



## FROM THE PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE . . .

It's been a colder winter than we've had in many years, and we've actually had snow three times! While we'll still have some cool, maybe even cold days and nights, the warm snaps and the roaming robins promise us that spring will soon be here.

Like the seasons of the natural year, the seasons of the Christian Year come in succession. Wednesday, March 5 will be Ash Wednesday, marking the beginning of the season of Lent.

The season of Lent is the forty-day period (excluding Sundays) when we reflect on what it means to follow Jesus, examine our hearts and lives to discern where change is needed and what we need to repent of, and commit ourselves more fully to Jesus as his disciples. Of course, we should have such an attitude all year round, but we focus on these matters during Lent to prepare our hearts to remember our Lord's sufferings and death on the cross and to celebrate his resurrection on Easter Sunday!

We'll begin our observance of Lent on Ash Wednesday with the first Lenten Lunch at Murfreesboro United Methodist Church at noon on March 5. That evening, we'll gather at 6:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall for our Big Wednesday supper. Then we'll move to the sanctuary for our Ash Wednesday Service at 7:00 p.m. This service is for all ages, and the entire community is welcome, so feel free to invite family, friends, and acquaintances.

During this service, in the context of worship, we will confess our sins to God, remembering our mortality, and remembering who we are in relation to him. Those who wish may come forward at a set time in the service to receive ashes on their foreheads as a sign of penitence and as a reminder that we are dust, and to dust we shall return.

On the Sundays during Lent, we'll be focusing in worship primarily on passages from the Gospel according to Luke. We'll think about *Would-Be Disciples* (Luke 9:43b-45, 57-62), *What to Do with an Opportunity* (Luke 13:31-35), *Only Two Options* (Luke 13:1-9), *Coming Home* (Luke 15:11-32), and being *At Supper with Jesus* (John 12:1-

8). On Palm Sunday, we'll think together about how things moved for Jesus *From Palms to Passion* (Luke 19:28-40; 23:1-25). Then on Easter Sunday, we'll celebrate how *He's Alive* (Luke 24:1-12)!

Throughout Lent, we'll be going on Wednesdays to different churches in our community and to Chowan University for our Lenten Lunches. We will host the last one, during Holy Week, on April 16. We'll also have special worship opportunities during Holy Week that I'll share more about in next month's newsletter.

I hope that this will be a powerful and meaningful Lenten season for you this year. May your faith in Christ deepen, may your walk with him become more and more real, and for all of us, may the transformation we experience in this season empower us to bear a winsome witness to the community and the world around us, so that others may come to know and follow Jesus as Lord.

Grace and peace,

*Mark E. Gaskins*



On Wednesday, March 5, we will have our annual Ash Wednesday service at 7:00 pm in the sanctuary. This service of worship reminds us that as God told Adam in Genesis 3:19, we are dust and to dust we return. This truth is symbolized by the Imposition of Ashes, in which individuals may come forward and receive ashes on their foreheads in the sign of the cross.



### † March 5 Murfreesboro United Methodist Church

Rev. Avery Lail, Pastor  
301 E. High Street, Murfreesboro

### † March 12 Meherrin Baptist Church

Rev. John Porter, Pastor  
519 Meherrin Lane, Murfreesboro

### † March 19 Mt. Sinai Church of God

Dr. Arthur Clark, Pastor  
913 Main Street, Murfreesboro

### † March 26 First Baptist Church of Murfreesboro

Dr. Robert Richardson, Pastor  
913 Main Street, Murfreesboro

### † April 2 Chowan University

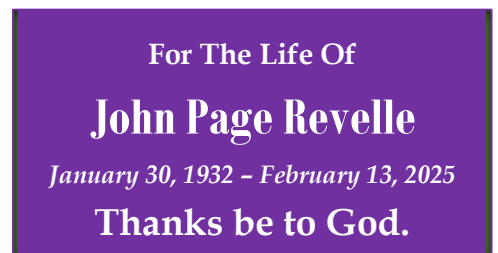
Mr. Jason Fowler, Interim Campus Minister  
1 Jones Drive, Murfreesboro

### † April 9 Nebo Baptist Church

Rev. James K. Brown, Pastor  
10555 US-258, Murfreesboro

### † April 16 Murfreesboro Baptist Church

Dr. Mark E. Gaskins, Pastor  
200 W. Main Street, Murfreesboro





## MUSIC MINISTRY

I attended two concerts that truly fed my soul about a month ago. The first was Elisabeth von Trapp, the step granddaughter of the real Maria von Trapp played by Julie Andrews in The Sound of Music. Her beautiful singing and guitar playing gave me goosebumps and I became teary several times. The second concert was Mark Hayes, one of my favorite arrangers of church piano music that I've played over the years at MBC. He also composes anthems and cantatas. His concert was beautiful with soloists, a choir and his solo piano playing. I feel refreshed and encouraged by these concerts and look forward to entering the Lent and Easter seasons. Thank you to our choir for all of their hard work and faithfulness. God is good.

