

THE WORSHIP OF GOD

The Sunday after Christmas
and the Last Sunday of the Year

December 28, 2025
Ten O'clock in the Morning

Memorial Baptist Church
Buies Creek, North Carolina

Rudolph with your nose so bright,
won't you guide my sleigh tonight?

~ *Santa Claus*

GATHERING

PRELUDE

The First Nowell arr. Mitchell-Wallace/Head
Anne McClain, *organ*
David Johnson, *trumpet*

WELCOME

Meredith Lanier Craddock, *Associate Pastor*

CALL TO WORSHIP

Isaiah 60: 1-3 Dayna Scarborough

Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you.
See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples,
but the Lord rises upon you and his glory appears over you.
Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

† INVOCATION

Mrs. Craddock

† HYMN OF PRAISE 87

Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come ANTIOCH

PRAYER FOR THE NEW YEAR (*unison*)

By Thomas Merton Mrs. Craddock

**My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going.
I do not see the road ahead of me.
I cannot know for certain where it will end.
Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think that
I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so.
But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you,
and I hope that I have that desire in all that I am doing.
I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire.
And I know that if I do this, you will lead me by the right road,
though I may know nothing about it.
Therefore I will trust you always,
though I may seem lost and in the shadow of death.
I will not fear, for you are ever with me,
and you will never leave me to face my perils alone. Amen.**

PROCLAIMING

OLD TESTAMENT

Genesis 1: 1-3 Lee Lanier

HYMN OF TESTIMONY

Jesus, the Light of the World Elderkin

Refrain Walk in the light, beautiful light;
come where the dew drops of mercy shine bright.
Shine all around us by day and by night, Jesus, the Light of the World

Hark the herald angels sing, Jesus the Light of the World.
Glory to the newborn King. Jesus, the Light of the World! *Refrain*

He's the lamp that lights our way, Jesus, the Light of the World!
Step by step and day by day - Jesus, the Light of the World! *Refrain*

NEW TESTAMENT

John 1: 1-5 Margaret Lanier

SERMON

The Shining Mrs. Craddock

RESPONDING

ANTHEM

Rise Up, Shepherd arr. Raney

Rise up! Rise up! Rise up, shepherd, and follow.
Rise up! Rise up! Rise up, shepherd, and follow.

There's a star in the east on Christmas morn.
Rise up, shepherd, and follow.

It will lead to the place where the Savior's born.
Rise up, shepherd, and follow.

If you take good heed to the angel's word,
Rise up, shepherd, and follow.

You'll forget your flock, you'll forget your herd.
Rise up, shepherd, and follow.

Shepherd, rise up and follow that star down to Bethlehem, it's not that far.
Listen to the angels tell of his birth, singing glory to God, and peace on earth!
Rise up, shepherd, and visit the manger, welcome the tiny newborn stranger.
Rise up, shepherd, and hurry to the manger.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Greg McClain

Being together during this holiday season, reminds us of who we are. Together,
we remember and celebrate the birth of your Son and his coming into the world.
As God-with-us, you changed the course of history. Our faith tells us that you
remember us and that you have not forgotten us; that you are still with us,
and so we pray:

Lord in your mercy here, our prayer.

We pray for those who feel alone this holiday season. At a time of year when we
talk a lot about family and home, we remember those who need our hospitality.
Help us to be their companions, already walking alongside them. No one should
be left to discern your life-altering activity alone, and so for those in need of
comfort and friendship we ask that you make your presence known.

Lord in your mercy here, our prayer.

We pray for those who experienced this Christmas without a loved one, for those
who grieve the loss of a parent, friend, child, or spouse, whether from death or
distance or any other circumstance that will keep them apart. We pray for healing
in our world. Things like war, division, violence, hate. Move us to action. God, we
pray that those would no longer be the things that bring us to a common cause, but
that the work of compassion, generosity, integrity, and justice would be our banners.

Lord in your mercy, hear a prayer.

