

The Messenger

The Monthly Newsletter of
Morningside Baptist Church
Spartanburg, SC

We **Seek** a personal, life-changing relationship with God through prayer, engaging worship, and Bible teaching.
We **Serve** others by modeling the love of Christ through missions and ministry involvement.
We **Share** God's grace through genuine, loving fellowship and discipleship.

Morningside Baptist Church

July 2025

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Number 7



Conversations: A Simple Approach to Sharing the Gospel Saturday, July 26 9:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.

We are all called to share the gospel, but few of us do so regularly. Perhaps you have a desire to share, but feel ill-prepared or simply fear what response you might receive.

If you have any desire to grow in this area, then we invite you to join us for “*Conversations: A Simple Approach to Sharing the Gospel*.” In this workshop, taught by the Gideons, you will learn how to take that next step by building on a Biblical foundation. You will learn an approach to conversational evangelism so that you can strike up non-confrontational spiritual conversations. The workshop will give you the tools to easily communicate the gospel.

This three-hour class will be offered Saturday morning, July 26th, from 9:00 A.M. -12:00 P.M., with lunch to follow.

The class is free, but space is limited. Sign up using the QR Code, or call the Church Office to reserve your spot today.



PATRIOTIC WORSHIP SERVICE

**SUNDAY, JULY 6
11:00 A.M.**

- ◆ PRESENTATION OF COLORS
- ◆ PLEDGES OF ALLEGIANCE
- ◆ PRAYER FOR OUR NATION
- ◆ PATRIOTIC HYMNS
- ◆ MESSAGE FROM
REV. ROBERT MITCHELL

GOD BLESS AMERICA!

Words from Our Pastor

As we approach Independence Day, we're reminded of the great blessings we enjoy as Americans—freedom of speech, freedom to gather, and most importantly, freedom to worship our Lord without fear. These are privileges we should never take for granted. We thank God for the men and women who have sacrificed to secure them.

But as believers, we also know a deeper, eternal freedom, a freedom that only Christ can give. In the New Testament, Paul writes a short letter to Philemon about a slave named Onesimus, who fled from Philemon's home to seek freedom in Rome. He did indeed find freedom, but not the kind he expected.

Through Paul's ministry, Onesimus encountered Christ. Once transformed, he decided to return to Philemon. In Paul pleads that Philemon receive him, "*no longer as a bondservant but more than a bondservant, as a beloved brother...*" (Philemon 1:16). The belief is that Onesimus not only gained his spiritual freedom, but that Philemon granted him personal freedom. It is believed that Onesimus eventually became the Bishop of Ephesus.

This powerful truth speaks directly to our hearts today. Just as Onesimus found true freedom in Christ, so do we. While we may enjoy freedom as citizens of this great nation, our highest freedom is found in Jesus—freedom from sin, from guilt, and from spiritual death.

Our nation's freedom is a gift, but it is Christ who truly sets us free. Galatians 5:1 instructs us to remember that freedom and to walk in it: "*For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery*" (Galatians 5:1). This freedom then is not without responsibility. We are called to remain in it, and we are further called to serve in light of it: "*For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another*" (Galatians 5:13).

We serve each other by living in community, by forgiving one another, by encouraging each other, by challenging, and by sharing with one another and sometimes even correcting each other.

This July 4th, let's celebrate our country's freedom with gratitude. Even more, let's rejoice in the freedom we have in Jesus. Let's share that Good News with a world still in need of it.

In Christ,
Pastor Brandon



Events in July

Calendar of Weekly Events

Sundays

A Time for Prayer - 9:00 A.M.
Infinite Mercy Rehearsal - 9:00 A.M.
Coffee Fellowship - 9:15 A.M.
Bible Study - 9:30 A.M.
Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal - 10:35 A.M.
Worship - 11:00 A.M.
Infinite Mercy Rehearsal - 4:00 P.M.

Mondays

Tuesdays

Bicycle Ministry - 8:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.
Staff Meeting - 10:00 A.M.
Scouts - 6:30 P.M.

