

**Millbrook Baptist Church  
Helping Churches Thrive Program Summary  
2026-2027**





## Helping Churches Thrive

Millbrook Baptist Church | 2026–2027

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### What Is Helping Churches Thrive?

Millbrook Baptist Church is joining a cohort of churches across North Carolina in ***Helping Churches Thrive***, a ministry initiative of CBF North Carolina designed to strengthen congregations through intentional community, collaborative partnership, and deep spiritual formation. Over the course of the next year, MBC will explore seven key characteristics of a thriving congregation, dedicating one month to each theme. Through a structured monthly rhythm of team gatherings, congregational discussions, worship integration, and ongoing digital engagement, every voice at Millbrook will have a meaningful opportunity to participate. This is more than a program; Helping Churches Thrive is an invitation for our entire congregation to discover together what it truly means for Millbrook to thrive.

### The Seven Characteristics of a Thriving Congregation

Over the course of the program, our congregation will explore seven defining characteristics of a thriving church, one per month. Each characteristic is woven into our worship, study, and community life.

1. Thriving Churches are committed to ***Authentic Community***
2. Thriving Churches are ***Flexible***
3. Thriving Churches ***Collaborate as Partners Locally and Globally***
4. Thriving Churches ***Cultivate Leaders***
5. Thriving Churches are ***Intergenerational***
6. Thriving Churches are ***Being Formed***
7. Thriving Churches ***Embody Invitational Discipleship***

## Our Monthly Rhythm

Each active program month follows a consistent, intentional rhythm designed to engage every member of the MBC family.

### **Step 1: Cohort Meeting** (First Monday of the Month)

The eight-member MBC Thrive Team meets with CBFNC leadership and Thrive Teams from other participating churches to explore the monthly theme together: one characteristic of a thriving congregation.

### **Step 2: Thought Starters Introduced** (Second Week)

The MBC Thrive Team shares thought-starter materials with the congregation: ice-breaker questions for Sunday School classes and small groups, email blurbs, short videos, and social media posts, inviting everyone to begin exploring the theme.

### **Step 3: Churchwide Discussion** (Third Sunday | Sunday School Hour, 9:30–10:30 AM)

The entire congregation is invited to a churchwide, facilitated discussion in the Fellowship Hall: an open space to share perspectives, ask questions, and listen to one another.

### **Step 4: Thrive-Focused Morning Worship** (Fourth Sunday)

Our morning worship service intentionally incorporates the monthly theme through the sermon, congregational testimonies, children's messages, and other worship elements.

### **Step 5: Monthly Summary** (End of Month)

The MBC Thrive Team and staff compile and publish a summary document capturing congregational discussions, key insights, and shared feedback.

*In addition to these monthly touchpoints, MBC will offer surveys, digital communications, one-off events, one-on-one conversations, small group and breakout sessions, and social media content on as-needed basis, ensuring that ALL MBC voices are given ample opportunity to participate.*



## 2026–2027 Theme Calendar

MBC will engage in active program months in three periods: Fall 2026, Spring 2027, and Late Summer 2027. Breaks are scheduled in December, June, and July.

| Month                 | Theme / Focus                                  | Status               |
|-----------------------|------------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| <b>October 2026</b>   | Authentic Community                            | <b>Active</b>        |
| <b>November 2026</b>  | Flexibility                                    | <b>Active</b>        |
| <i>December 2026</i>  | —                                              | <i>Program Break</i> |
| <b>January 2027</b>   | Collaborate with Partners Locally and Globally | <b>Active</b>        |
| <b>February 2027</b>  | Cultivate Leaders                              | <b>Active</b>        |
| <b>March 2027</b>     | Intergenerational                              | <b>Active</b>        |
| <b>April 2027</b>     | Being Formed                                   | <b>Active</b>        |
| <b>May 2027</b>       | Embody Invitational Discipleship               | <b>Active</b>        |
| <i>June 2027</i>      | —                                              | <i>Program Break</i> |
| <i>July 2027</i>      | —                                              | <i>Program Break</i> |
| <b>August 2027</b>    | Summation & Assessment (Program Summary)       | <b>Active</b>        |
| <b>September 2027</b> | Perpetuation Thriving (Program Summary)        | <b>Active</b>        |

**The Thrive journey kicks off in October 2026. Watch for announcements, thought starters, and details from the MBC Thrive Team each month.**

## Meet Your MBC Thrive Team

Millbrook's Thrive Team is a group of dedicated members who are passionate about the future of our congregation and eager to walk this journey alongside every one of you. In September 2026, they attended the Helping Churches Thrive kick-off retreat in Winston-Salem, joining teams from churches across North Carolina to learn, pray, and prepare together. Please don't hesitate to reach out to any of them with your questions, ideas, and reflections — they are here for you every step of the way.



