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Upcoming Events

**COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS
TREE LIGHTING**
Friday, December 2nd

CHRISTMAS BANQUET
Sunday, December 4th

PASTA WITH SANTA
Wednesday, December 7th

Ladies Christmas Brunch
Saturday, December 10th

ELEVATE Students Christmas Party
Sunday, December 11th

North of 50 Event
Tuesday, December 13th

Communion at the Voyage
Thursday, December 15th

TREK Kids Christmas Party
Sunday, December 18th

FBC Business Meeting
Sunday, December 18th

AWANA Christmas Party
Sunday, December 18

Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship
Saturday, December 24th

Community Christmas Dinner
Sunday, December 25th

Christmas Morning Worship
Sunday, December 25th



DECEMBER 2022 NEWSLETTER

Happy Christmas Everyone!

I hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving! I know my heart was blessed by our lovely Thanksgiving meal as a Church family. I am so thankful for everyone who helped make that meal a reality and for everyone who stayed and fellowshiped as a Church family!

Our Church is so blessed and I encourage you to be thankful to God for our Church as often as you can! Lift our Church up in prayers. Beg God to bring people into a saving relationship with Him through us! Through our ministries, our worship, our small groups, our spiritual gifts, through everything that we have!

Pray for God to use everything that He has blessed us with to reach people of every generation. To serve a real need that points people to praise Jesus! Amen!

Christmas is a time of giving. Built into our minds, for better or for worse, and giving and Christmas go hand in hand. But, hopefully it is fresh on our minds after our Thanks & Giving series that we can only be giving because God generously provides for us.

I am thankful for this built in time to have Giving on my heart and mind. To have Generosity on my heart and mind. But, I know I must be careful to remember that every blessing is from above!

James 1: 17
17 Whatever is good and perfect is a gift coming down to us from God our Father, who created all the lights in the heavens. He never changes or casts a shifting shadow.

So, I must use every blessing generously to bring the attention, the praise, the thanks, and the glory to God!

However, Christmas is about so much more than giving, generosity or gifts! I am thankful for the reminder and opportunity to be generous and giving. But, I am far more thankful for this reminder to celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Because I have no Blessings without the birth of Christ.
John 1: 16 – 17
16 From his abundance we have all received one gracious blessing after another. 17 For the law was given through Moses, but God's unfailing love and faithfulness came through Jesus Christ.

Thank God for this opportunity to celebrate the earthly birth of His Son. All the miracles, the perfect timing, the plan from before time began! So with all that we have with all we have been blessed with let us praise God!

Celebrate Jesus and all He has done. Let us pour out all that we have so that others will look to us and say "Surely God is in them."

Our new Series throughout December is "The Stories of Christmas" We will be looking through Old Testament prophecies that point to Christ! The heart of this series is to create a "family story time" feeling to tell the story of Christ throughout the Old Testament.

This will be a perfect series for guests and families! Each week we will have a small present to say thank you to you because YOU MATTER. So, invite a friend, a neighbor, a stranger, anyone God places in front of you! Let them feel the love and generosity of Jesus Christ through you and our Church this Christmas season!

Happy Christmas! With Love and Prayers,
- Pastor Nathan

Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship

Saturday, December 24th at 6pm

Join us this evening for a time of worship in our Sanctuary in all its beauty by candlelight. We will sing wonderful Christmas carols and reflect on the wondrous gift of Jesus.

Invite your friends and family!



YOU'RE INVITED TO
PASTA WITH SANTA!
DECEMBER 7TH 5:30-7PM
FBC MURPHY
401 N 15TH ST. MURPHYSBORO

*Bring the family and kick off the Christmas Season!
Spend the evening talking with Santa, enjoying a nice dinner, hearing stories, and decorating cookies!*

618.687.1769



lighting the area around the men's room and elevator, Large list on Google, Keep.
Landscaping needed to hide a/c units in front of church. Outside door signs and Walnut Street signs. Rental House needed repairs. Painting the Cubby area in the Nursery. Selling mower.

