

THE WORSHIP OF GOD

Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 7, 2025
Ten O'clock in the Morning

Memorial Baptist Church
Buies Creek, North Carolina

Why is Jesus so irrelevant for many who claim to be Christian? Why do some of the most loudly professing Christians not take seriously his life, teachings and calling? Why are so many Christians so eager to embrace the very opposite values and characteristics of Jesus that he called his followers to emulate? Have concepts like “Christian worldview” and “Biblical worldview” redefined the Christian faith with almost no regard for what Jesus actually said?

~ John Pierce, director, *Jesus Worldview Initiative*,
“The Irrelevance of Jesus,” August 27, 2025.

To demand that the Bible meet our demands is to put ourselves and our own interests at the center of the story.

~ Rachel Held Evans, *Inspired*, 2018.

GATHERING

PRELUDE *All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name* Nigel Williams
Anne McClain, *Organ*

WELCOME and † INVOCATION Edward Beddingfield, *Pastor*
Ad. fr. *The Book of Common Prayer*,
Collects for Labor Day and Sept. 7,
with Hebrews 12:2.

Almighty God, you have so linked our lives with one another that everything we do affects those around us, both near and far, for good or for ill. Therefore guide us in the work we do, that we may not do it for self alone, but for the common good; as we seek a proper return for our own labor, make us mindful of the fair and rightful aspirations of other workers; and arouse our concern for those who are out of work, or unable to work, or whose work is not sufficient to provide adequately for their support. And as we ourselves seek to serve you and to follow your Son as his disciples, remind us that although you resist the proud who confide in their own strength, you never forsake those whose boast is in your mercy. This we pray through Jesus Christ our Lord who, for the joy that was set before him, endured the cross, disregarding the shame and not counting the cost, and is now seated at the right hand of the throne of God; **Amen.**

† GATHERING HYMN 371 *I Come With Joy to Meet My Lord* LAND OF REST

PROCLAIMING

OLD TESTAMENT Olivia Scarborough, *Deacon*
Deuteronomy 30: 15-20
See, I have set before you this day
life and good, death and evil.

† *The congregation is invited to stand.*

PSALTER READING (*responsively*) Psalm 1 Meredith Lanier Craddock,
Associate Pastor

Blessed is the one who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers;

**But whose delight is in the law of the Lord,
and who meditates on God’s law day and night.**

That one is like a tree planted by streams of water, yielding its fruit in due season, so that its leaf does not wither;

Everything that such a person does will prosper.

The wicked are not so, but are like the chaff which the wind drives away.

Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,

nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous;

**For the Lord knows the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked will perish.**

† TESTIMONY IN SONG 305 *I Have Decided To Follow Jesus* ASSAM

GOSPEL Luke 14: 25-33 Mrs. Craddock
Whoever does not carry the cross and
follow me cannot be my disciple.

SERMON *Counting the Cost* Mr. Beddingfield

RESPONDING

ANTHEM *Trust and Obey* Ronald K. Wells

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

**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 Mr. Beddingfield
and OFFERTORY *Jesus Paid It All* Mark Hayes
Mrs. McClain

HOLY COMMUNION Mr. Beddingfield and Mrs. Craddock

Invitation (responsively) Isaiah 53: 3-5 (NLT)
He was despised and rejected— a man of sorrows, acquainted with deepest grief.

**We turned our backs on Him and looked the other way. He was despised,
and we did not care.**

Yet it was our weaknesses He carried; it was our sorrows that weighed Him down.

**We thought His suffering was a punishment from God,
a punishment for His own sins.**

But He was pierced for our rebellion, crushed for our sins.

He was beaten so we could be whole.

He was whipped so we could be healed.

**ALL: We remember His body broken for us. We remember His blood poured
out for our forgiveness. By His wounds, we are healed.**

Remember

Reflect

Blessing

The Bread Luke 9: 23-24 (NET)
Then he said to them all, “If anyone wants to become my follower,
he must deny himself, take up his cross daily, and follow me.
For whoever wants to save his life will lose it,
but whoever loses his life because of me will save it.”

The Cup Matthew 26: 27-28 (NET)
And after taking the cup and giving thanks, he gave it to them, saying,
“Drink from it, all of you, for this is my blood, the blood of the covenant,
that is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.”

Commit (responsively)

We remember Your sacrifice, Lord.

And we proclaim Your death until You come again.

We receive Your grace.

And we recommit our hearts to follow You.

SENDING

INVITATION TO FAITH AND DISCIPLESHIP Mr. Beddingfield

† HYMN OF SENDING FORTH 144 *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross* OWALY WALY

† LIFE IN THE COMMUNITY Mr. Beddingfield

† BENEDICTION Mr. Beddingfield

POSTLUDE *Recessional on DEO GRACIAS* Douglas E. Wagner
Mrs. McClain

PRAYER FOR OUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS:

Members: Hilary Morrow, Kathryn King & Maxie Gleaton (*husband of Kathryn King*), Theresa Batten, Jeanne Barker, Randall Johnson, Michael Cogdill, Earl Savage, Doris Eller, Linda Smith

Family and Friends: Tammy McNeil (*friend of Jeanne Barker*); Sean Cunningham; Renea Wright (*friend of Joyce Sills*); Roberta Blackwell (*sister of Anne McClain*); Charles Davis (*brother of Debbie Appel*); Kelly McLamb (*daughter of Jerry & Betty Wallace*); International teachers & families

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

Deacons for September 2025: Steve DeVane and Olivia Scarborough
Deacons for October 2025: Sonya Godwin and Randall Johnson

Ushers Today: Randall Johnson, Susan Johnson, Linda Lunney and Siu-Ki Wong
Ushers Sept. 14: Bob Cisneros, Adam English and Miles West

No Kids’ Church Today

Kids’ Church Sept. 14: Meredith Craddock

Nursery Today: Michele Phelps

Nursery Sept. 14: (*need volunteer*)

Today's altar arrangement was created to the glory of God
by Donna Haynes.