Paula Pressnell



### MURFREESBORO BAPTIST CHURCH May 2025 Quarterly Conference PROPOSED BY-LAW REVISION

Please let this serve as notice to the members of Murfreesboro Baptist Church that during the May 2025 Quarterly Conference that the deacons will propose to change the Murfreesboro Baptist Church By-Laws of Article 2, Section 2, Paragraph A to read as follows:

**Diacons shall be elected for a term of 3 years with one-third of the number being elected each year. After the completion of a full three-year term, no deacon shall be eligible for re-election until after the lapse of one year.**



## ATTENTION GRADUATES

Murfreesboro Baptist Church would like to recognize the graduates of 2025. 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, March 30, 2025.

## BLESSING MINISTRIES

### FOODBANK OF THE ALBEMARLE

Volunteers are needed Tuesday, March 18 by 1:30 p.m. in the church parking lot to distribute food.

### MBC 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 15th of each month.

*Any and all donations are welcome.*



## KIDS' CLUB

|               |                          |
|---------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Mar 5</b>  | <b>No Kids' Club</b>     |
| <b>Mar 12</b> | <b>Kids' Club 6-6:45</b> |
| <b>Mar 19</b> | <b>Kids' Club 6-6:45</b> |
| <b>Mar 26</b> | <b>Kids' Club 6-6:45</b> |

## Easter Egg Hunt



The MBC Annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held on Wednesday, April 16 at 5:30 pm. Children in fifth grade and below will hunt for eggs on the playground. A pizza supper from Napoli's will be held in addition to the egg hunt. Drinks, chips, and fruit are also needed. Please pick up Easter eggs from the box in the connector and fill the eggs with candy, coins, stickers, or small toys. Return the filled eggs to the box in the media center. If you would like to volunteer for an item for supper or to hide eggs or if you have any questions, please let Sarah Davis know.

## USING THEIR GIFTS TO SERVE IN MARCH

### DEACON OF THE MONTH

Susan Alston

### OPENING OF THE CHURCH

Bruce Brown

### USHERS

*March*

Jay Revelle, Ronnie Coltrain,  
Charlie Aycock, and Charles Gallop

*April*

Hal Thomas, Lloyd Hill,  
And Jay Revelle

### RADIO MINISTRY SPONSOR

Sarah Frances Hill

### CAREGIVERS

*February 23-March 8* - Aldeen Gatewood

*March 9-March 22* - Gertrude Revelle and  
Daynelle Trent

*March 23-April 5* - Alice Hassell and  
Diane Dixon

### NURSERY

Patricia Torres

## UPCOMING DATES IN MARCH

### MARCH 5

|   |                  |
|---|------------------|
| <i>Lenten Lunch</i>                         | <i>12 Noon</i>   |
| <i>Murfreesboro United Methodist Church</i> |                  |
| <i>Big Wednesday</i>                        | <i>6:00 p.m.</i> |
| <i>Ash Wednesday Service</i>                | <i>7:00</i>      |

### MARCH 9

*Communion*  
*Daylight Saving Time Begins*

### MARCH 11

*Deacons' Meeting*      *6:00 p.m.*

### MARCH 12

*Lenten Lunch*      *12 Noon*  
*Meherrin Baptist Church*

### MARCH 18

*Food Bank of the Albemarle*

### MARCH 19

*Lenten Lunch*      *12 Noon*  
*Mt. Sinai Church of God*

### MARCH 26

*Lenten Lunch*      *12 Noon*  
*First Baptist Church of Murfreesboro*



## CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS IN MARCH

|                 |                        |
|-----------------|------------------------|
| <b>March 1</b>  | <b>Susan Bass</b>      |
| <b>March 1</b>  | <b>Brice Burgess</b>   |
| <b>March 6</b>  | <b>Jenni Chao</b>      |
| <b>March 7</b>  | <b>Sarah Brown</b>     |
| <b>March 8</b>  | <b>Patti Llewellyn</b> |
| <b>March 9</b>  | <b>Danny Moore</b>     |
| <b>March 10</b> | <b>Gene Flowers</b>    |
| <b>March 15</b> | <b>Sandra Fowler</b>   |
| <b>March 16</b> | <b>Mary Harris</b>     |
| <b>March 20</b> | <b>Judy Clark</b>      |
| <b>March 23</b> | <b>Jo Cimini</b>       |

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

## CHURCH STAFF

**Dr. Mark E. Gaskins**

**PASTOR**

PAULA PRESSNELL.....Organist & Choir Director  
TOM CAULKINS.....Pastor Emeritus  
TERESA MARTIN.....Administrative Asst.

### CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Thurs. 8:30 - 1:30  
**252-398-3613      [www.murfbc.org](http://www.murfbc.org)**



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

**Return Service Requested**