

Meridian Baptist Church

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ITEMS FOR EVANGEL DEADLINE: MONDAY NOON

Meridian Prayer Line

865-579-6632

CALL IN YOUR PRAYER REQUEST

WORKERS FOR SUNDAY

April 19, 2026

DEACONS OF THE WEEK

Gerald Blake * Arthur Kirkland
Mike Colquitt

NURSERY WORKERS DURING WORSHIP

Jeannie Cummings Aubrey Martin

SAFETY TEAM — TEAM TWO

Sam & Sheree Lonas
Scott Frei Gary Smith Randy Burgin

VAN DRIVER

Norman Smelcer

PRAYERS: IN THE HOSPITAL

Jerry Bates, U.T.

Periodical
Postage
PAID

OR CURRENT OCCUPANT

THIS WEEK'S ACTIVITIES

THURSDAY, APRIL 16

10:00am—Senior Adults to Dogwood Trail

SUNDAY, APRIL 19

8:30am—Deacons Meeting
9:30am—Sunday School
10:50am—Morning Worship

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22

5:00pm—Missions Committee Meeting
6:00pm—TeamKid
6:00pm—Students "The Upper Room"
6:15pm—Prayer Meeting/Bible Study
7:15pm—Choir Practice

SATURDAY, APRIL 25

11:00am—Ladies Spring Tea



Michael Martin, Pastor

The Evangel

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Life "Under the Sun"

Sermon Series on the
Book of Ecclesiastes



Wednesday Night Verse by Verse Bible
Study On the Book of Ephesians

Women on Mission

April Project

Collect snacks
for I.C.U. Lounges

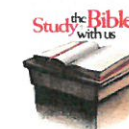
Place items in box located near office

Quarterly Sunday School

Teachers & Assistants Meeting

April 26 at 8am in the Fellowship Hall
Breakfast will be provided.

Senior Adult
Bible Study
April 28 at 10:30



Ladies "Spring Tea"

Saturday, April 25

11am-1pm

in the fellowship hall

Linda Francis will be our speaker.

Please RSVP by April 20 to
the church office.

Senior Adult Banquet

Friday, May 1 at 6:00 p.m.

Entertainment by Kevin Hamilton

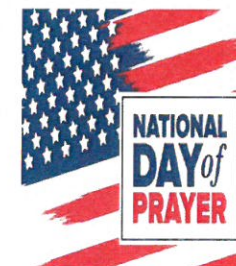
Join us for an evening of food & fellowship!

Call the office by Wednesday, April 29
if you plan to attend.

Senior Adult Sunday

May 3

Recognizing our Senior Adults



National Day of Prayer

Thursday, May 7

The Sanctuary will be
open 7am-5pm
Devotion time at noon
Pray for our Nation!

Rooted in What Matters | A Devotional on Psalm 1

Psalm chapter one gives us a clear picture of two paths. One leads to life while the other fades away. At the center of it all is a simple question: *What are you rooted in?*

The unknown psalmist here begins by saying, "Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked... but his delight is in the law of the Lord" (Psalm 1:1-2). He makes note to say that the world is full of noise and competing voices, but he calls the reader to something better. Not just to read God's Word, but to delight in it; that, my friends, is the mark of the blessed man according to the psalmist here. Chapter one reminds us that a transformed life is marked by a growing love for God's truth.

He continues on in verse three by giving us this image of steady strength: "He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither." The psalmist is not painting a life here that depends on circumstances. Instead he paints a life sustained at its very root. Even in difficult seasons, there is stability and growth because the source of this blessed man is constant. In contrast, the psalmist describes the wicked as nothing more than chaff. It is light, rootless, and carried away. This acts to us as a sobering reminder that anything not grounded in God will not endure.

The psalmist then closes with this hopeful yet heavy promise: "For the Lord knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish" (Psalm 1:6). To be known by God is to be seen, kept, and guided. It is the assurance that your life is not unnoticed or uncertain, but held securely in His hands. But for those who are not known by Him are left with the heaviness of being driven out by Him.

So today, take a moment to consider: *Where are your roots?* Are you being shaped by the world around you, or by the Word of God within you? The invitation of Psalm 1 is simple. Plant yourself by the stream of God's truth, remain there, delight in Him, and trust that, in time, He will produce a life that is full, steady, and lasting.

