

THE WORSHIP OF GOD

Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 24, 2023
Ten O'clock in the Morning

Memorial Baptist Church
Buies Creek, North Carolina

O Lord of heaven, and earth, and sea! To Thee all praise and glory be;
How shall we show our love to Thee, who givest all?

~ Christopher Wordsworth (1807-1885),
English Anglican bishop

GATHERING

PRELUDE *Holy, Holy, Holy* Robert J. Hughes
Anne McClain, organ

WELCOME and † INVOCATION Meredith Lanier Craddock, Associate Pastor
Ad. fr. The Book of Common Prayer
(Collects for the Sundays closest to Sept. 21 and 28)

O God, you prove your mighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity.
Grant us, Lord, not to be anxious about earthly things, but to love heavenly things.
Help us, Lord, while we are placed among things that are passing away,
to hold fast to those things that endure.
Give us, Lord, the fullness of your grace,
that we also may be filled with spiritual treasure;
not because we have earned it, but because you have given it.
This we pray through the abundance that is ours in Jesus Christ our Lord; **Amen.**

† HYMN OF PRAISE 20 *Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above* MIT FREUDEN ZART
stanzas 1, 2 and 3

CONFESSION and ASSURANCE Brittany Montgomery, Ministry Intern

PROCLAIMING

EPISTLE (responsively) Ephesians 1: 3-14 Edward Beddingfield, Pastor

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing
coming down from the heavenly places;

**who chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world,
to be holy and blameless before Him in love;**

who destined us for adoption as children through Jesus Christ,
according to the good pleasure of His will,
to the praise of His glorious grace,
which He has freely bestowed on us in the Beloved,
so that we might have redemption through his blood,
the forgiveness of our trespasses,
according to the riches of God's grace which is lavished upon us;

**who, with all wisdom and insight, has made known to us the mystery of His will,
according to His good pleasure set forth in Christ –
a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him,
things in heaven and things on earth;**

by whom, though Christ, we have also obtained an inheritance,
having been destined according to the purpose of God,
who accomplishes all things according to His counsel and will,
so that we, who were the first to hope in Christ,
might live for the praise of God's glory;

**and by whom you also, when you had heard the word of truth,
the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in Him,
were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit,
which is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption
as God's own people, to the praise of God's glory. Amen!**

ANTHEM *Stop By, Lord* Doris Wesley Bettis

GOSPEL Matthew 20: 1-16 Mrs. Craddock
The Parable of the Laborers in the Vineyard:
"So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

* Following the Gospel reading, children from age 3 through 4th grade may meet
Mrs. Meredith and Ms. Brittany at the back of the sanctuary to leave for Kids' Church.
Parents may pick up their children in the church library after the service.

SERMON *God's Ledger* Mr. Beddingfield

RESPONDING

† SONGS OF FAITH *The Servant Song* BEACH SPRING

We are travelers on a journey, fellow pilgrims on the road;
We are here to help each other walk the mile and bear the load.
I will hold the Christ light for you in the night time of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.

Brother let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you;
Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant too.
Sister let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you;
Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant too.

I will hold you, I will carry, here's my shoulder I will journey with you.

We are travelers on a journey, fellow pilgrims on the road;
We are here to help each other walk the mile and bear the load.
I will weep when you are weeping, when you laugh, I'll laugh with you;
I will share your joy and sorrow, till we've seen this journey through.

Make Me a Servant Kelly Willard

Make me a servant humble and meek
Lord let me lift up those who are weak
And may the prayers of my heart always be
Make me a servant, make me a servant
Make me a servant today

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Mr. Beddingfield
and The Lord's Prayer (unison)

**Our Father, who art in heaven: Hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil;
for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

OFFERING OUR GIFTS *Be Thou My Vision* arr. Stan Pethel
Donna Penny, piano

SENDING

† INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP and HYMN OF SENDING FORTH 323 RESTORATION
Come Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy
refrain after stanzas 1, 2 and 4 only

LIFE IN THE COMMUNITY Mr. Beddingfield
MISSION MOMENT

† BENEDICTION Mr. Beddingfield

POSTLUDE *Festive Postlude on RISE UP, O CHURCH OF GOD* Douglas Wagner
Mrs. McClain, organ

PRAYER FOR OUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS:

Members: Becky Thompson (*upcoming surgery for colon cancer*), Jean Powers, Jeff Pope, Pauline Calloway, Betty Wallace, Jimmy Jung, Linda Smith

Family and Friends: James Stecher (*great-nephew of Bob Cisneros*); Randy Rambeau (*friend of Earl and Diane Jones*); Linda Savage (*sister-in-law of Earl Savage*); Peggy Barber (*niece of Jeanne Barker*); Ethan Barber and Clark Barber (*great-nephews of Jeanne Barker*); Craig Newton (*friend of Anne McClain*); Victor Das (*father of Joseph Das*); Brenda Gurganious (*friend of Susan Johnson*); Josephine Simpson (*neighbor of Pastor Ed*); Glenn Johnson; Aaron Bowers (*brother of Charissa English*); Jeroen and Liz Stone; Rusty Armstrong, Wanda Sims, Rhonda Rockholt (*friends of Ofe Hoyle*); Proctorville Baptist Church; Michael Warren (*brother of Donna Haynes*)

Aldersgate senior living center (Charlotte, NC): Louise Taylor

Emerald Health and Rehab Center (Lillington, NC): Pat Stiller

Prayers of Comfort are extended to the family of Kenneth H. Barbour, Sr. in his death on Wednesday, September 20th.

In order to keep our prayer list current, we will place names on the list for one month. After one month we will remove names from the list. If there is a need for a name to be on the list for a longer period, please notify us and we will be happy to comply.

