



**MT. OLIVE**  
BAPTIST CHURCH

## *January 2022 Church News*

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**January 16:** Baptist Men's Day

**January 21:** Brown Bag Lunch and Bible Study,  
Mount Olive Fellowship Hall, 12:00 pm

**January 30:** Crisis Offering during Sunday Worship

**February 19:** Ham and Egg supper



Mt. Olive,

The start of a new year is a wonderful opportunity. Here are 4 ways to renew your devotional life in 2022.

1) **Read different translations.** For the first 30 years of my life, I used an NIV study Bible. I loved that translation, but during my military career I switched to an Amplified Bible and loved reading it. Now I use an ESV Bible most days, but varying your translation is an easy way to keep your reading fresh and dynamic.

2) **Missionary Biographies.** Reading the biography of a missionary can be an important part of developing your faith. Seeing these testimonies builds our faith and inspires generations of Christian leaders.

3) **Write down your prayers.** Knowing what we are seeking God for helps us to see all the ways he is answering our prayers. This is especially valuable when we are praying for our friends and family members. Seeing God consistently answer prayer builds faith in us and in our children; seeing God move also builds hope in future generations.

4) **Memorize Scripture.** Set a goal to memorize one verse a week or even one verse a month. By hiding his word in our heart, we can better serve and worship God. He in turn brings those verses to our attention.

I hope these suggestions for your devotional life help you to make a resolution or two concerning your spiritual health. May God bless you powerfully in 2022.

Dr. Josh Peeler



YouTube YouTube

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!

Did you  
know

that our church library  
is open? Come by and  
check out a book.





Mt. Olive,

I am so glad to be your new youth pastor here at Mount Olive Baptist Church. At the church conference on Sunday I told you a lot about myself. However for those who did not attend my name is Will. I am currently a seminary student at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. Most recently I lived in South Carolina. I've served with youth groups at multiple churches and I've loved every minute of it. It truly is an honor and a blessing to be here; I cannot wait to get to meet all of you and get to know you. To the youth, I wanted to share a message I was given when I was younger in 1 Timothy 4:12 (ESV) Paul tells his younger protegee, his child in the faith:

“Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity.”

My goal as youth pastor is to uphold this truth, for us to seek to be believers who are strong in the faith, built up in our convictions and saturated with the word of the Lord. The goal I have for us is to be believers who aren't just wise for their age, but who set an example for those who are older than us, for us to be wise and mature beyond our age. I believe part of this is knowing the scriptures, which is why for Sunday School, this coming up year, I want to start off by look at the Bible as one large book teaching one message. Each week we will examine one book of the Bible, pointing to what that book is teaching us about ourselves, God and the gospel. I pray that we develop into a group of believers who know the word better than anything else.

Will Lowery

# January

## BIRTHDAYS

## ANNIVERSARIES

Nicki Vaughn	1	
Stephen Williams		
Oscar Majors	3	
Hannah Foushee	4	
Payton Wilkins	6	
Jill Morris	7	
Jackson Batchelor	11	
Jimmy White	13	
Debbie Henry	14	
Lizzie Foushee	16	
Brad Palone		
Joyce Tarrant		
John C. Marshall	17	Jeff & Joan Snyder
Layton Curl	19	
Sarah Lindley	20	Willie & Rhonda Thomas
Lisa Scott	21	
Christina Wilkins		
Hannah Jones Black	22	
Austin Foushee		
Elizabeth Jones	23	
Robbie Morris		
Alice Cheek	24	
Amber Vaughn		
Ashley Walker		
Hayden Morris	25	
Titus Connor		
Cassie Moore	26	
Holly Connor		
Chelsea Gaudette	28	
Preston Andrews	29	Preston & Kim Andrews

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

*A prayer for the new year*  
*by Debbie McDaniel*

“At the start of each day, help us to recognize you above all else. Enlighten the eyes of our heart that we might see you and notice how you're at work through our lives. Give us the wisdom to make the best choices, fill us with a desire to seek after you more than anything else in this world. Let your Spirit and power breathe in us, through us, again, fresh and new. Thank you that you are greater than anything we may face in our day. Thank you that your presence goes with us and that your joy is never dependent on our circumstances, but it is our true and lasting strength, no matter what we're up against. We ask that your peace lead us, that it would guard our hearts and minds in you. We ask for your grace to cover our lives this day. We love you Lord...we need you. In Jesus' Name, Amen.”

