



# MT. OLIVE BAPTIST CHURCH

## *December 2020 Church News*

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Join us on Wednesday, November 25<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm for a time to count our blessings with a grateful heart.



Make plans to attend Sunday mornings at 10 am Nov 29–Dec 13 to hear sermons about the true meaning of Christmas.



Enjoy the sounds of Christmas when our music department presents a concert on December 20<sup>th</sup> at 10 am.



Experience the beauty of the sanctuary as we worship by candlelight on Wed, Dec 16<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm.



Remember to give to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions and pray for missionaries. Week of Prayer: Nov 29–Dec 6.



Mt. Olive,

Christmas is fast approaching and it will be an utterly unique experience.

Some families are meeting in smaller groups, while others have canceled their annual Christmas parties altogether. Even the church has decided to cancel our Christmas party. It may seem difficult for this year to feel like Christmas; however, it gives us several opportunities.

First, this time of year offers us a variety of opportunities to share the Gospel. Begin by asking a friend what they are doing for Christmas, then share your plans. Second, invite people to church. Folks who would never darken our church may be open to attending around the Holidays. Let's pray for those who will visit our church, asking God to soften their hearts, while preparing us to welcome them. Third, and perhaps most importantly we have an opportunity to return to the fundamentals of Christmas. Add a reading of the Christmas story before gifts; Matthew 1:18-2:12 or Luke 2:1-21 both make great Christmas reading. Practice gratitude together; thank God for your gifts, your family, and the joy of getting to start a new year! Worship together picking your favorite Christmas songs and sing them together. My poor wife listens to me sing "Oh Come Oh Come Emmanuel" more times than I can count. Instead of focusing on everything we are missing out on this Christmas, let's thoughtfully consider how to focus on the Christ in Christmas.

Dr. Josh Peeler



Mt. Olive,

It is hard to believe that it is Christmas time already. This year has been crazier than any other year that I can remember. Usually December involves me and my family running from place to place, each weekend is full of family get-togethers and other activities, however, this December is going to be different. Far too often, we get so busy with everything that is going on to stop and think about the reason for Christmas. We go through our routine with family and friends, and don't take the opportunity to share with others the gift of Salvation that Jesus has given to us. We need to be like the shepherds in Luke 2:17, "And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child." The shepherds went out after seeing Jesus and told everyone what they had seen. They were excited to tell others about Jesus. Far too often, we don't tell others that we know about our encounter with Jesus. With all the fear and hopelessness that is going on in our world today, what better time to take the extra time that we have been given and be like the shepherds and tell others about the hope we have in Christ. Because of Christ, we can fear no more because he is there for us to lean on when we go through difficult times.

As we enter December, we will have several things happening with the youth and children. On Sunday December 6<sup>th</sup> from 11am-1pm, we will have the children's Christmas party in the fellowship hall. Then on Sunday December 13<sup>th</sup> from 11am-1pm, we will have the youth Christmas party. If you have any questions, let me know.

Rev. Josh Connor

## **SERVICE TIMES**

Sunday Mornings @ 10 am

Wednesday Evenings @ 7 pm

No Wednesday Services Dec 23, 30, Jan 6

## **DECEMBER EVENTS**

Dec 6	11am-1pm Children's Christmas Party
	6:30 pm Church Conference
Dec 13	11am-1pm Youth Christmas Party
Dec 16	7pm Candlelight Service
Dec 20	10am Christmas Concert

## **OTHER NEWS**

Click here [Mt. Olive Baptist Church](#) to view our new updated website. Visit often to view a calendar of events, leave a prayer request, or hear a sermon again.

Special envelopes for Lottie Moon Offering are available or mark your designation on memo line of your check.

Thanks for your contributions! 60 shoebox gifts were donated for Operation Christmas Child. Continue to pray for the volunteers who work to deliver these gifts around the world and the children who receive them.

Building renovations are moving along on schedule.

To clear some space on the library shelves, several VHS videos will be discarded. They will be on the front pew of the sanctuary until December 20. Feel free to take any that you would like to have.

The Youth Group will be painting murals in the youth room on January 2, 2021.