



From the Pastor's Desk

Items of Interest	Page
Calendar of Events	2
Library	4
Moment for Mission	6
Opportunities for Growth	3
Welcome	5
Youth News	7

Last week I spent some time selecting all the hymns for the Advent/Christmas season. This is job I enjoy because I just love the truly amazing Christmas music the Church has created over the past 2000 years. It would be impossible for me to name a favorite, but there is one I look forward to every year and I almost always use it the first Sunday of Advent. Hymn 196, "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus." The music is by Rowland Prichard but the words are all Charles Wesley.

For me it is all in the first few words of the song: "Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free." For me this is the heart of it, the heart of Christmas, the heart of faith, the heart of God: Freedom.

You see, wickedness is all about controlling us, imprisoning us, breaking us down and keeping us down. It lives off of shame, regret, anger, hatred, lust, jealousy, humiliation, just to name a few – and it is always telling us how we are not good enough. But God, on the other hand, is about love, grace, forgiveness, acceptance, empowerment and always proclaiming to us and the world that we are loved unconditionally.

And so Jesus, God's gift to the world, comes to set us free, to help us break away from the bondage of sin and this broken world, to be free to live as the sons and daughters of God.

And so as you have opportunity during this Advent season, turn to this beautiful hymn and hear the words of hope and love that are being sung as God's prayer for you. Jesus came into the world to set you free - not a bad Christmas Gift.

To God be the Glory,
Larry

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>1. Come, thou long expected Jesus,
 born to set thy people free;
 from our fears and sins release us,
 let us find our rest in thee.
 Israel's strength and consolation,
 hope of all the earth thou art;
 dear desire of every nation,
 joy of every longing heart.</p> | <p>2. Born thy people to deliver,
 born a child and yet a King,
 born to reign in us forever,
 now thy gracious kingdom bring.
 By thine own eternal spirit
 rule in all our hearts alone;
 by thine all sufficient merit,
 raise us to thy glorious throne.</p> |
|---|--|

WEEKLY BULLETIN
DEADLINE
 is
 Wednesday at 10:00 a.m.




January Compass Deadline
 is December 18th.
 THANKS!

NOISY MISSION OFFERING
in December is
going to the



Community Christmas
Dinner

1 6:00 pm Board of Trustees Cub Scouts	16 9:00 am Nurture and Care 6:00 pm Boy Scouts Choir Practice	25 12:00 pm Community Christmas Dinner (KC Hall) 7:00 pm NA
6:30 pm Praise Team Rehearsal	6:30 pm Emergency Prep	26 10:00 am AA
7:00 pm Finance Team	7:00 pm Staff Parrish Meeting	27 12:00 pm Our Neighbor's Table 5:00 pm Youth Groups
2 6:00 pm Choir Practice Boy Scouts	Service and Missions Meeting AA	28 5:00 pm Junior Girl Scouts 6:30 pm Cadets Girl Scouts
6:30 pm Emergency Prep CYSF	18 7:00 pm NA	7:00 pm AA Big Book
7:00 pm AA	19 9:00 am Handbell Practice	29 6:30 pm Praise Team Rehearsal
3 6:00 pm Faithful Friends Christmas Party	10:00 am AA	30 9:00 am Holy Folders
6:00 pm Scouts Round Table	20 9:00 am March to the Manger (during Service)	6:00 pm Choir Practice Boy Scouts
4 8:30 am Adult Spiritual Formation	10:10 am Children's Christmas Program	7:00 pm AA
12:00 pm Staff/Volunteer Christmas Party	11:15 am March to the Manger (during Service)	
7:00 pm NA	21 Meals on Wheels Week	
5 7:30 am UMM Breakfast	7:00 pm AA Big Book	
9:00 am Handbell Practice	22 6:30 pm Praise Team Rehearsal	
10:00 am AA	23 6:00 pm Choir Practice Boy Scouts	
6 11:00 am Belize Breakfast	7:00 pm AA	
6:00 pm UMM Men's Banquet	24 5:00 pm Praise Candlelight Christmas Eve	
7 7:00 pm AA Big Book	7:00 pm Traditional Candlelight Christmas Eve	
8 12:00 pm Young at Heart		
6:00 pm Cub Scouts		
6:30 pm Church Council Praise Team Rehearsal		
9 6:00 pm Boy Scouts Choir Practice		
6:30 pm Publicity and Promotions		
7:00 pm AA		
11 10:00 am Feeder of the Pack		
7:00 pm NA		
12 9:00 am Handbell Practice		
10:00 am AA Babysitting Fundraiser		
13 5:00 pm Youth Groups		
14 5:00 pm Junior Girl Scouts		
6:30 pm Cadets Girl Scouts		
7:00 pm AA Big Book		
15 6:00 pm Cub Scouts		
6:30 pm Praise Team Rehearsal		



