

# 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

November 2020

Volume 63

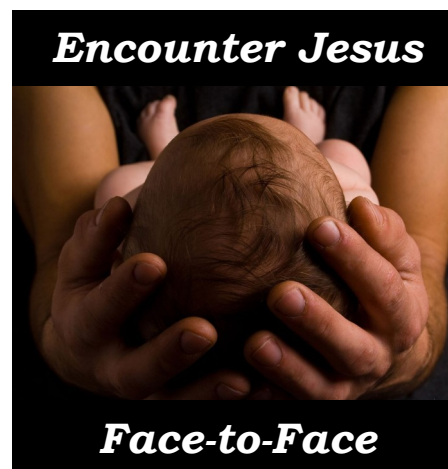
Number 11



## Worship Enhancement Initiative Offering Sunday, November 1 9:30 A.M.

*“Be utterly amazed because God is going to do something in your days that you would not believe, even if you were told.”  
Habakkuk 1:5*

During the month of October, we have heard testimonies of how a new multimedia system will enhance our worship. Our hope and plan is that we will not spend budget dollars to purchase and install this technology that costs approximately \$57,000. We encourage every family to consider how the Lord might be leading you to make a generous contribution to the **Worship Enhancement Initiative** in-gathering on November 1. We believe in the power of God's promises. May our giving be “utterly amazing!”



## New Sunday Worship Series Beginning November 22 9:30 A.M.

How much of what we do and call “worship” actually pleases our God? Do we feel the presence of the Holy Spirit? Do we focus enough on the truth?

During the holiday season, we will begin a series of messages that bring us face-to-face with Jesus, who embodies for us the right worship of God. Discover how to worship God through our Savior Jesus Christ.

## Calendar of Events for November

- 1 All Saints Day - 9:30 A.M.  
Worship Enhancement Initiative  
In-gathering - 9:30 A.M.  
Sunday School Resumes - 10:45 A.M.
- 2 Beautiful Hat Bible Study - 11:00 A.M.
- 4 Children's Missions and Youth Thrive Resume - 6:00 P.M.  
Vote on Messengers to the SC Baptist Convention during Prayer Meeting - 6:00 P.M.
- 7 Movie Night on the Lawn - 6:00 P.M.
- 8 Veteran's Day Celebration - 9:30 A.M.
- 9-10 South Carolina Baptist Convention
- 11 Deadline to Register for Listening Lunch - 12:00 P.M.
- 15 Rev. Laura White Preaches - 9:30 A.M.
- 17 Listening Lunch - 12:00 P.M.
- 22 Service of Thanksgiving - 9:30 A.M.
- 24 Youth/Volunteer Trip to Samaritan's Purse Processing Center - 4:00 P.M.
- 25 No Wednesday Night Activities
- 26 Thanksgiving Day  
Church Office Closed
- 27 Decorate for Christmas
- 29 Hanging of the Green - 9:30 A.M.



## Letting the Shepherd Lead...

Recently I came across a booklet by Jonathan Leeman and Andy Naselli. The title caught my attention: *"How Can I Love Church Members with Different Politics?"* As members of the same body of Christ, we must learn how to continue to love one another no matter how the upcoming presidential election concludes. It is very easy to say with Romans 15:5-7, "May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore welcome one another as Christ Jesus has welcomed you, for the glory of God." Practically, however, welcoming someone who voted against the person, party, and platform we supported is difficult.

Let's be honest. We have all been tempted to say, "How can they be a Christian and support that?" As believers, we all want to do what is right and oppose what is wrong. This godly desire, when not carefully monitored, can raise the temperature and pressure on relationships where believers disagree on matters of Christian liberty. In an election year, those conflicts have only been elevated. Depending on our choice of candidate, November 4<sup>th</sup> could seem like a joyous affirmation of liberty or a tyrannical disaster waiting to happen.

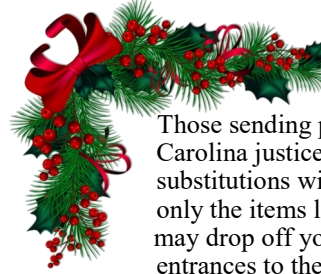
So how do we disagree with someone in a way that allows us to welcome them as a fellow believer?

- ♦ First, we must recognize two types of issues that demand distinct responses. "Straight-line issues" are those that Scriptures call for a certain application. Such an issue is one where we would say the Bible is so clear that a person cannot be a Christian or a church member without believing. Most of these issues, which are theological in nature, may refer to beliefs like trusting in Jesus' sacrificial death for sinners. But consider our belief that murder is wrong. Would we welcome into our church a person who believes that murder is morally neutral? Would we consider them a Christian? On straight-line issues, we bind consciences to what the Scripture clearly teaches.
- ♦ Secondly, "jagged-line issues" are those where godly, Bible-believing Christians may understand the Scriptural teaching but apply it in differing ways. These issues of Christian liberty do not demand that we bind someone's conscience, but rather welcome and love those with whom we might disagree. On "jagged-line issues," we do not claim a person who disagrees with us cannot be a believer or a church member. For instance, Philippians 2:3-4 teaches us to consider others as more important than ourselves. Some may take this passage as a call to provide universal healthcare. Some may see it as a call to reduce regulation so others can make their own healthcare choices. Both viewpoints may be valid applications and should be welcomed in God's family.
- ♦ Thirdly then, we should emphasize and promote the factor that truly unites us, namely Jesus Christ. Regardless of the differences we may have, we do not want to jeopardize our relationship with Christ or with one another. We try to humbly seek understanding by gently discussing why we vote and believe as we do. Even so, whenever we discuss areas of Christian liberty, it may lower the temperature and pressure if we begin by saying that folks are free to disagree with how we believe on this issue. Being able to do so is a sign of Christian maturity and a clear indication that the unity we have in Jesus Christ is more important to us than uniformity on political issues.

