

## Meridian Baptist Church

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

Website: mbcknox.org

Email: meridianbaptistoffice@gmail.com

Facebook: Meridian Baptist Knoxville

Instagram: @mbcknoxville

"The Evangel" (USPS 339-980) is published weekly except Christmas by Meridian Baptist Church, 6513 Chapman Hwy. Knoxville, TN Periodical Class postage paid at Knoxville, TN. POSTMASTER: send address changes to The Evangel, 6513 Chapman Hwy. Knoxville, TN 37920  
ITEMS FOR EVANGEL DEADLINE: MONDAY NOON

### Meridian Prayer Line

865-579-6632

CALL IN YOUR PRAYER REQUEST

### WORKERS FOR SUNDAY

May 24, 2026

#### DEACONS OF THE WEEK

Gerald Blake Arthur Kirkland \*  
Mike Colquitt

#### NURSERY WORKERS DURING WORSHIP

Gayle Doman Aubrey Martin

#### SAFETY TEAM — TEAM THREE

Jay & Tina King  
David Brewer Jim Greene

#### VAN DRIVER

David McLemore

#### PRAYERS: *In The Hospital*

Jerry Bates, U.T. Hospital

Periodical  
Postage  
PAID

OR CURRENT OCCUPANT

### THIS WEEK'S ACTIVITIES

#### THURSDAY, MAY 21

10:30am—WOM serve lunch at Mont. Village

#### SUNDAY, MAY 24

9:30am—Sunday School  
10:50am—Morning Worship  
12:15pm—Building & Grounds Committee

#### MONDAY, MAY 25

Memorial Day (Office Closed)

#### TUESDAY, MAY 26

9:30am—Senior Adult Committee  
10:30am—Senior Adult Bible Study

#### WEDNESDAY, MAY 27

6:00pm—TeamKid  
6:00pm—Students "The Upper Room"  
6:15pm—Prayer Meeting/Bible Study  
7:15pm—Choir Practice

#### THURSDAY, MAY 28

8:45am—Senior Adults to Scenic Railway



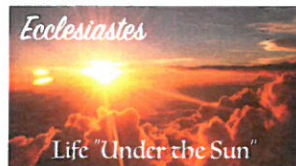
# The Evangel

Michael Martin, Pastor

Meridian Baptist Church  
6513 Chapman Highway  
Knoxville, TN 37920  
865-577-6617

VOLUME 72, NO. 20

May 22, 2026

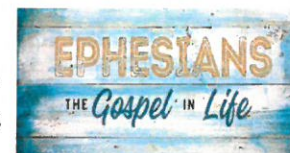


Ecclesiastes

Life "Under the Sun"

Sunday Sermon  
Series on the Book  
of Ecclesiastes

Wednesday Night  
Bible Study on the  
Book of Ephesians



**Deacon Election, Sunday, June 7**  
Active church members should have received a deacon ballot through the mail with a list of potential men who can serve as deacon at Meridian. A ballot box will be provided in the Sanctuary foyer on June 7 to turn in your deacon ballot. If you will not be in attendance on that day, absentee ballots will be available in the church office.

### 5th Sunday Fellowship

"Luau" May 31, 6 pm

Food Provided!

BBQ pork, baked beans,  
potato salad & dessert

Wear your "Hawaiian outfit!"

Signup sheets are in the foyer or call  
the office if you plan to attend.

Enjoy a fun time of fellowship!



### "Community Fun Day at Meridian"

Saturday, June 6

11am-2pm

Community outreach  
on the front church lawn!

Food, Popcorn, Snow Cones  
Face Painting, Crafts,  
Games, Prizes

Invite friends, family, neighbors!

Workers: Arrive by 10:00



**VBS July 12-16**  
Sunday-Thursday

6:00-8:30

Family Fun Night,  
Friday, July 17, 6-8

**4 Years-5th Grade; Adult Class**

Pre-registration forms will be available in  
June bulletins. You can also call or email  
the church office to register for VBS.

**Next Workers' Meeting:**

June 10 at 5:30, Adult 4 Dept.

## Crying Out for Mercy | A Devotional on Psalm 6

Psalm 6 is the first of the seven psalms referred to as the "Penitential Psalms" (Chapters 6, 32, 38, 51, 102, and 143). These are all Psalms that are uniquely marked by their themes of sorrow for sin, confession of sin, and their pleas for forgiveness of those sins.

This is our first real lament of David to the Lord as his heart is consumed with thoughts of his enemies. Though for the past few weeks David has spoken from his struggles, we really get to see him in the throes of his anguish in these verses. David comes before the Lord weary, broken, and overwhelmed. He cries out, "*Be gracious to me, O Lord, for I am languishing; heal me, O Lord, for my bones are troubled*" (v. 6:2). There is no pretending in this prayer. David brings his pain openly before God.

For us, moments like this set of scriptures act as the most transparent places of our own humanity and give us permission, not to wallow in our pain, but to feel our pain. God invites His people to come honestly before Him. David pours out his grief, his fear, and his exhaustion because he knows the Lord listens to the cries of His children.