Blessings,
First of all I would like to thank the members of the church that sponsored me on the Little Egypt 49th Walk to Emmaus. One of the highlights of my life. Also, thanks to all the members that had anything to do with the nearly 60 cards, letters and notes of encouragement, invocations, and congratulations. What a humble feeling. Something I will never forget. Thank you all and God Bless you.
Cliff Buchholz

Our Gratitude

My family and I wish to extend our sincere thanks and appreciation for the many expressions of sympathy, love, and support we received from the church family during the time of the funeral for my husband, Bob Graeff. Special thanks to Pastor Larry for not only his pastoral care, but his friendship at our time of need. We would also be remiss if we did not thank those who provided the wonderful meal. It was just what we needed at the conclusion of the day.
Midge Graeff and Family

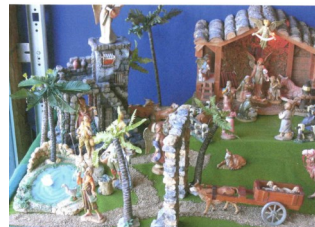
March to the Manger
Live Nativity
Experience the story of Christ's birth.
December 20th
in both worship services
Special Christmas offering will be collected to support the youth mission trip to Belize.



Coming in January!

Don't miss Pastor Larry's January Sermon Series called a **Covenant to Keep**. Have you wondered about this "trail" some folks talk about? Do you wonder where you are on your spiritual journey? Pastor Larry will cover these topics and more. You won't want to miss it.

ALL are INVITED to The Mimi Rice Christmas Nativity OPEN HOUSE
December 13th 1 – 4 pm
501 Pump House Rd
Murphysboro, IL
Cookies and punch will be served. Over 400 nativities on display.



Garage display continues through December 31st. 6:00-7:30 pm.



December 8th
CHRISTMAS
 12:00 pm NOON
 Fellowship Hall



Would you like Jesus to be the focus of your Christmas?

Pastor Larry will encourage us to do just that, as he retells stories from Christ's birth and helps us realize how we can draw closer to the Savior during this hectic time. This Advent season, what will Christmas be to you?



November 29th Christmas to me is ...

HOPE-through the shepherds who kept watch

December 6th Christmas to me is ...

FAITH-through Joseph & Mary who had no room

December 13th Christmas to me is ...

ME-through Herod who sought to kill the child

December 20th Christmas to me is ...

LOVE-through God who sent the Savior

December 24th Christmas to me is ...

JOY-through Elizabeth who was filled with the Holy Spirit

Menu:
 Ham w/Pineapple
 Sweet Potatoes
 Peas
 Ambrosia Salad
 Bread

Everyone bring a dessert to share

Meals are \$5 a plate.

Vergie Parrish will lead us in Singing Christmas Carols

Please sign up on the attendance pad. If plans change and you cannot attend, please contact the church office by the Monday before. Otherwise YAH members must pay for the meal that was ordered for you. Thanks.

Young at Heart is a group of senior adults, that meet monthly, on the second Tuesday, for food, fellowship and a program.



UMM MEN'S BANQUET

DECEMBER 6th at 6pm




Tickets \$10 (Pat's BBQ being served)

Get a ticket for you and/or your son(s) from Jay Graff, Bob Eaton or in the church office.


GUEST SPEAKER: Coach MICHAEL RUDE

An SIU graduate, Rude coached HS football for 46 years. He is currently the coach for Morthland College in West Frankfort. In 1995, Rude was elected to the Illinois HS Football Coaches Hall of Fame. He has over 210 career wins. But more than that...Mike Rude has been a Christian since the age of 12.



Order a Poinsettia in honor or in memory of a loved one, friend or family member this Christmas. Need a gift for the person that has EVERYTHING? Order forms will be in the Bulletin December 6th & 13th. May be taken home after the Christmas Eve Traditional Service.

YOU ARE INVITED!
 Is it Really Christmas?
Children's Christmas Program
DECEMBER 20th at 10:00 am
 (during Sunday School)
 In the Sanctuary.



A program guaranteed to entertain and put you in the Christmas spirit. Come watch our youngest members spread the message of what Christmas really means.

