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Hello Murphysboro United Methodist Church. As I considered this morning what message I would share with you for this month’s newsletter, I became stuck. I was undecided and not sure what I would say. I didn’t want to discuss the pandemic. Not because it’s not important, polarizing, or affecting our lives; yes, it’s all those things and more. However, I just have no new thought to share in that regard, nothing to sufficiently move the matter to any resolution. I thought of other pressing political issues, I considered the multiple projects transpiring at the church. You may know that we are engaged in costly HVAC, plumbing, and other property management issues that are both costly and designed to positively affect our congregation moving forward. Nonetheless, I was not inclined this day to expound upon those matters. So, I followed my heart and the confirmation of the same via my wife’s advice when I asked her; “If you were the pastor, what would you say?” She gently replied, “I would say what is on your heart for them to know and become.” It was exactly what I was thinking. So, here it is...:

We live in difficult and polarizing times. The biblical record suggests that things will not get better, but continually worsen. As people of faith, we understand the fallen nature of humanity has transformed God’s world into a living nightmare of lies, greed, hate, the immorality of every kind, and a general negative disposition toward our God whom they have not ever truly known. It would appear that we amongst all people find our situation utterly hopeless. Nothing could be further from true. We are not surprised by the condition of the world, our God did not leave us ignorant of these outcomes, why they exist, and what our role at this moment would be.

We have a hope that far exceeds any political agenda that may be espoused. We have power that allows us to transcend this realm with faith and love. We have an eternal promise which is given to the faithful in Christ which identifies this world as not being our home; ours is eternal in that heavenly realm with God. So today we have hope, power, and promise. These tools will give us the foundation to love self, neighbor, and God above all other things. These tools will continually teach us to define the World, people, and ourselves from the paradigm the Word of God teaches us concerning all things... My heart’s desire is that you slow down and hear and see God in every aspect of your life. Be not like the accursed who resist the Word of God, which is God, until they are turned over to a reprobate mind:

*“¹⁰ When he was alone, those around him with the twelve asked him about the parables. ¹¹ He said to them, “The secret^[m] of the kingdom of God has been given to you. But to those outside, everything is in parables,¹² so that **although they look they may look but not see, and although they hear they may hear but not understand, so they may not repent and be forgiven.**”*

Above all things, my heart for you is that you know God and the peace that knowing provides. My deepest desire for you as a congregation is that you love one another, that you find a way to make space for everyone, and that you love God as He has commanded; “...If you love me, you will keep my commandments...” In other words, keep leaning toward God!

