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FBC MURPHY
C o n n e c t . G r o w . G o .
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF MURPHYSBORO
401 NORTH FIFTEENTH STREET
MURPHYSBORO, ILLINOIS 62966
WWW.FBCMURPHY.ORG

SHAKER SAMUEL, PASTOR
GAYLA JONES, EDITOR

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

NOEL HALLELUJAH MERRY CHRISTMAS HAPPY NEW YEAR



MURPHYSBORO HOMETOWN CHRISTMAS

Friday, December 3

BUSINESS MEETING

11:15 am Sunday, December 5

CHRISTMAS BANQUET & PASTOR SHAKER'S RETIREMENT DINNER

5:30 pm Sunday, December 5

MID-WEEK ACTIVITIES

7:00 pm Mondays HS Guys

6:00 pm Tuesdays HS Girls

4:30-6:00 pm Wednesdays Dec. 1 & 15

5:30 pm Thursday MS Small Group

PIZZA WITH SANTA

5:30 pm Wednesday, December 8

CROSSFIRE CHRISTMAS PARTY

5 pm Sunday, December 12

FBC KIDS CHRISTMAS PARTY

9 am Sunday, December 12

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP

10 am Sunday, December 19

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

6 pm Friday, December 24

SAVE THE DATE

Sunday 1/9, Pastor Shaker's Last Sunday

FBC MURPHY

C o n n e c t . G r o w . G o .
DECEMBER 2021 BAPTIES NEWSLETTER
DON'T GIVE UP

"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing."

2 Timothy 4:7-8

As I am writing this, I want to rejoice. God gave me the privilege and honor to serve you. It has been an amazing experience, most of it has been wonderful. Yes, sometimes it was not, but I have to say it was great.

Paul was writing to Timothy at the end of his life and was saying, "I have no regrets."

You are my one and only church experience. When the calling came as a young man, I ran from being a shepherd, but God brought me through those years. He was grooming me for HIS service. You, the congregation, were understanding, helpful, kind, loving throughout. For Paul, the Philippian church was very dear to his heart, so also are you dear to my heart.

Each and everyone of you have made a difference in my life and my family's life. It is hard for me to say goodbye--the lessons I have learned are precious to me. The memories we have made together are forever etched in me. I have learned that when serving Christ we should never seek or expect the praise and adoration of others. Put simply, our lives should be thought of as being expendable.

Paul could finish life well because he saw himself as expendable, nothing more or nothing less. He looked at the promise of Jesus in Revelation 2:10b, "Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you the crown of life." Always look forward to the future.

It has been said that becoming a Christians is relatively easy. Some have even perceived it as being too easy. But a real and abiding faith requires much more. Our genuine faith requires perseverance. . to cross the finish line. We don't quit.

Paul says, "I have fought a good fight, and I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. 2 Chronicles 15:7, "But as for you, be strong and do not give up, for your work will be rewarded," says there is a reward.

My passing encouragement to all of you is: -Don't give up when you feel the soul weariness for long battles with persistent weakness. 2 Corinthians 12:9, "But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me."

-Don't give up when your long asked, sought and knocked prayers have not been answered.

-Don't give up when the devil's fiery darts of doubt make you reel.

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FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH · 401 NORTH 15TH STREET, MURPHYSBORO, ILLINOIS 62966 · (618) 687-1769

Come, Join Us for Christmas!

Christmas Banquet & Pastor Shaker's Retirement Dinner

Sunday, December 5
5:30 pm

The Christmas Banquet has always been a wonderful holiday event for the whole family but this year it will be even more special as our church family acknowledges and celebrates the retirement of Pastor Shaker.

There will be a time for sharing and live music during dinner.

Reservation Required...Deadline was November 28th!

Christmas Worship
Sunday, December 19
10:00 am

Hallelujah, Jesus Is Here!

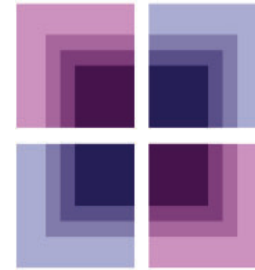
It will be a service of great celebration of our Lord's birth and will have it all...carols, worship, praise, prayer and a message filled with the most glorious gift of all... the message of Jesus Christ & the amazing gifts He gives to the world.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
Friday, December 24
6:00 pm

This is a very special service with our church being decorated with candlelight, holiday decor and the sounds of the Christmas season.

