

THE WORSHIP OF GOD

Second Sunday in Lent

March 16, 2025
Ten O'clock in the Morning

Memorial Baptist Church
Buies Creek, North Carolina

The story of the flood is not a story about a change in humankind. It's about a change in God. God will never again repay betrayal with betrayal, anger and disappointment with destruction. God will be bound to creation in peace. If God is wounded; so be it. With this first, remarkable covenant, God chooses to ally with this cantankerous creation whatever the cost. God's promise to us from now on is life, not death, "an everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth."

~Ad. fr. Barbara Brown Taylor, "Refreshing God's Memory,"
Gospel Medicine, Cowley Publications, Boston, 1995, p. 32.

GATHERING

PRELUDE *O Bless the Lord, My Soul!* Jason W. Krug
Anne McClain, *Organist*

WELCOME and † INVOCATION Meredith Lanier Craddock, *Associate Pastor*

† HYMNS OF PRAISE 54 *Great Is Thy Faithfulness* FAITHFULNESS
El Shaddai EL SHADDAI
Mariamarta Conrad, *Leader*

El Shaddai, El Shaddai, El Elyon na Adonai;
Age to age you're still the same by the power of the name.
El Shaddai, El Shaddai, Erkahmka na Adonai;
We will praise and lift you high, El Shaddai.

(2nd time - women sing the first 2 lines, add men on the 3rd line)

Translation

El Shaddai: God Almighty
El Elyon: The Most High God
na Adonai: O Lord
Erkahmka: We will love you

SEEKING THE LORD

LENTEN CALL TO PRAYER (*responsively*) Edward Beddingfield, *Pastor*
Isaiah 55: 1-3a, 6-11

Look, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters;
and you who have no money, come, buy, and eat!

Come, and buy wine and milk without money and without price.

Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,
and your labor for that which does not satisfy?

Listen carefully, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food.

**Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, that you may live;
and I will make with you an everlasting covenant.**

Seek the Lord while he may be found; call upon the Lord while he is near.

**Let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts;
and let them return to the Lord, who will have mercy upon them,
and to our God, who will abundantly pardon.**

For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, says the Lord.

**For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways
higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.**

For as the rain and snow come down from heaven, and do not return
until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout,
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,
so shall my word be that goes forth from my mouth:

**It shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish my purpose,
and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.**

ANTHEM *Seek the Lord* John Carter

Seek the Lord while he may be found, call upon him, call while he is near.
Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts;
let him return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on him,
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

CONFESSION and ASSURANCE OF GRACE Psalm 103: 8-12 Mr. Beddingfield

The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and
abounding in steadfast love. The Lord will not always accuse,
and will not remain angry forever. The Lord does not deal with us
according to our sins, or repay us according to our iniquities.
But as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is
God's steadfast love toward those who fear the Lord;
and as far as the east is from the west, so far does
the Lord remove our transgressions from us.

PROCLAIMING

OLD TESTAMENT Genesis 9: 8-17 Mrs. Craddock

When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds,
I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and
every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall
never again become a flood to destroy all flesh.

* Following the Old Testament reading, children from age 3 through 3rd grade may
meet Mrs. Tricia Scarboro 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 *A String Around God's Finger* Mr. Beddingfield

RESPONDING

† SONG OF RESPONSE 142 *There Is a Fountain* CLEANSING FOUNTAIN
Ms. Conrad, *Leader*
stanzas 1, 3 and 4

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE and The Lord's Prayer (*unison*) Mrs. Craddock

**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.**

INVITATION TO GIVE and
OFFERTORY

Antiphon
Mrs. McClain

Mr. Beddingfield
Anthony Giamanco

SENDING

INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP Mr. Beddingfield

† HYMN OF SENDING FORTH 292 ST. MARGARET
O Love, That Wilt Not Let Me Go
stanzas 1, 3 and 4

† LIFE IN THE COMMUNITY Mr. Beddingfield

† BENEDICTION Mr. Beddingfield

POSTLUDE *Postlude on ST. PATRICK'S BREASTPLATE* Lani Smith
Mrs. McClain

PRAYER FOR OUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS:

Members: Shea Cunningham, Doris Eller, Carolyn Walker, Linda Smith, Betty Wallace

Family and Friends: Lee Lanier; Teresa Roberts; Frances Davis (*great-aunt of Mariamarta Conrad*); Debbie Johnson (*friend of Cindy Avrette*); Paul Stiller (*father of Susan Morrow*); Kelly McLamb (*daughter of Jerry & Betty Wallace*); International teachers & families

Aldersgate Senior Living Center (Charlotte, NC): Louise Taylor

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

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 March 2025: Trinity Kelly and Dave Steegar

