

## Meridian Baptist Church

6513 Chapman Highway  
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**ITEMS FOR EVANGEL DEADLINE: MONDAY NOON**

**Meridian Prayer Line**  
865-579-6632  
**CALL IN YOUR PRAYER REQUEST**

### WORKERS FOR SUNDAY July 13, 2025

#### DEACONS OF THE WEEK

Jim Brackett \* Joe Fielden  
Johnny Lewis

#### EXTENDED SESSION WORKERS

Sheree Lonas Shauna Kirkland  
Tina King

#### SAFETY TEAM — TEAM TWO

Sam & Sheree Lonas  
Scott Frei Randy Burgin

#### VAN DRIVER

Joe Fielden



### IN THE HOSPITAL

Jerry Bates, U.T.  
Billy Burchell, U.T.  
Pam Lewis, Ft. Sanders

Periodical  
Postage  
PAID

OR CURRENT OCCUPANT



# The Evangel

Meridian Baptist Church  
6513 Chapman Highway  
Knoxville, TN 37920  
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Michael Martin, Pastor

VOLUME 71, NO. 28

July 11, 2025



## Fall Revival

### September 14-17

10:50 am Sunday  
7:00 pm Nightly  
Speaker: Jeff Harvel  
Music: Daniel Young



Upcoming  
**Wednesday Night  
Adult Bible Study**  
"Exploring Our  
Spiritual Gifts"  
Beginning July 23

### Women on Mission July Project

Collect school supplies  
for Montgomery Village

Spiral binders 3-ring binders  
Backpacks Pencils Pens

Crayons Glue sticks Colored markers  
Pencils Wide-ruled paper Pocket folders

Place items in box located near office!



### VBS July 13-17

6:00-8:30

4 Years thru  
12th Grade

Adult Class offered  
**Pre-register Today!**

Call or email the church office  
meridianbaptistoffice@gmail.com  
to register your child or if you would  
like to attend the adult class.

*Pick up a VBS Prayer Calendar  
located in the Sanctuary foyer.*

**Invite someone to VBS!**



### Search Committee for Music Minister

Pray for this Committee:

Randy Burgin, Cynthia Headrick,  
Tommy Leavelle, Jon McCammon,  
Brenda Swinson



### Senior Adult Bible Study

Tuesday, July 22  
at 10:30am

*Observance of  
Lord's Supper  
July 13th*



**The Spiritual Disciplines: Silence & Solitude**

We live in such a fast-paced and noisy world today, so much so that this week's disciplines of silence and solitude can feel countercultural or even uncomfortable. Yet, they are essential practices for deepening our walk with Christ. Both Scripture and our weekly trusted Christian writers remind us that stepping away from noise and busyness to be alone with God is not optional for spiritual growth—it is vital.

Jesus Himself practiced silence and solitude regularly. After His baptism, "Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness" (Matthew 4:1). Throughout His ministry, He would often "withdraw to desolate places and pray" (Luke 5:16). In these quiet moments, Jesus communed with the Father, found renewal, and discerned direction. The psalmist reminds us of this same truth: "Be still, and know that I am God" (Psalm 46:10). In stillness, we are reminded of God's sovereignty and presence. Silence isn't merely the absence of noise; it is the presence of God.

Donald Whitney, in *Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life*, describes solitude as "the spiritual discipline of voluntarily & temporarily withdrawing to privacy for spiritual purposes." Silence, he adds, is "the voluntary and temporary abstention from speaking so that certain spiritual goals might be sought." These practices are not ends in themselves but create space for us to hear God's voice more clearly and to align our hearts with His.

Dallas Willard, in *The Spirit of the Disciplines*, writes that "in silence we purposefully refrain from speaking so that certain inner attitudes may develop and be expressed. We stop talking. We become still so that God can be heard." He emphasizes that solitude frees us from the compulsions of our hurried lives. In the quiet, we are no longer defined by our productivity or performance. Instead, we rest in the truth that we are God's beloved, and we begin to live "by every word that comes from the mouth of God" (Matthew 4:4).

We, daily, face constant noise and input, silence and solitude teach us to listen, and I mean really listen, for the voice of God. Whitney writes, "Without silence and solitude, it is virtually impossible to grow in godliness." These times away from the crowd aren't escapes from life, but moments of renewal and preparation for life.

If this is new for you, begin simply. Find a quiet space in your day, even if it's just for a few minutes. Turn off the noise. Be still. Don't worry about doing it perfectly. Just come before the Lord with a quiet heart. Read a short passage of Scripture. Ask God to meet you there—and trust that He will. As Isaiah 30:15 says, "In returning and rest you shall be saved; in quietness and in trust shall be your strength." May we, like Jesus, learn to regularly withdraw—not to escape the world, but to be shaped by the One who holds it.