Please come to one of the
CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES:
DECEMBER 24 TH



Praise Service at 5:00 pm
Traditional Service at 7:00 pm

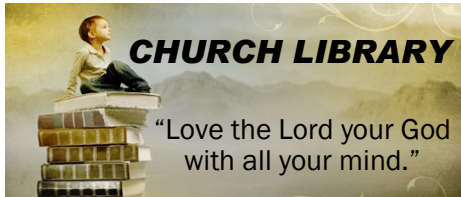
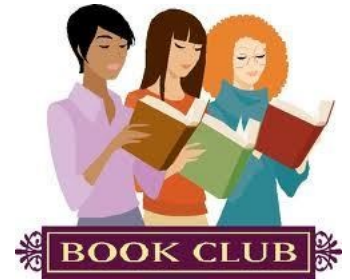
Lighting of the Advent Wreath, Holy Communion and a Candlelight Closing will be in both of these beautiful Christmas Eve Services. Bring your family and celebrate the birth of Jesus.



Last Sunday of the Month

MUMC
Saturday
Mornings

The MUMC Saturday Morning Book Club will not meet in December. However, January’s meeting is **Saturday, January 16th at 10:15 a.m. in the Church Library.** Each member will read a book of their own choosing and share about it with the group.

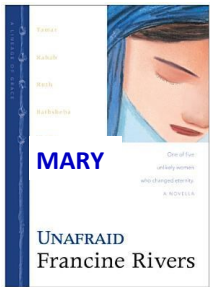


The Library Corner: Many Ways to Enjoy Christmas

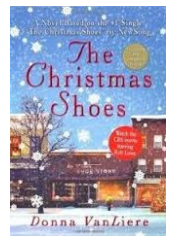
The Church Library has a number of items to enhance your Christmas enjoyment—maybe something to listen to as you wrap presents or bake goodies, or something to read while you have a quiet cup of tea or coffee, or something to watch as you relax or address the last of the

Christmas cards. Here are some ideas for you:

Listen: Steven Curtis Chapman’s Christmas CD, **Joy** is new to the library. Also new is a book and CD combo featuring Mark Lowry singing “**Mary Did You Know**”. Try it—we can just about guarantee you will look at the book and listen to this moving song more than once! How about an audio book Christmas novel from Debbie Macomber, such as **Cedar Cove Christmas**, or **The Perfect Christmas**? Or listen to the novel **The Gift** by Richard Paul Evans.



Read: Christmas books range from the serious to the light hearted. Look at Lee Strobel’s **The Case for Christmas**. You can sample inspirational writings from several authors in **The Glory of Christmas**. In **Unafraid**, Francine Rivers gives us a novella about Mary, the mother of Jesus. Max Lucado’s **Christmas Candle** (large print) is about an angel who visits a candle maker’s shop in a small English village. Or cuddle up under the afghan and read one of the books in Donna Van Liere’s **The Christmas Shoes** series. And for a fascinating look at a piece of U.S. history, read **In the Dark Streets** **Shineth** by historian David McCullough. It is an inspiring story about Winston Churchill’s visit to this country on Christmas Eve, 1941.



Watch: Watch the movie **The Nativity Story**, and accompany the young Mary and Joseph on their trip to Bethlehem. Christmas DVDs also include Debbie Macomber’s **Call Me Mrs. Miracle**, Charles Dickens’ **A Christmas Carol**, and Max Lucado’s **Christmas Child**.

Kids too! The library has things they can read, watch, and listen to also. There are books for the very youngest—such as **The Story of Christmas**, **Baby Jesus is Born**, and **Who’s Coming to Our House?** Other books for youngsters include Joyce Meyer’s **The Perfect**

Christmas Pageant and Kate DiCamillo’s **Great Joy**. In DVDs we have **Veggie Tales Christmas Sing Along Songs** and **It’s a Meaningful Life**. Or try out The **Berenstain Bears Christmas Tree** story.



Find these Christmas items and more on display downstairs in the library or upstairs on the library table.



