Using their Gifts to Serve in December:

Deacon of the Month of December: December Radio Ministry Sponsor: Opening of the Church in December:

Ushers for December:

Charlie Cole/Tommy Bird Don and Lynn Johnson Steve Fowler

Don Johnson, Wayne Brown, Bruce

Brown, and Bob Turner Charlie and Dell Aycock

Caregiver for December 7-30:

This Week at Murfreesboro Baptist Church . . .

 Sun.
 Radio Broadcast, 98.3
 10:00 A.M.

 Worship
 11:00 A.M.

 Wed.
 Kids' Club
 6:00 - 6:45 P.M.

 Choir Practice
 6:00 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".

Please join us as we will will be observing Communion on Epiphany Sunday, January 7, 2024.

If anyone with children under the age of five desires a nursery during the worship service, please speak to an usher and they will let Sarah Davis know, and she will go to the nursery. Thank you.

The children will once again participate in the Souper Bowl of Caring. We will collect cans of soup until Feb 11. Please place your cans on the table in the connector. Our goal this year is 250 cans.

The Installation Service for our pastor, Dr. Mark Gaskins, will be held on Sunday, January 14, 2024. Please join us for the special occasion.

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.

Happy New Year from your Pastor and Church Staff!

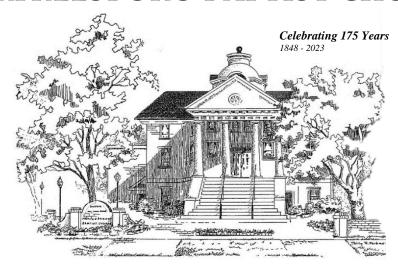
Please remember these friends who cannot worship with us regularly:

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

Contact us at:

200 West Main Street **252-398-3613** Murfreesboro, NC 27855 Email: office@murfbc.org Website: www.murfbc.org

MURFREESBORO BAPTIST CHURCH



The Lord's Day, December 31, 2023 First Sunday of Christmas

Dr. Mark E. Gaskins, Pastor Mrs. Paula Pressnell, Organist and Choir Director Rev. Thomas Caulkins, Pastor Emeritus

We Gather to Worship

Prelude O Thou That Tellest Handel/Smith

Gathering Hymn No. 103

O Come, All Ye Faithful (verses 1 & 3)

ADESTE FIDELES

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant, O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem! Come and behold Him, born the King of angels! O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning, Jesus, to Thee be all glory given; Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing! O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

Words of Welcome Dr. Bailey

The Lord be with you!

And also with you!

Ministry Opportunities Dr. Bailey Call to Worship Psalm 90:1-4, 10, 12 (NRSV) When Jesus is born to Mary and Joseph, God is there. When Jesus is presented at the temple, God is there. When Simeon holds Jesus in his arms, God is there. When Anna recognizes Jesus in the temple, God is there. This very morning, God is here. In the future we cannot see, God is there. Let us worship God! Dr. Bailey Invocation We Hear God's Word *Hymn of Praise No. 143 Go, Tell It on the Mountain GO TELL IT Children's Sermon Ms. Sarah Davis Old Testament Lesson Isaiah 9:6; 61:6; 7:14 The Word of God, for the People of God. Thanks be to God. The Church at Prayer Call to Prayer Dr. Bailey The Prayers of the People Dr. Bailev The Lord's Prayer (trespasses) Congregation *Hymn of Thanksgiving No. 123 While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks (verses 1, 2, 3, & 6) **CHRISTMAS** Thanksgiving with Our Tithes and Offerings Offertory Sentence Dr. Bailey Rejoice! He Is Here Offertory arr. Mark Hayes Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow **OLD 100**TH *Doxology 706

*Offertory Prayer

Gospel Lesson Luke 2:25-38

The Word of the Lord. **Praise His Holy Name!**

Message in Song Mary, Did You Know?

Rick Bailey, bass

Scripture and Sermon Dr. Bailey

A Faith That Perseveres

We Respond to God's Word

Invitation to Christian Discipleship

*Hymn of Response No. 125 Angels, We Have Heard on High

GLORIA

Greene/Schrader

We Go Forth with God's Blessing

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Commitment

Dr. Bailey

Rick Parks

Commission and Benediction

**Postlude Today in Bethlehem

*Please stand as you are able.

Dr. Bailey

**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 worshiping together is one of the most important activities 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. In keeping with New Testament practices, we believe that worship rightly involves every member of the congregation, not just the few people in leadership roles. 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. Toward the end of each service, we 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 currently in the season of Christmas. The color for the season is white, symbolizing the purity of the newborn baby Jesus.