



The Messenger

A Newsletter of the
Murfreesboro Baptist Church
May 2022

WORDS FROM THE PASTOR

I've written before about how I find the process of turning over the sanctuary from one season to the next to be particularly holy. And even though this is true for the change from Advent to Christmas or from Ordinary Time to Christ the King, the sense of holiness is most palpable during the shift from Holy Week to Easter. And this year it seemed even more present.

During Holy Week, we move from the bright joy of Palm Sunday, to the dark sorrow of Good Friday, and back again to the unsurpassed good news of Easter. On Maundy Thursday, the black cloth covered everything in preparation for Jesus' crucifixion, and on Friday, we both mourned the cruelty of and rejoiced in the gift of that death.

But on Good Friday, while our minds and hearts were contemplating the death of Christ, there was already good news waiting behind the scenes - there were already signs of the resurrection waiting to be revealed.

In the classroom turned storage closet just outside the sanctuary, not only were Easter banners ready to adorn the barren walls, but there were also 31 beautiful, sweet-smelling lilies waiting to fill our sanctuary as a symbol of new life. And, although the collection of imposing, bare sticks covered in black cloth continued to stand menacingly in their prominent spot, the baptistry just behind them was filled and ready to celebrate the adoption of a new brother into the family of God.

In the weeks since Easter I've thought about these "hidden signs" more than once. And the more I've thought about them the more I've come to see them as a parable of sorts. Jesus tells all kinds of parables - he takes a look at the ordinary things around him and uses those things to teach his disciples about the Kingdom of God. And, to my mind, having baptismal waters and Easter lilies waiting in the wings amid the darkness of death of Good Friday certainly qualifies.

For even though we may not always be able to see it, the Kingdom of God is here. With the resurrection of Jesus, it was initiated and with our

faithful discipleship, it continues to be present. The resurrection and new life that has been secured for us is a sure promise from our good and gracious God. And though sin and death continue to make their painful presence known in a world that is not yet fully redeemed, we can nevertheless trust that those things will, one day, give way fully to God's Kingdom.

So, as we continue into Spring and begin the transition to summer, I hope that you will continue to hold tightly to the promises of Easter, that you will cling to the steadfast love of God, and that you will embrace the inevitability God's coming Kingdom.



*Grace and peace,
Lane*



During our worship on Sunday, May 22nd, we will come together as a congregation to ordain three new deacons who were elected during the pandemic:

**Tommy Bird,
Mary Etta Flowers, and
Linda Hassel**

The process of ordination, with laying on of hands and prayer, is important and meaningful not just for these three, but for our whole congregation. It is a time set aside so that we can both affirm their past faithfulness and pray for their continued faithfulness. So, I hope that you will make a point to be with us that morning as we recognize the calling that has been placed upon them.

SANCTUARY FLOWERS

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



COMMUNION

Beginning on Sunday, May 8, we will return to receiving the Lord's Supper as we did prior to the pandemic. However, there will still be prepackaged elements available for those who prefer to continue using them. When the deacons distribute the broken crackers, each plate will have a few of the prepackaged cups on it as well. If that is how you would like to receive the elements, simply pick one up and pass the plate along.

Additionally, this means that we need volunteers to prepare and clean up the Communion elements. If you would like to volunteer for May 8, June 5, July 3, or any other first Sunday, please give the office a call. If you've never done it before or if you would like a refresher, Lane will be happy walk you through the process. Thanks in advance for your willingness to make this holy meal available to our congregation.

Thank You...

To everyone who contributed to make Murfreesboro Baptist Church Day of Revival Services a success. We are extremely fortunate to have to have the support of our members, friends, and community.

Vacation Bible School



Murfreesboro Baptist Church is pleased to announce we will have a traditional VBS this year. The Theme is

Food Truck Party: On a Roll with God

VBS will be held from
July 25 - July 29
From 9 a.m. - 12 noon
For ages 3 through 5th grade.

On Wednesday, July 27
we will host an

Ice Cream Social at 7:00 p.m.

VBS will conclude with a
Cookout
Friday, July 29 at 12 noon

Volunteers are still needed to lead crafts and serve as cress leaders.

**If you would like to help
please contact Sarah Davis.**

USING THEIR GIFTS TO SERVE IN MAY

DEACON OF THE MONTH

Mary Etta Flowers

OPENING OF THE CHURCH

Dr. Garth Faile

USHERS

May

Steve Fowler, T.K. Warren,
Mike Alston, Kirk Peterson

June

Don Johnson, Wayne Brown,
Bruce Brown, Brinson Paul

RADIO MINISTRY SPONSOR

Bob and Ann Lee

CAREGIVERS

April 24-May 7

Dave and Carole Farnham

May 8-May 21

T.K. Warren

May 22-June 4

Judy Clark

NURSERY CAREGIVERS

May 1 Mollie Madden
May 8 Edward Snyder
May 15 Children's Church
May 22 Susan Bass
May 29 Elizabeth Brown

ACOLYTES

May 1 Charlotte Cole
May 8 Jack Cole
May 15 Mary Welch Gallop
May 22 Winslow Gallop
May 29 Tommy McCormick

SANTUARY FLOWERS

May 1 T.W. and Debbie Hill
May 8 Available
May 15 Danny and Lynn Moore
May 22 Available
May 29 Available

Happy Mother's Day – May 8

On Mother's Day, I hope that we will be faithful in remembering all of the women of God who have guided us in our faith. From mothers and grandmothers and aunts who have nurtured us physically to Children's Ministers and Sunday school teachers and Pastors who have nurtured our spirits, let us be thankful for each and every one.

*Happy Mother's Day to all of you who have been faithful
In Showering God's people with motherly love.*



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 31. The finance committee will award the scholarships and notify the recipients.

GRADUATES

Please contact the church office if you or your family have a high school, college or professional graduate this spring. We would like to make sure all of our graduates are properly recognized.



CHURCH STAFF REV. LANE BASS

PASTOR

PAULA PRESSNELL

Organist & Choir Director

TOM CAULKINS
Pastor Emeritus

TERESA MARTIN
Administrative Assistant



CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS IN MAY

May 7 Heather Boyd
May 8 Dot Combs
May 10 Susan Alston
May 10 Mike Bunch
May 11 Jimmy Boone
May 12 Nancy Peden
May 14 Pat Torres
May 15 Booker Daniel
May 18 Peg McLean
May 18 Hal Thomas
May 20 Darren Piper
May 28 Trey Gilliam
May 28 Lane Bass

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

BLESSINGS MINISTRIES FOODBANK

OF THE ALBEMARLE

Volunteers are needed on May 17 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.

Our Shared Commitment to Supporting Missions and Ministry for April 2022

	Apr. 3	Apr. 10	Apr. 17	Apr. 24	Monthly Total	For the Year
Weekly Budget	\$3,942.31	\$3,942.31	\$3,942.31	\$3,942.31	\$15,769.24	\$118,269.30
Weekly Tithes & Offerings	\$5,489.00	\$8,025.89	\$2,373.74	\$5,190.00	\$21,078.63	\$125,793.45
Other Income						\$286.17
Over (Under)	\$1,546.69	\$4,083.58	(\$1,568.57)	\$1,247.69	\$5,309.39	\$7,810.32

DEACONS' MEETING TUESDAY, MAY 10

6:00 p.m.

Church Office Hours Monday - Friday 8:30 - 1:30

252-398-3613

Administrative Office will be closed Monday, May 30 for Memorial Day Holiday.

www.murfbc.org



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

Return Service Requested