December Worship Participants		
Traditional		Praise
Worship Leaders mumcministries@gmail.com		
	Mike Dreith	Angie Baughman/ Emily Finke
DEC	Welcome Hostesses	
6	Susan Patterson and Thelma Pierson	
13	Nancy Tillet and Thelma Pierson	
20	Patti Shields and Carolyn Sauer	
27	Katherine Twenhafel and Terri Yates	
DEC	Acolytes	
6	Megan McNitt and Tiara Bradford	
13	Wesley Graham and Maggie Jenkins	
20	Conner Twenhafel and Caroline Guthman	
27	Ethan Finke and Ali Bradford	
DEC	Prayer Request Reader	
6	Gene Schwebel	Angie Baughman
13	Gaye Auxier	Angie Baughman
20	Lou Ann Lough	Angie Baughman
27	Stephanie Finke	Angie Baughman
DEC	Children's Church Leaders	
6	Tonya Walker	Katie Schwebel & Katrina Carnes
13	Jennifer O'Donnell	Ben & Jennie Snyder
20	Lacey Brown & Rene' Doody	Rick & Scarlett Pierson
27	Diane Schingel	Patty Thrailkill & Theresa Mills
DEC	Liturgists	Music Leaders
6	Lou Ann Lough	Brian Vincent
13	Willa Addison	Dennis Goforth
20	Jon Lough	Lacey Brown
27	Ron Kiser	Angie Baughman
	Ushers	
	Rick Runge, Kyle Quigley, Jim Hughes, Bob Eaton, Trina Eaton, Mark Twenhafel	Matt Baughman and Don Abbadusky
Stewards	Bob Eaton and Ralph Bastien	

WELCOME TO MUMC!!

Please be sure to greet the newest members
to Murphysboro United Methodist Church.
Jennifer and Cody Ellermeyer
and children Harper and Peyton





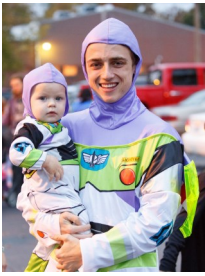
15	Sandy & Jack Herring
17	Connie & James Boucher
20	Sandy & Gene Schwebel
24	Dianna & Nathan Smith
25	Cloyd & Susan Karnes

24	Bob Hall
	Jon Lough
	Carrie Schwebel

8	Nancy Tillett	14	Mike Clark	25	Virginia Bowers
9	Allen Donoho		John Vallino		Travis Shands
			Gloria Barker		Samuel Sievert
		15	Cindy Presley	27	Lisa Bustos
		17	Terri Yates		Aiden Jacobs
		19	Madison Jacobs		Nancy McNitt
		20	Mark Twenhafel		George Dietz
6	Jerry Crews	21	Carol Dreith	28	Sandy Schwebel
			Sylvia Carvell	29	John Mills
7	Kellie Ellis	13	Holly Fletcher		
			Kathy Ripley	22	Todd Sievert
				30	Trina Eaton



"A Perfect Night for Treats After All"



Picture this scenario, it is one day until Halloween, there are thousands of pieces of candy sitting in a pile in my office and the local news predicts a 70 percent chance of rain with high winds. For the past 30 days I have been begging for candy like I am going through sugar withdrawals, arranging volunteers who will prepare and serve hundreds of free hot dogs, and wrangling individuals and trunks to entertain kids and distribute copious amounts of candy. The weather forecast was not a welcome piece of information.

A couple of years ago, big storms were predicted for Thursday, October 31st and the city decided to move the community trick-or-treating day to the following Friday. Sure enough, Thursday came and it was a deluge. Friday turned out bright and clear. But this year, there was no sign the city would move trick-or-treating to any other day; Saturday was it. I had trunks scheduled to line the parking lot between the education building and the pavilion. Several of the trunk hosts have volunteered for many years and are very dedicated to this ministry, but there were a few new trunks, including one representing the Murphysboro High School Future Business Leaders of America club, that were new to the Trunk-Or-Treat experience. The last thing I wanted to do was ask a group of people to stand out in the wind and rain handing soggy fistfuls of candy to dripping wet superheroes and princesses. But the time had come to make a final decision on the fate of this year's Halloween event. We reluctantly decided to eliminate the hot dogs this year and planned to use the pavilion as our rain relocation area; if all else failed, we would set up on the picnic tables and let the kids walk around to each table collecting the treats and candy. I knew I had at least one other person who would sit with me, rain or shine.



Saturday, October 31st, dawned cold, damp and windy. But although it was damp and overcast, the rain was holding off. With each hour that passed fairly rain-free, I began to get more optimistic. The tables under the pavilion were moved and ready to hold my Trunk-Or-Treat volunteers if a big rain hit, but plans were proceeding to use the parking lot after all. As 5:00 pm rolled around, ten car/van trunks sat open and decorated, awaiting the arrival of children dressed in a variety of disguises. For three hours and what turned out to be a perfect evening (zero raindrops, low winds and fairly comfortable temperatures), we handed out the thousands of pieces of candy, laughed, danced and brightened what could have been a dark night.

The MUMC Trunk-Or-Treat tradition started almost 10 years ago as a way to utilize our spacious parking lot to provide a safe trick-or-treat option for families. I thank all who have made this ministry a success.

