



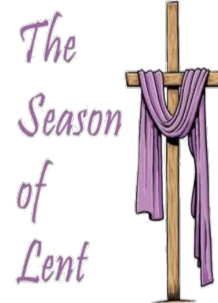
From the Pastor's Desk

Greetings to all in Christ Jesus!

Throughout March we will be continuing in our, "the Way the Truth and the Life series," based on John 14:6...

"Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life.
No one comes to the Father except through me."

Our search to know Jesus and who He really is (as revealed in the Gospel of John) will continue up to and through Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday, Good Friday and even Easter Sunday! This is an important conversation for us all to be a part of for many reasons, but near the top of that list is our mission: to show the 'Way' we have to be familiar with it; to share the 'Truth' we have to know it; to share the 'life,' we must have it!



The leadership of our church (MUMC) have been in prayer and discussion throughout the last year discerning a new mission statement for us to live into together. Our old mission statement was good, and it was the same as that of the UMC conference, but what God put on our hearts was to find words to describe our purpose, as the Church here in Murphysboro. We need a simple statement that is not too broad to help give focus and purpose to each of our worship services, missions and programs. As we move forward in 2021, we will start to strive to live into our new mission statement:

"to know Jesus and make Him known, together."

With our build up to Holy Week and our new mission statement in mind, I truly pray that you all prayerfully consider coming back to church in person. We need the Jesus that we see in each other and I truly believe that we're all hurting in different ways apart from the means of grace that require the fellowship of believers to experience. Gathering as believers, corporate prayer, Christian fellowship and Holy Communion as it ought to be experienced have been means of grace that have been scarce and difficult to experience for a whole year.

We need each other. It's been too long. It's time. Maybe you do a practice run, and just come some Sunday in March? Or maybe you prayerfully consider to fully participate in the worship of our Lord Jesus in person this Holy Week? Remember, there is no reservation required and there is plenty of room for safe distancing at both Traditional (9AM) and Praise (10:30AM) services. Never mind if everything doesn't feel quite right. The masks will go someday, the singing will return. Fellowship time and Sunday school will return. But in the meantime, this I know: it is safe to gather and worship with the many safety measures we have in place, and we need each other!

Let us all commit to following our newly worded mission:
"to know Jesus and make Him known, together."

"Best of all, God is with us!"

Blessings to all,
Pastor Danny



1			16	6:00 PM	Cub Scouts
2	6:00 PM	Cub Scouts		6:00 PM	Kung Fu
	6:00 PM	Kung Fu	17	9:00 AM	Nurture & Care
3	11:00 AM	Staff Meeting		11:00 AM	Staff Meeting
	6:00 PM	Choir		6:00 PM	Choir
	6:00 PM	Youth Fellowship		6:00 PM	Youth Fellowship
4	6:00 PM	Scouts of the Round Table	18		
5	9:00 AM	Stretching w/Rosie	19	9:00 AM	Stretching w/Rosie
6			20	10:15 AM	Book Club (Zoom)
7	11:30 AM	Confirmation Class	21	11:30 AM	Confirmation Class
	5:00 PM	Youth Movie Night	22	7:00 PM	Staff Parrish
8	9:00 AM	Bible Journaling	23	6:00 PM	Cub Scouts
9	6:00 PM	Cub Scouts		6:00 PM	Kung Fu
	6:00 PM	Kung Fu	24	9:00 AM	Holy Folders
10	6:00 PM	Choir		6:00 PM	Choir
11			25		
12	9:00 AM	Stretching w/Rosie	26	9:00 AM	Stretching w/Rosie
13	7:30 AM	UMM Breakfast		1:00 PM	DAR
14	11:30 AM	Confirmation Class	27		
15		Meals on Wheels Week	28	11:30 AM	Confirmation Class
	9:30 AM	Quilting Group	29		Holy Week/Bldg Closed
	6:00 PM	Church Council	30		Holy Week/Bldg Closed
			31		Holy Week /Bldg Closed

2021
Offering
Envelopes
are in!



Reminder: Your weekly offering envelopes are still available on the front porch of the Office.



March/April Upper Rooms & Lent Devotionals are available on the Porch of the Office or in the Sanctuary.

For Children & Youth Lent Devotionals Contact Karen Motta.

welcome spring!



Mission Statement

to know Jesus
and make Him known, together



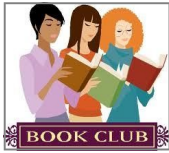
Reminder the April compass deadline is March 15th !