We pray for those who dare to hope this year. We can't help ourselves-even when
faith falters and certainty fades, hope refuses to let go. Today we pray words of
hope, peace, joy, and love for each other, for our community, for our nation,
and for our world. God, we place our hope in you.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

INVITATION TO GIVE

Mrs. Craddock

and OFFERTORY *Bring a Torch, Jeanette Isabella*
Anne McClain, *piano*
Phillip Morrow, *piano*

Joel Raney

SENDING

INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP

Mrs. Craddock

† HYMN OF SENDING FORTH 86 *O Little Town of Bethlehem* ST. LOUIS
Stanzas 1, 3 and 4

† LIFE IN THE COMMUNITY

Mrs. Craddock

† BENECTION

Mrs. Craddock

POSTLUDE

Postlude on GLORIA Jason D. Payne
Mrs. McClain

PRAYER FOR OUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS:

Members: Joyce Sills, David & Trula Gray, Hilary Morrow, Susan Cannady, Kay
Hedgepeth, Betty Wallace, Kathryn King & Maxie Gleaton (*husband of Kathryn King*),
Doris Eller, Linda Smith

Family and Friends: Family of Daniel Karlinski (*father of Dan Karlinski*); Jerry Barber
(*nephew of Jeanne Barker*); Harriet Whiteman; Roberta Blackwell (*sister of Anne
McClain*); Emily Caldwell (*niece of Theresa Batten*); International teachers & families

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

Deacons for December 2025: Dayna Scarborough and Tom Spainhour
Deacons for January 2026: Carrie Royal and Joe Turlington

Ushers Today: Cherry DeVane, Chad Godwin, Derek Hogan and Jeff Pope
Ushers Jan. 4: Randall Johnson, Susan Johnson, Linda Lunney and Siu-Ki Wong

No Kids' Church Today
No Kids' Church Jan. 4

Nursery Today: Charlotte Riewestahl
Nursery Jan. 4: (*need volunteer*)

† *Worshippers are invited to stand.*

The rose in the sanctuary this morning is placed to welcome



Lincoln Marshall Spainhour

born to Zach & Haley Spainhour
on December 21, 2025.

He weighed 8 lbs. 7 oz.

Tom & Lisa Spainhour are the proud grandparents.
Uncle Nate is a very proud uncle!

*The flowers in the sanctuary are given to the glory of God,
in loving memory of Dr. David Price
and in honor of Julian Nienaber (3 years old)
who share a December 27th birthday
by Susan Cannady and family.*

TODAY, December 28th

- 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**

WEDNESDAY, December 31st

*** No Wednesday Night Activities**

JANUARY 2026

1 Happy New Year
Church Office Closed

4 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**

The Floral Committee will be taking down Christmas decorations today following the worship service. If you can, please stay and help.

7 Children's Choir: 5:30 p.m. (Choir Room)
Simple Supper - Nacho Bar: 5:45 p.m. (Fellowship Hall)
Elementary and Middle School Students: 6:30 p.m. (Mission Kids Class)
Youth Activity: 6:30 p.m. (Library)
Bible Study: 6:30 p.m. (Fellowship Hall)
Chancel Choir Rehearsal: 7:30 p.m. (Sanctuary)

Financial Position as of 11/30/25

» Total support	\$ 419,138
» Total expenditures	\$ (433,122)
» Total expenditures exceed total support	\$ (13,984)
» Total 2025 Budget Proposal	\$ 418,220
» Percent of year passed	92%
» Undesignated support needed to meet budget	\$ 382,700
» Undesignated support received as of 11/30/25	\$ 331,828
» Operating expenses offset received from Stokes Day Care	\$ 10,200
» Shortfall undesignated giving compared to budget	\$ (40,672)

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.



In planning your year-end giving,
all contributions should be received
in the church office by noon on
December 31, 2025
(or post-marked by December 31, 2025)
in order to be reported as a 2025 gift.

Mission Mailbox

Please check the **Mission Mailbox** to see if you have
any Christmas cards.



CHURCH MISSION PROJECTS

- **Harnett Food Pantry:** collecting **non-perishable foods**
Needed for December - - **Canned Fruit** (any kind)
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 new or used men's or boys' belts that can be used for students at the school.*

Memorial Baptist Church

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Buies Creek, NC 27506

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Emails: meredith@memorialbcnc.org

ashley@memorialbcnc.org

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

Other Staff: By Appointment



**MEMORIAL
BAPTIST CHURCH**

*The Sunday after Christmas
and the Last Sunday of the Year
December 28, 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