

Northgate Baptist Church

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

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Northgate

Seek. God. First.

Thoughts from our Pastor

As I pray my way through the pandemic, I am constantly reminded of the many crises that the people of God have faced throughout time. Really, the circumstances change but the truth remains: **God is in control and we are safe when we let go of our fear and follow Him by faith.**

I think about the children of Israel. I think of the Israeli slaves in Egypt under an oppressive Pharaoh. I think of the generations that lived and died without seeing the deliverance of God, yet that didn't change the truth: God is able. I think about the day of deliverance – the parting of the Red Sea – the Day when God made a way where there was no way. **Faith prevailed.**

I think of the twelve spies that Moses sent to survey the land of Canaan: ten frozen in their fear, two freed by their faith. **Faith prevailed.**

I think of Gideon and his army of 300 against 135,000 Midianites. That's 450-1. But God triumphed through Gideon. **Faith prevailed.**

I think of David when he defeated the giant Goliath. Goliath had great size, weapons and might. David found his victory through his faith in the Lord. **Faith prevailed.**

I think of Elijah on Mt. Carmel. The odds were against Elijah: 450 prophets of Baal to one Elijah. But God was with him and God was for him. And Elijah found victory through his faith in God. **Faith prevailed.**

I think of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego when they faced Nebuchadnezzar's fiery furnace. Nebuchadnezzar had the political and governmental power to destroy the lives of these three young men, but they had faith in the greater power of Almighty God so that they could stand when others would kneel. **Faith prevailed.**

I think of Paul when he faced the Governors of Rome. They had the power to execute him, but he had the testimony of his faith in Christ. **Faith prevailed.**

I think of Jesus on Good Friday. He knew Sunday was coming. **Faith prevailed.**

I think of Hebrews 11:6 – “But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.”

I think of 2 Timothy 1:7 – “For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.”

When I think of the Coronavirus pandemic of 2020, I think of the victory that is already ours in Jesus Christ.

Fear not. God is with us.

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

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Deacons of the Month
Barry Agnew, Sr.
John Folk
Walt Green

CHURCH CONFERENCE SUNDAY, AUGUST 2

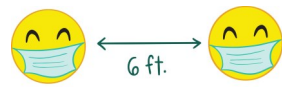
We will have a church conference at the conclusion of the worship service on Sunday, August 2. **Members must be physically present to discuss and vote.**

Two items were recently approved by the Leadership Council.

- 1) All current terms of service be extended for one year. This includes Sunday School teachers, deacons, standing committees and teams.
- 2) Elimination of Part Time Minister to Preschoolers and their Families AND Part Time Minister to Children and their Families. Creation of new position: Part Time Minister to Families.

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.



THANK YOU

FOR PRACTICING SOCIAL DISTANCING!

Please respect others and social distance when we gather for worship.

Moving? Please notify the church office of your address change

The Gate Post

Week of Prayer

August 23-30

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

Have you ever read the Bible? I mean have you really ever read the Bible? I think sometimes we read certain stories so many times that we get desensitized to them. Next time you read a story in the Bible where God works, take a moment to look at the circumstances surrounding the situation. You see almost every time you see God move, it is in a situation where the circumstances seemed hopeless. Joseph was sold into slavery and then thrown into prison. God not only saved Joseph out of his circumstance but He also used Joseph's situation to keep His promise to His covenant people. Moses had to flee Egypt after committing murder. God not only brought him back to Egypt but then used him to confront the leader of the entire empire and to ultimately rescue the entire nation of Israel out of slavery! I could go on all day with these stories but the point is that God moves in whatever situations He pleases, and more often than not, He moves in situations that most people think are hopeless!

Here at the end of June our students had the opportunity to go to Youth Camp at camp Snowbird in Andrews North Carolina. With the pandemic going on it is one of the very few camps that is operating in the entire country. The circumstances were very different. Students were socially distanced from other groups, many activities were cut, cleaning procedures were ramped up dramatically, and many more changes had to take place as compared to a normal Summer... but guess what? God moved. In spite of everything going on and all the changes God moved in the hearts and lives of our students. One by one I began to see our students digging into the word of God, spending time in prayer, worshipping faithfully, and engaging with each other in intentional discipleship relationships.

