

Murphysboro United Methodist Church
1500 Pine Street
Murphysboro, IL 62966

Volume 22 Issue 11
December 2024

The COMPASS

ADVENT

Leading up to Christmas day we will celebrate 4 weeks of Advent this year. We will light four candles to define the nature of His coming and proclaim a vicarious birth of our Lord and Savior upon lighting the fifth and final candle. But what might it mean? Beyond what you were taught about its meaning, what might God be communicating to you this year? How might HOPE, PEACE, JOY AND LOVE become alive in your life and become real forces that positively affect the world around you.

Hope suggests much from a biblical perspective. If you hope for a Savior, you concede you require saving. The next logical question is saving from what? The answer is, from yourself (sin) and the subsequent eternal hell assigned to sinners. But what virtue do we obtain through the embracing of hope. We obtain at least the strength of *humility*. You see to admit that something is wrong with oneself that requires help from another is humility. To be intimate with your faults, to own them suggests the capacity to honor the same humanity in others. Hope in this sense creates character that expects personal transformation in Christ while providing room for others to enjoy the same.

"All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned everyone to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all." (Isaiah 53:6)

Peace speaks to an internal and external reordering of our reality so as to positively change feelings and behaviors. Isaiah says that Jesus is the Prince of Peace! Having a Prince of Peace can be difficult to digest when you live in a world infiltrated and overcome with chaos. However, this conflicted concept exhibits the preeminence and power of Christ in your life. Here you rejoice in the impossible; that in the midst of chaos Christ offers peace. In this sense you become more than a conqueror through Him that loves you. Your circumstances may not change, but an abiding hope of understanding overtakes you, and you find peace.

⁷ Casting all your care upon him; for he cares for you. (1Peter 5:7)

Joy is characterized by a happiness unrelated to external realities and wholly centered on the nature and promises of God. However, the Joy Candle is wholly celebrating God and what He is doing, the birth of His son, in the world. Joy suggests that you have dynamic power and not limited to a happy expectation of God, but also His manifestation in your life! Your life in Christ is content with little, but this joy rejoices because God has added much!

⁹ When they had heard the king, they departed; and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was.¹⁰ When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy.¹¹ And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense and myrrh.¹² And being warned of God in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed into their own country another way.

Love is characterized by an unmerited favor which pervades your life, even redefining the very nature of thought, feeling, and action as one ponders the remarkable depth of God's love for humanity. You become fully human because of this love; spiritually and emotionally. Love on this level suggests your capacity to heal all things, bare all things, share all things, and be all things for another.

¹⁶ For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

¹⁷ For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. (John 3:16-17)

Advent is not what happened, church. Advent is who you are becoming and what you will be. Advent is a barometer for our spiritual and interpersonal lives, gauging in a juxtaposed fashion the heart of God to your very own. Advent for you is not a season, but a way of life. Amen

Sincerely,
Marty McMichael
Sr. Pastor

MUMC Calendar

1		1st Sunday of Advent	10	4:45pm	Young at Heart	18	5:30pm	Choir
	5:00pm	Youth Christmas Party		6:00pm	Cub Scouts		7:00pm	NA Meeting
2	5:45pm	SS Team	11	5:30pm	Choir	19	7:00pm	GA Meeting
3	11:00am	Staff Meeting		7:00pm	Bible Study	20	9:00am	Stretching w/Rosie
	6:00pm	Cub Scouts		7:00pm	NA Meeting	21	9:00am	Hand Bells
4	9:00am	Nurture & Care	12	7:00pm	GA Meeting		10:00am	AA Meeting
	5:30pm	Choir	13	9:00am	Stretching w/Rosie	22		4th Sunday of Advent
	7:00pm	Bible Study	14	7:30am	UMM Breakfast		9:00am	March to the Manger
	7:00pm	NA Meeting		9:00am	Hand Bells	23	2:30pm	Grief & Loss Support
5	6:00pm	Scouts of the Round Table		10:00am	AA Meeting	24	7:00pm	Candle Light Service
	7:00pm	GA Meeting	15		3rd Sunday of Advent	25		Merry Christmas
6	9:00am	Stretching w/Rosie		6:00pm	MUMC Christmas Showcase	26	7:00pm	GA Meeting
7	9:00am	Hand Bells	16		Meals on Wheels Week	27	9:00am	Stretching w/Rosie
	10:00am	AA Meeting		5:45pm	SS Team	28	9:00am	Hand Bells
8		2nd Sunday of Advent	17	11:00am	Staff Meeting		10:00am	AA Meeting
9	2:30pm	Grief & Loss Support		6:00pm	SAS Meeting	29	Noon	Our Neighbors Table
	4:00pm	Bible Journaling		6:00pm	Cub Scouts	30		
				7:00pm	Service & Mission	31		Happy New Year