Yet even in sorrow, David's hope remains anchored in God's mercy, a characteristic of God that David knows very well. He writes, "*Turn, O Lord, deliver my life; save me for the sake of your steadfast love*" (v. 6:4). David's confidence is not in his own strength, but in the faithful love of God. He understands that his life is only as important as his relationship with God. Without God – David is nothing.

By the end of the psalm, the tone begins to change. David declares, "*The Lord has heard my plea; the Lord accepts my prayer*" (v. 6:9). The circumstances may not have changed yet, but David's confidence has. He knows that God hears him. And this is the very crux of this Psalm! In the middle of his depression David **knows by faith** that the Lord has heard his prayers and has received them.

The enemy so desperately wants us to wallow in our own self-pity and depression. He wants us to shut down in the face of our own condemnation over our sins. However, our Lord wants us to trust in him and know that he hears our prayers, He receives us, and is faithful to forgive.

So, when your heart feels heavy, do not draw away from God; cry out to Him!  
Rest in His mercy and remember that the Lord hears the prayers of His people.

Grace be with you,  
Christopher S. Milligan

## Attendance

### May 17 - Sunday School

Preschool	6
Children	11
Youth	7
Adults	93
<b>Total</b>	<b>117</b>
Visitors	6

### Worship Service: 129

Contacts for the week of 5/11—5/17 Total: 99  
4 & 5 Years—17 Adult 3—8 Adult 4—74

## Giving

### Giving For May 17

General Budget Fund	\$ 8,672.05
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$ 8,672.05</b>
Online Giving	\$ 470.00
<b>Monthly Budget Requirement</b>	<b>\$51,083.00</b>
<b>May Budget Giving</b>	<b>\$30,199.65</b>

### Every Member Involved!

A Membership Service Survey will be provided in bulletins during the month of May. The survey gives each church member the opportunity to express interest in various ministry opportunities of service within the committee life of the church. Drop in the offering plate or turn in to the church office.

### Youth Summer Camp June 10-13 Camp BaYoCa, Sevierville

Remember those  
who sacrificed for  
our freedom.  
Memorial Day  
May 25  
(Office Closed)



## Music Ministry News

Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless His name! Psalm 100:4

We did just that very thing Sunday! Every time we meet in worship I love to hear you sing your hearts out to "bless the Lord, for He is good!"

We have been enjoying the "God, You're So Good" chorus of old, with the addition of a few verses. The third verse is incredible so let me remind you:

**And should this life bring suffering  
Lord I will remember  
what Calvary has bought for me  
both now and forever.**

As you move through the hustle of your week, please learn and use this verse to be a reminder of God's blessing.

The choir has begun a refreshing of last year's "Sweet Freedom's Song" along with a few additional features to be used in our worship on Sunday, June 28th. I hope you will reserve the date and invite others to join us, celebrating the goodness of God and the 250th birthday of our country.

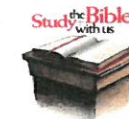
Looking forward to joining our hearts and voices again!

Bro. Mark

### Women on Mission, May 21 at 10:30 Serving lunch at Montgomery Village

**Senior Adult Trip  
Big South Fork Scenic Railway  
Thursday, May 28, leaving at 8:45 am**  
Cost is \$25 per person.  
**If you have not paid, please turn money  
in to the church office by May 24!**

Senior Adult Bible Study  
May 26 at 10:30



## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Did you ever receive a Publisher's Clearing House sweepstakes letter in the mail? PCH would use their sweepstakes to entice consumers to subscribe to the magazines they represented. They wrote personalized letters in an attempt to convince you that you were one of a very few finalists eligible to win millions of dollars. The letters appeared to be personal because they repeated your name several times. They made you feel special simply by using your name. It was their unique way of sticking a "nametag" on you while in the crowd of the world. Of course, the letters are actually generated by a computer that simply plugged a name in the right place on the letter. It appeared as if you are the only one getting the letter when, in fact, millions of people are getting the same "personal letter."

But something really funny happened a few years ago. The PCH computer generated a personal letter to the Bushnell Assembly of God church near Tampa, Florida. The church received a letter that read: "Dear God of Bushnell Assembly – God, we've been looking for you! You are a finalist to receive our \$11 million Sweepstakes! So don't just sit there, God, return your sweepstakes form today!" The Tampa Tribune interviewed the pastor, who said he didn't plan on returning the form because God already has at least \$11 million.

What a crazy story! But what caught my attention was the phrase, "God, we've been looking for you." You see, we are the ones who are lost, not God. Yet people say, they "found" God. Why is that? It's because people are searching for purpose and meaning in life. Yet people never really "find" God; God finds us. In other words, while people seek for the meaning in life, it is Jesus who seeks them out. And we know this because Jesus said, "the Son of Man came to seek and to save those who are lost" (Luke 19:10). It reminds me of the words to the great hymn, *Amazing Grace*, where John Newton wrote, "I once was lost, but now I am found!" Let's rest in this truth and embrace God's love for us!

Have a great week! I am honored to be your pastor and friend!

Pastor Michael