

Northgate Baptist Church

633 Summit Drive
Greenville, SC 29609
www.northgatebaptist.com

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Northgate

Seek. God. First.

Thoughts from our Pastor

Pastoral Staff
Dr. Barry Jimmerson
(864) 320-9076
Pastor

Rev. Barry Agnew, Jr.
Minister of Students
and Education

Mrs. Teresa Green
Interim Minister of
Preschoolers and their Families

Mr. Dennis Page
Worship Leader

The Covid-19 pandemic has certainly made an impact upon the world. Many cultural norms have been questioned, challenged and changed. And unless we are stuck in a burning barn, not many of us embrace change! Yet change has been thrust upon us. Just like that, the way we live has been changed. The way we work, the way we communicate, the way we worship – the way we live. Most of us get it: change is inevitable; I mean, the only constant thing in the world is change, right?

But sometimes sudden, life-altering changes like many of us are experiencing can be overwhelming. We have to be on guard for emotional and mental responses that might trigger anxiety, depression or any number of responses that might lead to greater concern.

Please allow me to offer a few tips that might lessen some of our concerns. For the purpose of not being repetitive, go to our website, www.northgatebaptist.com, and listen to the sermons I have preached since March 15, 2020. You will find two general messages there: Don't worry and don't waste opportunities for retrospection, introspection and innovative ways to make the most of these times. Biblically, I see four important perspectives through the lenses of Scriptures that can help us formulate a responsible response to the Covid-19 crisis. All are found in the thirteenth chapter of the following books of the Bible: Revelation, Leviticus, Romans and 1 Corinthians.

Revelation 13 – Covid-19 is not the end of the world. I do not see this healthcare, social and financial crisis as being an eschatological alarm. Historical perspective helps here. Things have been worse – much worse – and the world did not end. As much as 1/3 of the population in Europe perished as a result of the bubonic plague during the 14th century, yet the world did not end. Two world wars ravaged the globe in the 20th century, yet the world did not end. I don't believe the world is ending as a result of Covid-19.

Leviticus 13 – Covid-19 is leading all of us to close observation of our health and some of us to quarantine. Let's be mindful of our own health and the health of those around us during this time.

Romans 13 – Covid-19 has led our governing leaders to make some tough decisions to attempt to protect our society. Non-essential personnel should remain home to keep from spreading the virus. We should keep our gatherings to fewer than ten persons. That has hit us hard. March 15, 2020 was the last Sunday we enjoyed congregational worship. This decision was not intended to prohibit worship but to protect society. We have learned new and innovative ways to do ministry and worship because of Covid-19! I never thought live streaming would be the primary way we would worship!! Praise God for the technology of our time and the people willing and able to use it for the glory of God!

1 Corinthians 13 – It was this chapter that started the "13's" for me. Poetry evolving since the 17th century led to the well-known phrase: "Absence makes the heart grow fonder." Covid-19 has certainly led to a renewed appreciation for gatherings. **I LOVE MY CHURCH FAMILY! I MISS MY CHURCH FAMILY!** And I can't wait until we are back together! We will be separated at Easter, but our first Sunday back together will be our Easter celebration. I can't wait!

Until we are together again, please be patient, pray, take necessary precautions, stay in the Word and worship online. We are still a church family, we are just meeting and interacting in new ways. Let's make the best of our moment and let's be the best at doing it!!!

I love you,

The Gate Post

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Deacons of the Month

Will Kirby
Steve Todd
Dean Waters

Moving? Please notify the church office of your address change

Thank You! Thank you to all of the volunteers that helped with League Academy Released Time that was held each Wednesday here at Northgate. We could not have been a part of this ministry to middle school students without each one of you. We look forward to continuing this wonderful ministry again beginning in September. May God bless you.



Good News Clubs have completed the 2019-20 year. We have had a wonderful year. We say a great big THANK YOU to everyone who helped and all who have prayed for Summit Drive Elementary and Stone Academy.

Thank you for supporting this ministry through your prayers, serving, and monetary gifts.



GOOD FRIDAY
The church office will
be closed in observance
of Good Friday on
April 10.

A Message from Barry Agnew, Jr., Minister of Students and Education

This past Wednesday during our video chat Bible Study I asked the students, "are you worried about the Covid-19 pandemic? Also what has been the most difficult part for you guys so far?" They pretty much all shared the same answer. "Nah not really worried, just bored." Sometimes I really miss the lack of responsibility and concern that can come with being a kid.