Reminder the office is open by appointment only the week between Christmas and New Years.



HAPPY Anniversary

1	John & Patti Mills
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Reminder No January
Compass
Calendars will be
printed and available
on back table in
Sanctuary .

Merry
CHRISTMAS



1	Janis Crews	15	Cindy Presley
2	Charlie McNitt	17	Terri Yates
3	Kaitlyn Bitner	20	Eliza Hernan
4	Rene Doody	20	Mark Twenhafel
4	Rosalie Winters	21	Everlee Stewart
6	Jerry Crews	22	James Poole
7	Kellie Ellis	22	Todd Sievert
7	Mary Slider	24	Bob Hall
8	Elisabeth Stewart	24	Jon Lough
8	Nancy Tillitt	24	Carrie Schwoerer
12	Brandon Graeff	25	Samuel Sievert
12	Connor Graeff	25	Terrin Thies
12	Rosie Wece	27	Lisa Huppert
13	Holly Fletcher	27	Nancy McNitt
13	Kathy Ripley	29	John Mills
14	Mike Clark	30	Trina Eaton
14	John Vallino		

The Saturday Book Club
Church Library
January 18th, 10:00 a.m.

(Note: The Book Club will not meet in December)

This Is Happiness
By Niall Williams

The rain is stopping. Nobody in the small, forgotten village of Faha remembers when it started; rain on the western seaboard was a condition of living. Now—just as Father Coffey proclaims the coming of electricity—it is stopping.

Seventeen-year-old Noel Crowe is standing outside his grandparents' house shortly after the rain has stopped when he encounters Christy for the first time. Though he can't explain it, Noel knows right then: *something has changed*. This is the story of all that was to follow: Christy's long-lost love and why he had come to Faha, Noel's own experiences falling in and out of love, and the endlessly postponed arrival of electricity—a development that, once complete, would leave behind a world that had not changed for centuries.

Niall Williams' latest novel is an intricately observed portrait of a community. Luminous and otherworldly, and yet anchored with deep-running roots into the earthy and the everyday, *This Is Happiness* is about stories as the very stuff of life.

**ALL CHILDREN & YOUTH K - 12
CHRISTMAS PARTY**

Sunday, Dec 1st
5:00 pm
in Fellowship Hall

Join us for
Treats, Games,
& Fellowship

**Bring a \$10 gift for
the gift exchange!**

For more information contact
Melanie Harp or see Bulletin/Compass

**MUMC CHIRSTMAS
SHOWCASE**

Sunday, Dec., 15th at 6pm

To include performances by our
Sunday School Children, Chancel Choir,
and many more.
Join us for a night of
Christmas Celebration!

MURPHYSBORO
Hometown Christmas
TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY

Friday, December 6th at 6:00pm

CARL LEE PARK, MURPHYSBORO, ILLINOIS

After the Hometown Christmas
Tree Lighting Ceremony on Dec., 6th
our MUMC Chancel Choir will be singing at the
corner of 19th & Pine Street from 6:00 - 6:25 pm.
Stop by and show them our support,
you can even join in if you like.
Contact any choir member for more information.

**March to the
Manger**

Sunday, December 22nd

Special Offering Will Be Collected

Get your Poinsettias
in Honor of, or in
Memory of

\$15.00 each orders due to
office by December 16th.

