



The Messenger

A Newsletter of
Murfreesboro Baptist Church
May 2026



FROM THE PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

The past several months have been a meaningful time in the life of our church. God has been working among us in some wonderful ways!

The Lenten season prepared us to remember Christ's life, teachings, suffering, and death in a deeper way, and our community Lenten Lunches were the best attended in a number of years. Our Easter celebration was just that, as we celebrated Christ's resurrection with praise and proclamation, joy, and jubilation. As the season of Eastertide has continued, we've thought together about what Jesus' resurrection means for us and the difference it makes in our lives and our life together.

In the midst of all this, we had a wonderful Spiritual Renewal Focus Sunday with Dr. Tom Ogburn as our guest preacher. I know you enjoyed and appreciated his messages and were blessed by them. My prayer is that we as a congregation will take the challenges Tom presented to heart, seeking to live out the commission Christ has given us as his people as the Holy Spirit empowers us to be witnesses of our risen Lord Jesus Christ to the world around us through our works and our words.

Eastertide continues through Saturday, May 23. Then Sunday, May 24 will be Pentecost Sunday, when we celebrate how God poured out his Holy Spirit on the church on that first Pentecost after Jesus' crucifixion, death, and resurrection. This year we'll be reflecting on what the Holy Spirit does in the church. In celebration of the Spirit, please wear something red that day. Then May 31 will be Trinity Sunday, when we marvel at the majesty and mystery of the Holy Trinity. We'll also share in Holy Communion that day.

This will be a full month! Along with all these celebrations in worship, we'll also mark Mother's Day and Memorial Day.

Another way God is working in our church is in the momentous decision our congregation made in our April 26 Quarterly Church Conference to enter into partnership with Welcome House Raleigh to help support the ministry of our own Matty Grace Gilliam there. On Sunday, June 7, Matty Grace will be with us to speak in our worship service about how God is working in her work with Welcome House Raleigh. I hope you'll be here to hear her and to offer her our encouragement and spiritual and emotional support in her work.

We'll also have a guest speaker on Sunday, May 17. Dr. Dennis Bazemore

will be preaching in our worship service, and his wife Linda will be playing in Paula's absence that day due to an out-of-town commitment. Of course, the Bazemores are no strangers to us. They have both served our church in the past and are much loved by our congregation. My optometrist and ophthalmologist have determined that the time has come for me to have cataract surgery, so Dennis will fill in for me the Sunday after my first surgery. I should be able to see well enough after that to be back in the pulpit the following Sunday. The surgery on my second eye will be in June and will be early in the week, so I shouldn't miss any Sundays for that one. I will appreciate your prayers that all will go well and that my results will be as anticipated.

Summer will soon be here with our summer schedule kicking in. Kids' Club will continue through Wednesday, May 13, and Youth Group meetings through May 17. Wednesday evening Prayer and Bible Study will continue through June 3. Graduate Recognition will be in our Sunday Worship Service on June 14.

While we'll miss some of our regular activities during the summer, we can look forward to being together to worship God each and every Sunday throughout the summer and throughout the year. I always look forward to seeing you in worship and miss you when you're not here. It's a true joy to be the pastor of such a wonderful, loving, caring congregation!

Grace and peace,

Mark E. Perkins

MUSIC MINISTRY



Our church family had an incredible Easter and two Spiritual Renewal services during the month of April. As a matter of fact, we have terrific services every single Sunday. I am so appreciative of our pastor Mark, our faithful choir, our deacons, Teresa, Kayleigh, and everyone who attends. You all feel like family.

Since I'm writing this on April 29th, it was on this date in 1923 that MBC held its first service in the new sanctuary. My parents were both born in 1924, so it gives me a little perspective on just how many years ago that would be. This brings to mind the wonderful hymn, The Church's One Foundation is Jesus Christ her Lord; she is His new creation, by water and by Word; from heaven He came and sought her to be His holy bride; with His own blood he bought her and for her life He died.

We all look forward to seeing you each Sunday.