Special Events/Kitchen & Dinners: Frances Reiman The All-Church picnic and Ice Cream social immediately after church on Sunday, October 2nd had 72 in attendance. Next Wednesday night dinner was October 5. Hosted the GRR Men's Quarterly meeting on October 11. Wednesday night dinner hosts for November, December and January are filled. Christmas Banquet will be on Sunday December 4 at 5:30. Cost for adults will be \$15.00 and children \$10.00. Kathie Grob and Barbara Troutman have volunteered to oversee the details. Pasta with Santa will be on Wednesday, December 7.

Worship Ministry: Vicki Ardrey, Tina Evans, Jacob Kersh Services are going well. Sunday Services continues to be aired online on the FBC Murphy Facebook page and on YouTube. Discussed the order of service. Discussed possibly putting the offering at a different part of the service. Have begun planning Christmas services.

Technology Team: Kevin Penrod. The digital cameras are proving to be very helpful for promoting church activities. New on-line system for giving working well. Working with technology that is still operational and serviceable. Funds are low for considering any costly purchases/addition at present. Bradley continues to update the website and is planning improvements for website albums and monitoring the on-line interactivity of the easy Tithe user operations. Future Needs: Need to discuss technology impact for church in near future: more streaming and virtual-live services. Gradual implementation of Artificial Intelligence systems making way into everyday uses- social media analysis, facial detection/recognition, navigation, chatbots for retailers/business, self-driving vehicles,

healthcare, etc. Updated Sanctuary audio (speakers and wiring, maybe new sound board/controller). Analysis of present audio system is being sought. Need someone to mix the livestream. Need to look at replacing Sanctuary Video Projectors/LED Screens, in the near future. Recommended purchasing a secondary camera and switcher for using both.

Staff Relations: Vicki Ardrey, Anna Pilz Tabled until 2023 Budget is approved for staff salaries and annual reviews.

Strategic Planning: Vicki Ardrey, Dan Perschbacher Team discussed updates to the Constitution and additional review.

Nominating Team: Kathie Grob, Linda Wright Presented the results of contacting the nominees to be on the 2023 Council. All Council vacancies have been filled.

Budget Team: Judy Rawls Budget team consists of Judy, Jesse, Scott, Denise, and Vicki. Will set a date for team to meet.

Lead Pastor's Report: Nathan Nathan reported that: Jeanette Meyers fell and broke her leg, Joy's dad was back in the hospital, his brother, Jason was doing okay. The Walker House is very appreciative of the Church's financial support and volunteers. The parlor renovation team will meet and discuss ideas/plans. Was asked to present a design on what it will look like.
Ministry Director's Report: Jesse thanked those who filled in for him during his absence.

Reminders and Next Meeting: Tuesday, November 15, 2022 6:00 pm

Next Trimester Business Meeting: November 20, 27



LEADERSHIP COUNCIL MINUTES FROM OCTOBER 18TH, 2022

Opening Prayer: Nathan Borish

Last Meeting's Minutes: Approved by consensus.

Ministry Care Team Report: The Care Team met on October 12.

Ministry Team Reports:

Outreach, Evangelism & Missions: Tina Evans, Kristy Dunning Mission Moments for November and December were discussed.

Mission Budget was determined by looking at the giving pattern for the current year. Trunk or Treat after church, as well as the the Community Outreach Event on October 30. Community Trick or Treat at the church on October 31. Trivia night Fundraiser for 2023 Mission Trip. Church wide Thanksgiving dinner after worship November 20. Pasta/Pizza with Santa December 7. Would like for Gift of Hope Team to plan for FBC to have a presence in the Murphysboro Community by supporting adoption, fostering, or parents in need of assistance after making the decision to choose life for their child.

Other budget considerations include community improvement projects like clearing condemned properties.