Saturday, March, 13th at 7:30 a.m.

The men will gather for breakfast, and a devotional. **All men of the church are invited to attend .**

MUMC
Saturday
Morning



Saturday Book Club

*Now meeting via Zoom.
Each of us in our own living
space, but all meeting in a
common space to talk
about books.*

Next Meeting:

March 20th, 10:30

The Book of Two Ways by Jodie Picoult

Everything changes in a single moment for Dawn Edelstein. She's on a plane when the flight attendant makes an announcement: Prepare for a crash landing. She braces herself as thoughts flash through her mind. The shocking thing is, the thoughts are not of her husband but of a man she last saw fifteen years ago: Wyatt Armstrong.

Dawn, miraculously, survives the crash, but so do all the doubts that have suddenly been raised. She has led a good life. Back in Boston, there is her husband, Brian, their beloved daughter, and her work as a death doula, in which she helps ease the transition between life and death for her clients. But somewhere in Egypt is Wyatt Armstrong, who works as an archaeologist . . .

As the story unfolds, Dawn's two possible futures unspool side by side, as do the secrets and doubts long buried with them. Dawn must confront the questions she's never truly asked: What does a life well lived look like? When we leave this earth, what do we leave behind? Do we make choices . . . or do our choices make us? And who would you be if you hadn't turned out to be the person you are right now?

The read ahead book for April is "The Choice: Embrace the Possible" A memoir by Dr. Edith Eva Eger.

If you are not on the Zoom invitations list you can join by contacting:
Susan.patterson37@yahoo.com or Laverne_cline@yahoo.com

Building Closure



Greeting to all in Christ Jesus!

Holy Week, from Palm Sunday through Easter (Resurrection) Sunday, is a very special time in the annual church calendar, and one of the most critical seasons for the church to worship well and be at our very best for the glory of the Lord and for effective outreach. As a reminder we will be clearing the church and building calendar of all meetings, gatherings, clubs and other activities during this Holy Week. This will allow our staff, congregation and community friends who use our facility on a regular basis to focus on the important tasks of worship, remembrance and invitation from March 28th—April 4.

Please call or email Melba in the Church Office to reschedule your regular meeting to a new time either prior to Holy Week or after. Thank you for your understanding.



LAST SUNDAY OF EVERY MONTH



SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR SUPER FINANCIAL SECRETARY!

Faster than a speeding bullet! More powerful than a locomotive! Able to scale a mountain of Small Business Administration forms in a single bound!

That's our CHRISTINE NOLAN!

Let's remember to both thank and give thanks for our entire staff routinely, but offer special thanks today for Christine's tenacity in securing not one but TWO Paycheck Protection Program "loans" to help with payrolls during this challenging COVID season.

GREAT JOB, CHRISTINE!



The Library Corner: Reading Devotionals—and the Bible!

Have you been looking for a good devotional to read in 2021? We asked several people to write about devotionals that have been meaningful to them in their walk with God. Here are their recommendations:

From Michelle Clark: I have utilized the **Upper Room** for many years, and a couple of years ago incorporated **Jesus Calling** by Sarah Young into my devotional readings, as well.

This year I have started something new, thanks to Mary Ellen Tierney. During our Sunday School Zoom meeting a few weeks ago, she read the introduction to **Hope for Today** by Dr. David Jeremiah. I asked to borrow the book to utilize a quote for my sermon on January 10, and I have continued the daily readings which I have found to be very uplifting. I will share a passage from the introduction of **Hope for Today**, which I included in my sermon a couple of weeks ago:

“When you wake up in the morning, what is your first thought? Is it your coffee, that meeting you have to attend, or the blessing of being a child of God? It is human nature to plan for the events of the day, but each day also needs a dose of hope—the hope that comes from knowing that the God of the universe is also our personal friend and Savior. The hope that we are never alone, and that no task is too difficult with our heavenly Guide along to support and strengthen us.” (Introduction)

My prayer is that hope is the theme for everyone in 2021!

From Karen Motta: *Praying the Scriptures for Your Children*. Author: Jodie Berndt.

Parents and Grandparents, I highly recommend this book! It has helped me to go beyond the "keep my children safe"..."help them to do well with school"..."give them good attitudes" kind of prayers. I still pray for all of these things but this book has opened my eyes and heart and taught me how to dig deeper in prayer for my children.