Wednesdays

Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal - July 9, 30
7:00 P.M.

Fridays

Prayer Warriors - 9:30 A.M.
Church Office Closed

Additional Weekly Events

- 3 Independence Day Holiday - Church Office Closed
- 4 Independence Day
- 6 Patriotic Worship Service - 11:00 A.M.
- 7 Beautiful Hats Bible Study - 11:00 A.M.
- 10 Kingdom Kids to Eden Terrace - 10:00 A.M.
- 14-18 Youth to MFUGE at Milligan University, TN
- 17 Prayer Shawl Ministry - 2:00 P.M.
- 22 Stampin' Up - 10:00 A.M.
- 23 Praise and Play - 6:00 - 8:00 P.M.
- 24 Hearts and Hands Crafters Card Making Class - 10:00 A.M. - 12:30 P.M.
- 26 Gospel Conversation Training - 9:00 A.M.
- 27 VBS/Camp Recap Sunday - 11:00 A.M.

Mside Family

SUMMER NIGHTS Praise and Play

JOIN US FOR DINNER, WORSHIP AND FUN!

WEDNESDAY, JULY 23

6:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.

HOT DOG DINNER & MUSIC BINGO NIGHT

SIGN UP IF YOU PLAN TO ATTEND

BY SUNDAY, JULY 20

Card Making Class for Students



Thursday, July 24
10:00 A.M. - 12:30 P.M.

The Hearts and Hands Crafters
invite middle school and high school students
to a card-making class in the Fellowship Hall.
Lunch will be provided.

Sign up on the youth bulletin board
no later than Sunday, July 20th.

KINGDOM KIDS TRIP

Thursday, July 10

10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.



Travel to Eden Terrace to share Wonder
Junction VBS Songs with Residents and
enjoy lunch afterwards at Pizza Inn.

MFUGE SUMMER CAMP
LEAVE MONDAY JULY 14 AT 10:00 A.M.
RETURN FRIDAY, JULY 18 AT 5:00 P.M.
MILLIGAN UNIVERSITY, TN

PLEASE REMEMBER THE FOLLOWING
PARTICIPANTS IN PRAYER AS THEY HEAD
OFF TO MFUGE SUMMER CAMP



Our participants love to receive mail while at
camp. If you would like to write an encouraging
note to any of our campers please give them to
Laura White by Sunday, July 13.

Students:

Aaron, Alee, Cordelia,
Emma, Jack, Makenzie,
Olivia, Rylee, Zelda

Chaperones:

Steve, Kimberly,
Shannon and Laura



You can demonstrate God's love
in a tangible way to children in
need around the world.

Operation Christmas Child Donation List of School Supplies for July - August

Sharpened Pencils, crayons,
pencil sharpeners, pens,
markers, notebooks, scissors

Save the Date

Sunday, November 2
Lunch and Packing Party

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Volunteers, thank you (all 45 of you) for helping
 with Vacation Bible School.

A total of 70 children were enrolled!

We had a truly amazing time at Wonder Junction,
 and our little wranglers, miners, sheriffs, and
 conductors thoroughly enjoyed the music, crafts,
 snacks, recreation/games, and Bible stories.

Your willingness to share the love of Jesus is
 appreciated beyond words.

Laura

Deacons on Call

July 1-6

Rick Byars, Hugh Martin

July 6-12

David Smith, Ralph Boney

July 13-19

Katherine Wiggins, Jane Surratt

July 20-26

Cathy Godfrey, Kathy Covington

July 27-August 2

Joyce Stewart, Edna Ellison

Pastors on Call

July 5-7, 25-27

Robert Mitchell, 864-597-3966

July 11-13

Brandon Malone, 404-861-1872

July 19

Laura White, 828-447-2175

Sympathy Extended to

... Kingsley and Christy Emerson and family in the
 death of Kingsley's mother, Jeanne Emerson, on June
 9, 2025, in New Haven, Connecticut.

... Charlene Inclan and family in the death of
 Charlene's husband, Robert, on June 15, 2025, in
 Spartanburg, South Carolina.



Staff

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