Paula Pressnell

BIG WEDNESDAY WEDNESDAY, MAY 6

Join us for a delicious Meal!



Mary Etta's Menu is

Hotdogs with chili and all the extras, baked beans, chips, and strawberry shortcake.

Please call the church office by Monday, May 4, 2026 12 noon to make your reservations.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



May 6 Kids' Club

6:30-7:15

May 13 Kids' Club

6:00-6:45

(last one for this school year)

YOUTH GROUP MEETINGS

Hey everyone!

Just a quick update for the month of May:

- We will be meeting on May 3rd as usual.
- We will not meet on May 10th so everyone can spend time with family for Mother's Day.
- Our last youth group of the semester will be May 17th!

For our final night, we're planning to do a fun cookout to celebrate. I'll send out more details as soon as everything is confirmed, so keep an eye out for that.

Thank you all so much for an awesome first year in youth ministry – it's been such a great time getting to know everyone and grow together. I'm really grateful for each of you and excited for what's ahead!

Thank you!
Kayleigh Lance





SANCTUARY FLOWERS

If you are interested in placing **Flowers in the Sanctuary** on any given Sunday, please call the church office to reserve a date.

398-3613

USING THEIR GIFTS TO SERVE IN MAY

DEACON OF THE MONTH

Mike Alston

OPENING OF THE CHURCH

Colon Ballance and Wayne Brown

USHERS

May

Steve Fowler, T.K. Warren,
Mike Alston, Jay Revelle

June

Don Johnson, Wayne Brown,
Bruce Brown, Hunter Brown

RADIO MINISTRY SPONSOR

Kay Thomas

CAREGIVERS

April 26-May 9

Alice and Linda Hassell

May 10-May 23

Patty Joyner

May 24- June 6

Lynette Bunch

SANCTUARY FLOWERS

Dates available to place flowers in the sanctuary:

May 3, May 10, May 17, and 31

May 24 - Booker Daniel



ROBERT E. LEE, III AND DR. BRUCE E. WHITAKER SCHOLARSHIPS

Applications are now being accepted for two scholarships available to Murfreesboro Baptist Church members and their children. The Robert E. Lee, III Scholarship is awarded to Chowan University Students. The Dr. Bruce E. Whitaker Scholarship is awarded to students attending any institution of higher education, with a preference toward those studying at Chowan. Applications are available in the church office and must be completed by July 30. The finance committee will award the scholarships and notify the recipients.

UPCOMING DATES

- May 6 Big Wednesday
- May 10 Mother's Day
- May 12 Deacons' Meeting
- May 19 Food Bank of The Albemarle
- May 25 Memorial Day (Office Closed)

Happy Mother's Day

May 10

Be faithful in remembering all of the women of God who have guided us in our faith. Mothers, grandmothers, and aunts who have nurtured us physically and Children's Ministers and Sunday school teachers and Pastors who have nurtured our spirits, let us be thankful for each and every one.



CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS IN MAY

- May 7 Heather Todd
- May 10 Susan Alston
- May 10 Mike Bunch
- May 14 Aaron Higgins
- May 14 Pat Torres
- May 15 Booker Daniel
- May 20 Darren Piper

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

FOODBANK

OF THE ALBEMARLE

Volunteers are needed on May 19 by 1:30 p.m. in the church parking lot to distribute food.

FOOD PANTRY

If you have committed to help us keep our pantry filled, please remember to bring twelve of your selected items to the church before the last Monday of each month. Any donations are greatly appreciated. Thank you for your continued support of this important ministry.

CHURCH STAFF

Dr. Mark E. Gaskins
PASTOR

PAULA PRESSNELL.....ORGANIST &
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRY

KAYLEIGH

LANCEDIRECTOR
OF YOUTH MINISTRY

TERESA MARTIN.....ADMINISTRATIVE ASST.



Murfreesboro Baptist Church Would Like to Recognize the Graduates of 2026

If your son, daughter, or grandchild will be graduating from high school or college this year, please contact the church office with their full name, school, and degree of the graduate by Sunday, May 10.



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

Return Service Requested