

# 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

December 2023

Volume 65

Number 12



## *Hanging of the Green*

*Sunday, December 3 9:30 A.M.*

Plan to worship with us on the first Sunday of Advent with the *Hanging of the Green Service*. We will experience the anticipation of Christ's coming by lighting the Advent candle and decorating the church with wreaths, garlands, trees, evergreen boughs, and the symbols of everlasting life – hope, peace, joy, and love. Join us as we explore the significance of many of the traditions and symbols of Advent and the Christmas season. Please also invite your friends and neighbors to join us for this special service of worship as we prepare to celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

## *Gloria All Around*

*Sunday, December 17 9:30 A.M.*

The Messiah...promised so long ago. Would He ever come? But a star, never seen before, shone brightly in the eastern sky, and the glory of God shown all around. Something wonderful was happening. Worship with us as Morningside's Sanctuary Choir, Orchestra, and Kingdom Kids present *Glory All Around*, a compilation of songs of the season that proclaim the birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ! Afterwards, we will gather in the Fellowship Hall and enjoy a biscuit fellowship together. Invite your friends and neighbors to share this special time with us!! We will not have Sunday School that morning.



## *Christmas Eve Candlelight Service*

*5:00 P.M. Sanctuary*

Please don't miss our Christmas Eve service, filled with congregational singing of favorite Christmas carols and hymns, and other special music. This night, we will light the Christ Candle, the final candle on our Advent wreath, and sing together by candlelight.

## Weekly Events

### Sundays

Worship Service - 9:30 A.M.

Coffee Bar - 10:30 A.M.

Bible Study - 10:45 A.M.

### Tuesdays

Bike Ministry - 8:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.

Staff Meeting - 11:00 A.M.

Boy/Cub Scouts - 6:30 P.M.

### Wednesdays, December 6, 13, 20

Grief Share Group - 12:00 P.M.

Infinite Mercy Rehearsal - 5:00 P.M.

Prayer Meeting - 6:00 P.M.

Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal - 7:00 P.M.

### Wednesdays, December 6, 13

Children's Music and Missions, Mside Youth  
6:00-7:30 P.M.

### Fridays

Prayer Warriors - 9:30 AM

## Additional Activities

- 1 Operation Warmth Begins
- 2 Decorate the Church - 9:00 A.M.  
Youth Christmas Party - 5:30-8:00 P.M.
- 3-10 Week of Prayer for International Missions
- 3 *Hanging of the Green Service*- 9:30 A.M.  
Mobile Meals Gift Items Due  
Clarion Sounds Rehearsal - 4:45 P.M.
- 4 Beautiful Hats Study Group - 11:00 A.M.  
Golden Tones Ministry Tour - 2:00 P.M.
- 6 Clarion Sounds Rings at The Glass Chapel
- 9 Kingdom Kids Choir Practice - 10:00 A.M.  
Christmas Party for Children - 11:00 A.M.
- 10 Clarion Sounds Rings at Eden Terrace -  
3:00 P.M.
- 11 Golden Tones Ministry Tour - 2:00 P.M.
- 13 Christmas Service Project with Children and  
Youth - 6:00 P.M.
- 16 Sanctuary Choir/Orchestra Rehearsal -  
11:00 A.M.
- 17 *Glory All Around* - 9:30 A.M.  
Biscuit Fellowship - 10:30 A.M.  
Christmas Caroling and Pizza Supper -  
4:00 P.M.
- 19 Stampin' Up - 9:00 A.M.
- 24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service - 5:00 P.M.
- 25 Christmas Day  
**Church Offices Closed  
December 25-28, January 1**

**Senior Pastor  
Search Committee Schedule**

As we continue our Season of Prayer for our Senior Pastor Search Committee during the month of December, the Deacons and Staff want to provide information about the schedule for moving forward.

**Sunday, January 21  
Search Team Committee Election**

You will nominate five individuals whom you feel would prayerfully assume the responsibility of serving on the Search Committee. You must be present to cast your vote.