Deacons for September 2023: Cherry DeVane and Randall Johnson

Deacons for October 2023: Lisa Lanier and Jac Whatley

Ushers Today: Cherry DeVane, Chad Godwin, Derek Hogan and Jeff Pope

Ushers Oct. 1: Randall Johnson, Susan Johnson, Linda Lunney and Siu-Ki Wong

Kids' Church today: Meredith Craddock and Brittany Montgomery

† The congregation is invited to stand.

*The altar flowers are given to the glory of God
and in loving memory of Katie Morgan
for her birthday
by Mary Morgan, Margaret Morgan Holmes and Rupert Tart.*

TODAY, September 24th

- Friends Class - Sunday School:** 8:45 a.m.
- Sarah's Open Door Class - Sunday School:** 9:00 a.m.
- Children - Sunday School:** 9:00 a.m. (Library)
- Youth - Sunday School:** 9:00 a.m. (Fellowship Hall)
- Worship Service:** 10:00 a.m. (Sanctuary)
- Kids' Church:** during worship (Library)

WEDNESDAY, September 27th

- Children's Choir:** 5:30 p.m. (Choir Room)
- MISSIONS COMMITTEE FUNDRAISER DINNER**
Baked Potato Bar and Salad: 5:45 p.m. (Fellowship Hall)
- BUSINESS MEETING:** 6:30 p.m. (Fellowship Hall)
- Mission Kids:** 6:30 p.m. (Classroom)
- Youth Activity:** 6:30 p.m. (Library)
- Chancel Choir Rehearsal:** 7:30 p.m. (Sanctuary)

OCTOBER 2023

- 1 Friends Class - Sunday School:** 8:45 a.m.
- Sarah's Open Door Class - Sunday School:** 9:00 a.m.
- Children - Sunday School:** 9:00 a.m. (Library)
- Youth - Sunday School:** 9:00 a.m. (Fellowship Hall)
- Worship Service:** 10:00 a.m. (Sanctuary)
- * No Kids' Church**

- 4 Children's Choir:** 5:30 p.m. (Choir Room)
- Simple Supper - Nacho Bar:** 5:45 p.m. (Fellowship Hall)
- Mission Kids:** 6:30 p.m. (Classroom)
- Youth Activity:** 6:30 p.m. (Library)
- Adult Bible Study:** 6:30 p.m. (Fellowship Hall)
- Chancel Choir Rehearsal:** 7:30 p.m. (Sanctuary)


- 8 Friends Class - Sunday School:** 8:45 a.m.
- Sarah's Open Door Class - Sunday School:** 9:00 a.m.
- Children - Sunday School:** 9:00 a.m. (Library)
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- Worship Service:** 10:00 a.m. (Sanctuary)
- Kids' Church:** during worship (Library)

- 9 Deacon's Meeting:** 7:00 p.m.

Financial Position for the Period 1/1/23 - 8/31/23

» Total support, 1/1/2023 - 8/31/2023	\$ 271,527
» Total expenditures	\$ (257,340)
» Support exceeded expenditures	\$ 14,187
» Total 2023 Budget Proposal	\$ 413,084
» Percent of year passed	67%
» Support needed to meet budget	\$ 275,012
» Undesignated support received as of 8/31/2023	\$ 253,037
» Budget support shortfall as of 8/31/2023	\$ (21,975)
» Principal due on line of credit for church renovation	\$ 72,518

MAUI WILD FIRES RELIEF



Wild fires have become a life threat in Maui, Hawaii. As brothers & sisters in Christ, we are called to show our love through support. They ask for our prayers & financial support. Please give generously at: www.cbf.net/hawaii & write "Hawaii fires" in the comment field.



We are still collecting:

FRESH, WRAPPED CANDY (*no chocolate and no peanut products*);
and
POP-TOP CANNED FOOD ITEMS (*ex: ravioli, tuna, beef stew, soup, fruit, etc.*).

We also welcome monetary donations to go toward the purchase of backpacks and Bibles. Designate your donation as 'Backpacks.'

*** MARK YOUR CALENDARS – Wednesday, October 18 ***
Appalachian Backpacks Assembly night

CHURCH MISSION PROJECTS

- **Clothes Closet:** Date TBD
- **Harnett Food Pantry:** collecting **non-perishable foods and egg cartons**
Needed for September -- **Corn**
Monetary donations to MBC are also welcome. Designate contribution as 'Food Pantry.'
- **Buddy Backpack:** collecting "nab crackers"
[cheese with cheese or cheese with peanut butter]
Monetary donations to MBC are also welcome. Designate contribution as 'Buddy Backpack.'

Memorial Baptist Church
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Emails: edb@memorialbcnc.org
meredith@memorialbcnc.org
ashley@memorialbcnc.org
Church Office Hours: Monday - Friday: 9am - 5pm
Other Staff: By Appointment



**MEMORIAL
BAPTIST CHURCH**

*Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
September 24, 2023*

Memorial Baptist Church is an inviting, inclusive, Christ-centered community of faith open to all persons who want to walk with us in following the way of Jesus. If you mourn and need comfort; if you're weary and need rest; if you feel friendless and need friendship; if you need a Savior; if you need love; if you need help; whoever you are and whatever your circumstances, we open the door and in the name of Jesus bid you come.

The Rev. Edward Beddingfield, Pastor
Meredith Lanier Craddock, Associate Pastor
Dr. Phillip and Susan Morrow, Ministers of Music
Anne McClain, Organist
Brittany Montgomery, Ministry Intern
Mariamarta Conrad, Worship Assistant
Ashley Nelson, Administrative Assistant
Wayne Smith, Custodian