It will be a beautiful and reflective service of the wondrous gift of Jesus' birth.

MISSION OF THE MONTH



Retired
Ministers+
Missionaries
Offering

Through our faith in God, and our gratitude for the salvific actions of Jesus Christ we are called to be faithful servants of the gospel and to live out the ministry of Jesus in word and deed. The gratitude that we have for Jesus' gift to us is the seed

from which springs the gratitude that manifests toward the people of God. The Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering supports those who have dedicated their lives to God's service by providing emergency assistance in times of need and a thank you check at the end of each year. We hope you will join us in honoring God's committed servants.

Donations will be taken through the month of December.

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSES FOR HOLIDAYS

The church office will be closed **Friday, December 24th** so the staff may spend the Christmas holiday with their families. Please bring your holiday guests and family to the Christmas Worship at 10 am on Sunday, December 19th and Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 6:00 pm on Friday, December 24th.

The church office will also be closed on **Friday, December 31st.**

In case of an emergency, please contact Pastor Shaker.

(continued from pg. 1)

- Don't give up when fragmenting effect of multiple pressures seem relentless.
- Don't give up when the field God has assigned you is too hard and the harvest does not look promising.
- Don't give up when your reputations is damaged because you are trying to be faithful to Jesus.
- Don't give up when waiting on God seems endless.
- Don't Give Up.

Active involvement in your local church is imperative to living a life without compromise. It is only through the ministry of the local church that a believer can receive the kind of teaching, accountability, and encouragement that is necessary for him or her to stand firm in his convictions. God has ordained that the church provide the kind of environment where an uncompromising life can thrive and His people can grow spiritually.

My family and I will be eternally grateful for your generosity, love and faithfulness.

Have a wonderful Christmas as a family of God. Our family wishes you all of God's blessings.

In Christ's Steps,
Pastor Shaker

During this Christmas season, your church staff wishes you the gift of faith, the blessing of hope and the peace that knowing Jesus brings.

May your Christmas be filled with joy. May God continue to bless you in the coming year as He has blessed us so richly this past year.

Thank you for letting us serve you in 2021!

Pastor Shaker, Gayla, Jesse, Denise, Jacob, Bradley, Allison, Kathy & Maria

LEADERSHIP COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS OF OCTOBER MEETING

Opening Prayer: Pastor Shaker

Devotional-Spiritual Growth and Teaching-Steve showed a video of “It Starts Right Here” by the gospel group Casting Crowns and Judy spoke of Unity from John 17.

Ministry Team Reports:

- Outreach, Evangelism & Missions: Kristy Dunning, Tina Evans Discontinued financial support to ABWE, as the Dempsey’s have left that organization. A Love Gift of \$200 was given to a homeless pregnant woman. Adjustment to Mission allocation from General giving to 10% of giving instead of a set amount. Team will help with Pizza with Santa on December 3. FBC will have a booth at the Hometown Christmas Event on December 8.

- Youth & Kids Ministry: Kari Graff, Tammy Davis

Youth: Baptisms on 10/24 and 11/14, 9 kids and youth are interested. Next STEPS class is happening with kids and students. MS and HS Girls have retreats were a success. Youth handling the Wednesday dinner meal went well.

Youth Bonfire will be 11/7. Youth will be serving at the BQT/Retirement event on December 5, tips will go toward summer camp funds.

Crossfire Christmas party and dinner will be on December 12.

Kids: AWANA program, is going great! Kids are learning memory versus and having a great time.

Kids will have a Bon-Fire on October 24.

Halloween Outreach will be Saturday, October 30 and Trunk-R-Treat will be Sunday, October 31.

AWANA will be taking a break in December to work on the kids Christmas play, AWANA Grand Prix will be in January. Discussing possible Parents/Adults Sunday Morning Small Group.

- Adult Small Groups & Bible Studies Ministry: Kari Graff & Steve Wilkerson The Small Groups continue to meet on Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings. Need small groups and leaders for MS & HS students and Young Adults on Sunday mornings.

- Financial and Stewardship: Vicki Ardrey Financial Report: End of August and September reports were presented. Reports were approved by consensus. Thank you Scott Evans, for getting the financial reports up to date. Budget team started working to the 2022 budget.

- Building and Grounds: Judy Rawls, Tony Stamm Pavilion completion, waiting to be scheduled in by construction crew.

- Special Events/Kitchen & Dinners: Frances Reiman Saturday, October 9, served 50-55 family and friends a Funeral Dinner for Mindy Byram.

