

THE WORSHIP OF GOD

*Seventh Sunday of Easter
Ascension Sunday*

May 17, 2026
Ten O'clock in the Morning

Memorial Baptist Church
Buies Creek, North Carolina

I wonder what Jesus meant when he said he appointed us “to go and bear fruit that will last.” If there’s one thing that fruit does *not* do, that’s “last.” Leave it out on the counter too long and the fruit flies come, and the rot, and pretty soon it’s good for nothing but the trash. Maybe that’s the point.

~ Sarah Christmyer, “I Chose You To Bear Fruit that Will Last?”, comeintotheword.com, May 9, 2021.

GATHERING

PRELUDE *All People that on Earth Do Dwell* Daniel Burton
Anne McClain, *organist*

WELCOME and † INVOCATION Edward Beddingfield, *Pastor*
Ad. fr. knowing-Jesus.com

Gracious God, you have told us that the secret of living fruitful lives is to abide in you and to let your word dwell in us richly. Beginning with the worship we know here, help us to grow in grace and increase in faith, so that we may “see you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly, day by day.” Give us listening ears, teachable spirits and willing hearts, until the good work you began in us will overflow in good works abounding to all who are around us, and even to all creation; in Jesus’ name we pray, **Amen.**

† GATHERING HYMN 348 *In Heavenly Love Abiding* NYLAND

CONFESSION and ASSURANCE Meredith Lanier Craddock, *Associate Pastor*

PROCLAMATION

ANTHEM *Peace in Our Time* Bush/Dass/Hayes

Peace in our time, peace in our time, may we have peace in our time. Reaching across the lines that divide, letting go of our fear and our pride, seeing the worth in each other’s eyes, may we have peace in our time.

You have a mind and a heart, just like me.
You have feelings and emotions, just like me.
You’ve felt pain and suffering, just like me.
You’ve been sad and angry, just like me.
You wish to be free from suffering, just like me.
You wish to be safe and healthy, just like me.
You wish to be joyful and happy, just like me.
You wish to be deeply loved, just like me.

† Worshippers are invited to stand.

GOSPEL (*responsively*) from John 15: 1-17 Mrs. Craddock

Jesus said, I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Abide in me as I abide in you.

Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me.

I am the vine and you are the branches. Those who abide in me, and I in them, bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing.

Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; the branches are gathered, and thrown into the fire, and burned.

But the Father is glorified by this: that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; therefore abide in my love.

You did not choose me, but I chose you; and I appointed you that you may go and bear fruit, and that your fruit may last.

And I give you these commands so that you may love one another.

EPISTLE Galatians 5: 16-25 Charlotte Riewestahl, *Deacon*

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things as these.

** Following the Epistle Reading, children from age 4 through 2nd grade may meet Mrs. Meredith 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 Fruitful Life* Mr. Beddingfield
(Sixth in a series for the Easter season: *Life*)

RESPONDING

† SONGS OF TESTIMONY 289 WHITFIELD
My Lord, I Did Not Choose You

He Is Exalted Twila Paris
Spencer Powell Phillips, *leader*

He is exalted, the King is exalted on high. I will praise Him.
He is exalted, forever exalted and I will praise His name!

He is the Lord. Forever His truth shall reign.
Heaven and earth rejoice in His holy name.
He is exalted, the King is exalted on high!

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 *Meditation on FOUNDATION* David Lasky
Mrs. McClain

SENDING

† HYMN OF SENDING FORTH 643 AR HYD Y NOS
For the Fruit of All Creation

ELECTION OF DEACONS Joe Turlington, *Chair of Deacons*

† LIFE IN THE COMMUNITY Mr. Beddingfield

† BENEDICTION Mr. Beddingfield

POSTLUDE *Crown Him* Ruth Elaine Schram
Mrs. McClain

PRAYER FOR OUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS:

Members: Melanie Joyner, Kay Hedgepeth, Will & Christine Roberts, Marshall & Jeanie Kornegay, Charlie & Jeanne Lewis, David & Trula Gray, Betty Wallace, Doris Eller, Linda Smith

