECEMBER 3, 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 the first Sunday evening prayer time at 6:00 PM. Any changes will be announced.**

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

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

**Website:** [murphychurchofchrist.com](http://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 Lula Williams.

**Greeters**  
Sheri Goodlet and Connie Diaz

**Welcome/Song Leader**  
Roy Goodlet

**Opening Prayer**  
Gregory Jones

**Lord's Supper Thoughts**  
Roy Stephenson

**Scripture:**  
**Acts 11: 21-26**  
Read by Troy Pearson

**Sunday Sermon:**  
**“Be An Encourager”**  
By Roy Stephenson

**Announcements**  
Roy Goodlet

**Closing Prayer**  
Donald Jewell



The holiday season can be a time of stress and fatigue, anxiety, and worry—but it does not have to be. In fact, for many the holiday season is a period of unique uplift and positivity. The secret is to be intentional about seeking the joyful, the hopeful, and the good - starting each morning with a prayer and a few words of positive affirmation.



**PRAYER REQUESTS**

- Sandy Parmer asked that we keep the following people in our prayers: Erik and Ashley Brown, Kailyn, who is Sandy's 16 year old granddaughter as she struggles with life challenges. Linda Raymond is suffering with kidney disease and 'long haul' COVID.. Phyllis Bryant pancreatic cancer is in remission. Shirley Linne treatment for eye disease. Rob's brother, Harold Parmer has Parkinson and kidney problems.
- Mindy Scaffe continues to recover from her knee replacement surgery. Because of multiple health issues there are some days she just doesn't feel well. She is waiting to hear the result of tests to learn if she will need to start kidney dialysis. Many of you follow her on Facebook and she enjoys reading your comments!
- Darlene Queen continues to have good and bad days. The doctor is treating her congestive heart failure with diuretics. She has trouble managing her balance and has fallen on several occasions.
- Justin Sutton, Darlene Queen's son was hospitalized in Asheville.
- Jeanne Horton,s doctor is monitoring her closely after her chemotherapy series. We pray she remains cancer free!
- Jim Sexton has decided to no longer take chemotherapy, and they have called in hospice. We know this is a difficult time for him and his family.

- Sheilah Queen requests prayers for her husband Johnnie and herself.
- Richard Hicks, the brother of Norma Leiby, has requested prayers as he goes through chemotherapy.
- Our minister, Roy Stephenson, continues to recover from a foot wound and is seeing doctors weekly until he completely recovers. He will soon be given shoes to help with his balance.
- DJ periodically has bouts of bronchitis flare ups.
- **You or family member or friend may not be on this list but, we are all in need of prayer.** The pandemic and flu season has taken and continues to take its toll on many. Depression, homicides, suicides and gun violence are increasing as well as the impact of climate changes. Take time to check on your neighbors!.

**Be Thankful for the Little Things**



We hope you have a wonderful holiday, pleasant memories, and a prosperous and happy New Year!

Our love to you in Christ Roy and DJ Stephenson.



**Just Christians**

Come grow with us. If you need the help of the church in any way, please don't hesitate to ask. If you have any questions or want to start a home study, contact our minister, Roy Stephenson.



**REACH of Cherokee and Graham County, Inc.** is an outreach program for victims of domestic violence.

As the staff travel to the schools to discuss domestic violence, they have identified a need for children's shoes, underwear, and socks of varying sizes. They have also adopted some families to help as well. **Teens frequently request a fleece blanket.** 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.

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 to help victims start over. So, if you have something you no longer want, they could use it. 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 with 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, word puzzles, 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.

### FOOD BANK DONATIONS

We need your help to keep our pantry stocked. If no organization, family, or individual has made a special request; then, Lula pulls items off the shelves and takes them to the Cherokee County Food Bank, Inc. in Andrews, NC. The food bank is open to the public on Tuesdays and Saturdays from 10-12. **For the month of December, we are asking members to bring canned fruits, e.g., pears, peaches, mixed fruit cups and boxes of dried fruit, e.g., raisins, etc. You are not limited to these items but make sure items have a long shelf life because they may not be donated right away.**

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

*December 25th  
How will you celebrate?*



*22 days before Christmas day!*

## News and Announcements

**Our church's 2023 weekly budget is set at \$1,232.00.**

**November 19** – \$990.00 is under budget by \$242.00.

**November 26** - \$982.00 is under budget by \$247.00.

**Bible Study Attendance** – 9 (includes one toddler)

**Morning Worship Attendance** – 21 (includes one toddler and one teenager)

*Members are asked to please check their temperature and stay home if you are not feeling well, especially since many of our members are considered high-risk because of age and/or chronic health issues. Chairs are set up to help us maintain social distancing in keeping with current guidelines for COVID, seasonal flu and RSV.*

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. Wayne was the only person that some of these men had reaching out to them. Upon his death, Wayne's requested that Nell continues 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.