Order forms can be
found in your December
Compass, weekly
bulletins & your weekly
bulletin email.

**Christmas
Special Offering
Murphysboro Food
Pantry**

The Special Offering Envelopes
will be in your Dec 15th Bulletin
and will collected during March
to the Manger on December 22nd.

Christmas Eve
CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

December 24th at 7:00 pm

**Community Christmas
Dinner
Volunteers Needed**

Dec., 22nd, 23rd, & 24th
to set-up, decorate,
organize, prep work, &
donations of desserts.

Dec., 25th
to cook, serve, visit,
deliver meals, &
clean-up.

To volunteer or for more information contact
Jennifer O'Donnel at 618-534-3822.

Volunteers for the Month

Usher Teams		
Date	Team	Names
1st	3	Patti Mills, John Mills, Rosie Wece, John Erbes, Andy McNitt, Todd Doody
8th	3	Patti Mills, John Mills, Rosie Wece, John Erbes, Andy McNitt, Todd Doody
15th	2	Todd Lirely, Vanessa Lirely, Sandy Herring, Ed Thraikill, Dan Bratton
22nd	2	Todd Lirely, Vanessa Lirely, Sandy Herring, Ed Thraikill, Dan Bratton
29th	1	Rick Runge, Matt Hardwig, Jim Hughes, Mike Clark, Nancy Fager, Tim Imhoff

Welcome Center/Greets	
1st	Kathy Blackwell
8th	Kathy Blackwell
15th	Carolyn Sauer
22nd	Patti Mills
29th	Julie Erbes

Breakthrough Prayer/Scripture Reader	
1st	Pending
8th	Pending
15th	Pending
22nd	Pending
29th	Pending

Acolytes	
1st	Pending
8th	Pending
15th	Pending
22nd	Pending
29th	Pending

Advent Readers	
1st	Gene Schwebel & Pat Thraikill
8th	The Lirely Family
15th	The Voss Family
22nd	The Imhoff Family

End of Week VolunTERS	
6th	Janet Porter
13th	Nancy Fager
20th	Sharon Jones
27th	Terri Twenhafel



Seekers

During the month of December the Seekers Adult Sunday School Class will be taking a break from their study of Adam Hamilton's Revival. Beginning December 1st the class will begin the Advent Bible study - Who Needs Christmas - by Andy Stanley. In this (4) session study, bestselling author Andy Stanley explores the details behind the birth of Christ and why it's important to understand today. The Seekers Adult Sunday School Class is open to adults of all ages who are invited, and encouraged, to attend for a time of study, discussion, fellowship, and prayer.



Young at Heart

Young at Heart will be back on the road for a special evening/holiday event on Tuesday, December 10. We will depart the MUMC parking lot at 4:45 pm for 5:30 pm reservations at Alongi's Italian Restaurant in DuQuoin. Alongi's is a longtime local establishment serving up traditional Italian fare, including pizza, pasta, and their housemade salad dressing. After dinner we will visit the Annual Holiday Lights Fair at the DuQuoin State Fairgrounds featuring over three miles of lighted displays - bigger and better than ever. Join us for a fun and festive evening with YAH on the Road, and don't forget to invite a friend!



ALL CHILDREN & YOUTH K - 12 CHRISTMAS PARTY

Sunday, Dec 1st
5:00 pm
in Fellowship Hall





Join us for
Treats, Games,
& Fellowship

Bring a \$10 gift for the gift exchange!

For more information contact
Melanie Harp or see Bulletin/Compass

Calling all kids Kindergarten and up (K-2 kiddos, bring a parent along for the fun)! Get ready to Jingle & Mingle

at a night packed with:

-  Exciting
-  Games
-  Delicious Treats
-  A Super-Fun Gift Exchange!

Here's how the gift exchange works: • Bring a wrapped gift that could be enjoyed by any child, boy or girl, (under \$10) and join the fun!

Annual Murphysboro Community Christmas Dinner Needs YOU!

We are looking for desserts and volunteers. Cakes, cookies, brownies, or dairy free pies, either home baked or store bought are needed at the KC Hall on the 24th by 2pm. Contact Jennifer at 618-534-3822 or sign up on the attendance pad at church.



