

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

November 23, 2025

DEACONS OF THE WEEK

David McLemore * David Stroud

EXTENDED SESSION WORKERS

Gayle Doman Suzie Frei

SAFETY TEAM — TEAM ONE

Randy Burgin Roger Long
Jack Oody Chrissy Johnson

VAN DRIVER

Scott Frei

2026 Calendars

Cost is \$8.00 and proceeds will be used for students' activities.

MISSION OF HOPE TO HUNTSVILLE

Friday, December 12th

Signup sheets are located on the bulletin board near the Sanctuary and church office. Help bring joy to the children at Huntsville. We will leave the church at 7:00 am; return in the afternoon.

Periodical
Postage
PAID

OR CURRENT OCCUPANT

THIS WEEK'S ACTIVITIES

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23

9:30am—Sunday School
10:50am—Morning Worship
12:30pm—Building & Grounds
6:00pm—Friendsgiving Meal for Students

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 25

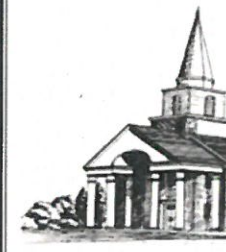
6:00pm—TeamKid
6:15pm—Prayer Meeting/Bible Study
6:00pm—Students "The Upper Room"
7:15pm—Sanctuary Choir Practice

WEDNESDAY-FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 26-28

Thanksgiving Holidays

Search Committee for Music Minister

Randy Burgin, Cynthia Headrick, Tommy Leavelle, Jon McCammon, Brenda Swinson
Weekly Prayer: Pray that the search committee will seek God's will for the church above their own desires. Philippians. 2:3-11; Romans 12:1-2



Michael Martin, Pastor

The Evangel

Meridian Baptist Church

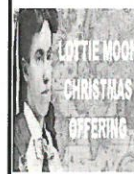
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November 21, 2025

ORDER YOUR POINSETTIA

Poinsettia order forms are now available. Fill out the form, turn in to the office or offering plate. Poinsettia orders are due November 23. Please list an individual or couple per plant ordered & include correct amount for each plant. Cost is \$9 per plant.



Lottie Moon Christmas Offering

Our Goal: \$12,000

Given to date: \$200

Help us reach our goal!

Prayer guides located in Sanctuary.

Week of Prayer: Nov. 30-Dec. 7

Agenda for Quarterly Business Mtg. Nov. 23

Minutes, Financial Report; Church Profile provided
Granting of Letters
Recommendation from Church Council: Eliminate office hours on Friday.
Recommendation from Building & Grounds: Emergency issue-pipes cleaned out near nursery area in Oct.; \$5,600 paid from Capital Improvements.
Recommendation from Building & Grounds: Emergency issue-tree removed at ballfield area in Oct.; \$800 paid from Capital Improvements.
Recommendation from Building & Grounds and Missions Committee: Repair & replace shower at Mission Home, approximately \$8,300-part to come from Mission Home, part from Capital Imp.

Women on Mission November Project

Collect the following items for Hand Up for Women: Deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoo, conditioner, body wash, disposable razors, feminine supplies, single rolls of paper towels & toilet tissue. Place items in box located near office.

Christmas Food Boxes



Church members, Sunday School Classes: Consider providing a food box for needy families in our area. You can pick up a box near the Library or the office. A complete list of food items is provided inside the box. Boxes are due December 7. Brown bags with a partial list of items are located in the Sanctuary foyer if you are not able to complete a full box. A *gracious member has donated toward the cost of perishable items*. Food box distribution will be Saturday, December 13 (workers need to be here at 9:30am). Call the office if you can help.

Tuesday of Thanks, November 25

All regular Wednesday activities moved to this date.

Office Closed November 26, 27, 28

Thanksgiving holidays



Annual Deacon Christmas Banquet Friday, December 5th at 6:00 p.m.

Musical Entertainment: Adrian Pena

Widows & Widowers are invited guests of the Deacons at their annual Christmas Banquet. Please confirm your attendance by calling the church office and if you will need a ride to the banquet.

Angel Tree

The Angel Tree is located near the Library. Please write your name on the sheet next to the tree along with the Angel Number. Wrap gift & tape Angel tag to the gift. Drop gifts off at the church office no later than December 8.



THE UPPER ROOMS

How Can I Serve|Serving within the Church Body
Scripture shows us that serving isn't something extra in the Christian life—it's central to it. Jesus Himself said, *"For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve"* (Mark 10:45). If the Savior served, then His people are called to follow that example.

1. We Are Gifted to Serve Others - The Bible teaches that every believer has been given spiritual gifts. These are God-given abilities meant to build up the church. Peter writes, *"As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another"* (1 Peter 4:10). In other words, God didn't give us gifts to keep for ourselves—He gave them so we could bless others.

Paul says it this way: *"To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good"* (1 Corinthians 12:7, ESV). When we use our gifts—whether teaching, encouraging, serving, helping, leading, or showing mercy—we help the church grow stronger.

2. Every Member Matters - The church is described as a body, and every part plays an important role (Ephesians 4:16). When we serve, we contribute to the health and unity of the whole church. Serving isn't just for a few people—it's for every believer.