May the God of peace richly bless you,
 Pastor Marty McMichael



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

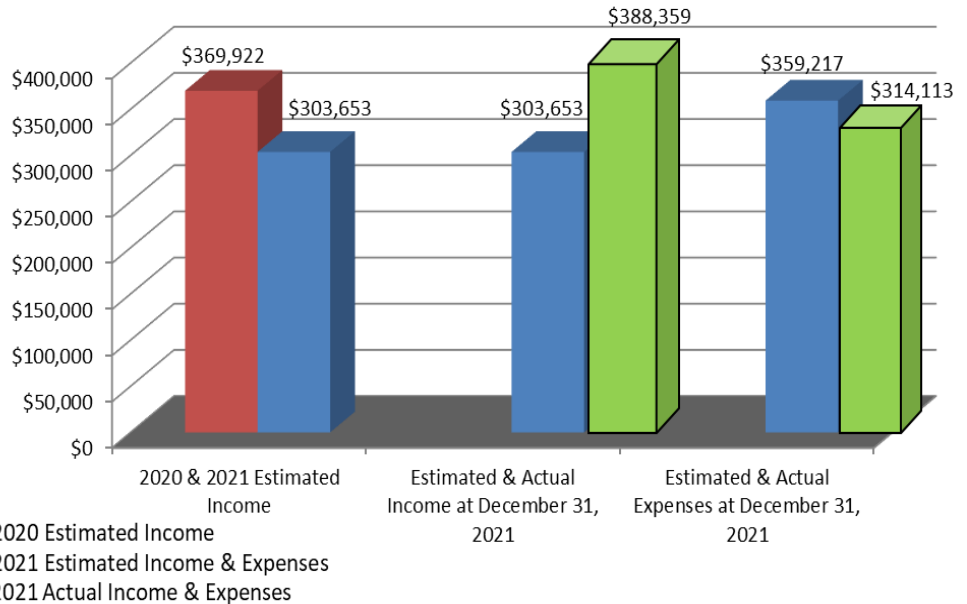


MUMC

2021 FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

Coming Soon:
Results of 2021 Stewardship Program

2020 and 2021 Estimated Income Comparison
and Estimated/Actual Income and Expenses at December 31, 2021



Your Finance Committee is pleased to provide a 2021 Financial Snapshot.

Looking at **2021 MUMC Income which exceeded estimates by \$84,706 (27.9%)**, gifts and other income came in at \$388,359. Drilling down into income, let's first acknowledge those who pledged resources totaling \$185,280 in 2021. Actual dollars received came in at \$181,796, or 98.12% of pledges made—awesome job, pledgers! However, the stellar giving group in 2021 turns out to be those who gave generously but did not pledge. Actual dollars received came in at \$144,670, or \$29,797 over our income estimates. The majority of dollars received over income estimates arrived in the form of a second Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loan in the amount of \$43,630.

Major Sources of \$ Over Income Estimates	
Non-pledge Gifts	\$29,797
PPP Loan	43,630
Total	\$73,427

Giving over and above operations, both monetarily and non-monetarily, deserves mention. Special offerings at Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas, for departing staff and Pastor Appreciation, and holiday flowers amounted to just under another \$10,000. Your non-monetary giving above operations was inspiring last year. Yard sale donations, school supplies and gift cards, candy for children and families events, food donations to funeral dinners and Our Neighbor's Table, blankets for the local warming center, blood donations, items for the Kentucky and Tennessee tornado victims, and many other donations are a testament to this church family reaching out to the unchurched and the sick, hurting and broken—all of whom need to experience the love of Jesus (as we all do).

Looking next at **2021 MUMC Expenses which fell short of estimates by \$45,104 (12.56%)**, spending came in at \$314,113. It would serve little

purpose to itemize all 13 expenses divisions when all but two underspent. It makes more sense to share the top four expenses divisions that underspent (-) and the two that overspent (+).

Major Sources of Spending Under/Over Estimates	
Salaries	-\$14,346 (<2 Mos. spent on Youth Dir.)
Benefits	-10,186 (Pastor Expenses and Health Ins.)
Contractual Staff	-8,518 (Overall underspending)
Children/Youth Form.	-11,584 (Children/Youth programs lacking Youth Director)
Utilities/Upkeep.	+2,858 (Rising costs of insurance)
Church Administration	+2,293 (Increases in office supplies, One Call Now, copier)
Total	\$39,483

The snapshots of income and expenses provided must be merged to develop the full MUMC financial picture. Deducting expenses at \$314,113 from income at \$388,359, our net income picture becomes \$74,246. So we've had a good year, church family. We would be negligent, however, if we failed to point out that PPP loans are in our rear view, and expenses are definitely going up in 2022 if we wish to make disciples. As Christians, we are called by His name. Let us continue to faithfully honor Him by supporting His church with our presence, prayers, witness, service and gifts. God bless and keep you safe!

Any comments or questions you may have and/or requests for additional information can be directed to your 2021 Finance Committee: Nancy Vallino [618/924-3781 (phone or text)], Bob Eaton, Nancy Fager, Nicci Graff, Shannon Green, Vanessa Lirely, Ben Snyder, Terrin Thies, Rob Williams or our Financial Secretary, Christine Nolan.

