



# The Messenger

A Newsletter of

## Murfreesboro Baptist Church

December 2024  
Merry Christmas



### FROM THE PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE...

Thanksgiving is past, Advent is upon us, and Christmas is following close behind!

Now Advent is *not* simply celebrating Christmas early. It's a season of penitence and preparation, of anticipation and expectation, as we prepare our hearts to celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus, the Messiah. Advent gets us ready for Christmas. We think about how God broke into history, sending his Son to save us from our sins. We think about the preparations he made—some in miraculous ways, some through the ordinary events of history—and the promises he gave of salvation and deliverance. But we also look ahead to the fulfillment of the promise that Christ will return in glory to raise the dead, to judge the world, and to set everything right in new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home. And as we look ahead, we prepare our hearts so that we may be ready when he comes.

With all that our culture bombards us in its secular, commercial celebration of the holidays, it's easy to lose sight of what Christmas is really all about. Advent helps us focus and stay focused, reminding us that these are *holy days*. It puts Bethlehem in the context of God's great eternal purpose of redemption, reminding us how God made promises and prepared the way, that the baby in the manger was God the Son in the flesh, who is King of Kings and Lord of Lords, who will come again to bring his kingdom in its fullness!

So as we move through this season of Advent to Christmas and the celebration of Christ's birth, don't get lost in the hustle and bustle. Stay focused on what we truly celebrate by taking time to worship, and by allowing that worship to direct your celebration.

We'll celebrate Christ's birth together with two special worship opportunities. The choir from Middle Swamp Baptist Church will join our choir on Sunday, December 15 at 3:00 to present the Christmas cantata, "Love Came Down at Christmas." Then on Christmas Eve at 5:30 p.m., we'll gather in the sanctuary for our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service of Lessons, Carols, and Communion. This is always a special time of worship, and I encourage you to make it a priority as we remember together how "the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld his glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth" (John 1:14).

On a different note, I want to commend our congregation for all the

local mission efforts we participate in throughout the year and during the holiday season: the Food Bank and our food pantry distributions, benevolence ministries, Backpack Buddies, community involvement, the Angel Tree, the White Christmas food boxes, and much more.

December brings us the opportunity to offer support to global missions as well, and that is most appropriate. After all, Christmas is ultimately about Christ's mission! During December we will receive the CBF Global Missions Offering. Every dime of this offering goes to support the presence of CBF mission field personnel in the United States and around the world. We must always be attentive to our local mission needs, but we must also be supportive of global mission needs as well. I encourage you to pray for our missionaries and to give generously to this offering.

As we approach Christmas, let me say how much JoAnn and I appreciate your love, kindness, prayers, and encouragement. We are very thankful to be a part of the MBC family. We wish you a blessed Advent, a Christmas filled with the joy and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and a new year filled with the adventure of being on mission with him, following him as Lord!

Grace and peace,

*Mark E. Perkins*

### Christmas Cantata

Sunday December 15, 2024  
3:00 p.m.

Light refreshments in the Fellowship Hall immediately following the service.



We are happy to announce this year's Christmas Cantata on December 15th at 3:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Our MBC choir will be joined by Middle Swamp Baptist's choir from Gates County. We will sing "Love Came Down at Christmas" by Marty Parks. Light refreshments will be served in the Fellowship Hall following the service.

Middle Swamp has a special place in my heart because I was baptized there many years ago before my home church installed a baptismal pool.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to each of you.

*Paula Pressnell*

### WHITE CHRISTMAS BOXES



Each year we provide a Christmas meal to at least 12 families in our area, and this year, the need is greater than ever.

If you would like to donate food items, each box will contain a bag of apples or oranges, a one-pound block of cheese, macaroni and cheese, canned vegetables and canned fruit, cranberry sauce, candied yams, gravy, stuffing mix, and brownie mix. Items are needed by Monday, December 16.

You can also adopt a box for \$25. Please mark your checks "White Christmas Boxes".

### Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Tuesday, December 24 at 5:30 p.m.



We invite you, your family, and friends to join us for our Annual Christmas Eve Service. This is a meaningful time of worship in preparation for the birth of Christ. The service will begin at 5:30 p.m.

### ANGEL TREE

Let's Help Bring Christmas Joy to Local Children!