Youth & Kids Ministry: Jesse Boudet, Dan Perschbacher, Anna Pilz

YOUTH: HS Girls group helped make peanut rolls. Had 38 go to the Laser Tag Lock-In. Had a great time. Youth Group is going well. Dan taught for Jesse on 10/12. New MS small group meeting Sunday mornings is going great. Youth Group and small groups are happening weekly. A Family Bonfire with Kids Ministry will be at Nathan's house on October 26. 2023 Camp Registration is open. MT group met and had dumpling dinner - many youth going. A pool table will be donated to the youth. Will need assistance to move it to the Youth House. Looking for an event for November. Youth will be serving for tips at the Christmas Dinner on December 4. Youth Group's Christmas party/progressive dinner will be December 11th. Will be having a youth leadership meeting. Team members meet regularly to discuss Youth and Kids.

KIDS:

TREK Kids Club program and Small Group on Sunday mornings are going great! AWANA's

Kick-Off was awesome! TREK Small group meet Sunday mornings from 9-9:45 am. TREK Kids Club meet Sunday mornings from 10-11:15 am. AWANA is meeting on Sunday nights from 5-7 pm. TREK Kids had a great parade outreach. A Family Bonfire with Kids Ministry will be at Nathan's house on October 26th. Trick or Trunk Parade, Trunk or Treat Outreach on Sunday, October 30. Halloween Outreach on Monday, October 31. Inflatable is a great addition for events and meetings. Working on weekday times to have church open. Will be having a Winter Play in January. Pasta with Santa outreach will be Wednesday, December 7.

Adult Small Groups & Bible Studies Ministry: Kathie Grob The Small Groups continue to meet on Sunday mornings. Wednesday evening groups continue to meet. Two Journey groups have started to meet- Vicki and Dave will lead a new adult group starting October 17, then every first Thursday of the month. Pastor Nathan leads the Young Families group on Wednesday evenings. The small group on mental health, has been put on hold. Working to get more Journey Groups.

Will make a list of all Journey Groups meeting details.

Financial and Stewardship: Judy Rawls, Vicki Ardrey Financial Report: Reports for September was presented. Reports were approved by consensus. Discussed where undesignated large dollar amount gifts would be deposited. Discussion is ongoing regarding other cuts that can be made to reduce costs/expenses.

Building and Grounds: Judy Rawls, Tony Stamm, Jake Miller Gutting for North side. Education wing gutter. New thermostats have been installed. Repaired and rekeyed locks. Pastor light bulbs changed. Painted walls and ceiling under Baptism hallway. Lighting under baptism installed. Church ceiling/attic insulation will be installed when it gets cold. Future Projects: Rental house vacancy, increase rent, update lease, etc. Painting and

HELP SAY THANK YOU BY GIVING TO THE RMMO

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.



Retired
Ministers+
Missionaries
Offering

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSURES FOR HOLIDAYS

The church office will be closed Monday and Tuesday, December 26-27th so the staff may spend the Christmas holiday with their families. The church office will also be closed on Monday, January 2nd in observance of New Year's day.



Throughout the month of December we will have a small gift every Sunday to thank and appreciate you and all you do for our Church!

Never forget You Matter to us
and You Matter to God!

LET'S STOCK THE FOOD PANTRY!



For the holiday season, the 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 vegetables and fruits, etc.

The food pantry is also in need of volunteers to do the many tasks that need to be done. Just two or three hours, one day a week would be helpful.

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

A TRUE LEGACY GIFT



Another surprise moment occurred recently at FBC in which an unexpected legacy gift was received from the Estate of Jim "JD" Carlock. Mr. Carlock was a long-time member of our church, serving as Head Usher for many years, and otherwise being present on Sundays and other times along with his mother while she was living and many years following her death.

Jim died in April 2021, but he had thoughtfully included FBC in his Last Will and Testament leaving a gift amounting to \$40,000+ to our church.

These generous acts are so far reaching to our church – it indicates that as a member, the church and its members and ministries touched a life very deeply. This legacy gift will be used in the continued ministry at FBC for some time to come.