From Danny Motta: *The Holy Bible*. Author: God (working through human beings)

I have to say, I've read numerous devotionals and commentaries, but none come close to the life-changing impact of this book. This is the number 1 best-selling book of all history, and for good reason!

A great devotional tool I love is called **M.A.P.S.**: First, pick a short paragraph, then **M.** Meditate (write it down, memorize it if you can). **A.** Apply (make some notes on what it's saying) **P.** Prayer (write a prayer, whatever the Lord puts on your heart). Finally, **S.** Surrender (Based on your time in the Word, what is God asking you to surrender to Him?). Happy devotions! Pastor Danny

Thank you very much to our contributors! When the library re-opens we hope to add books mentioned in this article. The library does have Sarah Young's **Jesus Calling**, plus a number of Bibles in a variety of translations for readers to sample.



Spring Forward!



Daylight Savings Begins

Sunday, March 14th



1	Steve & Kellee Ticer	18	Jon & Lou Anne Lough
10	Richard & Mary Ellen Tierney	31	Pete & Caroline Pederson
11	Rick & Scarlett Pierson		



2	Paul Bitner	15	Dianna Smith
3	Willard Ellis	16	Patrick Yates
3	Drake Rogus	17	Ginger Guetersloh
6	Scarlett Pierson	18	Caitlin Doody
7	Brandi Bitner	18	Fiona Fletcher
9	Gloria Likins	19	Marlene Gibbs
9	Wilma Westerfield	19	Corey Zimmerman
10	Aaron Erbes	24	Taylor Streeter
10	Sharon Medlen	25	Pat Hall
10	Mason Olenkiewice	25	Jacob Presley
10	Bill Slider	26	Ashleigh Boyle
10	Patti Thrailkill	26	Tina Fager-Nimmo
12	Everett Blackwell	26	Everett Snyder
12	Brie Imhoff	27	Harper Ellermeyer
12	Todd Lirely	28	Ray Burroughs
13	Brad Fager	28	Brandon Ottwell
13	Etta Mae Imhoff	29	Lexi Robinson
14	Connie Boucher	31	Kort Green
14	Mary Ellen Brown	31	Pete Pederson

At the Request of SIH and the Jackson County Health Department for Individuals who are interested in the Covid Vaccine!

More people are becoming eligible to receive the COVID vaccine!!

Starting Thursday, February 25th, those in phases 1A, 1B AND 1B, Part II are all eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine. See the Illinois COVID-19 Vaccination Plan for additional details.

Those currently eligible include the following:

Phase 1B Part I:

Those 65 years of age and older and frontline workers with higher risk of exposure because of their inability to perform work duties remotely and who work in proximity to other coworkers or members of the public:

Phase 1B Part II:

Persons aged 16 to 64 years with high-risk medical conditions (ELIGIBILITY BEGINS 2/25/21): Persons aged 16 to 64 years with medical conditions that increase the risk for severe COVID-19. **Conditions include Obesity (click on the CDC BMI calculator to determine eligibility based on weight), Diabetes, Pulmonary Diseases, Smoking, Heart Conditions, Chronic Kidney Disease, Cancer, Immunocompromised State from a Solid Organ Transplant, Sickle Cell Disease, Pregnancy, and Persons with Disability (Not otherwise covered in previous categories.)** For additional information - <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/people-with-medical-conditions.html>

SIH will be hosting COVID-19 vaccine clinics on Wednesday 2/24/21 and Friday 2/26/21. Schedule through MyChart, or by calling 866.744.2468. For more information, visit www.sih.net/covidvaccine You will leave these clinics with your appointment for the second dose.

Jackson County Health Department is working with the Illinois National Guard to offer additional vaccine sites in Carbondale for eligible individuals throughout the region. Visit www.jchdonline.org for more information and to make an appointment. Call 618.684.3143 to make an appointment if you are unable to schedule on-line. If you want help making an appointment please feel free to call Vern Cline @ 618-303-2336.

Holy Week Schedule



Palm Sunday
March 28th 9 am & 10:30 am

Easter Sunday
April 4th

Maundy Thursday
April 1st 7:00 pm

Good Friday
April 2nd 7:00 pm

Sunrise 6:30 am (Pavilion)
Traditional 9 am
Praise 10:30 am

RURAL KING CHURCH WEEK

March 14-27, 2021

Rural King is supporting Christian organizations by donating 10% of each valid Rural King receipt total after sales tax to the registered organization chosen by the customer. Our organization is registered! From March 14-27, 2021, customers can upload their Rural King receipts to www.ruralking.com/churchweek and 10% of their receipt total after sales tax will go to the registered Christian organization of their choice.