The Upper Rooms, Christopher S. Milligan

**Attendance**

**July 6 - Sunday School**

Preschool	9
Children	12
Youth	5
Adults	72
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>98</b>
Visitors	3

**Worship Service: 127**

Contacts for the week of 6/30-7/5 Total: 92  
4 & 5 Years—20 Adult 3—12 Adult 4—60

**Giving**

**Giving For July 6**

General Budget Fund	\$10,485.00
Capital Improvements	10.00
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$10,495.00</b>
Online Giving	\$ 1,045
Monthly Budget Requirement	\$51,732.00
July Budget Giving	\$11,530.00

**Senior Adults September Bible Study**

The Senior Adults will have their September Bible Study at Cades Cove on Tuesday, September 23rd, leaving at 8:30am. Coffee & donuts provided for breakfast; lunch in Maryville. Call the office to sign up!

**Mission of Hope Backpack Day  
Friday, August 8th**

Huntsville Elementary & Middle Schools



Volunteers are needed to help the kids fill their backpacks while shopping at the Mission of Hope School Supply Store. Signup sheets are located on bulletin boards around the church. Leaving church at 7:15am.

**PUTT-PUTT FOR YOUTH**  
Friday, July 18th leaving at 6:00 pm  
Sir Goony's Family Fun Center  
See Chris for more info!

**Noteworthy News**

**THE STAGE IS SET (LITERALLY!)...**When you enter the sanctuary this Sunday, you will notice a BIG change. The scenery will have been been put in place, not only in the Sanctuary but throughout the church for an exciting week of VBS. Plans have been laid, workers have volunteered, food has been purchased: let the work (and play) begin! Let's pray for an impactful week where people are confronted with the message of the cross.

**IT TOOK THE CROSS.** . .Long has the cross been the symbol of the Christian faith. When we see the cross we are reminded of the sacrifice of our Lord, Jesus Christ. We are reminded of His suffering, His supreme love for us, of how much He values us. Some would argue that the cross should not be used to represent our faith. "Why not choose something more positive to represent the life of Christ," they say. "Why not choose something that represents His birth, His perfect life, His healing?" But you see, if He did all of that and did not die for our sins, He would have been just a good, moral, kind man, a good teacher and example (some argue that!). Without the cross everything else that Jesus did would not have paid the cost of our salvation. Without the cross the job would have been only half-done. Half-done won't satisfy the payment for our sins, will it? Thanks be to God for the cross!

It took the cross, it took that rugged tree  
To show just how far He'd go to set us free!  
With His heart broken and arms wide open,  
His blood called to the lost.  
To pay sin's final cost;  
It took the cross.

Blessings!

*Bro. Dennis*

**Quarterly Sunday School Teachers' Meeting**

Sunday School Teachers & Assistants,  
we invite you to the quarterly meeting!  
July 27th at 8:00 in the fellowship hall.  
Breakfast provided.

**FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK**

Dear Meridian family,

This past Sunday, my sermon was on "The Righteousness of God." I stressed the importance of God's people hungering and thirsting for righteousness (Matthew 5:6). As believers, we are called to pursue righteousness, and one of the ways we can do so is by not following the world or to put in another way, not "following the crowd." I recently read the following story (penned by George Whitten) which illuminates this vital spiritual principle. I pray it speaks to your heart as you pursue the narrow path of righteous living.

During the 1990's in an NCAA Division II national championship cross-country race in California, a bizarre twist of events took place. A runner by the name of Mike Delcavo along with 127 of the best runners in the country were battling for glory over the 10,000 meter course. About three miles into the race, Delcavo was somewhere in the middle of the pack, when he realized that the runners had made a wrong turn. So he yelled out, "You're going the wrong way," but they didn't listen. Only four others followed Mike when he turned in the right direction...and suddenly, he found himself in the lead. Later, he was asked what his competitors thought of his mid-race decision not to follow the crowd, Delcavo responded, "They thought it was funny that I went the right way." Delcavo was one who ran correctly. In the same way, our goal is to run correctly; to finish the race marked out for us by Christ. We can rejoice over those who have courage to follow the Lord, ignoring the cheering of the crowd. As the Apostle Paul said in 2 Timothy 4:7-8 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness.

Meridian family, are you taking the correct path in life? As you pursue the righteousness of God, you can be rest assured it will be the path less traveled (Matthew 7:13-14).

I pray you have a wonderful week! If there is any specific way I can encourage you and your family, please do not hesitate to let me know; 865-968-9916.

Matthew 6:33  
Pastor Michael