



The Hanging of the Green

Sunday, December 1 11:00 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.

The REAL Christmas Story

Presented by Kingdom Kids

Sunday, December 15 11:00 A.M.

The children's choir will present a musical based on the story in Luke 2, the most important and pivotal event in history. This musical makes God's precious gift of Jesus understandable and memorable by focusing on the four gifts that Jesus' birth made possible: peace, joy, hope, and love. We hope you will treasure the truths of this musical in your heart. Be sure to invite friends and neighbors!

Come, Let Us Adore Him

Presented by the Sanctuary Choir

Sunday, December 22 11:00 A.M.

A King... prophesied of old, proclaimed by angels, and whose birthplace was marked by a spectacular star! Come worship the newborn Christ child. We will gather in the Fellowship Hall at 9:30 A.M. and enjoy a breakfast fellowship together. Afterwards, we hope that you will join Morningside's Sanctuary Choir, Infinite Mercy, and Orchestra as they present "Come, Let Us Adore Him," a compilation of songs of the season that proclaim the birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ! Invite your friends and neighbors to share this special time with us!! We will not have Sunday School.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Tuesday, December 24 5:00 P.M.

Please don't miss our Christmas Eve Candlelight service, filled with congregational singing of favorite Christmas carols, 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.

The Messenger

*The Monthly Newsletter of
Morningside Baptist Church*

Volume 67

Number 12

Weekly Events

- 1-8 Week of Prayer for International Missions
- 1 Operation Warmth Begins, P.S. I Love You Toy Drive Begins
Hanging of the Green - 11:00 A.M.
- 2-7 Bible Truck at Morningside
- 2 Beautiful Hats - 11:00 A.M.
Golden Tones to Lakewood Assisted Living - 2:30 P.M.
- 8 Golden Tones Sings during Worship
Christmas Caroling -
- 9 Golden Tones to White Oak Estates - 2:30 P.M.
- 10 Stitchers and Sowers - 1:15 P.M.
- 12 Joy of Missions - 12:00 P.M.
- 14 Kingdom Kids Musical Dress Rehearsal - 9:30 A.M.
Children's Christmas Party - 11:00 A.M.
- 15 Kingdom Kids Musical The Real Christmas Story - 11:00 A.M.
Deacons' Meeting - 4:00 P.M.
Deacon/Spouse/Staff Christmas Dinner - 6:00 P.M.
- 16 Golden Tones to Restoration Senior Living - 2:30 P.M.
- 17 Stampin' Up - 10:00 A.M.
- 18 Youth Christmas Party - 6:00 P.M.
- 19 Open Trip to Operation Christmas Child - 8:30 A.M.
- 20 Open Trip to Operation Christmas Child - 4:30 P.M.
- 22 Breakfast Fellowship - 9:30 A.M.
Come let Us Adore Him Christmas Cantata - 11:00 A.M.
- 23 Church Office Closed
Youth and Children Visit with Homebound Members 10:00 A.M.
- 24 Church Office Opens at Noon
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service - 5:00 P.M.
- 25-26 Church Office Closed
- 30 Movie Monday for Youth - 1:00 P.M.

Words from Our Pastor

Christmas has always been a time of anticipation. As a child, I could hardly wait for Christmas morning and all the presents that would be under the tree. I'm sure many of you can relate, but I clearly remember waking up at 4:00 or 5:00 A.M. more than once, unable to sleep a second longer. I'd decide it was better to wait in the dark until at least 6:00 A.M. before waking up the whole house—though, honestly, going back to sleep seemed impossible!

As I grew older and our family spread out, that anticipation remained, but for different reasons. The thrill of presents no longer kept me awake; instead, I began to look forward to the time spent together with family. Even now, Christmas is one of those rare occasions when everyone gathers and those moments are truly cherished.

Then, in 2018, I had a new reason to be excited for Christmas. Dawn was pregnant with Declan, and his due date was December 30th. The anticipation was overwhelming—we felt like kids again, eagerly waiting for the day we would finally meet the gift God had given us. Of course, Declan had his own plans and arrived a little later than expected, on January 12th. That season of waiting forever changed how I experience Christmas.

That sense of eager anticipation is at the heart of Christmas. It draws us into the shoes of Mary and Joseph, who waited with hope for the birth of a baby. But not just any baby—this was the Messiah, the Savior of the world! Christmas invites us to enter into that moment, to feel the excitement they must have felt as they awaited the fulfillment of God's promise. And it reminds us that we, too, can encounter God in a real and personal way. He is Immanuel—God with us, and He is the true gift of Christmas.

But this anticipation isn't just meant to remind us of the past; it's also a hope for the future. Just as the people of Mary and Joseph's time awaited the first coming of the Messiah, we, too, wait for Jesus' return. The anticipation of Christmas is a glimpse of the joy that will one day be ours when Christ returns. May it inspire us to await that day with the same eager anticipation as a child waiting for Christmas morning—knowing the gift we're waiting for will be even greater.

Merry Christmas,
Brandon

*Warmest greetings for this festive
Christmas season and
Best wishes for happiness this coming year.
The Morningside Staff*

mside kids

Kingdom Kids Dress Rehearsal Saturday, December 14



10:00-11:00 A.M.

Sanctuary

Saturday, December 14

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY CHRISTMAS PARTY

11:00 A.M.-1:00 P.M.

Lunch Provided

Youth and Kids Visitation to Our Homebound Members Monday, December 23 10:00 A.M.