Instructions:

- Go to or click on this link: <https://www.ruralking.com/churchweek> Under Church Week Heading,
- click on Search or Organization Search
- Select State:
- Select City:
- Select: our church (You should now see a picture of our church)
- Beginning on March 14th there should be a link for you to upload your receipt.
- All receipts dated March 14-27, 2021 must be uploaded by April 1, 2021.
- All donations will be provided by our local Rural King. All Rural King stores are participating.



Please share with your friends and be sure to say Thank You to Rural King management and associates when you shop.

“FEEDER OF THE PACK”

The Murphysboro United Methodist Church has partnered with the Murphysboro Food Pantry to provide a “Pet Food Pantry” for the Jackson County area. Through the Murphysboro Food Pantry, Feeder of the Pack has given out over 10,000 Lbs. of cat and dog food, and a few bags of birdseed in 2020. Volunteers meet at the Murphysboro Food Pantry the second Friday of each month and spend about 2 hours packaging the pet food for distribution. Volunteers are needed and You can become a “Feeder of the Pack” by contacting Richard Tierney at 618 684 8847. Thank You for your support of “Feeder of the Pack.



REQUEST FOR NEW HOST TEAM MEMBERS

If you have served as an usher or greeter in the past, or you are looking for a new way to serve your church, during either the Traditional or Praise Service, we need you!

We currently have two Host Teams that rotate every other Sunday, and those individuals have been serving since we resumed worship during late Spring 2020.

As restrictions have lessened and people are receiving the Covid-19 vaccinations, more and more people are getting out and are attending our worship services. Based upon the increased attendance, we would like to start reincorporating our past ushers/greeters, and adding new individuals, into our Host Team rotation.

Our Host Team members divide up the duties of checking off names on the contact tracing forms, directing congregants to their seats and ushering them out after the service concludes, and then spraying down the pews between services. Temperature taking is no longer a requirement.

If you have missed serving as an usher and you feel that it is time for you to reassume your duties by becoming a Host Team member, or you would like to begin helping keep your church and your church family as safe as possible by joining the Host Team, please contact me or the church office to get your name added to the roster.

Thank you, and blessings to all!
Michelle Parker-Clark (618/922-3587)



SPRING Youth Group SCHEDULE:

March 3rd Wednesday: Youth Group 6-7:30PM at church

March 7th Sunday: Movie Night at Church 5PM

March 17th Wednesday: Youth Group 6-7:30PM at church

April 7th Wednesday: Youth Group 6-7:30PM at church

April 18th Sunday: Picnic and hiking at Giant City! (afternoon)

April 21st Wednesday: Youth Group 6-7:30PM at church

May 2nd Confirmation Sunday

May 5th Wednesday: Youth Group 6-7:30PM at church

May 19th Wednesday: Youth Group 6-7:30PM at church

SPRING EVENT



We've have returned to phase 4 revitalizations which means unfortunately we still cannot meet safely indoors at Agape House at this time. However, we are planning a special outdoor event in DeSoto that we hope will be a fun way for all of us to gather this spring, stay tuned for details.

Youth Bowling Trip in February!





Family Scripture Reading Challenge

How is the Family Bible Reading Challenge going for your family? If your family got off track, that's okay! Just get right back on with this month's readings. I really want to encourage you adults that if your family got off track, don't feel like you have to go back and read all the other verses to get caught

up! Just jump in with that day's verse. Also, if you put the Scripture challenge somewhere visible for your kiddos, I can almost guarantee they will make sure your family doesn't forget! Our prayer is that the simple habit of reading a couple of verse together each day will reap a harvest of families holding to the promises and truths of God's Word. And in case you need a reminder, here is how it works. Each month you will be given 30 Scriptures (through Email, Facebook Group and the Compass) that relate to the theme for the month. Each Scripture is usually 1-2 verses. Your family can do this together at breakfast, in the car, at dinner, or wherever you are together the most. There is no right or wrong place to be when reading the Bible together as a family. So find the time and place that is most convenient for your family.