“The faithful love of the LORD never ends! His mercies never cease. Great is his faithfulness; his mercies begin afresh each morning.”

Lamentations 3:22-23

## Finding Faith in 2022

We finally come to the end of 2021 and look forward to 2022 in anticipation. Anticipation that it will bring an end to the Covid pandemic...anticipation that people's lives will get back to normal and children can once again enjoy themselves without having to have rules about how long they wear their mask and how close they are to other children...anticipation that families can once again not have to worry that they may bring home a sinister virus. Even though we hope and pray that these things will take place, my greatest wish is that a spiritual revival can begin to sweep across America and our world, driving more people to worship in our churches and not allow our churches to continue the downward spiral of inactivity that is happening all around the country. As Christians, we should be excited that God is in control and knows the end result of every situation. As we anticipate 2022, I hope our faith continues to remain strong, and we can show forth the joy that we should have.

Recently, I have been reading different stories about faith as it pertains to children. One of the most precious things that we as parents see in our children is that trust and faith that they show when they are around us. When things get scary or upsetting, children look to their parents because they know that their parents will protect them and give them assurance. It is the same way with God and our relationship. When we as humans fail, God is always there to help us get back up and get going again. When we are scared because of a life circumstance that we don't have any control over, God is right there to provide comfort. Even in the darkest of times, God is where he has always been...waiting on us to come to him.

Just this week, I had a conversation with a lady who is many years my junior. She had a very traumatic experience with her significant other. He had tried to commit suicide during the Christmas holidays, having been depressed about family and work responsibilities. She doesn't attend church or have any experience with a Christian support group. After I had listened to her talk about the experience and allowed her to grieve, I asked if I could pray with/for her. She agreed

and told me, “No one has ever prayed with me before.” Oh, how sad to hear that from a young person. I have since added her to my prayer list and will be helping her as best I can, even if only by prayer. Her significant other is getting help and she hopes that he will be able to return home soon. We never know when we will have the opportunity to pray with a person or show our faith in God. Even though I didn’t know exactly what to say or how to help, I could pray that God would give both this lady and her significant other a sense of peace and that God would open both hearts to be receptive to him. I hope that all of you will be listening and receptive to helping others in need. It might be an opportunity to share the gospel and bring another sheep into God’s pasture.

I want to end with a little humor to take us into 2022. I love reading articles which involve the simple and innocent minds of children. Some of them are very funny, and some can also teach us adults a lesson as well. Let me indulge you with a brief funny story about little Johnny. “In Sunday School, they were teaching how God created everything, including human beings. Little Johnny seems especially intent when they told him how Eve was created out of one of Adam’s ribs. Later in the week, his mother noticed him lying down as though he were ill, and said, ‘Johnny, what is the matter?’ Little Johnny responded, ‘I have a pain in my side. I think I’m going to have a wife.’”

I hope each of us has a wonderful 2022. I know we can be assured that God knows what is ahead of us. Even if we are afraid of the present and future, God is in control. I can remember a conversation with Kenny Black before he left Mt. Olive to become a Pastor. We were discussing the different challenges we were facing at that time, and Kenny said nothing was too big for God. He said, “We serve a big God.” Remember that we do serve a big God and he knows each of us intimately. He can handle all of our questions and fears. Won’t you put your faith and trust in our big God and allow him lead you in 2022?

Sincerely,

Joe Godfrey