Thank you for your participation in the Angel Tree. Once you have done your shopping, bring the wrapped gifts back by Monday, December 16. Please wrap your gifts with one pattern of paper or place them in a large bag together. And finally, don't forget to attach your angel with number to your gifts. Thank you for spreading Christmas joy and the love of Christ this season!

## USING THEIR GIFTS TO SERVE IN DECEMBER

**Deacon of the Month**  
Charlie Gallop

**Opening the Church**  
Johnny Jenkins

**December Ushers**  
Don Johnson, Wayne Brown,  
Bruce Brown, and Bob Turner

**December Radio Ministry Sponsor**  
Bruce and Liz Brown

**Caregivers**  
*Dec. 1-Dec. 14* Patty Joyner  
*Dec. 15-Dec. 28* Garth and Erin Faile  
*Dec. 29-Jan. 13* Lynette Bunch

**Children's Sermon**  
Sarah Davis

**Flowers**  
*Dec. 1* Gertrude Revelle  
*Dec. 8* Gertrude Revelle  
*Dec. 15* Gertrude Revelle  
*Dec. 22* Gertrude Revelle

*Merry  
Christmas*



## FUEL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

### PLEASE DONATE TO THE CHRISTMAS FUEL FUND

#### MERRY CHRISTMAS FOR ALL

For the last four years, Murfreesboro Baptist Church has collected funds before Christmas and, with the help of Jernigan Oil Company, Inc. and Debbie Jones, we have purchased fuel oil for those families that are unable to pay at Christmas. Jernigan Oil Company, Inc. and Debbie Jones can identify those in most need and has reduced the oil prices substantially for this project. Last year approximately \$3,800 was raised for this cause.

Please make your check payable to: Murfreesboro Baptist Church and indicate "FUEL FUND" on your check and mail to 200 West Main Street, Murfreesboro, NC 27855.

Please donate by December 18, 2024, the date the funds will be taken to Jernigan Oil Company, Inc.

**GIVE THE BEST GIFT YOU CAN GIVE  
FOR CHRISTMAS!  
WARMTH!**

### MBC Has Returned to Live Streaming the Sunday Worship Service

We are streaming on our YouTube page.

The page is:

[youtube.com/@murfreesborobaptistchurch27855](https://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.

### Notes of Appreciation...

Dear Friends,

Thank you for all you did to make inauguration extra special. Your hospitality, special recognition and fellowship were above and beyond in so many ways. The partnership between the University and the church is such a blessing. Thank you for your continued support

Best,  
Rosemary Thomas

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY SCHEDULE



### Kids' Club December Schedule

Dec. 4 Kids' Club 6:00-6:45  
Dec. 11 Kids' Club 6:00-6:45  
Dec. 18 Kids' Club 6:00-6:45

### Area Holiday Events

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 Meherrin Church sanctuary.

## UPCOMING DATES IN DECEMBER

Dec. 10 Deacons' Meeting  
Dec. 16 Angel Tree Deadline  
Dec. 16 White Christmas Boxes  
Dec. 17 Food Bank of the Albemarle  
Dec. 24 Christmas Eve Service  
Dec. 25 Merry Christmas  
Dec. 23-25 Office Closed for Christmas Holiday  
Jan. 1 Office Closed For New Year Holiday

## CHURCH STAFF

**Dr. Mark E. Gaskins**  
PASTOR

PAULA PRESSNELL.....ORGANIST &  
CHOIR DIRECTOR

TOM CAULKINS.....PASTOR EMERITUS

TERESA MARTIN.....ADMINISTRATIVE ASST.

## Church Office Hours

Monday - Thursday 8:30 am - 1:30 pm  
252-398-3613 www.murfbc.org



## FOOD BANK OF THE ALBEMARLE

Volunteers are needed on December 17 by 1:30 p.m. in the church parking lot to distribute food.



December 1 David Farnham  
December 1 Johnny Jenkins  
December 5 Earlene Futrell  
December 5 Bob Lee  
December 6 Bob Turner  
December 13 Joanie Broglin  
December 18 Mariah Gallop  
December 23 Tra'Vonn Sawyer  
December 27 Carole Farnham  
December 28 Jennifer Mitchell  
December 31 Ann Caulkins

Don't see your birthday? Please call the church office and let us know when your special day is.

The Church office will be Closed December 23, 24, & 25 for the Christmas Holiday.



Murfreesboro Baptist Church  
200 W. Main Street  
Murfreesboro, N.C. 27855

Return Service Requested