



MT. OLIVE BAPTIST CHURCH

March 2021 Church News



Invite your friends and neighbors to attend Easter services with you this year.

Palm Sunday March 28; 10 am

Easter Sunday April 4; 10 am



Saturday

March 27

2-4 pm

Preschool-elementary age children are invited to the Easter egg hunt.

There will be games, activities, fun, candy, and prizes.

Youth are encouraged to come at noon to hide eggs and set up for the event. Lunch provided for youth.



Mt Olive,

On the anniversary of Billy Graham's death, I wanted to reflect on his legacy.

I grew up driving on the Billy Graham Parkway, lived for two years in the same mountain town where he lived for much of his life. But what is his legacy and how can we learn from him?

First, Billy worked with different Christian denominations. Prior to his work, many revival leaders refused to work with local churches that belonged to different denominations. Wherever Jesus was glorified Graham was willing to work with you.

Second, Graham has a high degree of personal integrity. Early in his ministry he established that he would not meet privately with members of the opposite sex. Although this decision is not always popular today, it protected his marriage for more than forty years.

Third, Billy was able to be-friend people regardless of their political position. He became America's pastor by meeting with Presidents of both parties. How many of us today would give up our political opinions to pray, minister, and read the word to people with different views than we have? Not many.

In celebration of his legacy, we should strive to become more like him. Graham certainly embodied the compassion, witness, and Gospel of Christ. Let's follow his example, Christ's example, and ask for compassion for those in our sphere of influence.

Dr. Josh Peeler



Mt. Olive,

As we enter March, it is hard to believe that we have been dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic for a year. As I look back at the past year, I am reminded of the many ways that I have grown. There have been many personal trials for me during this time. I found out that I would no longer be employed by my full-time job in May, then in early April, I lost a dear work friend to COVID-19. Here I am a year later, and God has provided for me and my family. We have so much to be thankful for. Several here at Mt. Olive have given to us to help us, and we are grateful for that. The Christian group Building 429 has a song called "Blessing I Can't See." One of the lines says, "Every setback is a setup for something greater that You had in store." I can say that while it was rough year, with many setbacks, I know that God had something great in store for us that I was not able to see a year ago. Hopefully, whatever setback you may have faced, you can see that God has something great in store for you.

As we look to March, are planning an Easter egg hunt on March 27th from 2-4pm for the children. We'll have some fun activities, prizes, and of course the egg hunt. If you would like to donate candy for the day, there is a box behind the visitor's center in the sanctuary. Youth will also be wrapping up our study on seeing the thread of the Gospel throughout the Bible this month. We will be going through the book of Joshua for our next study, which begins March 31st. This exciting study will continue throughout the spring and summer.

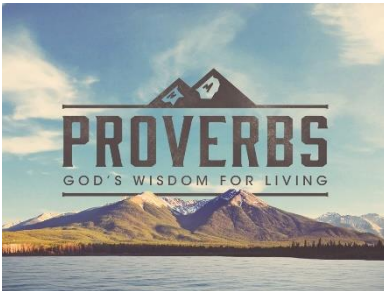
Rev. Josh Connor



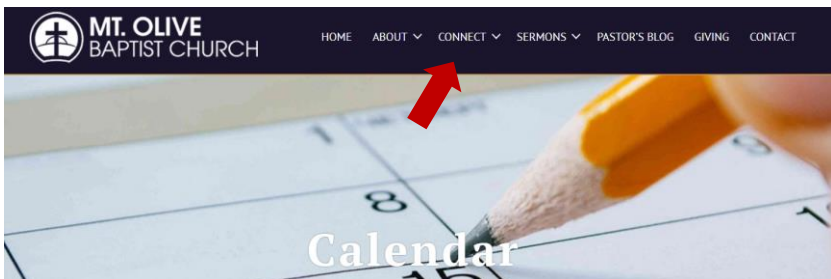
Remember to move your clocks forward on March 14!



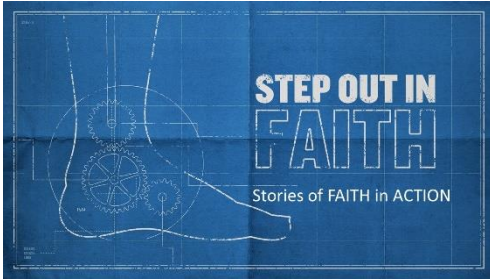
Sundays at 10 am:
Sermon series, Encounters, continues. Each week hear a different account of how meeting Jesus transformed people's lives and learn how your life can be transformed.



Wednesdays at 7pm:
Study of Proverbs continues this month.
Each week hear about God's wisdom for living and the applications for your life.



Find the church calendar and upcoming events under the "Connect" tab on the website.



Stories of Faith

During the past several months, I have had the opportunity to speak with many people who

have been affected in some way by the COVID pandemic. Our churches and communities have also been affected. Mt. Olive isn't immune, and our church attendance has dropped off significantly since the pandemic began. I have been both inspired AND depressed by our reaction to the crisis. There are many who have helped others and worked non-stop during this pandemic...true heroes. There are some who have not and still do not feel comfortable being around other people because of age or health, which is entirely understandable. The COVID pandemic is real. There are others who won't come to church because they don't want to wear a mask, and they feel it is their right not to wear one. There are others still who have allowed complacency and apathy to creep into their lives, and it is so much easier to stay at home on Sunday and Wednesday, even though they will go out and do other things during the week. No matter the situation, Mt. Olive can have hope that God will bring us through this difficult time and allow us as a Christian body to become stronger because of it. Where does that hope spring from? I would answer with one simple word...FAITH.

Over the next several months, I will be interviewing members of our congregation who have put their faith into action in some way during their lives. Faith is an ACTION. God does not expect us to SAY we are

faithful, but never SHOW it. Everyone who reads this has had to put their faith into action at some point in their lives. What or who do we turn to when our faith is challenged? Do we turn to people? Do we turn to things? Our Pastor recently preached a series on FAITH HEROES in the Bible. If you read Hebrews 11, many men and women of faith were mentioned. None of these heroes of faith were perfect, but they all had one thing in common; they turned to and put their faith in God...not man.

How strong is your faith? Does your faith affect everyday decisions? Does faith have a place in politics today? Have you questioned your faith? Do you share your faith with others? Why is attending church regularly an integral part of your faith? How does your faith help you overcome issues which come up in your life? I hope some of your questions will be answered by reading the stories of FAITH told by some of our members. Please pray that Mt. Olive can become a stronger, more vibrant, church of FAITH...and that we can be that beacon of FAITH in our Judea and Samaria that we have been witness to in the past.

In God's Service,

Joe Godfrey