1	11:00 AM	Staff Meeting	14	10:00 AM	Bible Journaling
	5:30 PM	Youth Ministry Team	15	11:00 AM	Staff Meeting
	6:00 PM	Cub Scouts		6:00 PM	SPRC
2	6:00 PM	Choir		6:00 PM	Cub Scouts
3	5:30 PM	Pound		7:00 PM	Service & Missions
	6:00 PM	Scouts of the Round Table	16	9:00 AM	Nurture & Care
	7:00 PM	GA		6:00 PM	Choir
4	9:00 AM	Stretching w/Rosie	17	5:30 PM	Pound
5	10:00 AM	AA		7:00 PM	GA
6	9:00 AM	Communion Sunday	18	9:00 AM	Stretching w/Rosie
	5:00 PM	Youth Fellowship— Teen Council Vote	19	10:00 AM	AA
7	9:30 AM	Prayers & Squares		10:30 AM	Book Club
8	10:45 AM	YAH on the Road	20	5:00 PM	Youth Fellowship
	11:00 AM	Staff Meeting	21		Office Closed— Presidents Day
	6:00 PM	BOT			Meals on Wheels Week
	6:00 PM	Cub Scouts		9:30 AM	Prayers & Squares
	7:00 PM	Finance	22	11:00 AM	Staff Meeting
9	5:30 PM	Make-up Photo Day		6:00 PM	Cub Scouts
	6:00 PM	Choir	23	9:00 AM	Holy Folders
10	5:30 PM	Pound		6:00 PM	Choir
	7:00 PM	GA	24	5:30 PM	Pound
11	9:00 AM	Stretching w/Rosie		7:00 PM	GA
	9:30 AM	Feeder of the Pack @ Food Pantry	25	9:00 AM	Stretching w/Rosie
12	7:30 AM	UMM Breakfast	26	10:00 AM	AA
	10:00 AM	AA			
	1:00 PM	Church Council/ Mike Crawford			
13	10:30 AM	Make-up Photo Day			



Saturday,
February
12th at 7:30 AM.



The March
compass
deadline is Feb
14th



The Adult Sunday School Class will be continuing the DVD study of *the Rock, the Road, and the Rabbi* by Kathie Lee Gifford with Rabbi Jason Sobel. As Kathie Lee and Rabbi Sobel reveal in this study, Jesus (the Rock) came into this world and walked the lands of Israel (the Road) to show us the way to God. And when we are introduced to the mysteries of God's Word (the Rabbi) and understand it in the context in which it was written, radical transformation begins to renew our hearts and minds. The sessions include: 1) Bethlehem: Where It All Began; 2) Nazareth: The Early Years; 3) Capernaum: Ministry Headquarters; 4) Galilee: Ministry Grounds; 5) Mount of Olives: The Triumphal Entry; 6) Jerusalem: Crucifixion and Resurrection. Adults of all ages are welcome and are encouraged to join us for in depth study and discussion.

Make Up Picture Dates

Feb 9th & Feb 13th



GET READY FOR OUR CHURCH

★PICTORIAL DIRECTORY★

Sign-up on Bulletin Board
or by calling the Church Office

YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

Jr. High & Sr. High meet the 1st & 3rd
Sunday of every month
in Fellowship Hall from 5-7 pm.

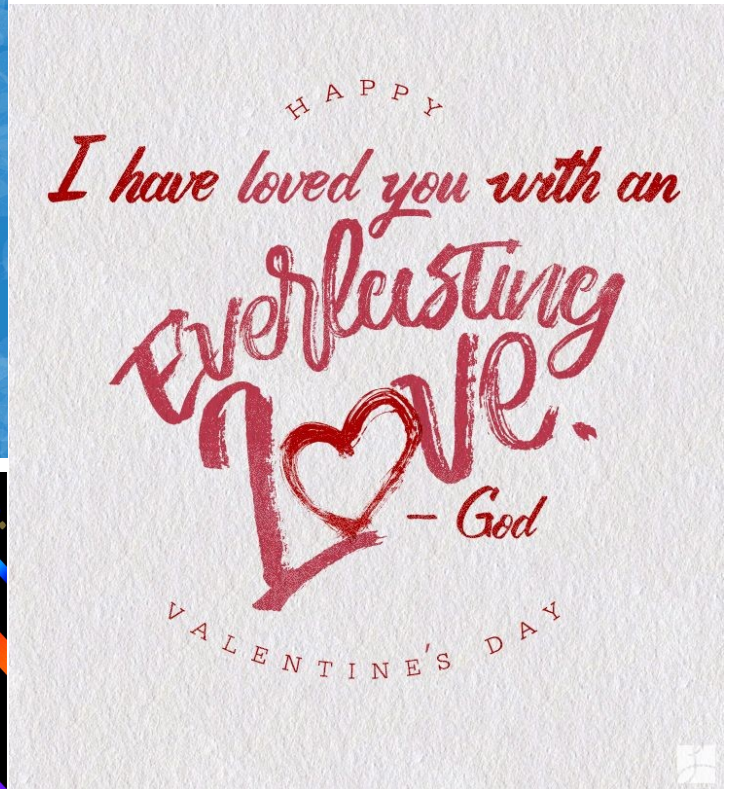
A meal is provided, invite your friends
and come fellowship with us!