Grace be with you, Christopher S. Milligan



Graduate Recognition Service Sunday, May 10

Recognizing our High School and College graduates. Contact Chris Milligan with info on the graduate

Attendance

April 12 - Sunday School

| | |
|--------------|------------|
| Preschool | 6 |
| Children | 10 |
| Youth | 12 |
| Adults | 90 |
| TOTAL | 118 |
| Visitors | 8 |

Worship Service: 132

Contacts for the week of 4/6-4/12 Total: 82
4 & 5 Years—19 Adult 3—16 Adult 4—47

Giving

Giving For April 12

| | |
|----------------------------|--------------------|
| General Budget Fund | \$ 9,201.90 |
| Non-Budget Designated | 50.00 |
| Grand Total | \$ 9,251.90 |
| Online Giving | \$ 260.00 |
| Monthly Budget Requirement | \$51,083.00 |
| April Budget Giving | \$21,101.90 |

Memorials & Honorariums

A gift was given to the General Fund in memory of Dennis Johnson's mother, Jean Johnson, from Sutton & Lynn McCallie.

A gift was given to the Homebound Ministry in memory of Maxine Shirk from Myriam & Sam Martin.

Senior Adult Trip

Big South Fork Scenic Railway
Thursday, May 28, leaving at 8:45 am
Cost: \$25 per person (free with military ID)
You can take lunch or pre-pay for lunch there (\$15). **Sign up by May 24!**

Welcome New Members

Mark & Adrienne Branson
821 Berry Basket Drive
Knoxville, TN 37924



Music Ministry

What great day in the house of the Lord; rejoicing in His blessings and lifting His name in praise! Thank you for joining your hearts and voices from the congregation. We'll be using old and new songs in worship, so try to catch on quickly and join in. If you don't know the new songs just yet, worship through reading the lyrics, and the tune will come. Blessings on you as you try. Open your mouth and rejoice! Nothing pleases the Lord like His people praising Him.

Now is a good time to join the music ministry. Who plays an instrument? Or do you sing? It would be a great time to hear from you. Let's talk! We can always use more singers – more voices to praise the Lord. On Easter Sunday, I visited and sat in the back of the sanctuary. I know there are some singers back there. I heard them. Please, come join us. Several seats are open and I'd love to see the men's section grow, but ladies are welcome too.

God has richly blessed us with Deborah and Carolyn at the piano and organ. And I hear there are other instrumentalists who might be shy, squeaky, rusty or hesitant. Please step forward, youth and adults. Let's see how God opens doors for more to join different voices to praise Him.

Soli Deo Gloria (For His Glory Alone)

Bro. Mark

VBS "Illumination Station"

July 12-16 Sun.-Thurs. 6:00-8:30
Family Fun Night: Friday, July 17
First Workers' Meeting: May 6 at 5:30

Community Fun Day Planning Meeting Wednesday, April 29 at 5:00 pm In the conference room

If you would like to help with the planning of our Community Fun Day (Saturday, June 6) please plan to attend the meeting.

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

We had a wonderful day in the Lord's house this past Sunday. I have been encouraged with the sweet spirit of fellowship within the Meridian family. Let us continue to pray for not only numerical growth, but more importantly, spiritual growth!

This last week has been an exciting week as we have welcomed Mark and Adrienne Branson to the Meridian family! To be sure, there is an excitement in the air as we enter this new chapter in the life of our church. Please pray for the Branson's as they prepare for this new season of ministry!

Here are a few upcoming events on the calendar. Senior adults, please remember our Dogwood Trail trip scheduled for this coming Thursday, April 16. Also, our annual ladies/girls "Spring Tea" is April 25. Furthermore, our monthly Senior Adult Bible Study and lunch is Tuesday, April 28. For more information about these ministry opportunities, please see this week's edition of the Evangel. As we approach May, remember our annual Senior Adult Banquet Friday, May 1. Our guest speaker is Kevin Hamilton, Minister of Senior Adult Music at The Church at Sugar Creek, in Humboldt, Tennessee. Kevin is a personal friend of Dennis and Deborah Johnson. I know everyone in attendance will certainly receive a blessing! Finally, please remember our National Day of Prayer Thursday, May 7.

On a personal note, last week marked the two year anniversary of when our family arrived to Meridian. We are forever grateful the Lord brought us to such a wonderful church family. We look forward to the years ahead as we partner together in the furtherance of the gospel. God has wonderful plans for Meridian Baptist!

If there is any specific way I can minister to you or your family, do not hesitate to reach out! Live for Jesus and serve Him faithfully till Christ comes again!

So thankful for my church family,
Pastor Michael