The five members who receive the most nominations will be asked to serve alongside the Deacon Chair. The group will determine the process they will follow to fill the position and bring this process to the congregation for a vote. The committee will also determine the qualifications and create a job description for the next Senior Pastor. Notifications of the position will be submitted to the Southern Baptist Convention, the South Carolina Baptist Convention, the Spartanburg County Baptist Network, and the *Baptist Courier*. Resumes will then be received.

**Please see below Article V, Section 2  
of our Church By-laws:**

If the vacancy is the Senior Pastor position, the congregation will nominate individuals to form a search committee. The top five candidates who agree to serve will form the Senior Pastor Search Committee, along with the Deacon Chair. The Senior Pastor Search Committee will recommend a process to fill the vacancy. The church will vote on the recommended process.

**January Schedule**

- ♦ **Regular Wednesday Night Activities for Children and Youth, Bible Studies, and Prayer Meeting Will Resume January 17.**
- ♦ **Sanctuary Choir Will Resume January 10 after the Chili Cookoff.**



**MARK  
YOUR 2024  
CALENDAR**

**Wednesday, January 10  
6:00 - 7:00 P.M. Fellowship Hall**  
Calling all cooks! Enter your best crockpot of chili, and you could be our 2024 Winner!

***mside kids***



Join us for a time of crafts, games, the Christmas Story, and lunch. Children are encouraged to wear their favorite Christmas outfits and bring a wrapped gift costing no more than \$5 to exchange with another child. Parents, sign up your child(ren) with Laura by Sunday, December 3.

***mside youth***



**Saturday,  
December 2  
5:30 - 8:00 P.M.**

Youth, join us for our annual Christmas Party at the Belmont's home (155 Lakewood Drive in Spartanburg). Bring a gift of \$10 or less to participate in the White Elephant Gift Exchange. Pizza and soda will be provided for dinner, but please bring chips or a dessert to share.



**January 13-15**

Morningside Youth are headed to Pigeon Forge, TN for a weekend filled with great worship and powerful preaching that will challenge students to live for Christ and grow in their walk with Jesus. Any remaining balance of the \$120 cost will be due no later than January 6. Be on the lookout for information regarding packing and our itinerary.



# inside family



## December 3-10

Southern Baptists observe a Week of Prayer for International Missions each year during December. Will you join your heart with others to pray for and support missionaries around the world who are impacting the 4.6 billion people who are unreached. The 2023 Prayer Guide, included in the December 3 Worship Guide, offers specific requests made by eight missionaries who are reaching the lost with the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Throughout the month of December, we will receive the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, which supports foreign missionaries. 100% of donations go to support our missionaries in the field. Please pray about how the Lord is leading your family to give a financial gift this month.

## Mobile Meals Christmas Bags

We have asked each Sunday School class to help fill a total of fifty Mobile Meal Christmas Bags, which will go to the homebound in our community. This is one way to ensure each recipient of Mobile Meals will receive a gift this Christmas season. These items must be returned to the Church Office by Sunday, December 3. On Wednesday, December 13, our children and youth will make cards and fill these bags with the items we gather. What a wonderful way to *Seek, Serve, and Share* the love of Christ with others!



## Operation Warmth

*Be sure to give to them without any hesitation. When you do this, the LORD your God will bless you in everything you work for and set out to do.*

*Deuteronomy 15:10*



Many in our community suffer during the winter months because they cannot afford a coat or other cold-weather clothes to keep them warm. During December and January, you can help those in need by donating gently-used blankets, coats, sweaters, hats, and gloves for the wintry days ahead. These items will be a blessing to the homeless and to those who are in need in Spartanburg. Collection boxes are located throughout the church for your donations.



## Golden Tones Ministry Tour

The Golden Tones, our Senior Adult Choir, will sing Christmas favorites at various facilities this month, beginning at 2:30 P.M. The bus leaves the church at 2:00 P.M.

**December 4      White Oak Estates  
(Skilled Nursing)**

**December 11    White Oak at North Grove**

Reminder: Members, wear blue shirts with black slacks or skirts.

