



# MT. OLIVE BAPTIST CHURCH

## May 2022 Church News

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### **Upcoming Events**

- May 4: Family Night, Meal provided by Rise Up
- May 9: Ladies Bible Study, 7:00
- May 22: Deacon's Meeting, 4:00
- May 27: Brown Bag Lunch and Bible Study, 12:00
- June 5: Homecoming Service, 10:15 Meal to follow



Mt. Olive,

Searching for God's purpose in our own lives can be very difficult. Some days it seems we freely flow into his purposes and others it seems so far away. I recently visited with a friend and we talked about this struggle. You may have the same question he had as we ask how can I find God's purposes and plans for my life.

First, and I know this is the church answer, but read your Bible. I can honestly say that I have never ever had a time in my life where daily reading the Bible has spoken to me more. When we choose to seek him daily, whether it is morning, noon, or night, we are giving God the opportunity to lead us. Just this week I was wondering why I was going through something and I opened my devotional to ". . .you have been grieved by various trials so that the tested genuineness of your faith more precious than gold that perishes through it is tested by fire-may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ." 1 Peter 1:6-7 God reminded me that sometimes we grow through hardship in life so that our faith may be strengthened thereby developing a stronger testimony of faith. As it demonstrates who we are in Christ our hardship can become a source of joy and his glory. Let God lead you through his word.

Second, prayer is an incredible means for God to lead us. Sometimes I pray for people the night before and end up talking to them the next day. It is an unbelievable feeling when God directs us to someone in prayer and we get to tell them the next day what they mean to us. Pray often, pray faithfully, and pray hopefully. I fully believe that one day we will realize just

how important our prayers have been at developing our own spirituality and maturity, but right now we must take it on faith. Pray with the knowledge that no prayer before our king is a wasted effort.

Third, listen to the Holy Spirit. It is amazing to me how easy it is to forget this one. Especially as Baptists, we have a tendency to ignore or be intimidated by listening to God's Holy Spirit. But I want to encourage you, because being open to the Holy Spirit becomes easier the more, we do it. I remember being 18 and 19 years old worrying whether every aspect of my life was directed by God or not; it is enough to drive you crazy! Now after growing and listen to the Lord for more than 30 years I realize the subtlety of God's direction. Yesterday I had a conversation with one person on the phone and another in person. Both situations developed out of my personal life and I wasn't really thinking as a pastor. However, regardless of what I had in mind, God directed me to pray for and with both people. See it doesn't matter whether we are planning on being spiritual, or not, because God has a way of speaking, directing, and helping us to become the Christ servants he wants us to be. So listen to his guidance with an openness towards his direction.

Read, listen, and pray may seem like simple advice, but it is hard to do. When we listen to God, read his word, and pray for others we are giving him divine permission to speak into our lives. God stands ready to direct us if we would simply have the willingness to be open. Vow today to read his word, I don't care if you have to start with one verse. Vow today to pray for another person, I don't care if it is only one other person outside your family. Vow today to listen to God even it's just for 20 minutes, but striving to seek him you will find him.

Dr. Josh Peeler



Mt. Olive,

The following is from a sermon I prepared for my Biblical Exposition course! It tracks with my favorite poem “Oh why should the spirit of a mortal be proud” by William Knox.

'Tis the wink of an eye, 'tis the draught of a breach,  
From the blossom of health to the paleness of death,  
From the gilded saloon to the bier and the shroud: Oh,  
why should the spirit of mortal be proud?

The theme of this poem speaks of the briefness of life, it speaks of how life is fleeting and not only that, but it speaks of how essentially pointless it is for us to build up here. Man, how true is this for us. For the mortal man, there is nothing to gain from this life. If we only hope for the cross in this life, there is nothing to gain. But here is the beauty we know that we hope beyond this life.

And I think one of the reasons this resonated with me, is it's unintentionally theological in nature. The poem talks about the vanity that is found in the mortal man's life and the hopelessness that those outside of Christ sit with, so without even meaning to it provides a theological outlook to those who are far from Christ. Here's the thing, we in and of ourselves have nothing to be proud of, most of us will live normal average lives and then just die, but we can hope in this: there is nothing grand, nothing glorious, nothing spectacular about us, we serve a great, Holy God, and while we toil through this earth, while our suffering persists, we can serve one who is worthy of our entire life.