**We are continuing our focus on the minor prophets for the remainder of the year. Today we will look at Haggai. Over the next 2 weeks we will be studying:**

*Zechariah*

*Malachi*

*This will take us through Sunday, December 17th. Please pick up any handout put together by Roy for discussion when you arrive. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to ask. We want the class to be interactive. **Starting in January we discuss the book of Genesis.***

### Nursery Assignments

*If you can help with or relieve DJ in the nursery some Sundays during bible study and/or morning worship please let her know which Sundays you can be available. There is a sign-up sheet on the table in back of the church.*

### 6:00 PM Wednesday Bible Study

We invite you to join us at the church building for the Wednesday devotional. If you have a topic, you would like us to discuss please let Roy Stephenson know. **We stopped the regularly scheduled conference call.** If at any time you wish to call in for the study, please notify our minister at least 20 minutes before class for instructions.



### Building Maintenance

Dean Wray 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.

Special thanks to Roy Goodlet for the sign on HWY 64 welcoming people to the church. And for maintenance of the grounds.

Our next biggest expense will be the replacement of the fluorescent lights with LED lights and arranging to have the carpet cleaned and removal of the carpet at the entrance under the breeze way and in front of the minister's office entrance.

### Directory Updates

Contact Nell Ard if you need a picture taken for our picture directory located in the foyer or need changes made to the directory printout provided for your reference. **Complete the form provided on the back table and give it to Nell upon completion.**

Please make sure the directory has your current contact information. It is important so we can initiate telephone or text notifications to keep members informed, especially during the winter based on the condition of the roads.

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Toy donations, fundraiser and financial donations were collected for Murphy the entire month of November. Last year our congregation filled six large trash bags but only three bags for 2023 as of 11/30/2023.

Thanks to all who donated toys. If you purchase toys after the last pick up, we keep the boxes stored

in the last classroom. You can take advantage of sales throughout the year and place them in the Toys for Tots boxes so we can get a head start for 2024.

Distribution of toys is scheduled for December 15<sup>th</sup> from 9a-5p and December 16<sup>th</sup> from 8a-12n. Information also appears in the local newspaper, the Cherokee Scout regarding parents and guardian registration.

If you would like to volunteer to help with sorting and distributing toys, please contact the coordinator Jeana Conley at [jeanaconley33@gmail.com](mailto:jeanaconley33@gmail.com) or call her at 828-361-2161 or the assistant coordinator Sue Evans at 828-837-3035. For more details, please visit the website: <http://murphy-nc.toysfortots.org>.



### **November Birthdays**

David Windsor	30
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### **December Birthdays**

Ronald Wilkins	1
Jerry Queen	5
Linda Trusty	11
Sheri Goodlet	13
Mike Terrill	29



### **December Wedding Anniversaries**

None Listed
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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. NOTE: Some of the people listed are frequent visitors or former members that like to stay in touch.*



### **A Night in Bethlehem 2023**

This is the time when local churches and local organizations outreach to the community to celebrate the birth of Christ and let them know what services are available.

On November 28<sup>th</sup> volunteers met at 6 pm at the Mountain Folk Center west of Murphy for a quick clean-up of the facility to prepare and set up the marketplace for the 'Night in Bethlehem.

So far, there are twenty-seven churches committed at this time. We are hoping for over 1,000 people this year on December 9<sup>th</sup>.

Murphy Church of Christ members volunteered to bring cookies, it should be noted the chocolate chips were the most popular so you might want to keep that in mind when donating cookies **(make sure you put 2-3 cookies – depending on the size - into small baggies). If cookies have nuts in them, please make a note on the outside of the baggies.** Sign the sheet on the back table to let us know how many and the kind of cookies you will be donating. **Please bring your cookies to the church on Friday, December 8<sup>th</sup> between 11:00 & 1:00 pm**

Thanks to your generosity we have 156 books to give away. If you want to help with crafts, please let DJ know.

The activities will be held December 9<sup>th</sup> from 5 – 8 pm. All volunteers are asked to dress in period

clothing, but it is not a requirement. Your support by your presence is most important!

Please check with Roy and Sheri Goodlet for directions. This is just another way we can reach out to our community.



### **Agnus Dei**

Alleluia, alleluia  
For our Lord God Almighty reigns  
Alleluia, alleluia  
For our Lord God Almighty reigns  
Alleluia

Holy, holy  
Are You, Lord God Almighty  
Worthy is the Lamb  
Worthy is the Lamb  
You are holy, holy  
Are You, Lord God Almighty  
Worthy is the Lamb  
Worthy is the Lamb  
Amen

### **Fifth Sunday – December 31<sup>st</sup>**



As per our tradition, immediately following morning worship we usually get together to fellowship and share a potluck meal with family, friends, and visitors. Please think of what you would like to bring and as always remember we are a small congregation. Attendance average is usually about 15 people.

Some of you may be out of town visiting family and friends, so if you would prefer we omit this 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday please let Roy Stephenson know so he can let Lula know to put an announcement in the bulletin.