What is Meal Train®?
Organized meal giving around significant life events.

What this really means...When a friend is in need, everyone asks "What can I do to help?" The answer is always to provide support through a meal. When many friends provide support through a meal, Meal Train® keeps everyone organized.

If you have further questions about how Meal Train works, or you feel that you and your family could benefit from this kind of support, please contact Michelle Parker-Clark at the church office or at 618/922-3587.



Sermon Series
Jan 30th - Feb 23rd

THE 5 PRACTICES OF
FRUITFUL
CONGREGATIONS



Hospitality ~ Worship ~ Faith
Ministry ~ Generosity

NEW NEW DATE

Sunday, Feb., 6th 5:00 PM



Please come and be a part of this exciting new era in teen ministry at Murphysboro UMC.

All teens are invited to join your teen ministry staff on February the 6th at Youth Group to form the Teen Council!

The Teen Council will be a teen-led body which discusses, designs, and creates ministry opportunities for themselves in the following areas:

- National & local Mission
- Worship Participation
- Teen Church & Teen Sunday's
- Recreational Activities, etc.



The Library Corner: The Good, the Bad, and the Helpful

A Bit of Bad News: We didn't plan it, but the library is basically closed for the time being. The downstairs bathroom work has necessitated closing off part of the hall, which includes the library room. We hope the library will again be available by the end of February.

In addition, for a variety of reasons the church library team has not been able to meet regularly. We regret to say that most of the regular work of the library-- including getting new books on the shelves and available to readers --has halted. We hope that situation too will improve!

But Here is Good News: Pastor Marty has been encouraging church members to read the Bible regularly, and with attention. This is something most of us mean to do, but may find difficult. Maybe a plan would be helpful? The library will offer a drawing for two different types of "Daily" Bibles in February. These Bibles are meant to be used to read the Bible in a year! Can you do it? Look for more information on this drawing early in February.

Something You Can Do: Please keep the Little Free Library (LFL) in mind. For those of you who may not know, the LFL is a small book box on posts which is placed close to the sidewalk and our pavilion on the 16th street side of the church.

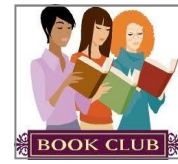
The LFL is an easy-to-use book exchange box that brings a variety of reading materials to the community. People are encouraged not only to take a book or books from the box, but also to leave a book or two they think other people would enjoy.

Lots of people have used the LFL, and we've always been happy with the number of children's books that are taken—but it seems that we don't have as many people stopping by as we once did. We are not sure why, but it may be the lack of newer books. In other words, we need new stock!

Please help. Have you got some newer books on your shelf you don't plan to read again? Try placing one or two of them in the box. Books about faith are always welcome, and so are other types of books—history, sports, cookbooks, mysteries -- and of course

a variety of children's books. And you can also take a book you find interesting. That's the whole idea! Thank you!

MUMC
Saturday
Morning



The Saturday Book Club
Room 202 (or on Zoom!)*
February 19th, 10:30

The Personal Librarian

by Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray

A remarkable novel about J. P. Morgan's personal librarian, Belle da Costa Greene, the Black American woman who was forced to hide her true identity and pass as white in order to leave a lasting legacy that enriched our nation, from *New York Times* bestselling authors Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray.