This gift will also be used as a reminder that we all have the ability to make a designation in several different ways in order to set up a gift upon our death. There are ways to do this that only require a small amount of effort on your part. You could do something as simple as adding a Codicil (additional language) to your Will designating a gift in a specific amount or a percentage of your estate upon your death. A form for this purpose is available in the church office for your review and use. Another method would be to set up your checking or savings account with a POD (payable on death) in a specific amount to the church as a legacy gift.

Let's remember Mr. Carlock and others who have left legacy gifts to our church, and how their generosity has benefited FBC. What a wonderful way to bless the church where you have worshiped for a part or most of your life, and perpetuate the ministries established or that may be started in the future.

Thank God for the blessings in our lives every day, and for the extra "surprises" that occur as well.

North of 50 Event



On **Tuesday, December 13th**, we will be enjoying a leisurely lunch at Eckert's Country Restaurant. We will also be visiting their Country Store, Mr. E's Donut & Custard Stand, Garden Center, and their new Cider Shed. The bus will leave the church at 10:15 am. If you would like to go, the sign up sheet is available on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall or contact the church office to have your name added to the list.

All active senior adults are invited!!!

COMMUNION AT VOYAGE ASSISTED LIVING



Our Ministry Care Team is planning their quarterly Communion Service at the Voyage Assisted Living facility on **Thursday, December 15th at 6pm** in the east building. Everyone is invited to be a part of the service. The residents would love having the fellowship. You and the residents will both receive a blessing! Please plan to attend.

HOMEMADE COOKIES & CANDIES ARE NEEDED



The Ministry Care Team will be assembling and delivering Christmas care packages to our church's nursing home residents and shut-ins on **Monday, December 12th**. If you would like to brighten the holidays for our home bound and nursing home seniors, make some homemade cookies and candy. Sugar free alternatives are needed. Please have your goodies at the church no later than **Sunday, December 11th**. 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.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT ACTIVITIES TAKING A CHRISTMAS BREAK

The Wednesday night groups will only **meet December 14th**. ELEVATE YOUTH, Come to the Table Dinner and Prayer & Praise, and the Journey Small groups will **NOT** meet on Wednesdays, December 7th, due to Pasta with Santa. They will also not meet on December 21 & 28th, and January 4 because of Christmas break. All activities will resume on Wednesday, January 14th, 2023.

Annual Christmas Banquet

Sunday, December 4th
Doors open at 5pm Dinner at 5:30pm

Invite the whole family
 and enjoy Christmas dinner together with
 live music from "Honey and Tar!"

menu
 Parmesan Ranch Chicken
 Garden Salad
 Baked Potato
 Green Beans
 Sorbet

COST: \$15
AGES 5-10 \$8
4 AND UNDER FREE

RESERVATIONS REQUESTED
CALL OR TEXT KATHIE GROB
618-924-7017




**FREE COMMUNITY
 CHRISTMAS DINNER**

Sunday, December 25th
12 -2pm @ the KC HALL
Call 303-4768 for Delivery

WE WISH YOU A VERY
**MERRY
 CHRISTMAS**



**Thank you for letting us Serve
 You in 2022!**

Pastor Nathan, Jesse, Gayla, Denise, Jacob,
 Angie, Bradley, & Maria

ALL PRE-K THRU 6TH GRADERS INVITED!!!

Awana Clubs 
 WHERE KIDS MATTER.

STORIES! - MUSIC!
SNACKS! - GAMES!
LEARNING! - FUN!

**EVERY
 SUNDAY
 FROM 5-7PM**

**INTERESTED?
 CALL OR TEXT US!**

FBCMURPHY
401 N 15TH ST
MURPHYSBORO, IL 62966
WWW.FBCMURPHY.ORG
618-687-1769



let's
**MINGLE &
 JINGLE**



**ELEVATE STUDENTS
 CHRISTMAS PARTY!**

Sunday, December 11th @ 4PM
Meet at FBC and Hop on the Bus

Progressive Dinner!
 Ugly Sweater Contest!
 White Elephant Gift Exchange!
 Reading the Christmas Story!
 Prizes and Giveaways!