Deacons for April 2025: Steve DeVane and Tammy Scarborough

Ushers Today: Randall Johnson, Ron McLamb, Scotty Scarborough and Lee Turlington

Ushers Mar. 23: Cherry DeVane, Chad Godwin, Derek Hogan and Jeff Pope

Kids' Church Today: Tricia Scarboro

Kids' Church Mar. 23: (*need volunteer*)

Nursery today: Carrie Royal

Nursery Mar. 23: (*need volunteer*)

TODAY, March 16th

- Friends Class - Sunday School:** 9:00 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. (Family Life Center)
- Worship Service:** 10:00 a.m. (Sanctuary)
- Kids' Church:** during worship (Library)
- Mission Trip Meeting:** 2:00 p.m. (Fellowship Hall)

WEDNESDAY, March 19th

- Children's Choir:** 5:30 p.m. (Choir Room)
- Simple Supper - Nacho Bar:** 5:45 p.m. (Fellowship Hall)
- Mission Kids - Visit Campbell University Food Pantry:** 6:30 p.m.
See below for details.
- Youth Activity:** 6:30 p.m. (Library)
- Lenten Bible Study:** 6:30 p.m. (Fellowship Hall)
- Chancel Choir Rehearsal:** 7:30 p.m. (Sanctuary)

MARCH 2025

- 23 Friends Class - Sunday School:** 9:00 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. (Family Life Center)
- Worship Service:** 10:00 a.m. (Sanctuary)
- Kids' Church:** during worship (Library)



Campbell University Food Pantry

This Wednesday, the Mission Kids invite you to participate in our local missions effort. Morgan Pajak, who directs Campbell's food pantry ("Nourish Market") for students, will eat dinner with us and briefly tell us about their ministry. Afterward, the Mission Kids will walk to the pantry to help stock their shelves with as many **breakfast items** as we can collect.

You can help by donating: cereal, pop tarts, granola bars, milk, eggs, juice, coffee, etc. (They have refrigerators and freezers).

THANK YOU!

Memorial Baptist Church

271 Leslie Campbell Avenue/P.O. Box 485
Buies Creek, NC 27506

Telephone: 910-893-4162 Fax: 910-893-2167

Website: www.memorialbcnc.org

Emails: edb@memorialbcnc.org

meredith@memorialbcnc.org

ashley@memorialbcnc.org

Church Office Hours: Monday - Friday: 9am - 5pm

Other Staff: By Appointment

Financial Position as of 2/28/25

» Total support	\$ 74,270
» Total expenditures	\$ (65,057)
» Support exceeds expenditures	\$ 9,213
» Total 2025 Budget Proposal	\$ 418,220
» Percent of year passed	16%
» Support needed to meet budget	\$ 67,603
» Undesignated support received as of 2/28/25	\$ 72,171
» Operating expenses offset received from Stokes Day Care	\$ 2,550
» Support exceeds budgeted needs as of 2/28/25	\$ 7,118

Ways to Donate to MBC:

- **Offering plates** during the Offertory portion of our service.
 - Mailing a **check** payable to: *Memorial Baptist Church*
P.O. Box 485
Buies Creek, NC 27506
 - *Our website at www.memorialbcnc.org by clicking the **Donate** tab.
 - *Scanning the **QR Code** shown here on your mobile device.
- *(If you want 100% of your donation to benefit MBC, please increase your gift by 3% to help cover the transaction expenses.)*



Pick up a Lenten devotional booklet for your family.
They are located on the tables in the foyer.

An additional option is a weekly Lenten devotion from *BWIM (Baptist Women In Ministry)*. See your church emails for the link to view these devotions.



CHURCH LIBRARY NEWS

During the month of March there will be a member of the Library Committee available after Sunday worship services and on Wednesdays from 6:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. to help you find and check out books.



For March, we are collecting:
Shampoo, Body Wash and Soap
(men & women or gender neutral)

Place items in the plastic tote in the hallway.

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

CHURCH MISSION PROJECTS

- **Clothes Closet:** April 5, 2025
- **Harnett Food Pantry:** collecting **non-perishable foods**
(Egg cartons are not needed at this time.)
Needed for March -- **Peanut Butter**
Monetary donations to MBC are also welcome; designate as 'Food Pantry.'
- **Buddy Backpack:** collecting **sandwich crackers "nabs"**
Monetary donations to MBC are also welcome; designate as 'Buddy Backpack.'
- **Belts for HCMS:** *Donations of used men's or boys' belts that can be used for students at the school.*



MEMORIAL BAPTIST CHURCH

Second Sunday in Lent

March 16, 2025

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
Ashley Nelson, Administrative Assistant
Wayne Smith, Custodian