Christina Smith has resigned as the Co-ordinator for the Wednesday Dinners. Will be hosting the Ministerial Alliance luncheon on Wednesday, November 11.

Christmas Banquet/Shaker’s Retirement Party is set for Sunday, December 5.

Pizza with Santa will be Wednesday, December 8 at 5:30pm.

- Worship Ministry: Vicki Ardrey, Tina Evans Sunday Services continues to be aired online on the FBC Murphy Facebook page. Choir practices on Wednesday evenings. Will have Prayer and Praise twice a month. Changed stage layout/configuration to include choir. Jacob working on Hanging of the Greens and Christmas Season services.

- Technology Team: Kevin Penrod Bradley using a new program to revamp the Veteran’s video. Estimated cost of lamps for Sanctuary projector at \$250, plus cost of renting scaffolding for installation. Put on hold. Jacob is sharing the use of the MacBook with the Pastoral Staffing committee.

- Staff Relations: Tammy Davis, Jesse Boudet Have a couple of evaluations to conduct.

- Pastoral Staffing: Tony Stamm Posted job description online. Committee continues to work through applicants.

- Nominating Team: Judy Rawls, Linda Wright. Will seek new Leadership Council and Ministry Care Team members and have slate of candidates at the November meeting.

- Budget Team: Vicki Ardrey Team met October 18 and began working on Budget.

- Senior Pastor: Will be conducting 1-2 Baptisms. GRR area, Executive Minister, Paul Gibson, will be speaking Sunday, November 7.

Reminders and Next Meeting: Tuesday, November 16

Next Trimester Business Meeting: December 5



CALLING ALL CHILDREN PIZZA WITH SANTA WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8 FROM 5:30 - 7 PM

All children and their families are invited to have dinner with Santa. Pizza, salad, drink, and Christmas cookies for decorating. There will be a story time on the greatest gift ever given...the story of the birth of our Savior, Jesus. Santa will be on hand for consultations. So, kids make your list and be ready to have a heart to heart talk with Santa. He will have time for every child.

White Elephant Gift Exchange



CROSSFIRE CHRISTMAS PARTY SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12TH 5 PM

All middle and high school students are invited to an evening of Christmas food, games, gifts and fun. Everyone is to meet at the church at 4:30 pm and will board the church bus for a Progressive Dinner; going from house to house enjoying what their hostesses and hosts have prepared. Following dinner, everyone will return to the church for some big giveaways, an ugly sweater contest and a white elephant gift exchange. It will be a fun filled evening.



FBC KIDS CLUB CHRISTMAS PARTY SUNDAY DECEMBER 12TH, 9 AM

All children Kindergarten through the 5th grade are invited to a Christmas party with all the trimmings.

It will have Christmas music, Christmas crafts, Christmas games, the Christmas story...

Christmas, Christmas and more Christmas all morning.

There will be a Birthday Cake for Jesus.

It will be two hours of non-stop Christmas Party fun!

Answers *for* Women

2022
Rooted
Standing Firm in a Twisted World

Save The Date **March 31–April 2, 2022**
Answers Center at Ark Encounter
Williamstown, KY

FEATURED SPEAKERS



Laura Story | Darrell Harrison | Ken Ham
Dr. Georgia Purdom

SPEAKERS
Martha Peace, Bill Jack, Mike Johnson, Debbie Meador,
Roger Patterson, Patricia Engler, Abby Owen, and Kyle Mann
Music by The Foto Sisters
Special Concert by Laura Story

AnswersForWomen.org



WEDNESDAY NIGHT ACTIVITIES TAKING A CHRISTMAS BREAK

Crossfire Youth, Family Dinner and Men's & Women's Bible Study will NOT meet on Wednesday December 22nd and 27th because of Pizza with Santa and the school Christmas break.

All activities will resume on Wednesday, January 5th, 2022



If you are interested in participating,
Contact Jesse at 618-713-7505.



The **FBC Women's Group** would like to invite **ALL Women and Young Ladies** to a **Christmas Breakfast** on Saturday, **December 11th** from 8:30-10:30 am. Bring a Christmas Ornament for a gift exchange. Call Kathie Grob at 618-924-7017, If you need more information.



FOOD PANTRY ASKS FOR HOLIDAY FOOD ITEMS

For the holiday season, the Murphysboro Food Pantry would love to have a holiday food basket for all those who are unable to afford the additional expense of the special meal.