My prayer is that we will truly seek to live in harmony and welcome one another as Jesus Christ welcomed us!

Pastor Steven

## inside missions



### Christmas Prisoner Packets

Those sending packets to prisoners in the South Carolina justice system are reminded that substitutions will not be accepted. Please donate only the items listed in the Worship Guide. You may drop off your packet(s) in the tubs at the entrances to the Sanctuary before Worship or bring them to the Church Office **no later than Monday, November 9.**

### Mobile Meals Gift Bags Bring Holiday Cheer

Recipients of Mobile Meals look forward to the delivery of food as it often means they will have someone to talk with, if only for a few minutes a day. Many feel especially lonely and depressed as family members rarely visit. Filling a gift bag with hygiene items is one way to offer them cheer during the holiday season. You may pick up a bag at an entrance to the Sanctuary. A list of suggested gifts is included inside. Please return your filled bag, secured with a tie, to Morningside **no later than Sunday, December 6.**

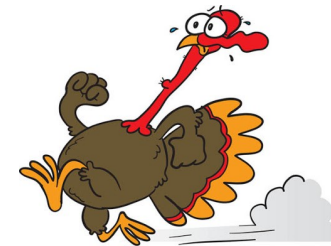


### The Power of a Simple Gift Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child

Your simple gift of a shoebox filled with age- and gender-appropriate gifts has an amazing journey. These gifts reach others in more than one hundred countries around the world and result in evangelism, discipleship, and multiplication. Pastors around the world host outreach events in places where people may not know Christ and invite them to follow Him. As a result, boys and girls grow in Christ and share the gospel with their friends and family. Shoeboxes are available at the entrances to the Sanctuary. Please pick up one or several and fill with gifts. You will find appropriate suggestions for toys online at [samaritanspurse.org](http://samaritanspurse.org). Please return your filled shoebox(es) to Morningside **no later than Sunday, December 6.**

### Turkey Donation Mission Project to Benefit TOTAL Ministries

Please help TOTAL Ministries Tell Others They Are Loved by donating one, two, three, four... or ten turkeys during this Thanksgiving season. This ministry is trying to feed more than 2,000 low-income families in the Spartanburg area. You can drop off your gift at TOTAL Ministries (976 South Pine Street) **no later than Monday, November 23. Note: The days/times of Operation are Mondays, Tuesdays, or Thursdays from 9 A.M. - Noon.**





# mside family



## Adult Bible Studies

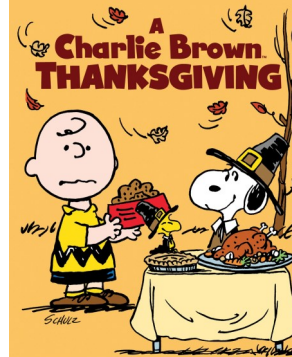
Please review the guidelines—located on the back cover—for gathering at the church.

- ◆ We are excited to resume Sunday School on November 1 after a long absence due to the pandemic. Check the monitors in the Sanctuary or your weekly Worship Guide for room assignments.
- ◆ We are also grateful that we can finally launch a new Sunday School class. On November 1, the group will begin *Membership Matters* and continue with other topics of interest. If you are not currently attending Sunday School, you are encouraged to check out the class (Room 422).
- ◆ Each Wednesday night at 6:00 P.M., Pastor Steven will continue his survey series *Getting the Most from the New Testament*. In addition, Jack Dodds and Robert Mitchell will share prayer requests and hymns. Meet us in the Sanctuary or live-stream on the church website: [www.msidechurch.org](http://www.msidechurch.org).

## Listening Lunch

**November 18 12:00 P.M.**

Would you like to have a say in the sermon series for upcoming months? Has the Holy Spirit laid something on your heart to suggest to the Pastoral Staff? The goal of our Listening Lunches is to hear the Holy Spirit speak through the members of our congregation. At our next gathering, we will enjoy a meal together (for a \$5 donation) and then discuss sermon topics for the next four months. We will also consider other ideas to improve our church. If you would like to attend, register by calling Kathy Green (Ext. 2) **no later than Wednesday, November 11**. You will receive the topics ahead of time so that you can pray for God's direction.