Trunk-Or-Treat Coordinator
Lacey Brown,
"Crazy Christmas Lady
2015"



Christmas shop kiddo free!
It's a
Christmas Pajama Party
Saturday, December 12th
10 am to 3 pm

**CHRISTMAS
PAJAMA
PARTY**

The children will enjoy games, crafts, and lunch in a fun and safe environment, while wearing their favorite Christmas pajamas. Cost is \$25. More information and registration forms are available on the youth bulletin board at the top of the stairs near the north Sanctuary entrance.



Biscuits and gravy will be served on

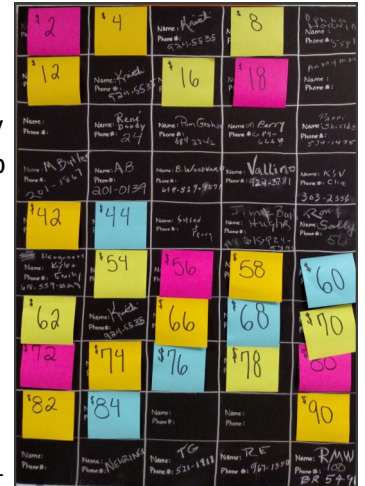


DECEMBER 6TH
11:00 AM—1:00 PM
IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL

This scrumptious breakfast is provided by the youth, by donation and will support the Belize Youth Mission Trip.

MUMC Belize Sticky Board

Please consider supporting the senior high youth group's first international mission trip to Belize by visiting the Belize Sticky Board just outside the Fellowship Hall. Choose a sticky note with the amount you would like to donate, write a check to MUMC and give the check to Stephanie Finke, Laurie Nehring or submit to the church office.



We ask for you to keep this group in your prayers as they not

only prepare financially, but most importantly, spiritually. Isaiah 6:8 reads: *Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I. Send me."*

The youth group and sponsors sincerely thank those who have already made a donation.



Toilet Turmoil is reeking havoc on our church family! This fun game has provided some excitement and is proving to be a good fundraiser for our youth. If you'd like to take part, fill out and submit a Toilet Turmoil form, found on the Youth Bulletin Board. You can help a friend keep up with the Eatons!!

Anyone with questions about the Belize mission trip or fundraisers, please contact Laurie Nehring at nehingsfarm@hotmail.com or (618)303-2777 or you can talk to Scott Ballard, Stephanie Finke or Diane Schingel. Thank you for your support!

YOUTH GROUP CALENDAR

Dec. 12

*A Night in Bethlehem
5:00 p.m.—Vans depart MUMC parking lot
5:30 p.m.—Dinner
6:00 p.m.—A Night in Bethlehem
Murdale Baptist Church
7:30 p.m.—Vans return to MUMC parking lot
Register with your youth group leader **by Sunday, December 6th.**
Bring a friend
(permission slip is required).
Cost is \$2.00.

Dec. 13

*Youth Christmas Party

Dec. 27

No meeting.

- *CYF: Children's Youth Fellowship (3rd - 5th grade)
- *JYF: Junior Youth Fellowship (6th - 8th grade)
- *SYF: Senior High Youth Fellowship (9th - 12th grade)
- *Youth meetings are the 2nd and 4th Sundays every month.

MURPHYSBORO UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
1500 Pine Street
Murphysboro, IL 62966

www.murphysboroumc.com
or
join us on facebook



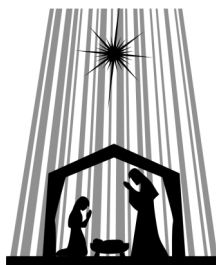
MUMC OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Phone: 618-687-2317 Fax: 618-687-2604
E-Mail: murphysboroumc@frontier.com

SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Traditional Service: 9:00 a.m.
Sunday School: 10:10 a.m.
Praise Service: 11:15 a.m.

Ministers	The Congregation	Ministry Support Assistant.....	Lacey Brown
Pastor	Larry A. Gilbert	Custodian.....	Pat Sullivan
Discipleship Coordinator	Teresa Gilbert	Pianist/Organist.....	Jenny Choo
Interim Minister of Visitation	Michelle Parker-Clark	Choir Director	Joseph Ryker
Financial Secretary	Christine Nolan	Nursery Attendant	Caitlyn Boyd
Church Secretary	Deb Severa	Nursery Attendant	Megan Gale



CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES:
DECEMBER 24 TH

Praise Service at 5:00 pm

Traditional Service at 7:00 pm

*Invite friends and family to
celebrate the birth of Jesus
at the service that fits into your schedule!*

Return Service Requested

Murphysboro United Methodist Church
1500 Pine Street
Murphysboro, IL 62966

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Murphysboro, IL
Permit No. 63