



THE VISION

March 18, 2020

A COVID-19 Message from your Pastor:

These are very different times for all of us, and that includes the ministry of Morningside Baptist Church.

Based on the recommendations of local authorities, we will not meet together through the end of March. We will, however, carry on our worship and teaching ministry through live stream. Remember, the church is not the building we meet in. Rather, it is the body of believers who join their hearts to worship, proclaim the gospel, and edify one another.



Wayne Robertson
Pastor

I have met with the staff and want to share with you the plan we have formulated.

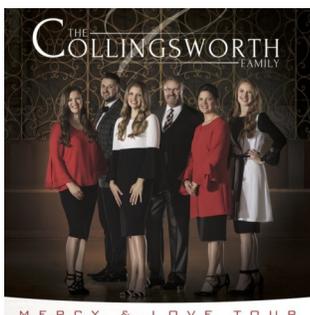
This Sunday, March 22 please plan to join us online for a Sunday School lesson taught by Brother John at 9:00 a.m. Following that, we will have a time of worship featuring special music and a Gospel message from your Pastor at 10:30 a.m. Join us again for evening worship at 6:00 p.m. You can find the live stream by visiting our web site at www.morningside.ws or through Facebook ([MorningsideBaptistChurchValdosta](https://www.facebook.com/MorningsideBaptistChurchValdosta)). Additionally, you can access any live stream or previously recorded preaching or teaching at www.vimeo.com/morningsidebaptist.

I will send more information to you as I have it. In the meantime, please check your email, our web site, Facebook, and Twitter ([MorningsideVald](https://twitter.com/MorningsideVald)) for updates. For the latest information about the COVID-19 virus, consult the CDC web site (<https://www.cdc.gov/>).

During this time that we are not meeting together I want to remind our members to please continue to give your tithes and offerings through one of the following methods: (1) online giving (go to www.morningside.ws and click "Online Giving" in the upper right corner of the page), (2) US mail, addressed to Morningside Baptist Church, 2604 Bemiss Rd., Valdosta, GA 31602, to the attention of Lisa Tomberlin, or (3) place your gift in the drop box beside the church office door.

Thank you for your understanding and prayers. As always, I am available to you as your pastor. God bless you!

Brother Wayne



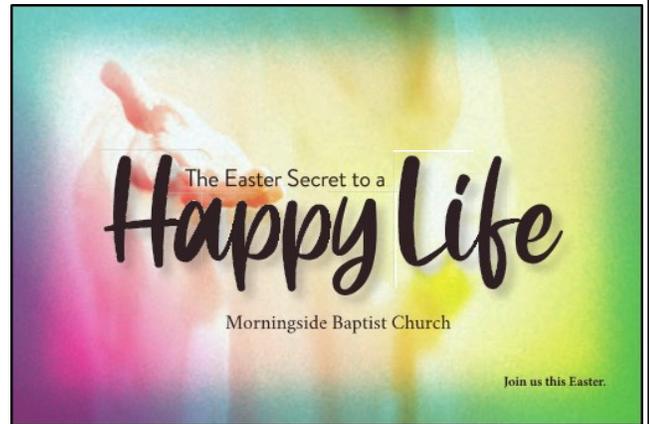
**The Collingsworth Family Concert
has been postponed and
will be rescheduled at a later date.**



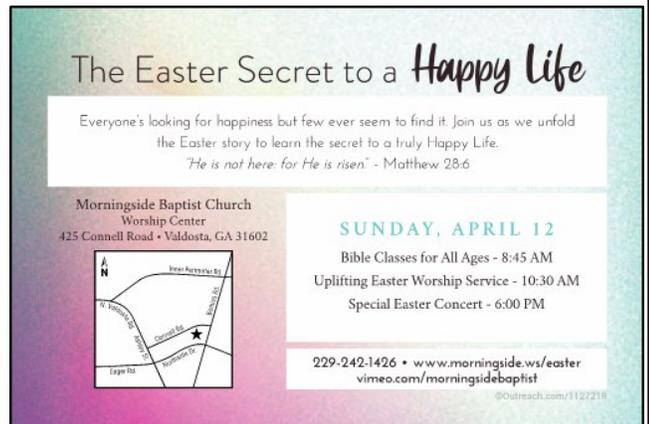
John Yates
Minister of Education

Invite Cards

Sunday morning you received a pack of five Easter invite cards that look like the images at right. Use those cards to invite your unsaved or unchurched friends, family members, neighbors, co-workers, and acquaintances to our Easter services. Additional invite cards are available from the church office.



The back of the invite cards include the date and times of our Easter services. There is also a map showing our location, along with our address and phone number. The address of our special Easter web page (morningside.ws/easter) is also included, along with the web site where the live stream of our services is posted. Since our services and Sunday School will be conducted exclusively through live stream for the next few weeks, that web address is very important. Be sure to point it out to people when you give them a card.



