



# MT. OLIVE BAPTIST CHURCH

## April 2022 Church News

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### Upcoming Events

**April 9:** Senior Adult Easter Event, 2:00 – 4:00

**April 13:** Messiah In the Passover, 7:00

**April 16:** Easter Egg Hunt, 2:00

**April 17: Easter Sunday** Coffee and Doughnuts 9:00 a.m. Sunday school, 9:30, Worship Service 10:30

**April 22:** Brown Bag Lunch and Bible Study, 12:00



Mt. Olive,

For most of my life I've heard people speak of revival. As I said in a recent sermon one of my professors has been praying for revival nearly as long as he's been a Christian. But what does it mean to be in a season of revival? Does revival make us feel good or bad? Does revival make us feel happy or sad?

Unfortunately, revival usually comes through brokenness. Famous New York preacher David Wilkerson explained it saying that "All true passion is born out of anguish. All true passion for Christ comes out of a baptism of anguish. You search the Scripture, and you'll find that when God determined to recover a ruined situation he would share his own anguish for what God saw happening to his church and to his people. And he could find a praying man and he would take that man and literally baptize him in anguish." We must be broken over our own sins, broken over the state of the world, and broken over our own family members. It is out of that brokenness that God begins to move and revive us. He can not do it without our brokenness over sin. He cannot bring revival without our anguish over the sin and lostness of the world.

On March 20<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>, I preached sermons on the repentance and confession of our sins. On the 27<sup>th</sup> our altar was full. People left our services with tears in their eyes over sin. God is in the midst of bringing a great revival to our church. We have waited and struggled and hoped for God to bring life to our church. We shut down for almost half a year during the virus, we slowly re-opened and still we wait for him to bring true revival to our congregation. But revival is coming.

Revival also comes through prayer. Long ago God placed a burden for prayer on my heart. I walk our sanctuary usually once or twice a week asking God to move in our Sunday service, asking God to guide myself and our church leaders. But how on earth do we recover from a global pandemic? How in the world can we worship God with the burden and uncertainty of our church attendance? Out of this concern I began a bible study from Jim Cymbal on prayer. Beginning in late 2021, each Wednesday night we studied the prayers of the Bible. During and out of this study we began to pray. We prayed for forgiveness our own sins, we prayed for the sins of our nation, church, and community. We prayed for God to move in our church.

In January 2022, God placed fasting and prayer on my heart. Now listen I am a man who enjoys eating, but it seemed to me our need was great enough that we needed to pray and fast for spiritual development. On February 20<sup>th</sup>, I asked the church to start praying everyday at 10:30. I did not know what challenges faced out church and community, but I felt a clear leading from God that we should pray daily for church. A little over a month later I am still praying at 10:30 everyday for a movement of God.

Please continue to hope and pray for revival. God is moving in our congregation, and I believe it is just the beginning. I believe God is calling us to repentance and forgiveness. I believe that God is for us-hope in him.

Dr. Josh Peeler



Mt. Olive,

Something I've thought of recently is the importance and necessity of the reformation. It's important that we not only look at this from a historical or political position but a theological one as well. The reformation, for those who don't know, occurred in 1517 when an Augustinian monk named Martin Luther (no not that one), took a stand against the Catholic Church. It's something we tend to blow past very quickly but the ramifications for this are enormous. Luther was taking a stand against the Catholic Church for many reasons, the most important being the idea of Justification by Faith Alone. The doctrine that we are made right to God by Faith Alone, not by any works that we do and he grounded this in the Bible, in God's word alone. This is why we have the modern protestant Church, because God used this Augustinian monk for the sake of his Church.

The Catholic Church had immense power at the time, so this was gutsy and bold at the time to say the least, but it was surely necessary. Luther had to stand trial for his actions and he was asked to recant. I end with this quote, attributed to him from his trial, but let's not forget his words, let's stand firm in our belief in the scriptures. Let's stand strong for this truth, that we are made right by God, by Faith in Christ alone.