You see during this pandemic so many people are consumed with the circumstances. People are spending their days scrolling through over the top Facebook posts and bending the ear of anyone who will hear their diatribes. Instead, how about we turn our eyes back to Jesus? The circumstances have never thwarted the purposes of God, and they won't today. Let's just be obedient to the Great Commission in the circumstance that God has put us in here and now. **If we're simply obedient in this way, I promise you the God of Joseph, Moses, and even our students at camp will move in mighty ways.**



A Message from Dennis Page, Worship Leader

Lip Service or Heart Service?

We've all heard the term "lip service." In fact, when we were kids, there were times when we gave lip service to our parents. Then, when our own teenagers arrived, much to our chagrin, we found they had developed "lip service" into a real artform.

Definitions of "lip service" include things such as insincerity, expressions of agreement not supported by real conviction, or pretending you believe something, but not practicing those beliefs. Lip service has been around a long time, but did you know the term "lip service" originated in the Bible? Really! In Matthew 15, the Scribes and Pharisees, were hassling Jesus about His disciples not observing the "tradition of the elders." But Jesus turns their statement right around and says to them "And why do you break the commandment of God for the sake of your tradition?" Then in verse 8 Jesus goes on and cites Isaiah 29:13 "This people honor me with their lips, but their heart is far from me."

When I was growing up, we sang the Doxology every Sunday. We recited the Lord's Prayer every Sunday. We did a responsive reading every Sunday. We would sing hymns from the hymnal at a specific time, the organ would play at a prescribed time, then the organ and piano would play together at a prescribed time, every Sunday, week after week, year after year. As time went on, the tradition became indelibly etched into my psyche. That ritual became worship to me. So, let me ask, what's worship to you?

Now, be honest. When you're singing a hymn that you've sung countless times before, are you honoring God with your lips? (yes, this is a trick question.)

I challenge you, the next time you sing a familiar hymn, or even a not-so-familiar contemporary worship song, make a conscious effort to appraise the words that are passing through your lips. May they flow from depths of your heart as an offering to Almighty God. The Doxology is a good place to start: "Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below. Praise Him above, ye heavenly hosts; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost."

May the words of Psalm 19:14 be our prayer: "Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer". **And all God's people said, Amen!**



Friday and Saturday
August 21 and 22
9am-9pm each day

In June, when I (Pastor Barry) was praying during our once a month 24 hour prayer emphasis, I realized that my prayer was following the Model Prayer that Jesus gave in Matthew 6:9-13. It was not intentional that I used the guide that Jesus gave, it was natural. I hope you will use the Model Prayer as your outline for prayer too. **Matthew 6:9-13 - "In this manner, therefore, pray: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name. (Praise and worship). ¹⁰Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. (Intercession). ¹¹Give us this day our daily bread. (Provision). ¹²And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. (Confession, repentance and forgiveness). ¹³And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. (Protection). For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen." (Praise and worship).**

This month, our monthly prayer emphasis will lead into our annual Week of Prayer for Northgate August 23-30.

You can sign up for a spot by calling the church during business hours. As always we encourage EVERYONE to sign up and we are beyond excited about what God is already doing through the prayers of His church at Northgate!

Church Office: 864-242-3805



WEEK OF PRAYER FOR
NORTHGATE
August 23-30

Our prayer guide will be available in the vestibule on August 23. We will also email the prayer guide. If you would like a copy mailed to you, please contact the church office and we will be glad to mail you one.



Northgate's Men's Prayer Breakfast is meeting again every Tuesday morning at 7:30am. This is a special time for sharing the needs of God's people at Northgate and to pray for our nation. **All men are welcome to join us. Social distancing precautions will be followed.**

Beginning Sunday, August 2

Reservations will no longer be required for Sunday worship. The deacons will be seating people as they come into the church and social distancing will continue to be practiced. We asked that everyone be patient and follow the instructions and seating given by the deacons.