*Members of the MBC Thrive Team at the Helping Churches Thrive kick-off retreat, Winston-Salem, September 2026.*

**Becky Albritton**

**Cassidy Padgett**

**Angela Hatchell**

**Jessica McDougald**

**Jackson Helms**

**Lloyd Spruill**

**Reggie Jackson**

**Bob Stillerman**

**We want to hear from you! Please reach out to any member of the Thrive Team with your questions, reflections, and feedback throughout this journey. Your voice matters deeply to us and to the future of Millbrook.**

# Helping Churches Thrive

## Activity Schedule 2026–2027

*October 2026 – March 2027*

| Date                                                                                | Event Description                                                 | Notes / Code                   |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>OCTOBER 2026: Thriving Churches Are Committed to Authentic Community</b>         |                                                                   |                                |
| Mon, Oct 5                                                                          | MBC Thrive Team Monthly Meeting with Participating Church Cohorts | Cohort Meeting                 |
| Sun, Oct 11                                                                         | Monthly Theme Introduced to Congregation                          | Thought Starters Shared        |
| Sun, Oct 18                                                                         | Churchwide Thrive Team Discussion                                 | Fellowship Hall, 9:30–10:30 AM |
| Wed, Oct 21                                                                         | Wednesday Night Fellowship Meal – Kickoff Discussion              | Special Kickoff Event          |
| Sun, Oct 25                                                                         | Thrive-Focused Morning Worship                                    | Theme woven into worship       |
| Sat, Oct 31                                                                         | Monthly Summary Published                                         | Congregation-wide distribution |
| <b>NOVEMBER 2026: Thriving Churches Are Flexible</b>                                |                                                                   |                                |
| Mon, Nov 2                                                                          | MBC Thrive Team Monthly Meeting with Participating Church Cohorts | Cohort Meeting                 |
| Sun, Nov 8                                                                          | Monthly Theme Introduced to Congregation                          | Thought Starters Shared        |
| Sun, Nov 15                                                                         | Churchwide Thrive Team Discussion                                 | Fellowship Hall, 9:30–10:30 AM |
| Sun, Nov 22                                                                         | Thrive-Focused Morning Worship                                    | Theme woven into worship       |
| Mon, Nov 30                                                                         | Monthly Summary Published                                         | Congregation-wide distribution |
| <i>December 2026 — Program Break · No Activities</i>                                |                                                                   |                                |
| <b>JANUARY 2027: Thriving Churches Collaborate as Partners Locally and Globally</b> |                                                                   |                                |
| Mon, Jan 4                                                                          | MBC Thrive Team Monthly Meeting with Participating Church Cohorts | Cohort Meeting                 |
| Sun, Jan 10                                                                         | Monthly Theme Introduced to Congregation                          | Thought Starters Shared        |
| Sun, Jan 24                                                                         | Churchwide Thrive Team Discussion                                 | Fellowship Hall, 9:30–10:30 AM |
| Sun, Jan 31                                                                         | Thrive-Focused Morning Worship + Monthly Summary Published        | Theme woven into worship       |
| <b>FEBRUARY 2027: Thriving Churches Cultivate Leaders</b>                           |                                                                   |                                |
| Mon, Feb 1                                                                          | MBC Thrive Team Monthly Meeting with Participating Church Cohorts | Cohort Meeting                 |
| Sun, Feb 7                                                                          | Monthly Theme Introduced to Congregation                          | Thought Starters Shared        |
| Sun, Feb 14                                                                         | Churchwide Thrive Team Discussion                                 | Fellowship Hall, 9:30–10:30 AM |
| Sun, Feb 21                                                                         | Thrive-Focused Morning Worship                                    | Theme woven into worship       |
| Sun, Feb 28                                                                         | Monthly Summary Published                                         | Congregation-wide distribution |
| <b>MARCH 2027: Thriving Churches are Intergenerational</b>                          |                                                                   |                                |
| Mon, Mar 1                                                                          | MBC Thrive Team Monthly Meeting with Participating Church Cohorts | Cohort Meeting                 |
| Sun, Mar 7                                                                          | Monthly Theme Introduced to Congregation                          | Thought Starters Shared        |
| Sun, Mar 14                                                                         | Churchwide Thrive Team Discussion                                 | Fellowship Hall, 9:30–10:30 AM |
| Sun, Mar 21                                                                         | Thrive-Focused Morning Worship                                    | Theme woven into worship       |
| Wed, Mar 31                                                                         | Monthly Summary Published                                         | Congregation-wide distribution |

