

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

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TIME OF SERVICES

Sunday Morning Bible Class	9:30 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship	10:30 a.m..
Wednesday Evening Devotional	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
311 CHURCH OF CHRIST ROAD
(Located above King Ford on Highway 64 West)

P. O. BOX 511
MURPHY, NC 28906

Website: murphychurchofchrist.com

Minister

Roy Stephenson announced on October 19th his
upcoming plans to retire.

Cell Phone: 828-557-8882
Email: MurphyNCchurchofchrist@gmail.com

DECEMBER 21, 2025

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 during morning worship.

Wednesday Bible devotional is held at 6:00 PM.

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

Website Maintenance



Lula advises that this is time consuming and does not justify the current high monthly expense. December 28, 2025 will be the last bulletin to be posted and GoDaddy will discontinue access to the website.

Copies of the bulletin are available in the foyer for members and visitors. The bulletin cover is designed so you can mail a copy to a shut-in, friend, or family member. If you have any suggestions, announcements or see an error please contact Lula Williams.

Greeters

Sheri Goodlet
Lula Williams

Welcome/Song Leader

Keith Bragg

Opening Prayer

Dean Wray

Lord’s Supper Thoughts

Roy Goodlet

Scripture: John1:1-9

Read by Bruce Corcoran

Sunday Sermon:

“Dealing with Darkness”

By Roy Stephenson

Announcements

Roy Goodlet

Closing Prayer

Jerry Queen



We wish you and all those close to you a joyous Christmas season and a new year filled with happiness and hope for a world at peace.



Prayer requests

- Jerry Queen requests that we keep his family in our prayers. Several of them are battling multiple health problems. He notes his wife continues to have her good and bad days.
- Mindy Scaffa seems to be having at least one seizure each week and has difficulty walking. But she is always cheerful and has a wonderful positive attitude towards life. Prayers for her husband as he navigates providing her support.
- Chuck Brehm is not doing well and his kidneys are starting to shut down. His feet are swollen. They are seriously considering hospice care. These are difficult times for wife Theresa as his caregiver.
- Stacy Packer had a lesion removed from her right lung on October 2nd. She is slowly recovering at home and returning for worship service when she has a good day.
- Roy Stephenson mitral valve leakage had decreased and he didn’t need surgery on October 23rd. Thank you for your prayers! He is still scheduled for an aorta ring placement within the next 3 month. The procedure is experimental and the doctor is waiting on FDA approval.
- **You or family member or friend may not be on this list but, we are all in need of prayer.** The pandemic, flu season and the uncertainty in the economy and government shut-down 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!

Special Prayer

Pray for guidance in our search for a new minister.



Human Family “...I note the obvious differences between each sort and type, but we are more alike, my friends, than we are unlike.” –

Maya Angelou



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 to each member for your reference. Complete the form provided on the back table and give it to Nell upon completion. It is most important that you make sure your information is current.

Please note that because the bulletin is uploaded to the website (www), we do not include details regarding home address and phone information for privacy reasons in the bulletin.

Cell Phone Donations

Woody Scaffa will make sure that all your personal data is removed. **Please place donated phones in the basket on the back table.**



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 or you can drop them off to be sorted for the thrift store. Check out the clearance section at Walmart next time you go shopping.

Clients in the safe house can always use 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. 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. Special thanks for the financial donation total of \$400.00 to help support the programs.

REACH is leading our community in eliminating domestic violence and sexual assault through education, advocacy, self-empowerment, and community awareness. Suicides statistics among teens and young adults is increasing.

FOOD BANK DONATIONS

We need your help to keep our pantry stocked. If no family, or individual has made a special request; Lula pulls items off the shelves and takes them to the Cherokee-Graham County Food Bank, Inc. in Andrews, NC. The food bank is open to the public on Tuesdays and Saturdays from 10-12. **Roy Stephenson shared they are requesting empty 12 individualized egg cartons.**

Other suggested items based on Lula's discussion with some of the female staff: feminine hygiene products and other personal hygiene items, e.g. toothpaste, toothbrushes, bars of soap, wipes, small bottles of shampoo, soups that can be heated over a small fire, small jars of peanut butter and items that do not require a stove for cooking. **Most of their clients are homeless and/or senior citizens living on a fixed income, so they can use small bottles of laundry detergent and Clorox to wash their clothes.** The food bank has a bakery that donates bread, and the local Walmart provides fresh produce.

You can also write a check payable to the Andrews Food Bank, P. O. Box 843, Andrews, NC 28901, and they will supplement items that are not being donated. Special thanks for a donation of \$100.00 this year.

News and Announcements

Our church's 2025 weekly budget is set at \$1,250.00.

