



# MT. OLIVE BAPTIST CHURCH

## *December 2021 Church News*

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**December 5:** Church Conference, 6:30

**December 6:** Ladies Bible Study, 7:00.

**December 10:** Brown Bag Lunch and Bible Study, 12:00 Luke's

account of the Gospel tells us a lot about Christmas. Just in the first two chapters he includes six early Christian hymns that you probably already know. Join with us for another noon hour brown bag lunch and Bible study, December 10th. Bring your Bible and favorite lunch.

**December 19:** Christmas Concert, 10:30 a.m.

**December 19:** Christmas Candlelight Service, 6:00, time of light refreshments and fellowship to follow.



There will be no Lottie Moon Christmas Post office this year. However, we are still collecting the Lottie Moon Christmas offering through December 26.



Mt. Olive,

It is the most wonderful time of the year and those of us who called ourselves Christians have every reason in the world to celebrate! Yet, how do we celebrate another Christmas with another global pandemic still going on all around us?

1) **Focus on the celebration of Christmas** events we are having, rather than what we are unable to do. This includes understanding that our Christmas caroling was cancelled, but our candlelight service will still be held. Make the most of this season by attending church, family, and community services. I am particularly excited to show Judah the lights of McAdenville for the first time. What Christmas traditions can you celebrate this year that were delayed, removed, or cancelled last year?

2) **Read through the Christmas story** multiple times. I have already read through the birth of Jesus in Luke a few times this week. I am preaching through Luke chapter 1 and chapter 2 the first two weeks of December. John Green is also teaching a Bible study that examines the hymns from the Luke account of the Christmas story. There are plenty of opportunities to read and study this story.

3) **Read the Christmas story on Christmas.** Have your family read Matthew 1:18-2:12 or Luke 2:1-21 I cannot emphasize this point enough. It is especially important for those of us with children to create God honoring habits. May God bless you and your family!

Dr. Josh Peeler



You can now live stream our church services on the Mount Olive Facebook page as well as the Mount Olive YouTube page. You can also listen on 88.3 FM from your vehicle in church parking areas. You can even watch the service on your phone in the church parking lot using the church Wi-Fi!

### A Christmas Prayer

Loving Father, Help us remember the birth of Jesus, that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and worship of the wise men.

Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world. Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting. Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings, and teach us to be merry with clear hearts.

May the Christmas morning make us happy to be thy children, and Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

by Robert Louis Stevenson



Mt. Olive,

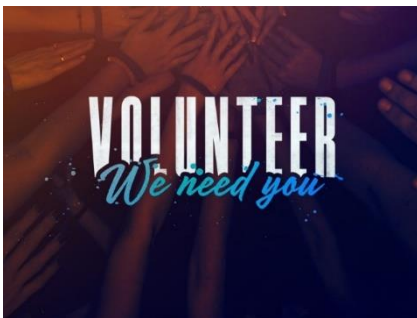
Our youth are continuing to meet with Dr. Josh on Sunday mornings and are reading portions of C. S. Lewis's classic Christian story The Screwtape Letters. They are using the book to discuss scripture and how they can relate them to their lives. They are continuing to study the prayers of Jesus from Mark on Wednesday nights with Joe Godfrey leading.

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

The Youth and RAs/GAs joined the adults in November to pack the backpacks for the Appalachian Backpack Christmas Ministry

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 if you are interested in helping with Children's Church or the nursery during the Worship Hour.

# December

## BIRTHDAYS

Brian Vaughn

5

7

David Crowther

11

Pam Jackson

Abby, Alex, Alaina McBride

Hilda Glosson

12

Larry Norwood

Loy Thomas, Jr.

Casey Allred

13

Kristina Zachary

15

Amy Foushee

16

Doug Christopher

17

Presleigh Andrews

18

Ella Allred

Rodney Cheek

Bryan Foushee

Jeff Snyder

Beverly Morris

27

## ANNIVERSARIES

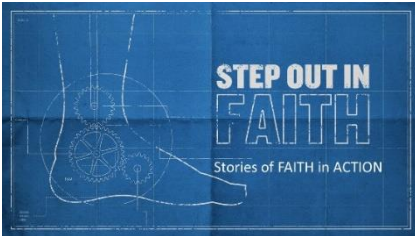
Tom & LaVern Judd

Chris & Gwen Norwood

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



## Finding Hope Through Faith



The month of December is filled with excitement for many of us as we celebrate Christmas. Shopping, decorating, going to church functions, listening to Christmas music, giving presents...all these things contribute to our joy. For Christians, we find hope in knowing that Christmas is celebrated because our Messiah was born over 2000 years ago. Jesus is the reason for the season for Christians. No matter how excited we are, there are many in the community around us who may not be as excited and joyful as we are. Stress, anxiety, depression, loneliness...they contribute to a life filled with hopelessness. Some wonder what they will do without presents for their children, some wonder about how they are going to put food on the table, some wonder how they will survive without a spouse. How can we share our faith that there is hope even amid despair?

Within the past couple of years, we have seen the best and worst of people. The pandemic has shown us how humans can come together to help each other navigate a difficult situation. We can look at our health care workers, police officers, truck drivers, essential personnel, and military to see heroes. There are many others who provide for our needs during the year. The pandemic has also shown how different everyone is. Politics is now ingrained in all facets of society. There is indecision, confusion, and sometimes mayhem in many things. It has now been determined that COVID is here to stay, and we wonder if some people will ever leave their homes again. I can't imagine that people can stay home for that long without being depressed. How can we as Christians show our compassion to those who are affected by these decisions?

Christians can show our faith during this Christmas season. When you encounter others, be kind and compassionate. Whether we attend charity events, shop in malls, go to parties, or work during this season, set a good example of how a Christian is supposed to act. Look for opportunities to share the good news of Jesus with others. There are many inspiring stories to share about Christmas and how our Messiah

Jesus came into our world to transform it forever. Look some of them up and provide copies to others. Adopt a family for Christmas, providing not only gifts but also a warm meal and the story of Jesus.

We should all remember that Jesus's birth and life here on earth began with many miracles. Mary was a young virgin girl who could have been shamed if not for her betrothed husband. An angel appeared to her to tell her the good news. Imagine God telling Gabriel to go and tell this young girl what was going to happen. Imagine Joseph's surprise and his reaction to this news. Imagine the shepherds surprise when angels appeared to them and told them to go see the Messiah. Imagine the wise men's surprise when God provided a star to follow so they could go and see the small child. Here was the king of all who was born in a very modest and humble stable. God protected the child even as Herod's jealousy raged. God showed all of us that he was in it for the long haul by proclaiming "good news of great joy for all the people".

During this Christmas season, let's proclaim our hope for all mankind by sharing the good news of great joy. We should share our joy that Jesus suffered immensely for all of us so that we wouldn't have to suffer. Share our individual transformation so that others around us can see the good news in our lives. Maybe some will want to know the true Messiah. Be thankful for what we have. Tell others what they mean to us. As Pastor Josh said on Sunday...our faith should drive hope and encouragement as we do our best to transform the culture around us.

God bless each of you this Christmas!

Joe Godfrey