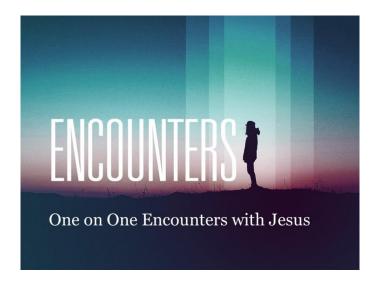


## January 2021 Church News



Join us on Sunday mornings at 10 am to hear the sermon series Encounters with Jesus. Each week will include a different account of how meeting Jesus transformed people's lives. Learn how accepting Jesus can transform your life. Sermon series will continue through the end of March.

Worship services are transmitted live each week on FM station 88.3, which can be heard from the church parking lot. Services are also available to view on YouTube. The link is provided on the church website. <a href="https://www.mtolivebaptist.com">www.mtolivebaptist.com</a>



Mt. Olive,

Considering everything 2020 brought us, it may be difficult to feel excited about 2021. However, despite the

violence in our nation's capitol, there is much to be hopeful for as we begin a new year.

A new year represents an opportunity to establish new personal practices. Reading through the Bible each year is a wonderful goal & there are several exciting plans available. I'm beginning this year reading Ecclesiastes. The main message of Ecc. is that life apart from fear of God is meaningless. What a perfect time in history to be reminded that fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; no fear of government, no fear of violence, no virus, and no conspiracy theory can ever top the fear of the Lord. Including God daily in our lives can help inoculate us the fear of this world. Always remember we have an enemy who seeks to steal, kill, & destroy. Do not let him steal your joy of life or your trust in the Lord.

Beginning a Bible reading plan is not the only positive change we can make in the new year. January 2021 gives us a unique opportunity to do things different this year; change our perspectives, any negative habits from the previous year and start fresh. "The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness." Lamentations 3:22-23. Never forget that everyday God gives us an opportunity to begin anew. Start your new journey today!

Dr. Josh Peeler



Mt. Olive,

When I think about everything that happened in 2020, what stands out

to me was everyone being fearful. As we start off 2021, not much has changed and there is not a visible end in sight. There are many that are still fearful not only because of the COVID-19 pandemic, but also the political climate in our country. There are many Christians that are letting this fear get to them. We have been stuck in our homes and are listening to all the voices out there that are telling us to be afraid. While we should be cautious, we should not allow fear to rule in our lives. Isaiah 41:10 says, "fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand." As Christians, we have Jesus whom we can turn to when everything in the world is going crazy. We can turn to Him and He will never leave us. We can fully trust that He will always be there for us. In His providence, He allows every situation, every trial, and every worry that we face. He will give us the strength to get through any situation no matter how bleak the outlook may be. Put your trust in Jesus and He will strengthen you.

As we look to the month of January, we will be continuing our study of seeing the thread of the gospel throughout the entirety of the Bible. We will complete this study in a couple of months. Our next youth activity will be a Mario Kart tournament on February 6<sup>th</sup> from 5pm-7pm. We will have a time of food, fellowship, and fun. If you have any questions, let me know.

Rev. Josh Connor



Monday, January 18: Due to the social unrest in our nation's capital, violence, & Covid-19 our church will have a day of prayer. On Martin Luther King Jr Day, our church will intercede for our

nation's past sins and present struggles. We will include a time to pray against violence and for racial equality. A prayer guide will be provided at the sanctuary entrance.



Wednesday night Bible studies resume Jan 13. We will continue our study of Proverbs.



The Youth and Children's Department has spring activities on the calendar!

More details to follow.

## For Youth:

2/6 Mario Kart Tournament 4/17 Movie Night 6/21-6/26 Summer Camp

## For Children:

3/27 Easter Egg Hunt 5/22 Movie Night