Wil Lowery

## May

### BIRTHDAYS

### ANNIVERSARIES

Peyton Zachary	1	
Patricia Williams	4	
Leigh Evans	5	
Danielle Doss	7	
Randy Thomas		
	11	Rex & Kristina Zachary
Brian Aldridge	12	
	13	Joe & Renee Godfrey
Maria Wilske	20	
Ray Glosson	21	Fred & Frances Maness
Mickey Vaughn		
Baylee Morris	22	Steve & Christina Wilkins
Faith Williams	23	
Diane Taylor	28	
	30	Bryan & Amy Foushee
Keith Marshall	31	
Catherine Perry		

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

“I learned more about Christianity from my mother  
than from all the theologians in England.” ~ John  
Wesley

### **Brown Bag Lunch and Bible Study**

Join us on May 27 for the next Brown Bag Lunch and Bible Study. Bring your lunch and Bible as we dive deeper into God’s word.

## **Mount Olive Baptist Church Memorial and Homecoming Celebration**

Please join us on Sunday, June 5, 2022, with the service starting at 10:15 am and lunch on the grounds at 11:30 am. Guest speaker: Rev. Chris Gambos, New Salem Church.

### **Appalachian Backpack Christmas Ministry**



This year Mount Olive will again be participating in the Hope for Appalachia Christmas Backpacks. For the month of May, we will be collecting small toys/stuffed animals.

### **Senior Adult Easter Event Highlights**

Lord, we lift our hearts to you. As the dawn breaks, may we carry the unity we share into every moment knowing that we are one with the risen Christ. Lord, we lift our eyes to you. As the sunrises, may this moment stay with us, reminding us to look for the beautiful colors of promise in your word. Lord, we lift our prayers to you. As the dew air falls, may we breathe this morning in and know that like the earth, you sustain us, keep us and work within us always. And so, we lift our voices to you. We celebrate the greatest day in history, when Jesus rose from death, defeated darkness, and bathed the world in stunning resurrection light. May we ever live to praise you! Amen. Author Unknown

## **Faith---Your Christian Life in The Community**

I hope everyone is having a wonderful spring season. Isn't it wonderful to see life come back to the trees, flowers, and grass? It's amazing how God uses nature to remind us of how beautiful his creation is. It goes to show all of us how much God loves us and how important we all are. Our witness in this world shows others the way to God, and we should always be willing to share how our life was impacted when we met Jesus.

I read a story recently about a preacher who accepted a call to a church in Houston, Texas. After several weeks in the city, the preacher decided to ride the bus from his home to the downtown area. After paying his fare, the preacher went and sat down. He noticed that the driver had given him an extra quarter too much change. As the preacher considered what to do, he thought to himself, "Give the quarter back. It would be wrong to keep it." Then, a second thought came to him. "Oh, forget it, it's only a quarter. Who would worry about that little amount? It costs too much anyway, and the bus company will never miss it. Accept it as a "gift of God" and keep quiet."

When his stop came, he paused momentarily at the door, and then he handed the quarter to the driver and said, "Here, you gave me too much change."

The driver, with a smile, replied, "Aren't you the new preacher in town?"

"Yes," he replied.

"Well, I have been thinking a lot lately about going somewhere to worship. I just wanted to see what

you would do if I gave you too much change. I will see you at church on Sunday.”

When the preacher stepped off the bus, he grabbed the nearest light pole, held on, and said, “I almost sold your Son for a quarter.”

Remember that your life and my life are the only “church” some people may ever see. People do watch us as Christians, and they also hear what we say when out in public. It would be wise to remember that God gave us all two ears to listen and one tongue to speak. Let’s take a step back this month and try to think about how others really see us. How do they see our church? Do they only hear the negatives and not the positive things that the local church is doing? I think of our Baptist Children Homes collection, Backpack Ministry collection, and many other things that we do yearly which helps others.

Have faith that God will use you to reach someone who needs to hear the gospel presented. Have faith that God will use you to help a person in need. Have faith that God will use your life for something good. Remember 1 Peter 2:12 which states, “Keep your behavior excellent among the Gentiles, so that in the thing in which they slander you as evildoers, they may because of your good deeds, as they observe them, glorify God in the day of visitation.”

In Christ’s Love,

Joe Godfrey