They are asking everyone to bring canned and boxed foods and please include items such as boxed stuffing mix, cranberry sauce, instant potatoes, dessert mixes, canned vegetable and fruits, etc.

Your generosity will be a blessing and a wonderful gift to someone less fortunate.

HOMEMADE COOKIES & CANDIES ARE NEEDED



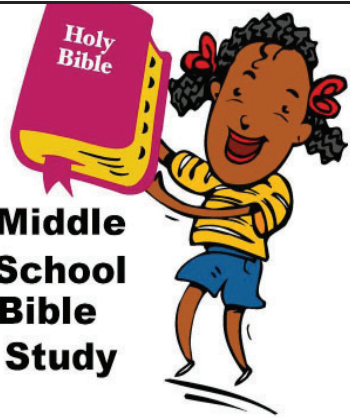
The Deacon Care Team will be assembling and delivering Christmas care packages to our church's nursing home residents and shut-ins on **Monday, December 13th**. If you would like to brighten the holidays for our home-bound and nursing home seniors, make some home-made cookies and candy. Please have your goodies at the church no later than **Sunday, December 12th**. Thank you for bringing some holiday spirit to those who are unable to participate in our church family holiday events. Your thoughtfulness will be a blessing to you and our beloved shut-ins.

BUSINESS MEETING PLANNED

There will be a business meeting on **Sunday, December 5th**, immediately following the morning worship service at approximately **11:15 am**. The 2022 budget and Leadership and Ministry Care Team nominees are on the agenda. Please make plans to stay for the meeting. Thank you.



Immediately following the Worship Service on **Sunday, January 2nd**, there will be a undecorating party to put away all the holiday decorations. The more people that stay and help, the faster everything will get put away and cleaned up.



**Middle
School
Bible
Study**

To be able to get God's Word Out to **Middle school boys and girls**, there will be a **Bible Study on Thursdays** from 5:30-7:00 pm. If you know of any Middle School boy or girl; child, grandchild, or neighbor, let them know they are welcome. **If you need more details text or call Kathie Grob at 618-924-7017.**

COFFEE HOUR HOSTS

December 5

Valerie Lipe

December 12

Buddy & Helen Payne

December 19

Keith & Carol Klaine

December 26

NO COFFEE HOUR

If you are unable to help, please contact the church office.



**Poinsettia
Orders**

**ORDER A POINSETTIA
IN MEMORY OF A LOVED ONE**

8" foil-wrapped pot: \$15

Deadline December 12th

Envelopes are at the
Welcome Center



December

GREETERS

December 5

Tony & Cindy Stamm

December 12

Pat & Jan Etherton

December 19

Matt & Melinda Guthman

December 26

Ed & Terri Miller

If you are unable to help, please contact Cindy Stamm at 319-0781.

Pastor Shaker's
Last Sunday
will be
January 9th.
Please be a part
of his last
Worship
Service.



Say Goodbye to
Our Pastor and Family

We are taking
up a collection
in recognition of his service.
Put your donation in an envelope and
designate it "Pastor Shaker Retirement Gift."

HAPPY DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS!

3	Carol Brown	21	Jesse Stilley
3	Verna Nobel	27	Helen Payne
5	Justin Raines	27	Connor McBride
6	Karen Rahming	27	Karter Holland
6	Machelle Mifflin	28	Courtney Raines
6	Carol Klaine	28	Ethan Penrod
7	Glenann Kiel	29	Terri Miller
9	Maddie Rowe	30	Christina Hunziker
13	Kay Hamilton	31	Mike Mifflin
13	Traci Hunziker	31	Joel Samuel
13	Nancy Ellis		
13	Blake Derocher		
14	Zander Smith		
14	Dakota Smith		
16	Tylor Grob		
21	Sylvia Carvell		