As we're navigating these tough times, the students may not be as stressed as many adults are, but they still have needs. They still need social interaction, they still need to be disciplined, and they still need God's church. Over these past few weeks your staff here at Northgate has worked tirelessly to adapt and make sure we're still being faithful to God's commands for His church, even during such a unique and challenging time as this. This definitely extends to our student ministry as well. Over these past few weeks out, students have been using online video chat applications to meet on Wednesday nights for Bible Study and on Sunday mornings for Sunday School, all from the comfort and safety of home. We have started an online Bible reading group where we are reading through the book of John everyday with the students and will move through more books of the Bible after each one we finish. We are even doing a fun quarantine photo contest where I am driving by student's homes to check in with them and to snap some funny pictures (all from my car) that I will post online for people to vote for the funniest ones.

As the staff here at Northgate continues to pray and do everything we can to continue to be a church that is faithful to the Great Commission and the Great Commandment we ask that you continue to pray for us and to support God's church at Northgate. As much as we desperately miss being able to meet physically with everyone we are committed to continue to love and serve you all and I will do everything in my power to make sure our students are growing in their faith in Christ every day!

A Message from Dennis Page, Worship Leader

As I was preparing this article, I was reminded of the old hymn, "In Times Like These." The words of this hymn are perhaps more pertinent than ever:

In times like these you need a savior, in times like these you need an anchor
Be very sure, be very sure, your anchor holds and grips the solid rock
This rock is Jesus, yes, He's the One. This rock is Jesus, the only one
Be very sure, be very sure, your anchor holds and grips the solid rock.

In times like these you need a Bible, in times like these O be not idle
Be very sure, be very sure, your anchor holds and grips the solid rock
This rock is Jesus, yes, He's the One. This rock is Jesus, the only one
Be very sure, be very sure, your anchor holds and grips the solid rock.

In times like these I have a Savior, in times like these I have an anchor
I'm very sure, I'm very sure, my anchor holds and grips the solid rock
This rock is Jesus, yes, He's the One. This rock is Jesus, the only one
I'm very sure, I'm very sure, my anchor holds and grips the solid rock.

Especially in times like this you need to be feeding on God's Word. Psalm 19:7-11 highlights many of the benefits of reading the Bible. Please take time read these verses out loud. Better yet, commit them to memory.

Next, if you want to have your faith built, if you want to know more about God, and feel His presence, then read the Psalms daily. Next month I may suggest a Psalms reading plan that works for me, but for now, please spend some quality time in the following Psalms, all of which are particularly pertinent to these trying times: Psalms 19, 23, 34, 46, 61, 91, 100, 121.

I'm grateful that "in times like these, I have a Savior. In times like these I have an anchor.

I'm very sure, I'm very sure, my anchor holds and grips the solid rock." Amen!



WEDNESDAY FAMILY SUPPERS

HAVE BEEN CANCELED FOR APRIL AND MAY.

WE WILL RESUME THE SUPPERS IN SEPTEMBER. HAVE A GREAT SUMMER.



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

During this time when we are not meeting for congregational worship and should not be shopping for anything but essentials, consider making a \$9 contribution for postage. When we come back together we will begin filling boxes and get them ready to ship. Thank you for your faithful giving each year to Operation Christmas Child.



We now have ONLINE GIVING! Just go to our website:

www.northgatebaptist.com

and click on the tab at the top that says "Online Giving."

This is a very quick, secure and easy way to give your tithes and offerings during this time we are not gathering on Sunday morning. You may also mail your offering to the church or use bill pay through your bank. Thank you for your continued faithful giving during these times.



Matthew 28:6a New King James Version (NKJV)

He is not here; for He is risen, as He said.



Annie Armstrong Easter Offering

Northgate's goal is \$2,500

Received to date \$1,743



We share our sympathies with The family of Linda James; Ann Therrell and family on the passing of their dear mother and Northgate member, Dell Wessel. Continue to remember these families in prayer.

Just Married!

Congratulations to

Kelsey Todd and Matthew Vaughn on their marriage March 26.

Kelsey and Matthew will reside at

*110 Country Town Drive
Columbia, SC 29212*



A Note to Our Preschool Parents/Grandparents

Since we can't be together in Sunday School I am using our Northgate Preschool 633 Facebook page to stay connected. On there we have shared a link to the LifeWay Kids App which provides access to our Sunday School Material as well as other useful material and ideas. I miss being with the preschoolers but we will be together again soon!!!

*I miss you all,
Love Mrs. Teresa*