



MT. OLIVE BAPTIST CHURCH

August 2022

Church News

'I WILL INSTRUCT YOU
AND TEACH YOU
IN THE WAY YOU SHOULD GO;
I WILL COUNSEL YOU
AND WATCH OVER YOU!'

PSALM 32.8 (NIV)



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Upcoming Events

- August 1: Ladies Bible Study, 7:00
- August 3: Family Night Meal, 6:45
RAs/GAs, Youth, Adult Bible Study 7:30
- August 6: Senior Luncheon, Best Food Cafeteria
- August 21: Church Conference following Worship Service
- August 26: Brown Bag Lunch and Bible Study, 12:00
- August 28: Ordination Serfvice, 10:30.
Deacon's Meeting for all incoming and outgoing deacons 4:30



Mt. Olive,

What does it mean to trust God? I've been thinking about this a lot lately.

You know I trusted God when my son was born, but my wife still ended up in the hospital with permanent kidney damage. One day she will probably need a transplant. I've trusted God with addiction struggles as I've tried to pastor people to overcome their addiction, yet most of the time they fail to make it. When trusting God is not as easy as it used to be what should I do? How can I honor God and still address the depth of my struggle?

When I try to find verses that echo the depth of my struggle, I look to the next verse in my devotional that day. Today as I write this, I found in Psalm 116 a portrait of some of my deepest, most sincere prayers: "I love the Lord because he has heard my voice and my pleas for mercy. Because he inclined his ear to me therefore, I will call on him as long as I live." There is so much truth in just these two verses. We continue to pray to God because we know he is listening. We continue to pray to God because we know he hears our cries for help. We continue to pray to God because he listens with an ear to hear; his ear is inclined to me, he didn't just listen, but he listens intently, leaning into me and hearing what I was saying on a deep level.

One of the most basic yet important duties of Christians is to be honest in our prayers, recognizing that he is listening. As I pray and give my anxieties, my fears, and my uncertainties to God I do feel a sense of relief, a sense of well-being, and comfort; an abiding sense of hope that buoys me on the deepest and

darkest of days. Holding onto this truth is hard sometimes, but it is always worth it to stay hopeful.

Psalm 16 goes on to describe a man who trips over his own feet, feels great affliction, even wonders aloud if all people are liars. In the midst of that he prays to God. In the middle of feeling alone, ashamed, and uncertain he makes vows to God in the presence of other people. Even as he doubts whether other people are even faithful enough to be called friends, he still chooses to trust them. He remembers the goodness of God rescuing his soul from death. He thanks God and presents himself as a testimony to other believers.

In Psalm 116 we see three components of spirituality that can aid us in perseverance. First, we see that the psalmist prays to God even when he's not sure if it's going to do any good. There are going to be times in your Christian walk when you don't feel like praying. There are going to be times when apathy and uncertainty, threaten to unseat your faith. In those times it is especially important to pray. Second, listen intently for God to answer your prayers. I think sometimes we're looking for such tremendous and miraculous answers to our prayers that we can't help but be discouraged. However, the reality is that sometimes the greatest answer to our prayers is in the ways our prayer time shifts our perspective. Allowing God to mold and shape you as you pray for yourself, and others is one of the greatest tools in our spiritual toolbox. Third, turn to other Christians. I have known so many friends who stopped coming to church, stopped reading their Bible, stopped seeking God, and left the faith. One of the easiest ways to enhance your spiritual vitality is to share your struggles with fellow Christians. Praying for each other works. Let us pray to

God, help each other, and wait on him. May he comfort you as you wait and may the waiting be a blessing.

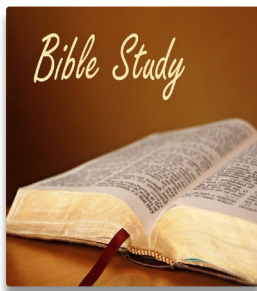
Dr. Josh Peeler



Mt. Olive,

I was talking to a friend of mine recently and we were talking about the Church has a whole. The church we attended in college had recently faced some controversies, so we had been wrapped up in conversations about that a while ago. Something he said brought me back to be a simple thought: the church of God should be like a family. The book of Acts tells us the early church literally saw themselves as a family, because they are! It reminds me of one of my favorite movie series “The Mighty Ducks” where they repeat “We are ducks and Ducks fly together.” This group of kids felt rejected by the rest of the world. Maybe they weren't as polished as some of the other teams and maybe they were in little rougher around the edges, but ultimately they worked together and grew to be part of a team. The same can be said for the church. We as the church are a family, united under the gospel for the sake of and mission of God himself.