Community Christmas Dinner Volunteers Needed

December 19th, 22nd, 23rd, & 24th to Set-up, Decorate, Organize, Prep work, & Donations of Desserts

December 25th to Cook, Serve, Visit, Deliver Meals, & Clean-up.

To Volunteer or for more information contact
Jennifer O'Donnel at 618-534-3822

THANK YOU

We had a great turnout for the All Church Thanksgiving Potluck on Sunday, November 17, with wonderful food and fellowship. Thank you to everyone who participated in anyway - bringing food, guests, or just bringing yourself! Also, a very special thank you goes out to the Nurture and Care/Women's Ministries Team for planning, organizing, set up, decorating, and clean up. You do a tremendous job, ladies, so please know how much your hard work is valued and appreciated by your church family. God bless you! Michelle



TITHE AND OFFERING OPTIONS

Hello church. As you may be aware, General Conference 2024 saw significant changes in the LGBTQ stance the United Methodist Church had traditionally taken. This new stance means that district and conference funds will be used to affirm and promote the LGBTQ ideology. The church is in many ways still divided on the issue. Some see this as a blessing and others view this as sin.

The purpose of this correspondence is not to argue either side. Our goal is to inform you of new giving options the SAS Board for Murphysboro UMC has created, which allows each individual to give according to their conscious without sacrificing one's theological stance or support of the local church. Basically, we have created two giving options:

LOCAL CHURCH ONLY

LOCAL CHURCH/DISTRICT & CONFERENCE

'LOCAL CHURCH ONLY' means that your entire offering will be used to manage your local church. In this instance, Murphysboro United Methodist Church alone. No funds will be directed toward the district or conference.

'LOCAL CHURCH/DISTRICT & CONFERENCE' means that your entire offering will be divided amongst the 3 entities listed; your local church, which is Murphysboro UMC, the South District of the Illinois Great River Conference, and IGRC itself. The portions will be determined by the percentage designated by the IGRC for apportionments. (see next page)

Please be advised that the board has unanimously voted YES in approving this giving option. The new giving envelopes will reflect these options, online giving will be updated as well to reflect the options. If you use neither, we ask that you identify on your check, money order, or envelope/package you use to give what your preference is.

It is the hope of the SAS Board that this will allow all to give in support of the local church, Murphysboro UMC, and preserve what we have created here despite the difference of opinions on the subject. We are a church, and the Bible is still our center. Subsequently, we encourage everyone to search the scriptures and learn for yourself what God requires. Grow in Christ first and the church will grow as a result.

Sincerely Yours,

SAS Board Chair	Sr. Pastor
<i>Rick Runge</i>	Marty McMichael

IGRC 2025 Apportionment Calculation

Year-End Reporting

At the beginning of each year the local church completes their statistical data through AC Stats reporting. There are three electronic forms to fill out named Table I, Table II and Table III.

Table II Operational Expenses Used in Apportionment Calculation

The church reports expenditures on Table II of AC Stats. The numbers reported on lines 39-47 are the salaries, benefits, programming and operational expenses of the church. The 2025 apportionment calculation uses the 2023 information.

Line 39 = Direct-Billed Benefits for clergy (usually Pension, but not Health Insurance)

Line 40 = Direct-Billed Health Insurance (church portion of the bill, for the IGRC the healthcare allowance is used)

Line 41a = Pastor's Salary

Line 41b = Associate pastor's salary (if one is present)

Line 41c = Deacon's salary (if one is present)

Line 42 = Housing, utilities and other cash allowances paid for/to the pastor or pastors

Line 43 = Accountable Reimbursements (including travel) paid to the pastor

Line 44 = Other Cash allowances to/for the pastor that are not in an accountable reimbursement plan

Line 45 = Salary & Benefits for Diaconal Ministers (if present) and other staff compensation (usually lay staff)

Line 46 = Current expenses for program (including Church School)

Line 47 = Other current operating expenses (e.g., building insurance, utilities, maintenance)

What is absent from the calculation are any expenses associated with new building costs, capital improvements, debt service, apportionments, missions, or other benevolent causes. Please note membership and attendance has no bearing on the calculation.