Our March theme is... **FORGIVENESS!**

March 30-DAY FAMILY SCRIPTURE CHALLENGE

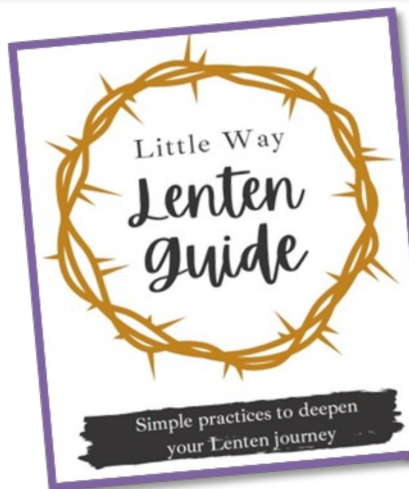
Forgiveness

➤ Ephesians 4:32	➤ Hebrews 8:12	➤ 1 Kings 8:50
➤ Matthew 18:21-22	➤ Romans 5:8	➤ Psalm 25:11
➤ Mark 11:25	➤ Luke 23:34	➤ Psalm 79:9
➤ Acts 2:38	➤ Acts 10:43	➤ Jeremiah 33:8
➤ 1 John 1:9	➤ Mark 3:28	➤ Daniel 9:9
➤ Luke 6:37	➤ James 5:16	➤ Matthew 5:7
➤ Psalm 86:5	➤ Psalm 103:2-3	➤ Luke 5:24
➤ Matthew 6:12	➤ Ephesians 1:7	➤ Acts 13:38
➤ Psalm 130:4	➤ Daniel 9:19	➤ Mark 1:4
➤ Colossians 3:13	➤ 2 Corinthians 2:10	➤ Matthew 6:14-15



BLAST was scheduled to return in February, however the MUMC Children's Ministry leaders have decided to postpone the return of BLAST until we can begin meeting outdoors again. When outdoors, we are able to have better social distancing as well as permission to sing our hearts out! Stay tuned!

Family Lenten and Holy Week Devotional Kits AVAILABLE! contact Karen Motta for your family's copy



Youth Mission Trip 2021

Where: Cedar Springs, MI **When:** June 26-July 3

With: Group Mission Trips (the same group we planned to use last year.

Cost: A lot less than last year as they still have our deposit and first payment on file. We'll know specifics once we know about how many are coming!

How to participate: Please contact Pastor Danny no later than March 14th! Please call or text with any questions!



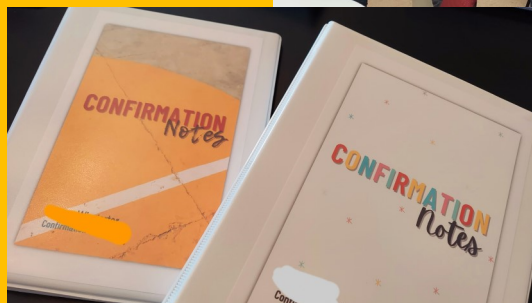
Greetings all!

Because we have not been able to meet, it's been difficult to have discussions and make decisions about our mission trip for summer 2021. Because we have our whole deposit and first payment still on record with Group Missions for us to use this Summer, I have decided to go with them again. I really need to know who is interested and would like to serve this Summer!!! It's of course difficult to make firm plans with the virus, and we will be sensitive and ready to respond should any safety conditions change, but in the meantime, PLEASE contact me no later than March 14th so I can submit our numbers and finalize (as much as possible) our trip plans!

Blessings in Christ Jesus,

Pastor Danny

Confirmation Classes began in February and we have a great group of 8 middle schoolers! Please pray for them as they take these next steps in their walk with Jesus.

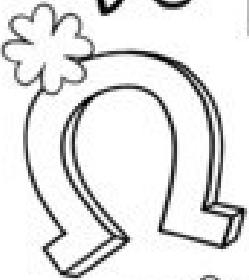


Confirmation Sunday
May 2nd!