December 7 - \$685.00 is under budget by \$565.00.

December 14 - \$2,480.00 is over budget by \$1,230.00.

Bible Study Attendance – 9

Worship Service Attendance – 15

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. Wearing a mask is optional!

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 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 let Roy Stephenson know.

Sunday Bible Studies at 9:30 am

Today's bible study will focus on the birth of Christ..

6:00 PM Wednesday Devotional

Last week was cancelled. Roy Stephenson announced he was having cataract surgery. Awaiting update on when we will resume devotional.

Murphy Homeless Shelter Donations

The Hurlburt Johnson Homeless Shelter is requesting that we continue donations for the months of January and July 2026. There are eleven churches in the area that also donate. They are requesting paper products from us: paper towels, bathroom tissue, paper napkins and paper plates. Please place items in the kitchen/ellowship room for the month of December and Roy Stephenson will deliver them.

Homeless Shelter Thrift Store

The homeless shelter need volunteers at the thrift store. If you are interested and want more information on what is expected please contact Carol Paul at 518-321-4190.

Nursery Assignments

*If you can help in the nursery some Sundays during bible study and/or morning worship **whenever we have any children visiting** please let DJ know if you are available.*



Communion

If you want to help prepare communion and clean-up the trays after morning worship then, we thank you for your assistance.

Building Maintenance

Dean Wray continues to keep us updated on our finances as it relates to all maintenance projects. **If you notice something that needs repairing, please let him know.**

He is in the process of completing the transformation of the minister's office and setting up a section into church library.

Dean Wray can use our help with some of the details so, please contact him for dates and times to meet at the church building.



December Birthdays

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

December Wedding Anniversary



None Listed

*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 2025 December 13th 5:00 – 8:00PM

"A Night in Bethlehem" location was changed to the area below the casino. Some churches and organizations indicated they would not participate because of the location.

The organizers had to pay \$5,000 to setup the tents, so we are encouraging people to start donating now for next year to help defray the cost. The organizers will continue to see if they can find another location.

We had an attendance of 1,153 which is lower than last year but still significant. Special thanks to Sheri and Lula for greeting people as they came by our table and giving out books and cookies.

Special thanks to all who brought cookies and to Karen Wray for agreeing to collect all donations.

When you are looking for books to donate next year, keep in mind that we had more requests for children's biblical books. If you have any suggestions for 2026 that can help the church stand out in the market place, please share them with Roy Goodlet.



Toys For Tots

If you missed the collection deadline, we keep the boxes in the classroom in the back for next year's start up dates. **In light of the changing economy, you are encouraged to start looking for special sales throughout the year.**

Please take advantage of the after Christmas sales!

If you would like to volunteer to help with planning for next year, please contact the coordinator Jeana Conley at jeanaconley33@gmail.com or call her at 828-361-2161 or the assistant coordinator Sue Evans at 828-837-3035. **There is also a Facebook page and website <http://murphy-nc.toysfortots.org> with more information if you want to donate funds with a credit card.**



Sunday, October 19th Roy Stephenson announced that he and DJ have begun making plans towards his retirement. He also shared that in addition to his cardiac issues and knee surgery he is no longer able to maintain the stamina and energy he feels he needs to continue his ministry.

They haven't decided on the exact departure date or where they will be living. They are working towards finalizing their plans no later than the end of March 2026.

2025 Comes to an End



December 21st – First Day of Winter

For the Northern Hemisphere, the winter solstice occurs every year on December 21 or 22. (The Southern Hemisphere's winter solstice occurs in June.)

Christmas Eve Fellowship

Roy and Sheri Goodlet invite you to their home on **December 24th at 2:00 pm** for an afternoon of fellowship with refreshments and singing. If you would like to host this annual tradition, please let Roy and Sheri know so we can make an announcement and get directions to your home. This time of the year, it gets dark early so we moved up the time and if you have never been to their home, please contact them for directions. If you would like to bring something to share you are welcome to do so. To avoid duplication and make sure we have enough to share please let Sheri know what you are bringing.



December 25th – Christmas Day is not the actual birthdate of Jesus, which is not mentioned in the Bible, but was formalized in Rome around 336 CE as a way to provide a Christian alternative to these popular celebrations and encourage conversion.



December 26 – January 1st – Kwanzaa is observed for seven days, and there is a different value for each day. The black candle in the middle represents unity, the three green candles on the right represent earth, and the three red candles on the left represent the struggle of African Americans or the shedding of blood. They are lit in the following order: Umoja (unity), Kujichagulia (self-determination), Ujima (collective work and responsibility), Ujamaa (cooperative economics), Nia (purpose), and Imani (Faith).