

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.		Kids’ Club	6:00 P.M. - 6:45 P.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”.

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 Thursday, December 14.

We will be participating in the Annual Fuel Assistance Program once again this year. Please see the insert in today’s bulletin for details.

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 Monday, December 18.

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.

In Memory of James Guy Revelle, Jr.: Gertrude Revelle and Children

*Please remember these friends who cannot worship with us regularly:*

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

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

Murfreesboro, NC 27855

# Murfreesboro Baptist Church

The Lord’s Day, December 10, 2023

*Second 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>Hail to the Lord's Anointed</i>	arr. Henry Balcombe
Words of Welcome		Dr. Mark Gaskins
The Lord be with you! <b>And also with you!</b>		
Ministry Opportunities		Dr. Gaskins
Call to Worship	Lighting of the Advent Wreath	The Cole Family
Advent Hymn No. 79	<i>O Come, O Come, Emmanuel</i> (verse 1 & 2)	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.		
O come, Thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by Thine advent here; Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.		
Litany of Assurance	Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13 (NRSV)	
LORD, you were favorable to your land; you restored the fortunes of Jacob.		
<b>You forgave the iniquity of your people; you pardoned all their sin.</b>		
Let me hear what God the LORD will speak, for he will speak peace to his people, to his faithful, to those who turn to them in their hearts.		
<b>Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him, that glory may dwell in our land.</b>		
Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; righteousness and peace will kiss each other. Faithfulness will spring up from the ground, and righteousness will look down from the sky.		
<b>The Lord will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase. Righteousness will go before him, and will make a path for his steps.</b>		

<i>We Hear God's Word</i>		
*Hymn of Praise No. 87	<i>Arise, Your Light Is Come</i>	FESTAL SONG
Children's Sermon		Ms. Sarah Davis
Epistle Lesson	2 Peter 3:8-15a	Dr. Gaskins
The Word of God, for the People of God. <b>Thanks be to God.</b>		

The Church at Prayer		
Call to Prayer The Prayers of the People The Lord's Prayer ( <i>trespasses</i> )		
*Hymn of Thanksgiving No. 89	<i>Comfort, Comfort Ye My People</i>	PSALM 42
Thanksgiving with Our Tithes and Offerings		
Offertory Sentence		Dr. Gaskins
Offertory	<i>The First Noel</i>	arr. Danny Calhoun
*Doxology 706	<i>Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow</i>	OLD 100 <sup>TH</sup>
*Offertory Prayer		Dr. Gaskins
Gospel Lesson	Mark 1:1-8	Dr. Gaskins
The Word of the Lord. <b>Praise His Holy Name!</b>		
Message in Song	<i>Prepare the Way!</i>	Lloyd Larson
Scripture and Sermon	Isaiah 40:1-11 Comforting Voices	Dr. Gaskins

<i>We Respond to God's Word</i>		
*Hymn of Response No. 107	<i>O Little Town of Bethlehem</i>	ST. LOUIS
Prayer of Thanksgiving and Commitment		Dr. Gaskins

<i>We Go Forth with God's Blessing</i>		
Commission and Benediction		
**Postlude	<i>He Is Born</i>	French Carol
<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.