

## Meridian Baptist Church

6513 Chapman Highway  
Knoxville, TN 37920  
865-577-6617

www.meridianbaptist.org

Email: meridianbaptistoffice@gmail.com

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**ITEMS FOR EVANGEL DEADLINE: MONDAY NOON**

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

### WORKERS FOR SUNDAY June 15, 2025

#### DEACONS OF THE WEEK

David McLemore \* Billy Burchell

#### EXTENDED SESSION WORKERS

Shauna Kirkland Nicole Gray

#### SAFETY TEAM — TEAM TWO

Scott Frei Randy Burgin

#### VAN DRIVER

Jon McCammon



#### IN THE HOSPITAL

Lu Jones, Ft. Sanders

### No Wednesday Meals in June and July

Due to several upcoming events/meals, we will cancel Wednesday meals in June and July, but will start back in August.

Periodical  
Postage  
PAID

OR CURRENT OCCUPANT



Michael Martin, Pastor

# The Evangel

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6513 Chapman Highway  
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VOLUME 71, NO. 24

June 13, 2025

## Patriotic Celebration Service

**Sunday, June 29th**

Patriotic Music & Message  
at 10:50 followed by lunch  
in the fellowship hall.

Hamburgers, hotdogs, and  
all the sides provided.

Signup sheets are in the  
Sanctuary or call the office if  
you plan to attend and if you  
can bring a dessert.

## THIS WEEK'S ACTIVITIES

### THURSDAY, JUNE 12

10:00am—Senior Adults to Brushy Mountain

### SUNDAY, JUNE 15 (Happy Father's Day)

9:30am—Sunday School

10:50am—Morning Worship

### TUESDAY, JUNE 17

1:00pm—GO Outreach Ministry

6:30pm—Budget Planning Meeting

### WEDNESDAY, JUNE 18

5:00pm—Community Fun Day Debrief Mtg.

6:00pm—TeamKid

6:15pm—Prayer Meeting/Bible Study

6:15pm—The Upper Room (Students)

7:15pm—Sanctuary Choir Practice

## Search Committee Nomination Form for Music Minister

Provided as an insert in the church bulletin is a Nomination Form for a Search Committee for Music Minister. Please turn these nomination forms in through the offering plate or the church office. This Sunday will be the last Sunday the form will be available. There will be a Special-Called Business Meeting held June 22nd to elect the Search Committee.

## VBS July 13-17

**6:00-8:30**

**4 Years thru  
12th Grade**

### Adult Class offered

Pre-registration forms are  
available in June bulletins. You can also  
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.**

### Women on Mission June Project

Collect items for Angelic Ministries  
Toiletry items and laundry detergent  
Place items in box located near office.



**Senior Adult Bible Study**  
**Tuesday, June 24**  
**at 10:30am**



**Happy Father's Day**  
**Sunday, June 15**

*Blessed is the man  
who trusts in the Lord!*  
Jeremiah 17:7



## THE UPPER ROOMS

### The Spiritual Disciplines - Fasting

Fasting is a spiritual practice we see throughout Scripture, but it's one that many believers today might not fully understand or regularly practice. In our fast-paced, comfort-filled culture, the idea of going without food—or anything else we rely on—can feel strange or even extreme. Yet fasting, when done for the right reasons, is a powerful way to deepen our relationship with God.

Jesus assumed His followers would fast. In Matthew 6:16 (ESV), He says, "And when you fast..."—not if but when. He goes on to teach that fasting should be done quietly and sincerely, "and your Father who sees in secret will reward you" (Matt. 6:18, ESV). Fasting is not about drawing attention to ourselves; it's about focusing our attention on the Lord.

Christian writer Donald Whitney reminds us that fasting is not about earning God's favor or trying to get Him to do what we want. It's about expressing a deep hunger for God Himself. He writes, "Fasting must always be centered on God." Whether we are seeking guidance, praying for breakthrough, or simply longing to know God more deeply, fasting creates space for us to listen and respond to His voice.

Dallas Willard puts it this way: "Fasting confirms our utter dependence upon God by finding in Him a source of sustenance beyond food." In other words, fasting teaches us that we don't live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God (see Matthew 4:4, ESV).

In the Bible, people fasted to seek God's direction (Acts 13:2–3), to mourn and repent (Joel 2:12), and to humble themselves before Him (Psalm 35:13). Even Jesus fasted—before beginning His public ministry, He spent forty days in the wilderness, preparing His heart and surrendering to His Father's will (Matthew 4:2).

Fasting isn't just for the spiritually elite; it's for all who want to grow in grace and walk more closely with Christ. It can be as simple as skipping a meal to spend that time in prayer or stepping away from social media for a few days to be still before God.

As a church, we're invited to explore this practice together—not as a burden, but as a blessing. Fasting helps us say "no" to distractions and "yes" to God. Let's consider where God might be calling us to fast—individually or as a body—so that we might hunger more for Him and His presence in our lives.

