

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 7-30:	Charlie and Dell Aycock

This Week at Murfreesboro Baptist Church . . .

Sun.	Radio Broadcast, 98.3	10:00 A.M.	Tues.	Food Bank of the Albemarle	2:30 P.M.
	Worship	11:00 A.M.			

The Food Bank of the Albemarle will be here on Tuesday, December 19. Volunteers are needed and should arrive by 2:20 p.m.

Please join us for our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service on December 24 at 5:30 p.m.

Fuel Assistance Program: Murfreesboro Baptist Church will once again participate in the Fuel Assistance Program. Your donations will help families pay for home heating costs that they might otherwise not be able to pay. If you would like to contribute, please make check payable to Murfreesboro Baptist Church and mark your donation “Fuel Assistance”. The deadline for donating is Wednesday, December 20.

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”.

Thank you to everyone who supported MBC Angel Tree and spread the Christmas the joy and love of Christ this season.

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.

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 17, 2023

Third Sunday of Advent



Dr. Mark E. Gaskins, Pastor

Mrs. Paula Pressnell, Organist and Choir Director

Rev. Thomas Caulkins, Pastor Emeritus

We Gather to Worship

Prelude *In Dulci Jubilo* Bach/Paxton

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 Saner Family

Advent Hymn No. 79 *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* (verse 1, 2, & 3) 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.

O come, Thou Wisdom from on high, and order all things, far and nigh;
To us the path of knowledge show, and cause us in her ways to go.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Litany of Invocation Psalm 126 (NRSV)
When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream.

**Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy;
then it was said among the nations, “The LORD has done great things for them.”**

The LORD has done great things for us, and we rejoiced.

Restore our fortunes, O LORD, like the watercourses in the Negeb.

May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy.

**Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing,
shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying their sheaves.**

We Hear God’s Word

*Hymn of Praise No. 103 *O Come, All Ye Faithful* ADESTE FIDELES

Children’s Choir *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

Children’s Sermon Dr. Gaskins

Epistle Lesson 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 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 (*trespasses*)

*Hymn of Thanksgiving No. 132 *It Came Upon the Midnight Clear* CAROL

Thanksgiving with Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory Sentence Dr. Gaskins
Offertory *Joy to the World!* Handel/Larson
*Doxology 706 *Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow* OLD 100TH
*Offertory Prayer Dr. Gaskins

Gospel Lesson John 1:6-8, 19-28 Dr. Gaskins
The Word of the Lord.
Praise His Holy Name!

Message in Song *Mary, Did You Know?* Greene/Hayes

Scripture and Sermon Isaiah 61:1-9 Dr. Gaskins
“Instead”

We Respond to God’s Word

*Hymn of Response No. 126 *Angels from the Realms of Glory* REGENT SQUARE

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Commitment Dr. Gaskins

We Go Forth with God’s Blessing

Commission and Benediction

**Postlude *Go! Tell It on the Mountain* Spiritual/Paxton

**Please stand as you are able. **Please remain seated until the conclusion of the music.*

To our guests this morning . . .

In the name of Jesus Christ, we welcome you to worship today at Murfreesboro Baptist Church. We believe that worshipping 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.