How many words
can you make from
the letters in

LEPRECHAUN

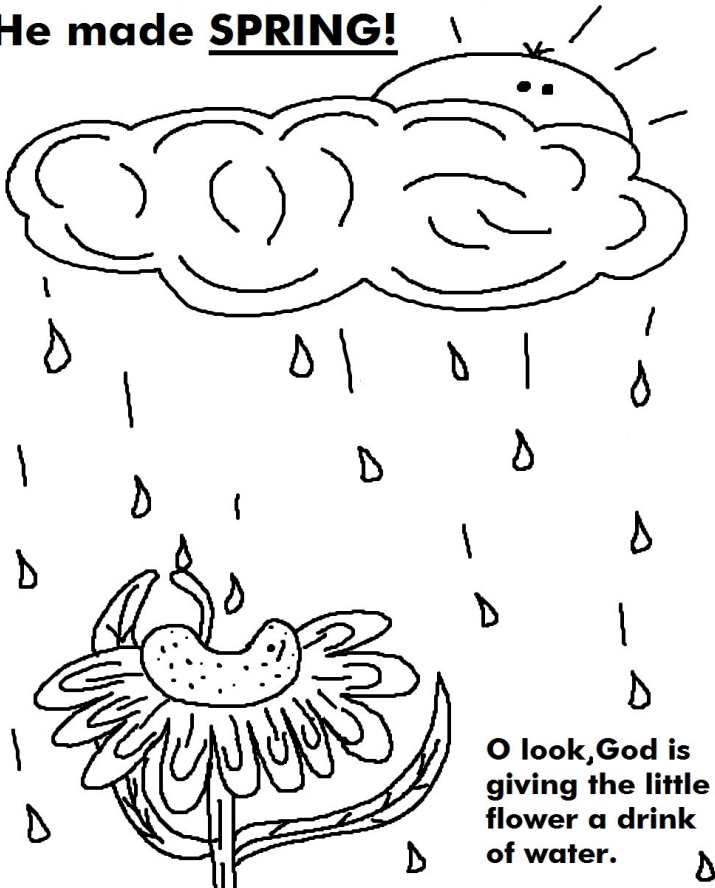




ON THE ROAD TO EASTER WORD SEARCH

H	F	D	J	Z	A	S	H	W	E	D	N	E	S	D	A	Y	H	R	R
N	O	A	G	O	O	D	F	R	I	D	A	Y	J	E	S	B	O	E	E
G	O	L	P	A	S	S	O	V	E	R	P	A	S	F	O	R	L	S	S
T	T	M	Y	B	M	F	J	E	S	U	A	J	A	C	K	A	Y	U	U
N	W	S	P	S	G	O	L	O	V	E	L	E	C	E	D	N	T	R	R
N	A	G	R	A	A	R	L	P	A	L	M	B	R	A	N	C	H	E	R
J	S	I	A	C	F	T	P	L	Y	E	S	E	I	S	O	J	U	S	E
C	H	V	Y	R	O	Y	U	J	Y	N	U	A	F	T	A	E	R	U	C
J	I	I	E	I	R	D	R	R	M	T	N	S	I	E	H	S	S	S	T
A	N	N	R	F	H	A	P	W	D	J	D	T	C	R	X	U	D	W	I
N	G	G	C	X	O	Y	L	W	E	A	A	E	E	Y	G	S	A	Z	O
W	E	D	N	E	L	S	E	H	O	L	Y	W	E	E	K	H	Y	C	N

**God Made The Seasons.
He made SPRING!**



O look, God is giving the little flower a drink of water.

- | | | |
|---------------|---------------|--------------|
| Ash Wednesday | Holy Thursday | Forty Days |
| Sacrifice | Good Friday | Jesus |
| Almsgiving | Holy Saturday | Passover |
| Prayer | Easter | Foot Washing |
| Fasting | Palm Sunday | Resurrection |
| Lent | Purple | |
| Holy Week | Palm Branch | |

**MURPHYSBORO
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**
1500 Pine Street
Murphysboro, IL 62966



AGAPE HOUSE
211 W Lincoln St
DeSoto, IL 62924

**CROSS & FLAME
MINISTRIES**

WORSHIP SCHEDULE:

Sunday Traditional Service: 9:00 a.m.
Sunday Praise Service: 10:30 a.m.
Both Services On-Line
Thursday Prayer Service: 5:15 p.m.

OFFICE HOURS at MUMC

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@gmail.com
Website: www.crossandflameministries.com



Cross and Flame Staff

Ministers The Congregation
Pastor Danny Motta
Minister of Visitation..... Michelle Parker-Clark
Financial Secretary Christine Nolan
Custodian Pat Sullivan

MUMC Site Staff

Ministry Director Michelle Parker-Clark
Church Secretary Melba Ziegler
Pianist/Organist..... Cameron Taylor
Choir Director Elaina Crenshaw
Nursery Attendant Ashlee Sanders/Leah Wachtel
Technology.....Vacant

Agape House Staff:

Children/Youth Ministry..... Vacant
Caretakers.....Mike & Casey Johnstone

Return Service Requested

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Murphysboro, IL 62966