

The Advent Poinsettia is given in honor of Teresa Martin, the administrative assistant of Murfreesboro Baptist Church 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:	Booker Daniel

This Week at Murfreesboro Baptist Church . . .

Sun.	Radio Broadcast, 98.3	10:00 A.M.	Tues.	Food Bank of the Albemarle	1:30 P.M.
	Worship	11:00 A.M.	Wed.	Kids' Club	6:00-6:45 P.M.

Please join us this afternoon 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 together. Light refreshments will be served in the Fellowship Hall immediately following the service.

The gifts for the Christmas Angel Tree should be returned to the church by tomorrow, December 16. Please have all gifts wrapped, placed in large bag and have the Angel tag attached to the bag.

Tomorrow (Monday, December 16) is the deadline for donations for the White Christmas Boxes. Please help us ensure that families in our area have a wonderful Christmas Dinner. 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.

The Food Bank of the Albemarle will be here on Tuesday, December 17. Volunteers are needed and should arrive by 1:30 p.m.

The Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will begin at 5:30 on Christmas Eve. Please invite family and friends.

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	Contact us at:	252-398-3613	Murfreesboro, NC 27855
Email: office@murfbc.org	Website:	www.murfbc.org	

Murfreesboro Baptist Church

The Lord's Day, December 15, 2024
Third Sunday of Advent



We Gather to Worship

Prelude *And the Glory of the Lord* Handel/Hayes

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 prepare.

Prepare the way of the Lord; make straight the way for our God.

During Advent we prepare our eyes to see the light of Christ.

Prepare the way of the Lord; make straight the way for our God.

During Advent we prepare our hearts to receive the Word of Christ.

Prepare the way of the Lord; make straight the way for our God.

During Advent we prepare to share the joy of Christ.

Prepare the way of the Lord; make straight the way for our God.

During Advent we prepare to embrace the promise of Christ.

Prepare the way of the Lord; make straight the way for our God.

The First, Second, and Third Candles

Refrain *We Wait in Hope* Joel Raney
Congregation

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

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

Prayer Mark Gaskins

We Hear God's Word

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

Children's Sermon Mark Gaskins

Epistle Lesson Philippians 4:4-7 Sarah Davis

The Word of God, for the People of God.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Lesson Luke 3:7-18 Sarah Davis

The Word of the Lord.

Praise His Holy Name!

The Church at Prayer

Call to Prayer Isaiah 12:2 Mark Gaskins

The Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer (*trespasses*)

*Hymn of Thanksgiving No. 124 *The First Nowell* THE FIRST NOWELL

Thanksgiving with Our Tithes and Offerings

*Offertory Prayer Mark Gaskins

Offertory *God Rest Ye, Merry Gentlemen* arr. Mark Hayes

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

Anthem *Jesus, Our Emmanuel with Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne* Marty Parks

Scripture and Sermon Zephaniah 3:14-20 Mark Gaskins

A Reason to Sing

We Respond to God's Word

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

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Commitment Mark Gaskins

We Go Forth with God's Blessing

Commission and Benediction Mark Gaskins

**Postlude *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice* Bach/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 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.