

The Advent wreath is given in memory of Kevin Douglas Vincent, by Janet Vincent and his family .

Using their Gifts to Serve in December:

Deacon of the Month of December:	Charlie Cole/Tommy Bird
November Radio Ministry Sponsor:	Don and Lynn Johnson
Opening of the Church in December:	Steve Fowler
Ushers for December:	Don Johnson, Wayne Brown, Bruce Brown, and Bob Turner
Caregiver for December 3-16:	Patty Joyner

This Week at Murfreesboro Baptist Church . . .

Sun.	Radio Broadcast, 98.3	10:00 A.M.	Wed.	Choir Practice	6:00 P.M.
	Worship	11:00 A.M.			

We will be receiving the CBF Offering for Global Missions throughout the month of December. Please make checks payable to MBC and mark your offering “Global Missions”.

Chowan University invites you to attend Christmas at Chowan this afternoon at 3:00 p.m. at the McDowell Columns Hall, Turner Auditorium. The concert is free and open to the public. In lieu of admission, please bring a toy to donate for our Hertford County children.

Big Wednesday for December has been canceled due to a crowded holiday calendar.

Thank you to the volunteers who have beautifully decorated the sanctuary and church grounds for the seasons of Advent and Christmas.

The Annual Christmas Angel Tree is located in the foyer near the elevator. If you would like to be “A Christmas Angel” to a local child this Christmas, please take an Angel off the tree and sign the sign-in sheet on the lectern by the number you have chosen. Wrap all gifts, place in large bag and attach the Angel tag to the bag. All gifts should be returned to the church by December 15.

Please help us ensure that families in our area have a wonderful Christmas Dinner. White Christmas Box donations are now being accepted. Donations of foods and/or funds enable us to continue this important ministry. Food items needed are one pound blocks of cheese, canned green beans, corn, peas, collards, cranberry sauce, candied yams, rice, fruit, gravy, stuffing mix, brownie mix, cake mix, and frosting. You may also contribute by adopting a box for \$25.00. Mark your donations “White Christmas Box”. Let’s do our part to bring spiritual and physical nourishment to local families this holiday season. We will be providing for at least 15 families. Deadline is Sunday, December 17.

Please join us on Saturday, December 9 from 2 to 4 p.m. for a baby shower for Sarahi and Cody Blackburn in the Fellowship Hall. They are expecting twin girls in May. They are registered at Walmart. They wanted to emphasize a gift is not an obligation, they just want to see everyone!

If you are looking for a way to help local families, the church food pantry is in need of volunteers willing to donate food items. The sign-up sheet is located on the bulletin board next to the pantry in the fellowship hall.

Please remember these friends who cannot worship with us regularly:

Phil Royce Janet Collins Bern Davenport Tom and Ann Caulkins Randy and Cheryl Whitley

200 West Main Street
Email: office@murfbc.org

Contact us at:
252-398-3613
Website: www.murfbc.org

Murfreesboro, NC 27855

Murfreesboro Baptist Church

The Lord’s Day, December 3, 2023

First Sunday of Advent



Dr. Mark E. Gaskins, Pastor

Mrs. Paula Pressnell, Organist and Choir Director

Rev. Thomas Caulkins, Pastor Emeritus

<i>We Gather to Worship</i>		
Prelude	<i>Once He Came in Blessing</i>	arr. Michael Burkhard
Words of Welcome		Dr. Mark Gaskins
The Lord be with you! And also with you!		
Ministry Opportunities		Dr. Gaskins
Call to Worship	Lighting of the Advent Wreath	The Gallop Family
Advent Hymn No. 79	<i>O Come, O Come, Emmanuel</i> (verse 1)	VENI EMMANUEL
O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.		
Litany of Invocation	Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 (NRSV)	
Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock! You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh. Stir up your might, and come to save us! Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved.		
O LORD God of hosts, how long will you be angry with your people’s prayers? You have fed them with the bread of tears, and given them tears to drink in full measure. You make us the scorn of our neighbors; our enemies laugh among themselves. Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.		
But let your hand be upon the one at your right hand, the one whom you made strong for yourself. Then we will never turn back from you; give us life, and we will call on your name. Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.		

<i>We Hear God’s Word</i>		
*Hymn of Praise No. 88	<i>Blest Be the God of Israel</i>	MERLE'S TUNE
Children’s Sermon		Ms. Sarah Davis
Epistle Lesson	1 Corinthians 1:3-9	Dr. Gaskins
The Word of God, for the People of God. Thanks be to God.		

The Church at Prayer		
Call to Prayer The Prayers of the People The Lord’s Prayer (<i>trespasses</i>)		
*Hymn of Thanksgiving No. 81	<i>Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence</i>	PICARDY
Thanksgiving with Our Tithes and Offerings		
Offertory Sentence		Dr. Gaskins
Offertory	<i>The Father's Rose</i>	arr. Mark Hayes
*Doxology 706	<i>Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow</i>	OLD 100 TH
*Offertory Prayer		Dr. Gaskins
Gospel Lesson	Mark 13:24-37	Dr. Gaskins
The Word of the Lord. Praise His Holy Name!		
Message in Song	<i>Christmas Is Coming</i>	Joel Raney
Scripture and Sermon	Isaiah 64:1-12	Dr. Gaskins
Longing for Deliverance		

We Respond to God’s Word

*Hymn of Response No. 84	<i>The People Who in Darkness Walked</i>	BEREDEN VAG FOR HERRAN
Prayer of Thanksgiving and Commitment		Dr. Gaskins

We Go Forth with God’s Blessing

Commission and Benediction		
**Postlude	<i>Comfort, Comfort These My People</i>	arr. Michael Burkhardt
<i>*Please stand as you are able. **Please remain seated until the conclusion of the music.</i>		

To our guests this morning . . .

In the name of Jesus Christ, we welcome you to worship today at Murfreesboro Baptist Church. We believe that worshiping God together is the most important thing we do as a church, strengthening our faith and drawing our attention to God, who created us, calls us, and sustains us by the power of the Holy Spirit. We encourage active participation in worship through responsive readings, corporate prayer, giving our tithes and offerings, and singing the hymns together.

As Baptists, we emphasize the reading and preaching of the Bible, God’s written word. We also practice believers’ baptism, and invite those who are not already believers to make a public profession of faith in Jesus as Lord and Savior. We frequently share the Lord’s Supper, which is open to all baptized Christians.

As members of the larger body of Christ, we affirm our kinship with our fellow believers in other traditions and around the world by following the seasons of the Christian year. We are now in the season of Advent. The color for the season is purple, symbolizing the royalty of the coming King and our penitence as we prepare to greet him.