

The Advent Poinsettia is given in honor of Paula Pressnell and the Murfreesboro Baptist Church choir, by Gertrude Revelle.

Using their Gifts to Serve in December:

Deacon of the Month of December:	Charlie Gallop
December Radio Ministry Sponsor:	Bruce and Liz Brown
Opening of the Church in December:	Johnny Jenkins
Ushers for December:	Don Johnson, Wayne Brown, Bruce Brown, and Bob Turner
Caregiver for December 1-14:	Patty Joyner

This Week at Murfreesboro Baptist Church . . .

Sun.	Radio Broadcast, 98.3	10:00 A.M.	Wed.	Kids' Club	6:00-6:45 P.M.
	Worship	11:00 A.M.		Choir Practice	6:15 P.M.
	Youth Group	5:30 P.M.			

Chowan University invites you to join President Rosemary M. Thomas for a "Holiday Reception" on Sunday, December 8, from 1:30 until 2:45 p.m. at Camp President's House, 100 Jones Drive, Murfreesboro and the "Christmas at Chowan Concert" in the Chowan Chapel at 3:00 p.m. Please RSVP by Monday, December 2 to Tina Ashley 252-398-6221 or tfashley@chowan.edu.

Meherrin Baptist Church invites the Murfreesboro Baptist Church family to attend the "All is Well" Christmas Cantata presented on Sunday, December 8 at 6:00 p.m. in the church sanctuary.

Please join us on Sunday December 15 at 3:00 p.m. for our Christmas Cantata, "Love Came Down at Christmas" by Marty Parks. The Murfreesboro Baptist & Middle Swamp Baptist Choirs will be performing. Light refreshments will be served in the Fellowship Hall immediately following the service.

There will be no Big Wednesday in December 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 Monday, December 16.

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 12 families. Deadline is Monday, December 16.

MBC has returned to live streaming the service. We are streaming on our YouTube page. The page is youtube.com/@murfreesborobaptistchurch27855. The dome logo is the profile picture. Please subscribe to our page. You can watch the service live when you are not here or watch the broadcast at your convenience.

Please remember these friends who cannot worship with us regularly:

Phil Royce Tom and Ann Caulkins Randy and Cheryl Whitley

200 West Main Street

Email: office@murfbc.org

Contact us at:

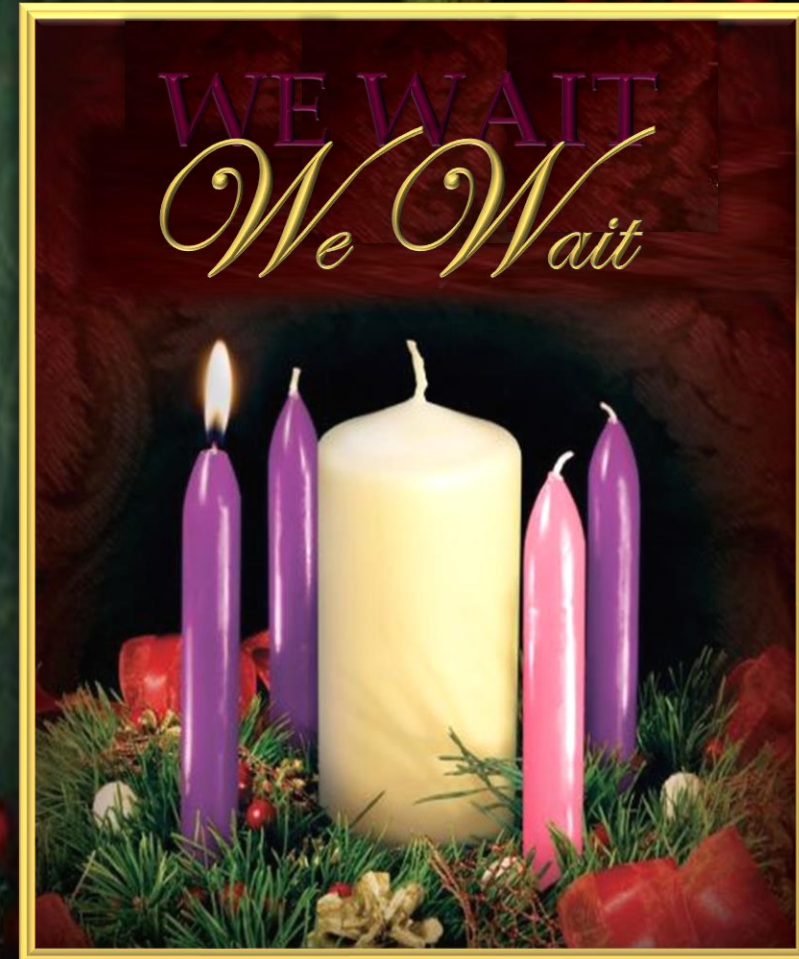
252-398-3613

Murfreesboro, NC 27855

Website: www.murfbc.org

Murfreesboro Baptist Church

The Lord's Day, December 3, 2023
First Sunday of Advent



We Gather to Worship

Prelude *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence* arr. Lani Smith

Words of Welcome Mark Gaskins
The Lord be with you!
And also with you!

Ministry Opportunities

Call to Worship *We Wait in Hope: A Candle Lighting Ceremony for Advent* Joel Raney

Theme Introduction Choir

Litany

Advent is a time to wait.

We wait in hope for the Lord; he is our help and our shield.

During Advent we wait for light in the darkness.

We wait in hope for the Lord; he is our help and our shield.

During Advent we wait for freedom from captivity.

We wait in hope for the Lord; he is our help and our shield.

During Advent we wait for comfort in sorrow.

We wait in hope for the Lord; he is our help and our shield.

During Advent we wait for power in weakness.

We wait in hope for the Lord; he is our help and our shield.

The First Candle

Refrain *We Wait in Hope* Joel Raney
Congregation

We wait in hope for the morning Light,
for the love of Christ to illuminate the night.

We wait with joy for the Savior's birth;
we wait in hope for peace on earth.

Prayer Mark Gaskins

We Hear God's Word

*Hymn of Praise No. 79 *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* VENI EMMANUEL

Children's Sermon Sarah Davis

Epistle Lesson 1 Thessalonians 3:6-13 Susan Alston

The Word of God, for the People of God.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Lesson Luke 21:25-36 Mike Alston

The Word of the Lord.
Praise His Holy Name!

The Church at Prayer

Call to Prayer Psalm 25:4-6, 10 Mark Gaskins

The Prayers of the People
The Lord's Prayer (*trespasses*)

*Hymn of Thanksgiving No. 95 *Prepare the Royal Highway* BEREDEN VAG FOR HERRAN

Thanksgiving with Our Tithes and Offerings

*Offertory Prayer Mark Gaskins

Offertory *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming* arr. David Schwoebel

*Doxology 706 *Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow* OLD 100TH

Anthem *Christmas Is Coming* Joel Raney

Scripture and Sermon Jeremiah 33:14-16 Mark Gaskins

Waiting for the Promise

We Respond to God's Word

*Hymn of Response No. 88 *Blest Be the God of Israel* MERLE'S TUNE

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Commitment Mark Gaskins

We Go Forth with God's Blessing

Commission and Benediction Mark Gaskins

**Postlude *Comfort, Comfort Ye, My People* Genevan Psalter, 1551

**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.