From The Upper Rooms, Christopher S. Milligan

## Attendance

### June 8 - Sunday School

Preschool	9
Children	11
Youth	11
Adults	73
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>104</b>
Visitors	5

### Worship Service: 137

Contacts for the week of 6/2-6/8 Total: 90  
4 & 5 Years—22 Adult 3—17 Adult 4—51

## Giving

### Giving For June 8

General Budget Fund	\$ 8,050.00
Non-Budget Designated	300.00
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$ 8,350.00</b>
Online Giving	\$ 530.00
Monthly Budget Requirement	\$51,732.00
June Budget Giving	\$24,003.00

### ONLINE GIVING IS AVAILABLE

If you would like to give online, go to the church website at [www.meridianbaptist.org](http://www.meridianbaptist.org); go to the "Online Giving" section, click on the link provided to be directed to our giving page.

### News From the MBC Library

Hours: Sundays 9:15-10:25am

Wednesdays 5:45-6:10pm

Come Check Us Out!

#### New books from the Library:

1. Last Sin Eater by Francine Rivers
2. Gift of the Cross by Charles Stanley
3. Natural Medicines & Cures by Frank Cawood
4. Hugs to Brighten Your Day by Ashley Moore
5. Life Well Lived by Charles Swindoll

#### New Children's Books:

1. Who You Were Made To Be by Joanna Gaines
2. The Happy Crab by Layla & Kevin Palmer
3. I Love You, Daddy by Jillian Harker
4. The Boy Who Cried by Khoa Le
5. Diary of a Wimpy Kid by Jeff Kinney

## Noteworthy News

**EXUBERANT**...filled with or characterized by a lively energy and excitement. Other words for exuberant include "animated," "cheerful," "lively," "spirited." An exuberant person has a contagious attitude of positivity. "Extravagant worship refers to acts of devotion and adoration towards God that are characterized by their exuberant lavishness, wholeheartedness, and often sacrificial nature." (Bible hub topical encyclopedia). Biblical examples are Mary of Bethany anointing the feet of Jesus (John 12:3), David's dance before the ark (2 Sam. 6:14), the widow's offering (Mark 12:41-44). Exuberant worship is sometimes loud. Sometimes it could include shouting. Always it is bold and demonstrative. It's also risky! Exuberant worshippers run the risk of misunderstanding, disapproval, and even criticism by those who think that worship must be reverent, marked by deep and solemn respect, quiet introspection.

The opposite of exuberant is "apathetic," "dull," "unenthusiastic," "unexcited." An apathetic person is one who is indifferent, passive, uninterested.

I am encouraged each Sunday when I see exuberant, extravagant worshippers. There is joy in their faces. There is an air of expectation. There is curiosity—anticipation of what God is about to do. Not all of us are as energetic as others. That's OK. What is important is that we encounter the living God who equips us to live out the Christian walk in a world that is anything but exuberant toward God.

Acts 2 describes the activity of the early church. "They followed a daily discipline of worship in the Temple followed by meals at home, every meal a celebration, exuberant and joyful, as they praised God. People in general liked what they saw. Every day their number grew as God added those who were saved." (Acts 2:46-27 MSG).

Exuberant blessings! *Bro. Dennis*

## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Dear Meridian family,

As we prepare to celebrate Father's Day, here is a special story I have treasured through the years...

*During the 1994 renovation of the Baseball Hall of Fame, a worker found slipped underneath a display case an old photo with a note on the back. He thought it had fallen out of one of the displays. When it was examined by the staff at the museum, it was concluded that it was not a photograph of one of the 216 baseball players immortalized at the museum. The photograph was of a smiling man wearing a bulky Sinclair industrial-league baseball uniform from the 1940's holding a bat over his right shoulder. They were puzzled as to who the man was in the photograph, where it came from, and how it came to be in the museum. On the back it read, "You were never too tired to play catch. On your days off you help build the Little League field. You always came to watch me play. You were a Hall of Fame Dad. I wish I could share this moment with you. Your Son Pat." Sports Illustrated picked up the story and wrote an article that helped lead to the identity of the man in the photograph. Someone in the little town of Wellsville, New York, recognized the man as Joe O'Donnell. Joe had a son that lived in Andover by the name of Pat. Pat was contacted and he told the story of his Dad, the relationship of love and time they shared, and how he felt he was a Hall of Fame Father and deserved to be in the Hall of Fame. On a visit to the museum he had secretly inducted him into Baseball's Hall of Fame and had slipped his picture under a display. When the exhibits were re-installed at the Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum, the photo and inscription were placed back where they were originally located.*

Food for thought; there is a Hall of Fame in the Bible found in Hebrews 11. The individuals spoken of were normal people just like you and me. They had to deal with struggles, setbacks, and sin. But what set them apart was their faith in God. I challenge you this week to read the Bible's Hall of Fame!

In Christ, Pastor Michael