

# 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

January 2025

Volume 68

Number 1



## Winter Kick-off

### Souper Bowl Contest Wednesday, January 8 6:00-7:30 P.M.

Make plans now to join us for our Family Winter Kickoff! Enter your best recipe for soup in our contest. Medals will be awarded to first, second, and third place winners! Sign-up sheets to attend or to bring a pot of soup are located in the Information Hallway leading to the Welcome Center. Let us know by Sunday, January 5 if you plan to attend. No cost.

### From Our Pastor

As we stand on the threshold of a new year, it's natural to pause and reflect on the journey we've taken in the year past. In a world that moves quickly, taking time to reflect—both on the victories and the challenges—helps us grow and prepare for the future. In Psalm 77:11-12, the psalmist writes, "I will remember the deeds of the Lord; yes, I will remember your wonders of old. I will ponder all your work and meditate on your mighty deeds."

Taking time to remember how God has worked in our lives through triumphs or difficulties alike helps us acknowledge His presence and faithfulness. Reflecting on the past year through this lens invites gratitude, humility, and a renewed sense of trust in God's plan for our lives. It is within this framework that we should look ahead to the new year knowing that God will continue to be faithful as He brings about His will in our lives. So, I encourage us all to approach this year with intentionality and humility, seeking to grow in the ways that God desires, to be used in the plans God has, and to trust Him to guide us and give us strength, knowing that He is always with us.

*"Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own.  
But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind  
and straining forward to what lies ahead,  
I press on toward the goal for the prize  
of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus."  
Philippians 3:13-14*

In Christ,  
Brandon

### Calendar of Weekly Events

#### Sundays

A Time for Prayer - 8:45 A.M.  
Bible Study - 9:30 A.M.  
Worship - 11:00 A.M.

#### Mondays

Golden Tones - 1:30 P.M. - Resumes January 13

#### Tuesdays

Bike Ministry - 8:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.  
Scouts - 6:30 P.M.  
Staff Meeting - 1:00 A.M.

#### Wednesdays

##### Activities Resume January 15

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

#### Thursdays

Good News Club - 2:00 P.M. - Resumes January 9

#### Fridays

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

### Additional Events

- 1 Church Office Closed for New Year's Holiday
- 5 Observance of The Lord's Supper  
11:00 A.M.  
Clarion Sounds Rehearsal - 5:00 P.M.
- 6 Beautiful Hats Bible Study Group  
11:00 A.M.  
Golden Tones New Year's Luncheon  
11:30 A.M.
- 7 Remove Seasonal Decorations - 9:00 A.M.
- 8 Souper Bowl Winter Kickoff - 6:00 P.M.
- 12 Clarion Sounds Rings for Golgotha Service  
1:30 P.M.  
Deacons' Meeting - 4:00 P.M.
- 14 Stitchers and Sowers - 1:15 P.M.
- 21 Stampin' Up - 10:00 A.M.
- 23 Hearts and Hands Crafters - 10:00 A.M.
- 26 Clarion Sounds Rehearsal - 5:00 P.M.
- 28 Joy of Missions - 12:00 P.M.

## OPERATION WARMTH

Few, if any, of us have ever experienced the frigid temperatures of winter - with no protective clothing - for hours or days on end. To help the homeless and those of low income, we are continuing our drive to collect gently-used blankets, coats, sweaters, hats, and gloves through Sunday, January 12. Please gather items that you no longer use, and share them with those in our community. Collection boxes have been placed at entrances to the Sanctuary.



### Church-wide Toy Drive Ends January 26

The Resource Center at *P.S. I Love You* helps to meet the physical needs of foster children from head to toe, for FREE. Foster families visit their clothing closet that provides clothes, shoes, underwear, socks, diapers, wipes, baby equipment, toys, Bibles, books, and a Care Bag for foster children. In 2023, *P.S. I Love You* gave away more than 70,000 items to children in foster care. Morningside will continue to collect new, unwrapped toys for those children through Sunday, January 26. Bins are located at entrances to the Sanctuary.



### Senior Fall Trip to the Hudson Valley and Catskills October 7-12

On this six-day journey, the group will travel through the through Virginia, Maryland, the scenic Catskill Mountains and the Hudson Valley region of New York. Some of the interesting venues we will visit include the 9/11 Memorial and Museum, West Point, Hyde Park, the Vanderbilt Mansion National Historic Site, the Culinary Institute of America, the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum, the Rockefeller Estate, Tarrytown, and the Brownstone Mansion. Handouts providing general information and costs are on located in the Church Office and Senior Adult Wing Information Stations. Contact Jack Dodds if you have questions.

#### Staff

Brandon Malone, Lead Pastor (Ext. 3).....bmalone@msidechurch.org  
 Laura White, Associate Pastor (Ext. 4) .....lwhite@msidechurch.org  
 Robert Mitchell, Worship Pastor (Ext.5).....rmitchell@msidechurch.org  
 Ricky Heath, Administrator (Ext. 6) .....rheath@msidechurch.org  
 Paula Joye, Organist.....paulajoye@charter.net  
 Gail Medlin, Pianist.....ggmedlin@outlook.com  
 Jayne Belmont, Ministry Assistant (Ext. 1).....jbelmont@msidechurch.org  
 Kathy Green, Ministry Assistant - Communications (Ext. 2).....kgreen@msidechurch.org

Ministers - All Members of the Congregation

## Golden Tones New Year's Luncheon Monday, January 6

The Golden Tones and Spouses are invited to a New Year's Luncheon at the home of Rick and Debby Byars (671 Whitestone Road).

If you need a ride, the carpool leaves the Church at 11:30 A.M. Lunch will be served at 12:00 P.M.

### Thank You Notes for Your Prayers and Support Received from

Judy Burnett  
Laura White

### Sympathy Extended to

... Family and friends in the death of Tom Badger on December 4 in Spartanburg, South Carolina.  
 ... Clare Neely and family in the death of her husband, Rev. Dr. Kirk H. Neely, on December 12 in Spartanburg, South Carolina.

### Ministers on Call This Month

**January 3-5, 24-26**  
Brandon Malone - 404-861-1872

**January 10-12, 31-February 2**  
Robert Mitchell, 597-3966

**January 17-19**  
Laura White, 828-447-2175

897 South Pine Street  
Spartanburg, South Carolina 29302  
Office: (864) 585-5457  
Fax: (864) 585-6217  
Office Hours: Monday - Thursday  
8:30 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.  
Website: www.msidechurch.org  
Mside Guest Wi-Fi Password:  
Morningside