3. A Joyful Privilege - Not all acts of service are visible, but all of them matter. Whether you're welcoming guests, helping with children, praying for others, or meeting needs behind the scenes, you are building up the body of Christ.

Listen to some of the experts....

- **Norman Geisler** reminds us that "spiritual gifts are a trust from God. We honor Him when we put them to use."

- **Gregory Boyd** points out that "the church looks most like Jesus when it serves with humility."

- **Jared C. Wilson** writes that "real service flows from the gospel. When we remember what Christ has done for us, we serve with joy rather than obligation."

May we each seek to use our gifts faithfully, loving and serving one another for God's glory and the good of His church. And if you are interested in serving in the Children, Youth, or College & Young Adult ministries please reach out to me as there are plenty of opportunities!

Grace be with you,
Christopher S. Milligan

Attendance

November 16 - Sunday School

Preschool	6
Children	16
Youth	15
Adults	89
TOTAL	126
Visitors	15

Worship Service: 170

Contacts for the week of 11/10-11/16 Total: 103
4 & 5 Years—17 Adult 3—26 Adult 4—60

Giving

Giving For November 16

General Budget Fund	\$ 7,305.04
Lottie Moon Offerings	100.00
Grand Total	\$ 7,405.04
Online Giving	\$ 618.00
Monthly Budget Requirement	\$51,083.00
November Budget Giving	\$30,797.04

Senior Adult Trip, Saturday, December 13
Nativity Pageant at the Knoxville Civic Coliseum. Leaving the church at 1:45.
Call the office to sign up.

From the Audio Visual Team

We are looking to add some helpers on cameras.
If you are interested, please contact the office.

College & Young Adults SS Class

This new class begins January!

From the Nominating Committee

We need to fill a teacher/coordinator position in the Nursery Department. If interested, please see Sandy Kolinsky, Chairman, Nominating Comm.

Youth Friendsgiving Meal

Sunday, November 23rd at 6pm

Special Thanks to all those who were involved in the planning and helped with Sunday's service and/or reception.

Noteworthy News

I MEANT TO SAY THAT! Have you ever been called upon to speak publicly at an event or occasion? In advance you note, mentally or in written form, important points you would like to communicate. And then the moment comes when you speak! You make it through your speech just fine, but a day after it's over, you realize you left out some things you intended to say. That's where I find myself today. Reviewing the events of Sunday, I am still quite overwhelmed at the many expressions of appreciation, encouragement, and well-wishing. You truly made it a day to remember for Deborah and me, and we are truly grateful. Grateful for everyone who stepped up, planned up, organized, decorated, communicated and executed a flawless plan to help us celebrate our ministry at Meridian Baptist Church. If you had told me 25 years ago that our service at Meridian would last that long, I would have quietly, but most assuredly doubted that it could. Extremely unusual in a Baptist church! What I value most is not just what you've done, but the way you've done it. You have showed up! You have cared deeply! You have been our friends—even our family! You have given us patience, understanding and, oh so many, small acts of kindness. We are forever grateful.

Now the part I left out: We spent a good bit of time looking at what has been. Now, in the words of the Apostle Paul, "...one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus".

We still have much to do. We still have a bright future together, serving the Lord side by side. Can't wait to see what our Lord is going to accomplish through us.

Thankful blessings! *Bro. Dennis*



Lottie Moon Post Office

The post office is located near the Library and is an opportunity for you to give Christmas cards to those in the church. Cost per card is .20 cents with the proceeds going toward the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. Place cards in alphabetical order by last name.

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

For my reflection this week, I want to continue our theme of "Thanksgiving." Consider what Dr. Stephen Nichols, President of Reformation Bible College wrote on the topic of "What is Thanksgiving Day?"

Thanksgiving is a holiday that stretches back to a time long before America became a nation. The Pilgrims landed in 1620. They faced brutal conditions and were woefully unprepared. Roughly half of them died the first year. Then they had a successful harvest of corn. In November of 1621 they decided to celebrate a feast of thanksgiving. Edward Winslow was among those who ate that first thanksgiving meal in 1621. He noted: "Our harvest being gotten in, our governor sent four men on fowling, that so we might after a special manner rejoice together after we gathered the fruit of our labors. ...And although it be not always so plentiful as it was at this time with us, yet by the goodness of God, we are so far from want."

In addition to the fowl eaten that first Thanksgiving, the Indians also brought along five deer as their contribution to the feast. Presumably they also ate corn. Over the centuries, Americans continued to celebrate feasts of thanksgiving in the fall. Some presidents issued proclamations. Abraham Lincoln issued a proclamation for a perpetual national holiday set aside for thanksgiving. In 1863, with the nation torn apart by the Civil War, he declared: "I do therefore invite my fellow citizens in every part of the United States, and also those who are at sea and those who are sojourning in foreign lands, to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November next, as a day of Thanksgiving and Praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the Heavens."

So we have a holiday of thanksgiving born in and further nurtured during times of great adversity and struggle. We might think that times of adversity and challenge would spawn ingratitude, while times of prosperity would spawn gratitude. Sadly, the reverse is true.

We should not be counted among those who see the fourth Thursday in November as nothing more than a day of football and over-indulgence. We should be thankful for one day, set apart to consider all that we have and realize that all that we have has been given to us. Of course, such gratitude should in no wise be limited to one day out of 365.