In her twenties, Belle da Costa Greene is hired by J. P. Morgan to curate a collection of rare manuscripts, books, and artwork for his newly built Pierpont Morgan Library. Belle becomes a fixture in New York City society and one of the most powerful people in the art and book world, known for her impeccable taste and shrewd negotiating for critical works as she helps create a world-class collection.

But Belle has a secret, one she must protect at all costs. She was born not Belle da Costa Greene but Belle Marion Greener. She is the daughter of Richard Greener, the first Black graduate of Harvard and a well-known advocate for equality. Belle's complexion isn't dark because of her alleged Portuguese heritage that lets her pass as white—her complexion is dark because she is African American.

The Personal Librarian tells the story of an extraordinary woman, famous for her intellect, style, and wit, and shares the lengths she must go to—for the protection of her family and her legacy—to preserve her carefully crafted white identity in the racist world in which she lives.

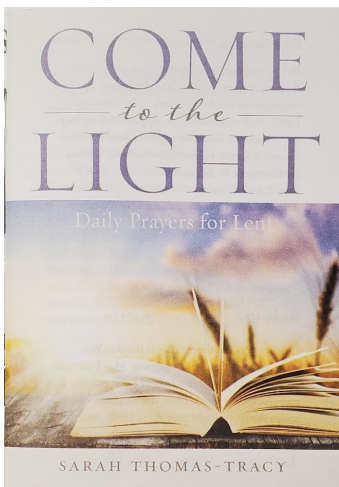
* We love to meet in person, but may meet on Zoom in February, depending on the Covid situation and what the group decides at that time. To be included in the e-mail list and group notices please e-mail susan.patterson37@yahoo.com



14	Paul & Viola Parrish	18	Bill & Mary Slider
15	Kevin & Barbara Howard	22	Charles & Pam Crews



1	Roger Twenhafel	14	Betty Morefield
2	Morgan Krummrich	15	Lynn Pierson
3	Tyler Doody	16	Leah Patterson
4	Joan Bastien	16	Julie Schaldemose
5	Ed Thraikill	18	Ralph Bastien
6	Rhonda Shands	19	Maddie Bean
6	Michelle Thies	22	Paul Parrish
7	Lola Pierson	22	Mila Thies
8	Kyle Hargraves	23	Donna Lynn Horniacek
10	Harold Gibbs	24	Judy Little
11	Doug Bitner	24	Adrienne Will
12	Patti Mills	26	Andrew Gordon
14	Casey Johnstone	29	Joshua Barringer



Lent Book have arrived and will be available for pick-up in the Sanctuary the last 2 weeks of February.



Memo to United Methodist Church of Murphysboro, Il.

Dr. Donald Batz, who served our church in Murphysboro from 1971 to 1978 has announced his official retirement this year follow a career of seventy years in the United Methodist Church ministry in not only our Illinois Great Rivers Conference but also Iowa and Indiana Conferences as well. Two churches Don served during his ministry -- Union Church in Quincy, Illinois and St. Mark's Church in Camanche, Iowa,-- honored him as Pastor Emeritus of their congregations and the Illinois Great Rivers Conference recognized him as the recipient of the Peter Cartwright Award for his distinguished ministry in 2012. He and his wife, Aleta, are now living at 3080 Farmington Road, Lindenhurst, Illinois 60048.

Stretching With Rosie each Friday 9:00 AM

Prayers & Squares Quilting
1st & 3rd Monday of each month
9:30 am in the fellowship Hall
Expert quilters and novice are all encouraged to come. We will make projects for family, friends, those in need in our local communities.



December 14 was a beautiful day for a drive, so we were thrilled to have 26 YAH participants travel to Godfrey, IL for a delicious lunch and shopping, shopping, and more shopping at Josephine's Tea Room and Gift Shops. We even had one birthday to celebrate - check out the birthday boy aka Mike Clark enjoying his decadent dessert. The weather was so nice that we concluded our time there sitting outside around the firepit. It was a perfect ending for a perfect day.

On January 18 YAH was only on the road for a short distance traveling to Gabby's in beautiful downtown Ava, IL. A group of ten enjoyed sandwiches, salads, and soups, in their newly renovated restaurant. We even had our own room with a warm and cozy fireplace. We highly recommend that you try out this local favorite!