TODAY, September 7th

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)
*** No Kids' Church Today**

MONDAY, September 8th

Deacon's Meeting: 7:00 p.m.

TUESDAY, September 9th

Memorial In Action Committee Meeting: 6:45 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, September 10th

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)

SEPTEMBER 2025

14 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)
Baby Shower for Olivia and Becca Scarborough: 2:00 p.m.
(Fellowship Hall)

APPALACHIAN CHRISTMAS BACKPACKS

For September, we are collecting
POP-TOP Canned Food Items *
such as Vienna sausage, ravioli, beef stew,
tuna, vegetables, fruit, etc. (no plastic containers)
*** [3 canned food items are required for each backpack] ***

AND

INDIVIDUALLY WRAPPED CANDY
(no chocolate or candy with nuts)

** Please make sure all expiration dates are after December 2025. **

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.'*

Financial Position as of 7/31/25

» Total support	\$ 293,085
» Total expenditures	\$ (313,764)
» Total expenditures exceed total support	\$ (20,679)
» Total 2025 Budget Proposal	\$ 418,220
» Percent of year passed	58%
» Undesignated support needed to meet budget	\$ 242,911
» Undesignated support received as of 7/31/25	\$ 214,082
» Operating expenses offset received from Stokes Day Care	\$ 5,100
» Shortfall undesignated giving compared to budget	\$ (23,729)

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.)*



CUSTODIAN POSITION

Wayne Smith plans to retire at the end of the year. As much as we hate to see him leave, we wish him happiness in his retirement.

We, the Personnel Committee, are now actively pursuing the best person to replace Wayne. If you know of a good quality candidate, please make the Personnel Committee aware.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

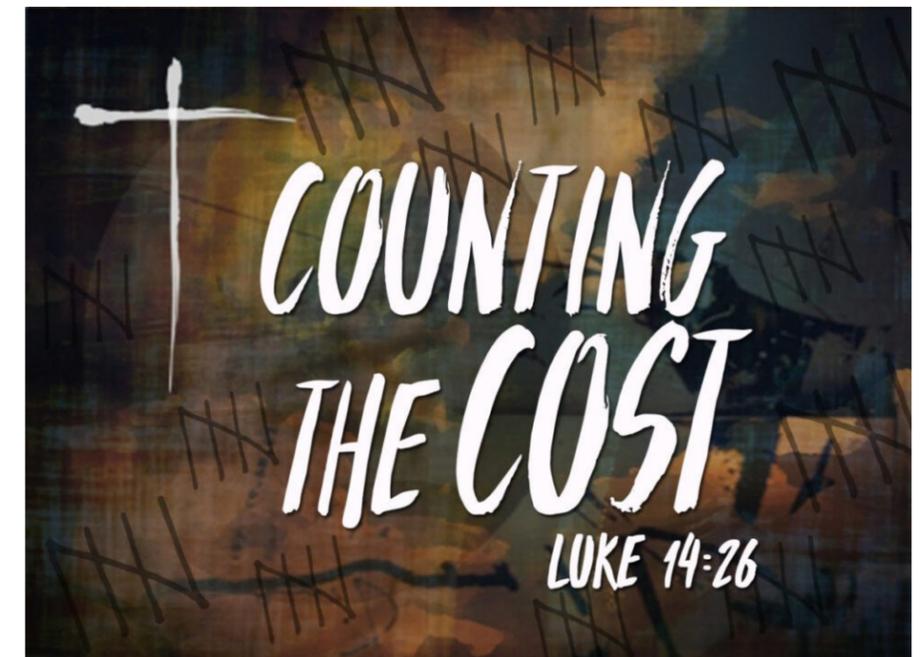
Ron McLamb, Chair
Cindy Avrette
Mike Cogdill
Wanda Hardison
Glenn Jonas
Tom Spainhour
Joe Turlington

CHURCH MISSION PROJECTS

- **Harnett Food Pantry:** collecting **non-perishable foods**
(Egg cartons are not needed at this time.)
Needed for September - - **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

271 Leslie Campbell Avenue/P.O. Box 485
Buies Creek, NC 27506
Telephone: 910-893-4162 Fax: 910-893-2167
Website: www.memorialbcnc.org
edb@memorialbcnc.org
Emails: meredith@memorialbcnc.org
ashley@memorialbcnc.org
Church Office Hours: Monday - Friday: 9am - 5pm
Other Staff: By Appointment



MEMORIAL BAPTIST CHURCH

Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time
September 7, 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