Family and Friends: Linda W. Smith (*cousin of Donna Haynes*); Jason Lee (*friend of Cornbread West*); Kenny Upchurch (*friend of Cornbread West*); Linda Bass (*friend of Susan Johnson*); Arlo Yates (*great-nephew of David and Angie Vess*); Ann Warren (*sister-in-law of Donna Haynes*); Betty Alford (*friend of Donna Haynes*); Heather Livesay (*friend of Charlotte Riewestahl*); Harriet Whiteman; International teachers & families

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

Prayers of Comfort are extended to the family of Lynn Marshbanks in the death of her father-in-law, Rev. Donel Kelley, on Friday, May 15th.

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 May 2026: Charlotte Riewestahl and Scotty Scarborough
Deacons for June 2026: Dayna Scarborough and Tom Spainhour
Ushers Today: Randall Johnson, Ron McLamb, Scotty Scarborough and Joe Turlington
Ushers May 24: Cherry DeVane, Chad Godwin, Derek Hogan and Jeff Pope
Kids’ Church Today: Meredith Craddock
Kids’ Church May 24: Meredith Craddock
Nursery Today: Carrie Royal
Nursery May 24: Trinity Kelly

TODAY, May 17th

DEACON ELECTION DAY

Sunday School

Friends Class: 9:00 a.m.

Sarah's Open Door Class: 9:00 a.m.

Children: 9:00 a.m. (Library)

Youth: 9:00 a.m. (Family Life Center)

Worship Service: 10:00 a.m. (Sanctuary)

Kids' Church: during worship (Library)

TUESDAY, May 19th


Committee Structure Assessment Team Meeting: 6:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, May 20th

Last Regular Wednesday Night Activities (until Fall 2026)

Children's Choir: 5:30 p.m. (Choir Room)

END OF YEAR CELEBRATION & COOKOUT

» Burgers and Hot Dogs: 5:45 p.m. 

» Children's Choir: End-of-the-Season Mini Concert: 6:30 p.m.

Elementary and Middle School Students: 6:30 p.m.

Youth Activity: 6:30 p.m. (Library)

Chancel Choir Rehearsal: 7:30 p.m. (Sanctuary)

MAY 2026

24 **Sunday School**

Friends Class: 9:00 a.m.

Sarah's Open Door Class: 9:00 a.m.

Children: 9:00 a.m. (Library)

Youth: 9:00 a.m. (Family Life Center)

Worship Service: 10:00 a.m. (Sanctuary)

Kids' Church: during worship (Library)

25 **Church Office Closed for Memorial Day Holiday**

27 **Simple Supper - Turkey, Ham, Sweet Potatoes & Cabbage:** 5:45 p.m.
(Fellowship Hall)

CHURCH BUSINESS MEETING: 6:30 p.m. (Fellowship Hall)

Chancel Choir Rehearsal: 7:30 p.m. (Sanctuary)

31 **Sunday School**

Friends Class: 9:00 a.m.

Sarah's Open Door Class: 9:00 a.m.

Children: 9:00 a.m. (Library)

Youth: 9:00 a.m. (Family Life Center)

Worship Service: 10:00 a.m. (Sanctuary)

Kids' Church: during worship (Library)

Financial Position as of 3/31/2026

» Total support	\$ 99,741
» Total expenditures	\$ (93,276)
» Total support exceeds expenditures	\$ 6,465
» Total 2026 Budget Proposal	\$ 418,220
» Percent of year passed	25%
» Undesignated support needed to meet budget	\$ 103,123
» Undesignated support received as of 3/31/2026	\$ 99,741
» Operating expenses offset received from Stokes Day Care	\$ 2,550
» Shortfall undesignated giving compared to budget	\$ (832)

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.



APPALACHIAN CHRISTMAS BACKPACKS

For May, we will collect:
Shampoo, Brushes and Deodorant (for both men & women)



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

- **Harnett Food Pantry:** collecting **non-perishable foods** Needed for May -- **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 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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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

*Seventh Sunday of Easter
Ascension Sunday*

May 17, 2026

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
Xiomara Felix, Custodian