On February 8, YAH on the Road will be dining at the historic Giant City Lodge. In addition to good country cooking, the rustic beauty of the lodge creates an atmosphere found nowhere else in Southern Illinois. We will leave the church at 10:45 am for 11:30 am lunch reservations. Come join us for a day of fun, great food, and fellowship. Please contact Michelle Parker-Clark to make your reservation.





Did you know that Sunday School for all ages has returned! Not Sure where to go? See Diane Schingel outside the Children and Youth Area on each Sunday immediately following service. We are also looking for Sunday School Volunteers If you are interested call the Church Office or let Diane know.

We would love to have you all.

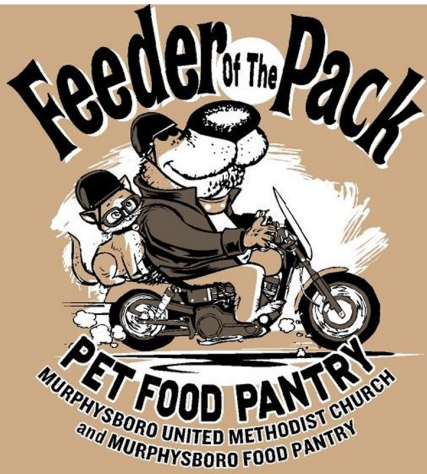
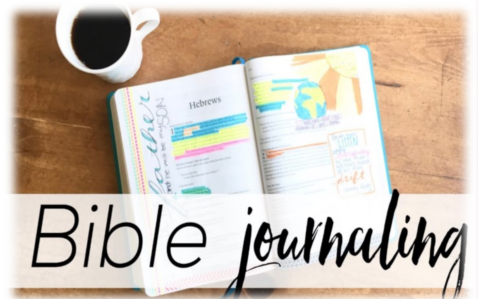


The MUMC Choir is Back



There is no age requirement nor a fee to join. Rehearsals are Wednesday nights from 6-7 pm. Contact Cameron Taylor at cambtay2012@gmail.com or 309-224-1676 for any questions

Mon., Feb 14th at 10:00 am in the Fellowship Hall. Please let Rosie know if you will be attending to ensure there is adequate spacing available.



Meets the 2nd Friday of each month at the Murphysboro Food Pantry at 9:00 am



For God

so *lo*ved the world, that he gave his only *be*gotten *So*n, that *wh*osoever *beli*eveth *in* him should not perish, but have *e*verlasting life.

John 3:16



Bathroom & Elevator Update:

Basement bathroom work is under construction, as the date of this letter the new tile work is being completed.

As for our elevator the part has been ordered and as soon as it is received we will have it back in working order.

December 10, 2021 is a date that our friends and neighbors in states south or Murphysboro will never forget. The tornadoes destroyed lives and property in Kentucky and Tennessee.

Contacts were made by Rick Pierson to deliver items to Mayfield, KY the following week. Our church family was asked to donate essential items that Rick planned to haul to KY in his horse trailer. By Sunday evening the donations were so great that a larger trailer was needed. Roger Twenhafel donated an enclosed 40 ft trailer and a truck to pull it. Monday morning, 12/13 donations continued from throughout our community and work began to load this trailer. Service and Missions Committee approved a \$2,000 donation and pallets of water were loaded and some shopping was done (with help from Phoebe Heller and Lola Pierson) to purchase various sizes of socks, underwear, blankets and etc. Diapers, baby wipes, bath tissue, paper towels, kleenex and lots of toiletries were delivered and loaded. Rick Pierson met me at Rural King and he shopped for guy stuff: tarps, tying cords, butane tanks, chain saw supplies, flashlights and much more.

We met on the parking lot the night of 12/14 for a prayer service and blessings for those that would receive our donations. Early on Wednesday morning driver Rick Pierson, Roger Twenhafel and Michelle Parker-Clark journeyed to Mayfield KY with Richard Pierson, Pastor Marty McMichael and Charlie Pierson in our truck with gas cans to fill and give away in Mayfield. Before they left Murhysboro, PLP Battery provided First Responder Helmet batteries for Richard to also distribute.