**TREK KIDS
 CHRISTMAS PARTY!**

Sunday, December 18th @ 10AM
During TREK Kids Club

Birthday Cake for Jesus!
 Christmas Themed Games!
 Also Reading the Christmas Story!
 Fun Christmas Crafts!
 Giveaways!



Immediately following
the Worship Service on
Sunday, January 8th,
there will be an
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.



COFFEE HOUR HOSTS



December 4
Ed & Terri Miller

December 11
Leah Brown

December 18
Dale Blaise Family

December 25
NO COFFEE HOUR

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

ORDER A POINSETTIA IN MEMORY OF A LOVED ONE



**Envelopes are at the
Welcome Center
\$15 Each**



POST THIS ON YOUR
REFRIGERATOR!



GREETERS



December 4
Scott & Tina Evans

December 11
Tony & Cindy Stamm

December 18
Pat & Jan Etherton

December 25
Matt & Melinda Guthman

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



The Ladies Journey Group would like to
invite ALL Women to a Christmas
Brunch on December 10th at 10am.
Bring a Christmas Ornament for a gift
exchange. Questions call Kathie Grob
at 618-924-7017.

HAPPY DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS!

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



Thanks to our many
VOLUNTEERS

December 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 8:30am Coffee Hour 8:30am Praise Team Rehearsal 9:00am Adult Small Groups 9:00am Trek Kids-Small Group 10:00am Trek Kids Club 10:00am Worship-Hanging of the Greens 5:00pm AWANA	28 10:00am Ladies Exercise Class 7:00pm D & D Small Group	29	30 5:00pm EVELVATE Youth Wild Wednesday 5:00pm Young Families Journey Group 6:00pm Men's Bible Study 6:00pm Women's Bible Study 7:00pm HS Guys Group	1 10:00am Ladies Exercise Class 6:00pm Faith Friends, Fun & Fellowship Journey Group(Ardrey's) 6:00pm Worship Team Practice	2 Community Tree Lighting 6:00pm Christmas Caroling	3
4 8:30am Coffee Hour 8:30am Praise Team Rehearsal 9:00am Adult Small Groups 9:00am Trek Kids-Small Group 10:00am Trek Kids Club 10:00am Worship 10:00am Worship with Communion 5:00pm Christmas Banquet	5 10:00am Ladies Exercise Class 7:00pm D & D Small Group	6	7 5:30pm Pasta With Santa	8 10:00am Ladies Exercise Class 6:00pm Worship Team Practice	9	10 10:00am FBC Ladies Journey Group Brunch/Ornament Exchange
11 8:30am Coffee Hour 8:30am Praise Team Rehearsal 9:00am Adult Small Groups 9:00am Trek Kids-Small Group 10:00am Trek Kids Club 10:00am Worship 5:00pm AWANA	12 9:00am Ministry Care Team 10:00am Ladies Exercise Class 7:00pm D & D Small Group	13 10:15am North of 50 Event to Eckert's	14 5:00pm EVELVATE Youth Wild Wednesday 5:00pm Young Families Journey Group 6:00pm Men's Bible Study 6:00pm Women's Bible Study 7:00pm HS Guys Group	15 10:00am Ladies Exercise Class 5:00pm Voyage Assisted Living Communion 6:00pm Worship Team Practice	16	17
18 8:30am Coffee Hour 8:30am Praise Team Rehearsal 9:00am Adult Small Groups 9:00am Trek Kids-Small Group 10:00am Trek Kids Club 10:00am Worship 11:15am Trimester Business Meeting 5:00pm AWANA STORE-Food, Games & Fun	19 10:00am Ladies Exercise Class 7:00pm D & D Small Group	20 6:00pm Leadership Council Meeting	21	22 10:00am Ladies Exercise Class 6:00pm Worship Team Practice	23	24 6:00pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
25 MERRY CHRISTMAS 8:30am Praise Team Rehearsal 10:00am Worship	26 10:00am Ladies Exercise Class 7:00pm D & D Small Group	27	28	29 10:00am Ladies Exercise Class 6:00pm Worship Team Practice	30	31