Wil Lowery



Brown Bag Lunch and Bible Study

Join us on August 26 at noon for the next Brown Bag Lunch and Bible Study. Bring your lunch and Bible as we dive deeper into God's word.

August

BIRTHDAYS

ANNIVERSARIES

Mike Jackson

2

5

Craig & Denise Dixon

8

Shane & Melissa Gray

Caitlin Knepp Brown

9

Diz & Karen Lloyd

Lynn McPherson

10

Ruth Ann Malpass

11

Eli Zachary

12

15

Darith & Donna
Andrews

Mason Braxton

16

Greg Thomas

17

Evangeline Andrews

22

Jane Majors

23

Dawn Lloyd

24

Denise Dixon

25

Emily Morris

26

Will Thomas

29

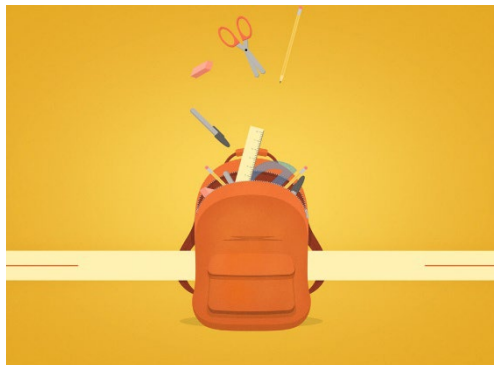
Keith Andrews

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

Appalachian Backpack Christmas Ministry

This year Mount Olive will again be participating in the Hope for Appalachia Christmas Backpacks. For the month of August, we will be school supplies. Collection bins are located at the side entrances of the church.



Faith---Using Deborah as An Example

I don't know about you, but I am ready for some fall weather. I am thinking 60's during the day and 40's at night. Put on some cowboy boots, flannel shirt, and jeans to enjoy the crisp clean air. Thinking about the barbecue and Brunswick stew cooking outside just makes my mouth water. Football games and World Series baseball are about as good as it gets. Wait a minute...it is only August. I am getting ahead of myself by a couple months. Have you ever noticed how impatient everyone gets when dealing with the mundane day to day activities of our lives? In the summer, we want fall. In the winter, we want spring. When we need to get somewhere, there is little doubt that the slowest driver on the road will be in front of us. When our children want something, they want it now. I have found it fascinating how impatient everyone is today (including me). This is also true of the church. God tells us to be patient, even when we want things to happen immediately.

Recently, I have been involved with helping facilitate a very difficult situation. I have seen others besides myself practice patience as they worked to understand the situation presented to them. I have spent more time reading my Bible so that I could gain a sense of peace about this situation. I am reminded of what Jesus said in John 13:7, “You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand”. These words are so true in the real world. I try to figure people out but have decided that I can’t figure them out. God knows our hearts and he knows what our intentions are, even as we can’t understand what he is doing. I am so thankful that God has given us his word to read and his Holy Spirit to help us understand it. God reminds us to be patient so that we can gain an understanding of his work around us.

Ephesians 4:2 states, “Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love”. I think that’s it...love. Loving one another is not easy, but we are called by God to practice patience through loving one another. In my conversations with Pastor Josh, I see the love that he has for the Mt. Olive congregation. It can’t be easy, but Pastor Josh and Anna live out Ephesians 4:2. Even when Pastor Josh is dealing with the daily challenges of life, I hear and see the gifts of love and patience that he has been given to shepherd our church. I saw the same thing in Pastor David. Our church has been blessed to have recently had two Pastors (and more Pastors before them) who cared about the well-being of their congregation and loved us even when we seemed to be unlovable. I thank God for Pastor Josh and appreciate his patience and love during difficult times. Let us pray that our church will practice love and patience so that we can be the New Testament church God calls us to be. It is

time to go out and show the world how God has called
Mt. Olive to be the light in a dark world.

In Christ's Love,

Joe Godfrey