DECEMBER 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 8:30 AM Coffee Hour 8:30 AM Praise Team Rehearsal 8:30 AM Prayer in Pastor's Study 9:00 AM AWANA GO! 9:00 AM Small Groups 10:00 AM AWANA Kids Club 10:00 AM Worship-Hanging of the Greens 6:30 PM Next Gen Small Group	29 7:30 AM Prayer in Pastor's Study 10:00 AM Ladies Exercise Class 7:00 PM Crossfire HS Guys Group	30 7:30 AM Prayer in Pastor's Study 6:00 PM Crossfire HS Girls Group 7:00 PM Worship Team Practice	1 7:30 AM Prayer in Pastor's Study 4:30 PM Crossfire Youth 5:00 PM Family Dinner 6:00 PM Men's Bible Study 6:00 PM Women's Bible Study 7:15 PM Choir	2 7:30 AM Prayer in Pastor's Study 10:00 AM Ladies Exercise Class 5:30 PM Crossfire MS Small Group	3 7:30 AM Prayer in Pastor's Study 6:00 PM Community Tree Lighting 6:00 PM Hometown Christmas Cookie Decorating 8:30 PM Hometown Christmas Caroling	4
5 8:30 AM Coffee Hour 8:30 AM Praise Team Rehearsal 8:30 AM Prayer in Pastor's Study 9:00 AM AWANA GO! 9:00 AM Small Groups 10:00 AM AWANA Kids Club 10:00 AM Worship with Communion 5:30 PM Christmas Banquet/Pastor Shaker's Retirement Banquet	6 7:30 AM Prayer in Pastor's Study 10:00 AM Ladies Exercise Class 7:00 PM Crossfire HS Guys Group	7 7:30 AM Prayer in Pastor's Study 6:00 PM Crossfire HS Girls Group 7:00 PM Worship Team Practice	8 7:30 AM Prayer in Pastor's Study 5:30 PM Pizza with Santa 6:00 PM Men's Bible Study 6:00 PM Women's Bible Study 7:15 PM Choir	9 7:30 AM Prayer in Pastor's Study 10:00 AM Ladies Exercise Class 5:30 PM Crossfire MS Small Group	10 7:30 AM Prayer in Pastor's Study	11 8:30 AM FBC Women's Christmas Breakfast 3:00 PM Christmas Caroling to Shut Ins
12 8:30 AM Coffee Hour 8:30 AM Praise Team Rehearsal 8:30 AM Prayer in Pastor's Study 9:00 AM AWANA GO! 9:00 AM Small Groups 10:00 AM AWANA Kids Club 10:00 AM Worship 6:30 PM Next Gen Small Group	13 7:30 AM Prayer in Pastor's Study 9:00 AM Ministry Care Team 10:00 AM Ladies Exercise Class 7:00 PM Crossfire HS Guys Group	14 7:30 AM Prayer in Pastor's Study 6:00 PM Crossfire HS Girls Group 6:00 PM Leadership Council Meeting 7:00 PM Worship Team Practice	15 7:30 AM Prayer in Pastor's Study 4:30 PM Crossfire Youth 5:00 PM Family Dinner 6:00 PM Men's Bible Study 6:00 PM Women's Bible Study 7:15 PM Choir	16 7:30 AM Prayer in Pastor's Study 10:00 AM Ladies Exercise Class 5:30 PM Crossfire MS Small Group	17 7:30 AM Prayer in Pastor's Study	18
19 8:30 AM Coffee Hour 8:30 AM Praise Team Rehearsal 8:30 AM Prayer in Pastor's Study 9:00 AM AWANA GO! 9:00 AM Small Groups 10:00 AM AWANA Kids Club 10:00 AM Christmas Worship 6:30 PM Next Gen Small Group	20 7:30 AM Prayer in Pastor's Study 10:00 AM Ladies Exercise Class	21 7:30 AM Prayer in Pastor's Study 6:00 PM Crossfire HS Girls Group 7:00 PM Worship Team Practice	22 7:30 AM Prayer in Pastor's Study 7:15 PM Choir	23 7:30 AM Prayer in Pastor's Study 10:00 AM Ladies Exercise Class 5:30 PM Crossfire MS Small Group	24 Christmas Eve Church Office Closed 6:00 PM Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	25 Merry Christmas!
26 8:30 AM Coffee Hour 8:30 AM Praise Team Rehearsal 8:30 AM Prayer in Pastor's Study 9:00 AM AWANA GO! 9:00 AM Small Groups 10:00 AM AWANA Kids Club 10:00 AM Worship 6:30 PM Next Gen Small Group	27 7:30 AM Prayer in Pastor's Study 10:00 AM Ladies Exercise Class 7:00 PM Crossfire HS Guys Group	28 7:30 AM Prayer in Pastor's Study 6:00 PM Crossfire HS Girls Group 7:00 PM Worship Team Practice	29 7:30 AM Prayer in Pastor's Study	30 7:30 AM Prayer in Pastor's Study 10:00 AM Ladies Exercise Class 5:30 PM Crossfire MS Small Group	31 Church Office Closed	1 Happy New Year