In the coming weeks almost 9,000 area homes will receive an Easter invitation postcard from our church. That postcard gives the address where people can worship with us through live stream. It is providential that this message is going out at this time when we cannot meet together for Sunday School and Worship. We will also have social media ads targeted to those same neighborhoods, offering hope for a Happy Life through Jesus Christ.

Why are we going to all this trouble? What is the purpose of it all? The purpose of the Big Invite has accurately been stated this way: to bring unbelievers to faith in Jesus, connect guests and new believers to the Church, and begin moving them toward spiritual maturity. Please pray that many people will seek out a message of hope during this unusual time.

Facing Uncertain Times

Fear is gripping many people because of coronavirus. How should Christians respond? What can we tell those who are afraid? Does the Bible provide any comfort? Read the following:

For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind. 2 Tim. 1:7

²I will say of the Lord, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in Him will I trust. ³Surely He shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler, And from the noisome pestilence. Ps. 91:2-3

³⁵Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁷Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him that loved us. ³⁸For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, ³⁹Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Rom. 8:35, 37-39

BE STILL AND KNOW

Written by Kathrina von Schlegel



David Tew
Minister of Music

***¹Be still, my soul: the Lord is on your side; bear patiently the cross of grief or pain;
leave to your God to order and provide; in ev'ry change he faithful will remain.***

***Be still, my soul: your best, your heav'nly Friend
through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.***

²Be still, my soul: your God will undertake to guide the future as he has the past.

Your hope, your confidence let nothing shake;

***all now mysterious shall be bright at last. Be still, my soul: the waves and winds still know
his voice who ruled them while he dwelt below.***

³Be still, my soul: when dearest friends depart, and all is darkened in the vale of tears,

then shall you better know his love, his heart,

who comes to soothe your sorrow and your fears.

Be still, my soul: your Jesus can repay from his own fullness all he takes away.

⁴Be still, my soul: the hour is hast'ning on when we shall be forever with the Lord,

when disappointment, grief, and fear are gone, sorrow forgot,

love's purest joys restored.

Be still, my soul: when change and tears are past,

all safe and blessed we shall meet at last.

Little is known about the author of this great old song. It was written in 1752 and was translated in 1854. It is a great truth in this day and time as we walk through many uncertain times. It has been impressed on my mind that God may be calling all of us to be still and focus on our relationship with Him. This virus did not catch Him by surprise, and we know He is still in control. I would like to encourage you to make Godly, Christian music a part of your daily routine. We will, no doubt, have more time on our hands, and Satan would love for us to focus more on worldly things. We must be determined to keep our eyes on Jesus!!

***“Be still, and know that I am God.
I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth!”***

Psalms 46:10

Please check your email, the Morningside Facebook and Twitter pages for updates as we walk this road together.

Because He Lives,
Brother David

Coronavirus. That one little word has made a huge impact on our lives. Few had ever even heard of the word just four months ago. But now everybody knows it and many are in dreadful fear of it. Just a few weeks back the Youth were studying “Why I Believe” and we briefly discussed how various plagues broke out in Biblical times and the people would scatter and “run for the hills” leaving the sick to fend for themselves. Except the Christians, those early Christians stayed behind and cared for the ailing with such compassion that their deeds brought many to Faith in Christ. As Christians is there anything special we can do during this health emergency to show Christ-like compassion for others?



“Nipper”
John Nitschke
Youth Director

Writer Joel Ryan of Crosswalk.com, offers 10 suggestions:

1. Stay Informed and Only Spread Truthful Information

Right now, we’re seeing a lot of reacting, and not all reactions are positive or even rational.

Christians can help by seeking out accurate information from medical organizations like the Center for Disease Control and World Health Organization and only sharing facts and truthful information, not more hysteria or misinformation through social media or word of mouth (Philippians 4:8, Proverbs 11:14).

2. Do Not Surrender to Fear

While the world lives in fear, Christians must look to the peace and power of God and be the living hope found in His name. Faith can be an antidote to fear, and nothing strengthens a believer’s faith like the promises of God.

So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.—Isaiah 41:10

For God has not given us a spirit of timidity, but of power and love and discipline.—1 Timothy 1:7

There is no fear in love, for perfect love casts out fear.—1 John 4:18

3. Practice Personal Hygiene

This seems like the most obvious response to fighting an infectious disease, but knowing what steps the Center for Disease Control *actually* recommend can go a long way to help prevent sickness and dramatically reduce the spread of COVID-19.

This is a time, more than ever, for Christians to step up and care for the sick by being socially conscious, considerate, and diligent in practicing personal hygiene (Leviticus 19:32, 1 Timothy 19:32).

4. Choose Compassion over Personal Convenience

To reduce the spread of the virus, most event centers, sporting arenas, and public gatherings have been temporarily closed and their events canceled or postponed.