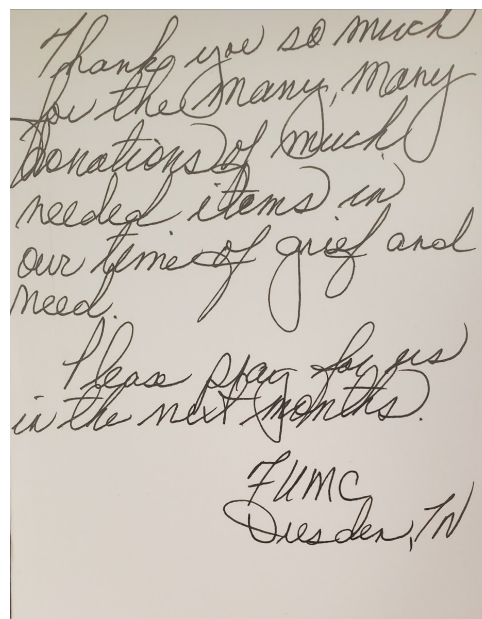
Dresden, TN was needing donations and a second 40ft enclosed trailer and truck were donated by Marty McNitt. This trailer was loaded on Wednesday and Thursday 12/16 Marty McNitt and Dick Graff journeyed to Dresden with Jim Hughes and Jay Graff in Jay's truck. Tyler Doody, Logan and Phoebe Heller, Charlie and Lola Pierson and lots of men and women worked tirelessly in getting all the items sorted and loaded. Donations continues to arrive and were well received. A couple of little bikes were loaded on the trailer and two small children were delighted. I'm sure the coats, clothing and blankets have been appreciated this last month.

We were asked to sponsor some Christmas gifts for families housed in Dawson Springs, KY and again our church family responded!! 12/21 Sharon, Jay and Nikki Graff and I had a great time sorting and wrapping those gifts. On 12/22 Marty and Dolores McNitt and Richard and I delivered the gifts to a lovely wooded setting in the state park that housed many families.

There were many monetary donations given and enabled us to provide lots of towels, washcloths, and plastic storage tubs and other items that were needed.

What a whirlwind of activity for those two weeks. I look back on all of this and am truly amazed at the outpouring of love I witnessed during those busy days. We were the hands and feet of Jesus and you made this happen for our friends. Blessings to **My Church Family and to all who extended their love.**

Lynn Pierson



December and January were busy months for our MUMC Family. Photos below are from just a few of the things they have been up to. Thank you dinner, Tornado relief, Community Christmas Dinner, Decorating our Sanctuary, I'm sure there was so much more. We are blessed to have all of these great volunteers.



MURPHYSBORO UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**1500 Pine Street
Murphysboro, IL 62966**

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

WORSHIP SCHEDULE:

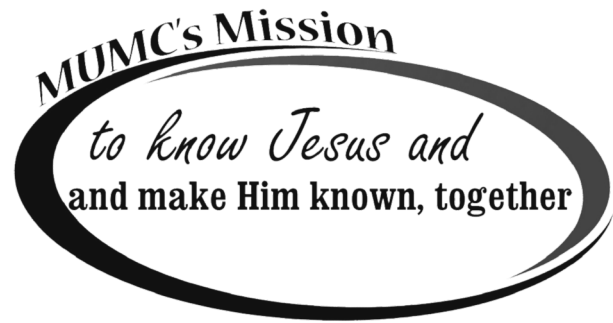
Sunday Service: 9:00 a.m.
Sunday School: 10:15 a.m.



Staff

Ministers The Congregation
Pastor Marty McMichael
Interim Pastor of
Congregational Care..... Michelle Parker-Clark
Financial Secretary Christine Nolan
Custodian Pat Sullivan

Church Secretary..... Melba Ziegler
Pianist/Organist Cameron Taylor
Interim Music Director Cameron Taylor
Nursery Attendant..... Ashlee Sanders
Technology..... Vacant



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Desoto & Murphysboro
United Methodist Churches
1500 Pine Street
Murphysboro, IL 62966**