



# MT. OLIVE BAPTIST CHURCH

## *November 2021 Church News*

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**November 12:** Brown Bag Lunch/Bible Study  
12:00 Bring your Bible and a lunch

**November 24:**  
Thanksgiving Service



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



Mt. Olive,

I often think my wife has taught me more about living out my faith than years of seminary education. One of the key lessons she taught me is gratitude. Gratitude is thankfulness in action. Gratitude is allowing your mindset to be shifted, changed, and transformed into a more godly perspective.

By nature, I am not the most thankful person. However, over the years my experiences have slowly shaped me into a much more thankful person. Here are several steps on my journey that have helped me to cultivate and articulate gratitude in my life.

1) **Remember Bad Times**; to some of you this may seem crazy but remembering difficult seasons of my life reminds me how much I have to be thankful for today. Memories of Thanksgivings celebrated in Afghanistan or fears for Anna and Judah's health help me today to develop a perspective of gratitude.

2) **Count Your Blessings**; it may sound trite, but counting our blessings, truly taking a step back from the grind of daily living helps me recognize the blessings in my life today; it really helps me to develop gratitude. For some of us this is recognized in our jobs, like the blessing of being your pastor. For others, it may be related to your family or friends; it all counts!

3) **Pray for Insight**; not to sound too spiritual, but praying helps. If you lack insight into the various ways your life is blessed living in the place, time, or area you live ask God for the wisdom to recognize the blessings.

Dr. Josh Peeler



Mt. Olive,

Our youth are meeting with Dr. Josh on Sunday mornings and reading through the book of Mark. They are learning effective ways of studying the Scriptures. They have begun a study on the prayers of Jesus from Mark on Wednesday nights with Joe Godfrey leading. Youth will join the adults Wednesday November 3 as we pack backpacks for our neighbors in the Appalachian Mountain region.

The RAs and GAs are meeting together on Wednesday nights. They are working on memorizing Bible verses and learning about missionaries and mission work.

We are still in need of several volunteers to lead Children's Church during worship on Sunday mornings. Please consider helping lead this valuable part of our church.

Please do keep the youth, children, and youth council in your prayers as we eagerly anticipate the Youth Pastor God has for us.

Stay tuned for coming youth and children's activities.



Please contact Suzanne Jones or Dr. Peeler if you are interested in helping with Children's Church. We need three volunteers.

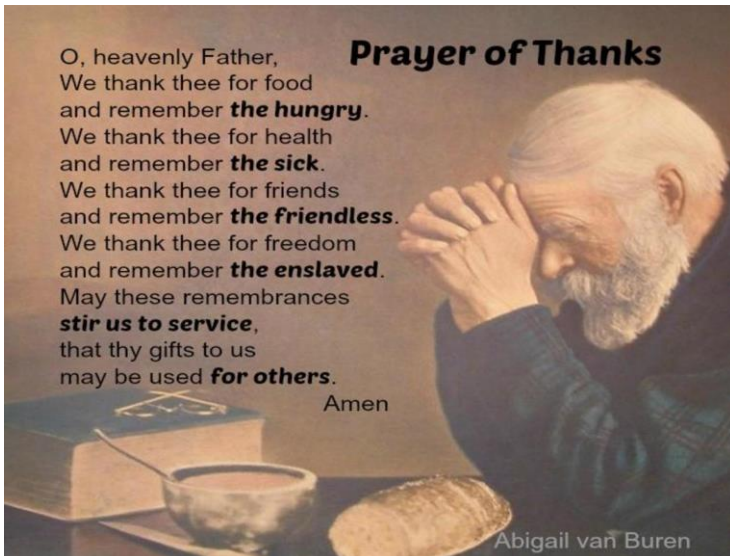
# November

## BIRTHDAYS

Michael Thompson	1
Kevin Jones	3
Zeke Pope	5
Shauna Garner	9
Leta Ellington	11
Wyatt Wells	14
Marie Zachary	16
Tommie Love	23
Joan Snyder	
Jennifer White Black	25
Carol Ann Glosson	27
Ellen McBane	28
Rex Zachary	29

## ANNIVERSARIES

If you have any corrections/additions to this listing, please email [suzanne@mtolivebaptist.com](mailto:suzanne@mtolivebaptist.com).