Apportionment Percentage Calculation

Lines 39-47 are added together for the individual church operational expense dollar total. The 2024 Annual Conference approved 11.50% for the apportionment percentage.

2023 Annual Conference approves 11.50% as the 2025 Apportionment Percentage

Each church uses the same approved percentage of their operational expenses. The 2025 percentage is 11.50%. For comparison, the 2024 percentage is 12.96%. The percentage of this calculation for each church is rounded a whole dollar amount to be paid each month. Since 2012, the apportionment percentage has been between 12-15% of the local church operational expense. 11.5% is the lowest percentage in the IGRC history.

Apportionment Dollar Calculation

The Apportionment percentage is the same for each church, however the Apportionment percentage is multiplied by the total operational expense of each church. Each church has a different operational expense resulting in a different apportionment amount.

Individual Church Operational Expenses (sum of lines 39-47) X Apportionment Percentage (2025 = 11.50%) = Local Church Apportionment Dollars

A local church Apportionment can change from year to year due to a change in the local church operational expenses, and the Annual Conference approved IGRC Annual Budget and apportionment percentage.

Apportionment Statements

The monthly apportionment statement is your share of the Conference Budget which has been approved by the members of the Annual Conference. Please note the apportionments are based on local church reporting. The Finance and Administration office never questions a report submitted by the local church.

Error in Reporting for Apportionment Calculation

If a church thinks they made an AC Stats error in reporting, an email request must be sent to the Conference Council of Finance and Administration (CCFA) for consideration to mpotts@igrc.org. CCFA only considers requests for the current and future year.

Thank you for your support in financially supporting the United Methodist Church mission through the Illinois Great Rivers Conference, *To Make Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World!*

If you have any questions, please contact:

Rev. Mike Potts

Director of Finance and Administrative Services

217-529-2132 • mpotts@igrc.org

Thank you to all who helped in any way for the funeral dinner for Margie. Your time and thoughtfulness are much appreciated by our family

We also want to Thank you all so much for hosting the Hospitality Room during Margie's funeral. It was very kind and much appreciated by our family.

Bob & DeAnn Stilley and Family.

thank you

Radical Hospitality Team Forming Now!

Remember the term Radical Hospitality? Is it time to return to that policy? We're working with the security team to hopefully make our church open, welcoming and safe.



If you're interested in helping please call or text Vern Cline @ 618-303-2336 or email laverne_cline@yahoo.com.

Our Neighbor's Table

FREE Community Meal
the last Sunday of every month starting at 12:00 noon in the Murphysboro United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall. 1500 Pine Street.

December Meal
Chicken & Dumplings,
Green Beans, Cupcakes
& Cookies!

Everyone welcome!



Christmas Poinsettia and Christmas Memorial

If you wish to order a Poinsettia for our church sanctuary, please fill out the form below and return it to the church office or mail it to the church. Orders must be received by noon on Monday, December 16. Please enclose payment with your order. Please make checks payable to MUMC. The cost of each is \$15.00.

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

From: _____

Enclosed: _____

_____ Yes, I would like a poinsettia

_____ Yes, I want to keep my poinsettia and I will pick it up after the candle light service on Dec., 24th

_____ No poinsettia, donation only but please list information noted above.



Murphysboro United Methodist Church
 1500 Pine Street
 Murphysboro, IL 62966

Office Hours

Mon 9am—Noon
 Tue—Thu 9am—2pm

Bible Study

Wed-7pm

Worship Schedule

Sundays-9am
 Sunday School—10:15am

Youth Fellowship

1st & 3rd Sundays-5pm



*MUMC CHIRSTMAS
 SHOWCASE*

Sunday, Dec., 15th at 6pm

*To include performances by our
 Sunday School Children, Chancel Choir,
 and many more.
 Join us for a night of
 Christmas Celebration!*



*March to the
 Manger*

Sunday, December 22nd

Special Offering Will Be Collected