“Unless I am convicted by Scripture and plain reason-I do not accept the authority of popes and councils, for they have contradicted each other-my conscience is captive to the Word of God. I cannot and will not recant anything, for to go against conscience is neither right nor safe. Here I stand, I cannot do otherwise. God help me. Amen.” - Martin Luther

Wil Lowery

## April

### BIRTHDAYS

### ANNIVERSARIES

Ned Gaudette	1	
Camden Wilkins		
Winder Zachary	2	Tommie & Barbara Love
John Green	3	
	8	Joseph & Gail Thomas
Peter Jones	11	
Shelli Morris	12	
Eric Snyder	13	
	14	Johnnie & Jessica Moore
Josh Peeler	15	
Barbara Copeland	17	
Victoria Vaughn		
	19	Winder & Marie Zachary Mike & Pam Jackson
Toni Brazington	20	
Darith Andrews	21	
Sharon Thomas	22	
Emeline Jones		
Shirley Christopher	24	
Charles Nunn	26	
Judah Peeler	27	
Evelyn Prete	28	

If you have any corrections/additions to this listing, please email  
suzanne@mtolivebaptist.com.

## Brown Bag Lunch and Bible Study



Join us for the next Brown Bag Lunch and Bible Study on Friday April 22 at 12:00. The topic will be: "A Clear Understanding of the Gospel." The text is Gen. 1:26-31; Col. 1:15-20; and I Timothy 1:12-15. See John Green with any questions.

## Appalachian Backpack Christmas Ministry



This year Mount Olive will again be participating in the Hope for Appalachia Christmas Backpacks. For the month of April, we will be collecting bodywash, towels and soap.

*Bodywash bottles need to be small enough to fit in a gallon Ziploc bag.* Please bring any donations to the collection bins on either side of the entrances at church.

## **Faith--- The Struggle to Survive Satan's Wrath**

I recently read an inspiring story about the Ukrainian Christians who are struggling to survive the Russian onslaught. These Ukrainian people are showing what true faith is, even when faced with chaos and overwhelming odds trying to keep their country intact. The cost of war takes its toll on all people involved, and most people can't see the hope that comes out of despair. Despite the despair, Baptists on Mission and other organizations are helping refugees and people of need in the area around Ukraine. They are providing aid but coming back with stories of faith. People are accepting Jesus Christ and many thousands of Bibles are being given to the Ukrainian people. Even though we may not be in a physical war with a communist regime, we have our own spiritual battles we must fight. Are we prepared for the battle which is taking place? Does our faith remain strong even when we are attacked?

Our faith is tested throughout our lifetime by both trial and tribulation. In a different way, Ukrainians have been through communism, which is a different tribulation. Communism is antireligious and seeks to purge the faith of its people. Between 1921 and 1980, it is estimated that Russia killed as many as 20 million Christians. The Christians who survived had to hide their religion and secretly worship. Martin Luther King Jr. stated that a true Christian cannot be a true Communist, and Christian families were separated in many of the Communist countries of the world. How did Christianity survive in those Communist countries? It was by faith and prayer of the believers who persevered. The "State" became the

provider and sustainer for the many people who were deceived, instead of God. Are we deceived today by other providers and sustainers instead of trusting that God will provide?

Satan is using the communist Russia to inflict a heavy toll on the people of Ukraine, but he also uses other means to inflict a toll on Christians. Satan most often uses the vessel which is most vulnerable and susceptible to his influence. One of the many reasons for worshipping with fellow believers is that we can stand together to face Satan, in some ways like Ukrainians have come together to face Russia. It is a lot easier to defend against Satan's wrath if we stand as one body. The church has been the object of attack from Satan from both within and without. He infiltrates churches throughout the world, and Mt. Olive is no different. 1 Peter 5:8 states that our adversary roams like a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour. Let's focus our efforts on mission work and winning souls instead of other things which distract from God's work. There are so many positive things that we can do with God's blessing. I see our youth group growing, I see ministry of people growing, I see people returning after two years of Covid mayhem, and I see women doing a study which is bonding them together as a group. Pray that Mt. Olive and all churches bond together to expel Satan from their midst. Pray that Ukrainians can expel Russia and that they can reach the communists with the gospel. Pray for the safety of Christians as they provide aid. Most of all, pray that Christ will be revealed through our lives so that others want to know what makes us want to share his story.

Joe Godfrey