



The Messenger

A Newsletter of

Murfreesboro Baptist Church

December 2025

Merry Christmas



FROM THE PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE...

Thanksgiving is past, Advent is here, and Christmas will soon be here, too!

As I've said to you before, 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. It's a time of *waiting*—just as God's people of ancient times waited for him to fulfill the promise of a Messiah that he had given through the prophets, so we wait and prepare to celebrate Christ's coming as a newborn baby in Bethlehem. And so we wait for our incarnate, crucified, risen, and exalted Messiah and Lord to return in glory! We wait in hope for the fulfillment of his promises of resurrection, judgment, and the new creation. We wait for the coming of the King of kings and Lord of lords to bring in all its fullness his eternal kingdom that has already broken into time!

Now waiting is hard work. We usually want to be *doing something*, in this case, something that will hasten the coming of his kingdom in its fullness. But that is all according to God's time and purpose. In the meantime, we're called to *wait* with faithful, persevering, patient hearts.

And as we look ahead, we prepare our hearts so that we may be ready when he comes.

During this time of year, our culture bombards us with its secular, commercial celebration of the holidays, making it 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, and 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 14 at 3:00 p.m. to present the Christmas cantata, "Peace Has Come." 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, the Souper Bowl of Caring, Backpack Buddies, community involvement, the Angel Tree, the White Christmas food boxes, and much more. Of all the churches I have served as Pastor, I don't think any have done as much to serve their surrounding community as Murfreesboro Baptist Church does. My prayer is that God will use these demonstrations of love, care, and concern to open people's hearts to hear the message of the gospel as we have opportunities to share it with them. Thank you for all you do!

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 & JoAnn

Christmas Cantata

Sunday December 14, 2025

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 14th 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 "Peace has Come" by Dennis and Nan Allen. Light refreshments will be served in the Fellowship Hall following the service.

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.

Items needed are: one-pound block of cheese, macaroni and cheese, canned collards, cranberry sauce, candied yams, rice fruit, gravy, stuffing mix, brownie mix, and frosting. Items are needed by Thursday, December 18.

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

Christmas Eve

Candlelight Service

Wednesday, December 24 at 5:30



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 15. 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
Sarah Davis

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

December Radio Ministry Sponsor
Bruce and Liz Brown

Caregivers
Nov. 30-Dec. 13 Patty Joyner
Dec. 14-Dec. 27 Lynette Bunch
Dec. 28-Jan. 10 Charlie & Dell
Aycok

Children's Sermon
Sarah Davis

UPCOMING DATES IN DECEMBER

- Dec. 9 Deacons' Meeting
- Dec. 14 Christmas Cantata
- Dec. 15 Angel Tree Deadline
- Dec. 16 Food Bank of the Albemarle
Fuel Assistance Fund
Deadline
- Dec. 18 White Christmas Boxes
- 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 DIRECOR

KAYLEIGH
LANCEDIRECTOR
OF YOUTH MINISTRY
TERESA MARTIN.....ADMINISTRATIVE ASST.

Church Office Hours

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



YOUTH GROUP

Lately the Youth Group has been walking through the book of Romans together and learning a lot of important fundamentals- things like what true faith looks like, how God's grace transforms us, and what it really means to live out the gospel every day. For the month of December, we'll be taking a little break from Romans so we can really fellowship together and celebrate the birth of Christ.

Christmas Cantata
December 14

Come enjoy the Christmas Cantata, and then stick around afterward – we'll be hanging out and decorating gingerbread houses!

Caroling & Christmas Party
December 21

Meet at the church at 6 PM so we can go Christmas caroling as a group. Afterward, we'll head back for a Christmas party with everyone!

FUEL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM



PLEASE DONATE TO THE CHRISTMAS FUEL FUND

For the last few 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. can identify those in most need and has reduced the oil prices substantially for this project. Last year approximately \$3,000 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 16, 2025, the date the funds will be taken to Jernigan Oil Company, Inc.

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

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY SCHEDULE

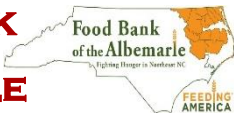


Kids' Club December Schedule

Dec. 3 Kids' Club 6:00-6:45
Dec. 10 Kids' Club 6:00-6:45
Dec. 17 Kids' Club 6:00-6:45

BLESSINGS MINISTRIES

**FOODBANK
OF THE
ALBEMARLE**



Volunteers are needed Tuesday, December 16 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 your selected items to the church before the 20th of each month. As always, any donations are greatly appreciated.

CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS IN DECEMBER



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	Winslow Gallop
December 23	Tra'Vonn Sawyer
December 27	Carole Farnham
December 28	Jennifer Mitchell

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