We will visit with our homebound members and take a token of our love for them. Let's have a large group!

mside youth

Wednesday, December 18 YOUTH CHRISTMAS PARTY



6:00-7:30 P.M. Youth Room

Movie Monday
December 30
1:00 P.M.
Youth Room



mside family



Week of Prayer for International Missions December 1-8

Southern Baptists observe a Week of Prayer for International Missions each year before the annual Lottie Moon Christmas Offering emphasis. Will you join your heart with others to pray for missionaries around the world who are faithfully sharing the gospel? Will you offer a financial gift, 100 % of which supports those missionaries in foreign lands? Please pray about your family's financial contribution. The Morning-side goal is \$5,000.00. Let's surpass that goal by the end of the month!

Last Stop for The Bible Bus Front Church Parking Lot December 2-7

The Bible Truck, a unique mobile exhibition that displays the history of the World's Best Seller – **The Bible**, is making one final appearance at Morningside before it closes its doors. Featured are hundreds of historical exhibits including posters, stories of persecution, videos about the Bible, informative posters chronicling various Bible-related themes, beautifully illustrated maps tracing the Bible's journey across time, and an impressive collection of Bibles, each with its own unique narrative. No fee.



Church-wide Toy Drive Lasts throughout December

This year, we are collecting **new** toys for children of all ages who are entering foster care through the faith-based non-profit organization P.S. I Love You. Please read more information about this Christ-centered ministry at

www.psiloveryouministries.com

Collection boxes will be located throughout the church.

P.S. I Love You



Colder weather has arrived, and those in the community who do not have warm clothing are suffering. Please locate and donate gently-used jackets, coats, hats, scarves, blankets, and

gloves that you no longer use or want. Boxes will be placed at entrances to the Sanctuary and in the Welcome Center throughout the months of December through February.

mside music

~ Clarion Sounds ~ Handbell Ringing



December 1 - Hanging of the Green - 11:00 A.M.

December 3 - Dickens of a Christmas (The Local Hiker 173 E. Main St. - corner of Liberty St.) - 6:00 P.M.

December 12 - Eden Terrace - 6:00 P.M.

December 22 - Converse University (Lobby of Twitchell Auditorium - 6:15-6:45 P.M.)

December 29 - Worship Service - 11:00 A.M.

The Marvel and Miracle of Advent

Tuesday Mornings Bible Study December 3, 10, 17

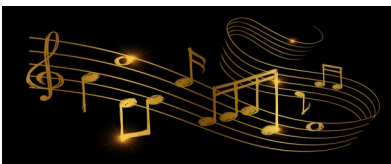
10:00 A.M. Fellowship Hall

Ladies, Advent is not only a season of waiting and preparation; it is also a season of action in which to share the hope of Jesus with everyone. This Bible study will revive your spirit as you recapture the wonder of Jesus' obvious love for you.

Church-wide Christmas Caroling Sunday December 8 4:00 P.M.



All ages, from young to old, are invited to sing carols in local neighborhoods. Each group will give families they meet an invitation to join us for upcoming Christmas Services. We will return to the church about 6:00 P.M. for pizza. If you plan to attend, sign up in the Information Hallway by Wednesday, December 4.



Golden Tones Outreach Ministry

December 2

Lakewood Assisted Living
3701 Clark Road, Boiling Springs

December 9

White Oak Estates
400 Webber Road, Spartanburg

December 16

Restoration Senior Living at Westgate
620 West Blackstock Road

All programs begin at 3:00 P.M. Members should meet at the church at 2:15 P.M. to carpool, if desired.

Golden Tones Attire: blue shirts and black pants or skirts
Ladies are to wear a black camisole under shirt

December 8 - Sing at Morningside

Meet in Music Suite at 10:35 A.M.
Wear blue shirts.

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 897 South Pine Street
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Calendar of Weekly Events

Sundays

A Time for Prayer - 9:00A.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.
 Clarion Sounds - 5:00 P.M.

Mondays

Tuesdays

Bicycle Ministry - 8:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.
 Ladies' Bible Study - 10:00 A.M. (Dec. 3, 10, 17)
 Staff Meeting - 1:00 P.M.
 Scouts - 6:30 P.M.

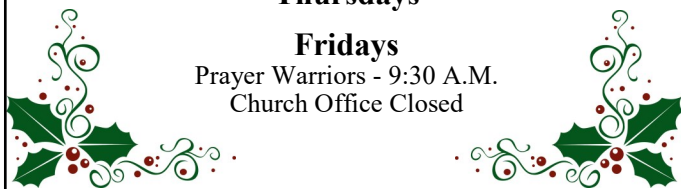
Wednesdays

Infinite Mercy Rehearsal - 5:00 P.M.
 Praise and Prayer - 6:00 P.M.
 Biblical Round Table - 6:15 P.M.
 Mside Youth - 6:15 - 7:30 P.M.
 Kingdom Kids (Choir) - 6:15 - 6:45 P.M.
 Journey Kids (Missions) - 6:45 - 7:30 P.M.
 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal - 7:00 P.M.

Thursdays

Fridays

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



Pastors on Call

December 6-8, 27-29

Laura White, 828-447-2175

December 13-15

Brandon Malone, 404-861-1872

December 1, 20-22

Robert Mitchell, 864-597-3966

Thank You Notes for Your Prayers and Support Received from

Janis Haynes

Wilburn and Shirley Hill

David and Charlyn McFadden

David and Susanne Smith



Morningside
 Baptist Church
Seeking, Serving, Sharing

Staff

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Mside Weekday Preschool

Ashley Searcy, Director

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Email:

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