



# MT. OLIVE BAPTIST CHURCH

## *May 2021 Church News*

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After the renovation is completed, we plan to resume Sunday School. Please note the new times and see your teacher to find out when your class resumes.

Sunday School: 9:15  
Worship Service: 10:30

There will be no Wednesday night services in June.



Sunday  
June 6th

Memorial Day will be at 10:00 am outside in the grove. Please bring a chair and there is no meal after the service.

VBS will be held Saturday July 31. Contact Joe Godfrey or Josh Connor to volunteer.



Mt. Olive,

My little boy just turned 1 today. As I write this letter I can't help but be reminded of the impact our children make upon us. Much has been said and indeed should be regarding how much our children are impacted by our lives, but my son has reminded me of the pace, speed, and depth that life has to offer.

“O Lord, make me know my end and what is the measure of my days” Psalm 39:4 Our children teach us the speed of how quickly days go by just by existing! Their little lives remind us how long and short life truly is—of the scared duty we have to comfort, encourage, and sustain them.

Our children also teach us to be brave. When my son cries out and is scared the last thing in the world he needs is more worry or fear from me. Instead I am reminded of Psalm 91: “He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say to the Lord, ‘My refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust.’” I have never been too old or too young to enjoy the reminder of God’s provision and protection over his people. Whenever we are scared, let us remember God himself is there for us.

After a full year of pandemic fear I want to remind you God is with us; I want to remind you that this pandemic will only last for a season, and that eventually God will see is through to the other side. Stay encouraged and supported church.

Dr. Josh Peeler



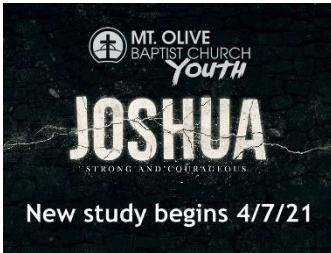
Mt. Olive,

In going through the book of Joshua with the youth, one of the verses that has stood out the most to me is Joshua 1:8. It says, "This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success." In this passage, God is reminding Joshua to follow what He has already told them. So often we look to ungodly influences to help make our decisions instead of looking in the Bible for what God says about the issues. I was thinking this week about the song "What if His People Prayed" by Casting Crowns. One of the lines says, "What if the life that we pursue came from a hunger for the truth. What if the family turned to Jesus and stopped asking Oprah what to do?" We need to be seeking the truth from God's word over what the world says. When we seek what the Bible says first, or what biblical principles apply, it will help us to make sure that no matter what we do, it is based in biblical truth and not the secular worldview which may be opposite to God's word.

May will have a children's movie night on May 15<sup>th</sup> from 5pm-7pm. Look to the bulletin for more details on this activity. If you have any questions regarding youth or children's activities, please let me know. The youth are continuing our study of the book of Joshua. If you would like to follow along, feel free to find them on the Mt. Olive Baptist Youth YouTube channel.

Rev. Josh Connor

# COME AND WORSHIP WITH US



On Wednesdays in May the adults will continue to study Proverbs, while the Youth will continue their study in Joshua.



Saturday  
May 15  
5-7 pm

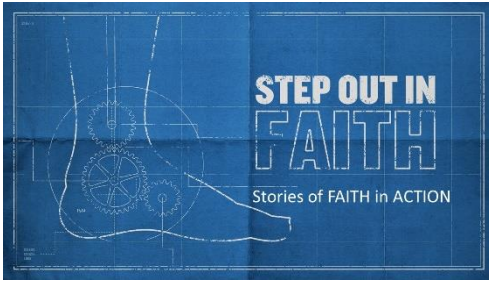
Children are invited to bring a friend for dinner and a movie at church.

Find video of Sunday services and audio of Wednesday Proverbs study on [mtolivebaptist.com](http://mtolivebaptist.com)

Live broadcast of Sun. & Wed. services can be heard on 88.3 FM from your vehicle in church parking areas.