## MOVIE NIGHT on the lawn

**Saturday,  
November 14  
6:00 - 7:00 P.M.**

Bring your lawn/camping chairs and join us for a fun-filled evening on the lawn for the feature presentation of "A Charlie Brown Thanksgiving."

Drinks and individual snacks will be provided!



**Saturday, December 5**

**10:00 A.M. - Noon**

**Fellowship Hall**

Join us for a morning of  
Christmas crafts, cookies and fellowship!

Please sign up **by Sunday, November 29** with  
Laura White: [lwhite@msidechurch.org](mailto:lwhite@msidechurch.org)

YOUTH



**Youth Bible  
Study  
November 4, 18  
6:00 P.M.**

Youth will complete their  
study on the Fruit of the Spirit.

**Trip to Samaritan's Purse  
Processing Center  
Tuesday, November 24  
4:00 P.M.**

The Youth (Age 13 and above) will inspect shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child. They will drive to Charlotte after supper, work from 6:00-10:00 P.M., and return to the church around midnight. If interested in helping, contact Steve Kibbe at 864-585-5457 (Ext. 5).



**Missions for Children**

**Wednesdays,  
November 4, 18  
6:00 P.M.**

Preschoolers and children have an opportunity to learn about missions during the month of November.

Join us on the following dates!

**November 4:** We will learn about what it means to be baptized by discussing the baptism of Jesus. Biblical truth: God desires to have a relationship with children.

**November 18:** Roy Garza, Pastor of Pillar Church in Twentynine Palms, California, will be our guest. Biblical truth: God desires to have a relationship with men and women who serve in the military.

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

Recommended Guidelines during Services and Activities

- ◆ All normal social distancing precautions should be observed. This has prompted the change of location for some classes.
- ◆ The Deacons and Staff strongly encourage the wearing of facemasks.
- ◆ The Deacons and Staff recommend that anyone who has a fever, cough, sore throat, or any suspected contact with Covid is encouraged to stay home.
- ◆ The Staff will provide instructions on exiting the Sanctuary in a staggered manner for Sunday School.
- ◆ Practice restroom social distancing guidelines.
- ◆ Exit the Sanctuary, using any exit preferred.
- ◆ Offering baskets will be located at the entrances and exits of the Sanctuary.

Sympathy Extended to

... John and Trudy Gaston and family in the death of Trudy's brother, Bill Wood, on October 6 in Columbia, South Carolina.

... Tony and Flonnie Shaw and family in the death of Tony's cousin, William E. Buzhardt, on October 14 in Greenwood, South Carolina.

... Troy and Polly Bridges and family in the death of Polly's brother, Joe Williams, on October 19 in Chesnee, South Carolina.

Thank You Notes for Your Prayers and Support Received from

Lettie Jane Burgess and Family  
Betty Jo Godfrey  
Ann and Jessi Jeffords  
Charlyn McFadden

Ministers on Call This Month

Fridays	Steven Owensby	590-7985
November 7-8	Steven Owensby	590-7985
November 14-15	Laura White	828-447-2175
November 21-22	Steven Owensby	590-7985
November 28-29	Jack Dodds	590-8951



897 South Pine Street  
Spartanburg, South Carolina 29302  
Rev. Dr. Steven R. Owensby, Pastor

Office: (864) 585-5457      Fax: (864) 585-6217  
Website: [www.msidechurch.org](http://www.msidechurch.org)  
Office Hours: Monday - Thursday  
10:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.

Ministers - All Members of the Congregation

Steven Owensby, Senior Pastor (Ext. 3).....[sowensby@msidechurch.org](mailto:sowensby@msidechurch.org)  
Jack Dodds, Associate Pastor (Ext. 6).....[jdodds@msidechurch.org](mailto:jdodds@msidechurch.org)  
Laura White, Associate Pastor (Ext. 4).....[lwhite@msidechurch.org](mailto:lwhite@msidechurch.org)  
Steve Kibbe, Youth Director (Ext. 8).....[skibbe@msidechurch.org](mailto:skibbe@msidechurch.org)  
Robert Mitchell, Worship Minister (Ext.5).....[rmitchell@msidechurch.org](mailto:rmitchell@msidechurch.org)  
John Kelly, Finance (Ext. 7).....[jkelly@msidechurch.org](mailto:jkelly@msidechurch.org)  
Robin Kelly, Finance (Ext. 7).....[rkelly@msidechurch.org](mailto:rkelly@msidechurch.org)  
Linda Alverson, Membership (Ext. 1).....[laverson@msidechurch.org](mailto:laverson@msidechurch.org)  
Kathy Green, Communications (Ext. 2).....[kgreen@msidechurch.org](mailto:kgreen@msidechurch.org)  
Jeremy Powers, Media Specialist.....[jpowers@msidechurch.org](mailto:jpowers@msidechurch.org)  
Andy Bogan, Sound Tech.....[abogan@msidechurch.org](mailto:abogan@msidechurch.org)



Mside Weekday Preschool

Ashley Searcy  
Interim Director

Office: (864) 585-5452  
Email: [msidepreschool@msidechurch.org](mailto:msidepreschool@msidechurch.org)