While this may feel extreme, canceling or postponing large public gatherings, even ones we enjoy, *dramatically* reduces the number of people who will be exposed to the coronavirus in the coming months. In doing so, lives will be saved.

Yes, our personal comforts and entertainment may be restricted or put on hold, but not going to Disneyland, Coachella, or the Lakers’ game is a small price to pay for the health and safety of others around the world, even those we have not met.

As Paul wrote, “do not *merely* look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others. Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 2:4-5)

5. Don't Buy What You Don't Need

In being willing to sacrifice for the good of others, Christians should also be considerate and not buy more than they need. It's wise to prepare for the future (Proverbs 6:6-11), but that doesn't mean Christians should stockpile supplies that are *desperately* needed elsewhere. “Panic purchasing” and stockpiling has led to the kind of shortages we've seen in recent weeks.

Remember, God has promised to be your daily bread (Luke 11:1-4) and provide for all of your needs (Philippians 4:19, Matthew 6:25-34). As Jesus said, “But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

So do not worry about tomorrow; for tomorrow will take care of itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.” (Matthew 6:33-34)

6. Donate to Shutdown Schools and Contribute to Employees Out of Work

Shutdowns and temporary quarantines have had an unintended effect on the financial stability of families and the well-being of the children in them.

In many cities, schools provide the only meals children get each day. This is why many schools in cities like Los Angeles and New York were hesitant to shut down, and with parents forced to stay home from work, things can get even tougher for families struggling to make ends meet.

So what can Christians do?

- Be generous and give to families in need.
- Ask about the needs of your neighbors and go out of your way to meet them.
- Turn to out-of-work parents, artists, performers, and educators for childcare and other jobs.

The apostle John wrote, “if anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person?” (1 John 3:17)

7. Don't Isolate Yourself from the Body of Christ

Our church announced that it was canceling Sunday services for the foreseeable future. While my wife and I hope this is only temporary, shutdowns like this do not mean that the church must cease to be the Body of Christ.

Even if they cannot meet in person in their normal buildings, or together in small groups, Christians must stay in contact with fellow believers and encourage them through text messages, phone calls, and even FaceTime or Skype. Thankfully, there are still many resources available, the greatest of which is prayer.

The Apostle Paul was often prevented from meeting with churches and believers in person. This did not stop him from writing to fellow believers or praying for them from where he was (Romans 1:8-11).

8. Be the Church

In the midst of fear and uncertainty, Christians have a tremendous opportunity to be the salt and light of the world (Matthew 5:13-16). Imagine what the next few months could look like if the church took the lead on giving, compassion, and community care during this trying season. What an impact we could make and what a light we could be.

The greatest testimony of Christ's love is Christians who love the world the way Christ does (John 3:16, 1 John 4:19). By our love, the world will know we are His (John 13:35).

9. Unleash the Power of Prayer

There are many ways to react to a public health crisis like the coronavirus. But in this season, Christians have the power to do more than react. Now is the time for Christ's followers to truly go on the offensive and unleash the power of prayer.

- ✚ Pray for healing for the sick (James 5:14-15)
- ✚ Pray for strength for those who aren't sick (3 John 1:2)
- ✚ Pray for provision (both financial and physical) (Philippians 4:19)
- ✚ Pray for a spirit of peace to come over the world (1 Timothy 1:7)
- ✚ Pray for wisdom for those in authority (1 Timothy 2:1-2)
- ✚ Pray in unity with other believers (Matthew 18:20)
- ✚ Pray without ceasing (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)

10. Put your Hope and Trust in the King of Kings and Lord of Lords

While the coronavirus may impact our health, our economy, and our very way of life, we serve a God who is bigger and stronger than any sickness, fear, darkness, or weapon of the enemy, and He has a plan (Jeremiah 29:11). Our God is Healer (Psalms 30:2), Provider (Philippians 4:19), and King (Psalms 47:7).

So trust in the Lord, trust in His power, trust in His plan, and stand firm in His promises (Proverbs 3:5-6). Be the church and the light and love of Jesus Christ to a sick and frightened world. And when you too are afraid, never forget that "weeping may last for the night, but a shout of joy *comes* in the morning." (Psalms 30:5)

Summer 2020 Bible Camp Expenses

Our cost this year will remain the same at **\$250** per student (with a discount for siblings). The payment schedule is as follows:

<u>Date Due:</u>	<u>Amount:</u>	<u>Note:</u>
Mar. 29	\$45	Third of five installments
Apr. 26	\$45	Fourth of five installments
May 31	\$45	Fifth and final of five installments

Church Records March 15, 2020

<u>Worship Service</u>	<u>Sunday School Attendance</u>
Morning Worship240	Preschool.....19
Nursery..... <u>10</u>	Children22
Total 250	Youth31
	College & Career19
	Adults <u>144</u>
	Total 235
Contacts	694

24 HOUR HOSPITAL HOTLINE



229-242-1344