**Stories of Faith**





Recently, someone asked me what led me to start providing stories of faith for the monthly newsletter. I can honestly say that I believe it was the

intrigue of hearing how others see faith, and how they deal with faith on a personal level. If most of us are honest, we have all questioned our faith at times...maybe not as serious as whether we believe in God, but how it affects our lives and how strong it is during periods of rest and turmoil. This month, I begin to provide faith stories from those within our congregation, and those who are connected to Mt. Olive. To keep you interested, I won't reveal the persons identity until the next article in June.

When asked when they came to know Jesus as their personal Savior, this person stated that they accepted Christ when they were 7 years old...thanks to faithful parents who went to church and talked with them about God. One night the Pastor gave an invitation and this individual accepted Christ...knowing that what they had been hearing applied to them. They remembered sins they had committed and realized confession and forgiveness were needed. While there have been ups and downs in their life, this individual has always considered God to be "the boss of me" since the day of decision.

Describing our own faith is sometimes difficult. This individual described it beautifully. They said this...faith is time tested and battle hardened! As a child, they learned to trust God with the simple things. As they

matured into young adults, they worked their way through what they believed in contrast to what their parents believed. Their faith had to be their own, not someone else's. This was sometimes painful and difficult. They have had, and continue to have, doubts along the way. God has never failed to show himself in different phases of their life.

When describing how faith affects everyday decisions, this person believes God is in control of their life, and they always try to consider what the Bible might say about important decisions. If the Bible doesn't address it specifically, they pray for guidance and trust that God will open and close doors as he sees fit.

Overcoming adversity is a test of faith. This individual has never needed it more than they have needed it recently. On the day of their son's birth, this individual's health came crashing down in a way that affected every aspect of their life. While this individual's child was in the hospital, they were in ICU dealing with life-threatening issues of their own. Even while doubting whether they would live, they prayed that God's will would be done. They wanted to raise their child just like all parents want to. Exhaustion from their own medical issues didn't allow them to properly care for their child, and they had to rely on others for that care. They questioned God many times. Out of this fear came the honest faith that I hope to portray. This individual had to commit their child's well-being to God and admit that the child belonged to him more than to them. They were able to get through it by knowing that God was in charge and able to change things if he saw fit. They don't take their time for granted and still pray daily for God's will to be done in their life.

As we are confronted about our faith, we are able to share our faith with others. One example given by this person happened when they were a grad student. A woman named Alyse was befriended by some of the seminary students and began attending church services. Alyse was an agnostic or skeptic. As their friendship grew, Alyse would express her doubts and inability to believe something she could not see (sound familiar?). She would pray, but often ask “Am I just talking to myself?” This individual would share their own thoughts and experiences and encourage Alyse to keep exploring. Through the influence of the seminary students and this individual, Alyse eventually became a believer. That leap of faith is a beautiful example for all “skeptics”.

This individual says, “Putting faith into action is living your life and making decisions that are in line with what you know pleases God”. It means accepting adverse circumstances as having come through the hand of God. Faith isn’t always perfect. But this person tries to prioritize what they believe God would have them prioritize. Providing service to others through counseling, or just loving people as best they can when crossing paths. Try to see others through God’s eyes, which means everyone is equally deserving of love.

The advice given by this person should resonate with all of us. “If you are struggling with your faith, just know it is ok”. God is big enough to handle your questions and will not be offended. Go ahead and ask all the hard questions and pray that God will reveal himself to be real in your life. Be open to that revelation. We may not get the perfect answer to all our questions.

As I end this installment of Faith stories, I asked this person who their favorite person of faith was in the

Bible. They stated that it was Esther. Her faith was “absolutely incredible”. It allowed her to pray and fast for a good outcome in a horrible situation. Then Esther risked her life to intervene for her people, believing that God had placed her in the circumstance to do so. Rather than giving up, Esther chose to see the hand of God in every situation and acted on faith instead of doubt. Let all of us use this example to help build up our faith.

In Christ's Service,  
Joe