# Helping Churches Thrive

## Activity Schedule 2026–2027

*April 2027 – October 2027*

| Date                                                                | Event Description                                                 | Notes / Code                   |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>APRIL 2027: Thriving Churches Are Being Formed</b>               |                                                                   |                                |
| Mon, Apr 5                                                          | MBC Thrive Team Monthly Meeting with Participating Church Cohorts | Cohort Meeting                 |
| Sun, Apr 11                                                         | Monthly Theme Introduced to Congregation                          | Thought Starters Shared        |
| Sun, Apr 18                                                         | Churchwide Thrive Team Discussion                                 | Fellowship Hall, 9:30–10:30 AM |
| Sun, Apr 25                                                         | Thrive-Focused Morning Worship                                    | Theme woven into worship       |
| Fri, Apr 30                                                         | Monthly Summary Published                                         | Congregation-wide distribution |
| <b>MAY 2027: Thriving Churches Embody Invitational Discipleship</b> |                                                                   |                                |
| Mon, May 3                                                          | MBC Thrive Team Monthly Meeting with Participating Church Cohorts | Cohort Meeting                 |
| Sun, May 9                                                          | Monthly Theme Introduced to Congregation                          | Thought Starters Shared        |
| Sun, May 16                                                         | Churchwide Thrive Team Discussion                                 | Fellowship Hall, 9:30–10:30 AM |
| Sun, May 23                                                         | Thrive-Focused Morning Worship                                    | Theme woven into worship       |
| Mon, May 31                                                         | Monthly Summary Published                                         | Congregation-wide distribution |
| <i>June – July 2027 — Program Break · No Activities</i>             |                                                                   |                                |
| <b>AUGUST 2027: Summation and Assessment</b>                        |                                                                   |                                |
| Mon, Aug 2                                                          | MBC Thrive Team Monthly Meeting with Participating Church Cohorts | Cohort Meeting                 |
| Sun, Aug 8                                                          | Monthly Theme Introduced to Congregation                          | Thought Starters Shared        |
| Sun, Aug 15                                                         | Churchwide Thrive Team Discussion                                 | Fellowship Hall, 9:30–10:30 AM |
| Sun, Aug 22                                                         | Thrive-Focused Morning Worship                                    | Theme woven into worship       |
| Tue, Aug 31                                                         | Monthly Summary Published                                         | Congregation-wide distribution |
| <b>SEPTEMBER 2027: Perpetuating Thriving</b>                        |                                                                   |                                |
| Mon, Sep 13                                                         | MBC Thrive Team Monthly Meeting with Participating Church Cohorts | Cohort Meeting                 |
| Sun, Sep 19                                                         | Monthly Theme Introduced to Congregation                          | Thought Starters Shared        |
| Sun, Sep 26                                                         | Churchwide Thrive Team Discussion                                 | Fellowship Hall, 9:30–10:30 AM |
| Thu, Sep 30                                                         | Monthly Summary Published                                         | Congregation-wide distribution |
| Sun, Oct 3                                                          | Thrive-Focused Morning Worship                                    | Final worship celebration      |
| Sun, Oct 31                                                         | Final Program Summary Published                                   | Full program wrap-up           |

**NOTE: DATES SUBJECT TO CHANGE**

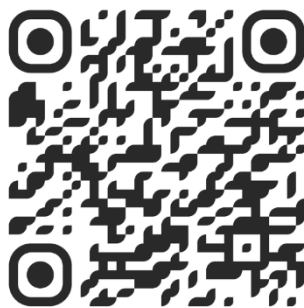
|                |             |            |         |         |               |               |
|----------------|-------------|------------|---------|---------|---------------|---------------|
| Cohort Meeting | Theme Intro | Discussion | Worship | Summary | Special Event | Program Break |
|----------------|-------------|------------|---------|---------|---------------|---------------|

## How You Can Participate

Every member of Millbrook Baptist Church is invited and encouraged to engage in the Thrive journey. Here are a few simple ways to get involved:

- Attend the Churchwide Discussion on the Third Sunday of each active month (Fellowship Hall, 9:30–10:30 AM)
- Look out for monthly thought starters and engage with fellow Millbrookers
- Respond to congregational surveys and share your honest perspective
- Follow MBC social media for theme updates, short videos, and discussion prompts
- Talk with members of the MBC Thrive Team: they want to hear from you

*Questions? Contact the MBC Thrive Team or visit [millbrookbaptist.org](http://millbrookbaptist.org).*



**Learn more about CBFNC's  
Helping Churches Thrive Program**