## Clarion Sounds Ministry

Members of the Clarion Sounds, Morningside's bell group, will ring during Worship Services on December 3 and Christmas Eve. In addition, they will travel to The Glass Chapel at the Maple Creek Preserve in Rutherfordton, North Carolina Wednesday, December 6. Dinner will be provided at 5:30 P.M. The group has also scheduled a trip to Eden Terrace on Sunday, December 10. Members are to meet at 3:00 P.M. and ring at 3:30 P.M.



Reminder: Wear black at each performance.



## Family Christmas Caroling and Pizza Supper Sunday, December 17 4:00 P.M.

Everyone of all ages—children, youth, and adults—are invited to go Christmas caroling. We will meet at the church and divide into groups before going out to sing traditional carols of Christmas for members who are unable to attend services. We will then return to the church at 6:00 P.M. to enjoy pizza. Be sure to sign up in the double hallway leading to the Welcome Center.

*Invite a friend to join us!*

**Wednesday,  
December 13  
6:00 - 7:30 P.M.**

Youth and children will begin the evening with a snack supper in the Youth Room. Afterwards, they will pack the gift bags for Mobile Meals recipients and create cards for each bag. We will conclude the evening with fun Christmas games. Come join us!



MORNINGSIDE THE MESSENGER  
(USPS 363-420) is published monthly by the Morningside Baptist Church. Periodical postage paid at Spartanburg, S.C. Postmaster, send address changes to  
The Morningside Messenger  
897 South Pine Street  
Spartanburg, SC 29302

**Monday-Thursday, December 25-28**  
**Monday, January 1**  
**in Observance of Holidays**

**Thank You Notes for Prayers  
and Support Received from**  
  
*Joe and Neeley Higgins  
Nancy Marley  
Brenda Young*

**Sympathy Extended to**  
  
*... Melva Greene and family in the death of her brother,  
Myers Godfrey, on October 24, 2023 in Iron Station,  
North Carolina.*

*Morningside*  
Baptist Church  
*Seeking, Serving, Sharing*

**897 South Pine Street  
Spartanburg, South Carolina 29302**

Office: (864) 585-5457      Fax: (864) 585-6217  
Website: [www.msidechurch.org](http://www.msidechurch.org)  
Office Hours: Monday - Thursday  
8:30 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.

Ministers on Call	
<b>December 2-3, 23-25</b> <i>Laura White</i> 828-447-2175	<b>December 16-17</b> <i>Connor Bastin</i> 864-804-3528
<b>December 9-10, 30-31</b> <i>Robert Mitchell</i> 864-597-3966	

Staff	
Laura White, Associate Pastor (Ext. 4).....	<a href="mailto:lwhite@msidechurch.org">lwhite@msidechurch.org</a>
Robert Mitchell, Worship Pastor (Ext.5) .....	<a href="mailto:rmitchell@msidechurch.org">rmitchell@msidechurch.org</a>
Connor Bastin, Youth Pastor (Ext. 8) .....	<a href="mailto:cbastin@msidechurch.org">cbastin@msidechurch.org</a>
Ricky Heath, Administrator.....	<a href="mailto:rheath@msidechurch.org">rheath@msidechurch.org</a>
Diah Henderson, Financial Office (Ext. 7) .....	<a href="mailto:dhenderson@msidechurch.org">dhenderson@msidechurch.org</a>
Paula Joye, Organist .....	<a href="mailto:paulajoye@charter.net">paulajoye@charter.net</a>
Gail Medlin, Pianist .....	<a href="mailto:ggmedlin@outlook.com">ggmedlin@outlook.com</a>
Jayne Belmont, Ministry Assistant (Ext.1) .....	<a href="mailto:jbelmont@msidechurch.org">jbelmont@msidechurch.org</a>
Tammy Gillespie, Media Specialist (Ext. 9).....	<a href="mailto:tgillespie@msidechurch.org">tgillespie@msidechurch.org</a>
Kathy Green, Ministry Assistant (Ext. 2).....	<a href="mailto:kgreen@msidechurch.org">kgreen@msidechurch.org</a>

Ministers - All Members of the Congregation

**Mside  
Weekday  
Preschool**  
  
**Ashley Searcy**  
**Director**  
  
Office: (864) 585-5452  
Email:  
[msidepreschool@msidechurch.org](mailto:msidepreschool@msidechurch.org)