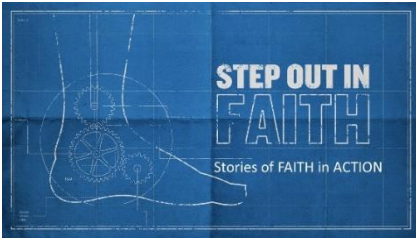


O, heavenly Father,  
We thank thee for food  
and remember **the hungry**.  
We thank thee for health  
and remember **the sick**.  
We thank thee for friends  
and remember **the friendless**.  
We thank thee for freedom  
and remember **the enslaved**.  
May these remembrances  
**stir us to service**,  
that thy gifts to us  
may be used **for others**.

Amen

Abigail van Buren

## Faith in Focus



During the month of October, I was blessed to teach the youth of our church on Wednesday nights. Even though Josh Connor had resigned to pursue another position at a church closer to his home, the Christian impression that he left on

the youth will last a long time. The opportunity to teach youth again reminds me of the many years of teaching the youth Sunday School class. I was able to see the faith maturation of young men and women over the course of their 6-7 years in class. Many of those same youth are great young Christian mothers, fathers, church leaders and community leaders of today. Even though many of them are wonderful Christian people, I wonder about those who decided not to serve God and if the parents or I bear some responsibility for that. I'm sure many of you who taught young people have wondered the same thing.

Jesus said in Matthew 18:3 "Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven". If most of us are honest, we could agree that our faith is sometimes not as strong as it was when we first learned about Jesus. We tell others our faith is strong, but when the going gets tough, we tend to rely on our own strength to get through things...oftentimes we don't even consult God. How many of you remember the simple stories and lessons you heard from your Sunday School teachers when you were children? I can remember being excited to learn something new about God and how he sent Jesus to save us. Why would he do that? Even if I didn't fully understand the meaning of it, I did understand that God loved me. If God loved me that much, then why couldn't I have enough faith to serve him?

Our country and our churches are facing a crisis that we haven't seen in my lifetime. People are turning away in larger numbers from God and putting their trust in other people and things. Research has shown that people have become complacent and apathetic about attending church. Now...there are some who will say it is because they don't like the preacher, some who say they liked the former pastor more, some who say they can watch it online, some who say they are afraid to be around other people because of Covid (even though they will go to movies, stores, school events, ballgames, restaurants, beach, fairs, etc.), and

some who have gotten used to not attending. Regardless of the reasons for not attending, God has instructed his followers to gather together to build each other up. Hebrews 3:13 says, "But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called "today," that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin." Faith should drive us to "want" to be together in one body so that it is strong. If one member of the body is missing, the body can't function like it is supposed to function.

Our children and youth deserve the same treatment and respect that we were given when we were young. As members of God's kingdom, we should want to have our children and youth in church on Sunday and Wednesday, so that they can get instruction from God's chosen people. Even if they make the decision to turn their backs on God at a later age, they deserve the opportunity to learn his ways and how he loves them immeasurably. It's not about attendance; it's about relationship. God expects all of us to worship him and continue to grow in our faith. If we don't teach our young people about that aspect of God, how will they learn? I think we should understand that it is the person who has made the decision to not gather together who is missing out. Children and youth are very impressionable. If they see parents/grandparents walking away from churches because of immature reasons (yes...I said it), what will they do when the going gets tough? How will they handle adversity when it comes? Let's get back to showing our children and youth what it means to follow God and put our faith in Jesus.

I want to end with a simple story which shows how well children pay attention to stories out of the Bible. "A little girl was talking to her teacher about whales. The teacher said it was physically impossible for a whale to swallow a human because even though it was a very large mammal its throat was very small. The little girl stated that Jonah was swallowed by a whale. Irritated, the teacher reiterated that a whale could not swallow a human; it was physically impossible. The little girl said, "When I get to heaven, I will ask Jonah". The teacher asked, "What if Jonah went to hell?" The little girl replied, "Then you ask him"."

Love in Christ,

Joe Godfrey