



MT. OLIVE BAPTIST CHURCH

July 2022

Church News



Upcoming Events

- July 4: Games 5:00 Hot dog supper, 6:00
July 8: Senior Adult Activity, 10:00 – 1:00
July 25–29: VBS, 6:00 – 8:30

“Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God.”

1 Peter 2:16



Mt. Olive,

On the 4th of July, we celebrate our Independence Day. It is time where we reflect on our founding, the history of our great nation. Yet out of this reflection, this year I was left with a lingering thought: how do my rights as a Christian interact with the concept of rights as an American citizen?

As an American citizen, I have more than a few rights. In fact, we have a list of them called the Bill of Rights. These rights form the backbone of our society. We have religious free, freedom to assemble, and a whole host of others. The bill of rights is like the 10 commandments of our nation. Whereas the 10 commandments gave us godly requirements, the Bill of Rights gives us a list of rights that are ensured. These rights protect us from government overreach or usurping of our freedoms.

As Americans we often define ourselves by our rights. Entitled to these rights by our Constitution we believe nothing should prevent us from exercising these rights. Being an American is all about the security and protection of our own rights. In fact, many of the contemporary issues that plague American society stem in part from a desire to extend our “rights” into new untapped areas. Issues like abortion, homosexual marriage, and euthanasia all claim new rights for Americans. In many ways the unifying “American” identity across political, racial, and economic lines is the preservation of “our rights.” Our rights are a wonderfully unique component of American representative democracy. Nearly no other nation in history or around the world today strives, or even

claims, to uphold the individual rights of their citizens like the United States of America.

As Christians we have access to an entirely different type of rights. We have the right to call God our father, the rights as a first-born son and all the privileges that come with it. Paul the man who wrote more of the Bible than anyone short of Moses wrote that giving up our rights for other Christians is godly. In 1 Corinthians 8 Paul writes that it is acceptable to eat food offered to idols, but that some Christians should give up this right to make peace with others.

One of the most incredible aspects of Christianity for us Americans is surrendering our rights. It is hard for us to understand and even harder for us to practice. Yet Paul writes extensively in 1 Corinthians 9 on just that subject: “Nevertheless, we have not made use of this right, but we endure anything rather than put an obstacle in the way of the gospel of Christ.” That means our rights as Americans are secondary to our rights as Christians. I am not saying we should never share our opinions or let our rights as citizens be constantly trampled, but that our duty is first to Christ.

This idea works itself out practically through our individual interactions and our treatment of each other. Rather than consistently and constantly insisting on our own way, we should seek to humbly serve one another. Embodying this attitude of meekness creates a Christian community that is infectious; the more we humbly give up some of our rights, the more other Christians want to be a part of it. The more the church acts differently than the rest of the world, the more the world wants to be a part of it. I pray we that each and every one of us would pursue this virtue more and more; that we might develop the humility of Christ.

Dr. Josh Peeler



Mt. Olive,

My mom recently sent me my copy of one of my favorite books, *The Federalist Papers*. The *Federalist Papers* were a series of essays written by John Jay, Alexander Hamilton and James Madison defending the new U.S. Constitution. I was recently rereading one of my favorites *Federalist 51*, where James Madison says:

“It may be a reflection on human nature, that such devices should be necessary to control the abuses of government. But what is government itself, but the greatest of all reflections on human nature? If men were angels, no government would be necessary. If angels were to govern men, neither external nor internal controls on government would be necessary.”

Madison is making the argument in this section, that there is a need for a Federal Government with checks and balances because of human nature and he goes on to make the argument that we need some government simply because of who men are. What this caused me to do is ask the question: “what does that tell us of human nature?” What I believe here, is that Madison to some degree has a Christian understanding of what human nature is. Maybe not the full scope of what is understood in a Christian worldview, but a realization that human nature is messed up, we have a natural bent towards sin. It’s from this perspective that we can start realizing our desperate need for a Savior, and it’s from this position we can realize how good of one we have in Jesus. So this isn’t to say that all one needs to know is that human nature is messed up, but when we really

understand how messed up we are, we really see the beauty of the savior to a fuller extent.

Wil Lowery

July

BIRTHDAYS

ANNIVERSARIES

Caleb Godfrey	1	
Kelsey Bombard	2	
Heather Vaughn		
Jeremy "Catfish" Vaughn		
Dan Jones	6	Brian & Tina Vaughn
Brack Lewis	7	
Willie Thomas		
Johnnie Moore	8	
Matt Wallace		
Dianne Santa	9	Steve & Suzanne Jones
Wil Lowery	10	
Al Wells	13	
Angela Williams	15	
Elijah Evans	19	Andy & Casey Allred
Anna Peeler	23	
Dorian James	25	
Tracy Lawson	26	
Doris Marshall		
Doris Tillman	27	
Brittany Jackson Love	28	
	30	Mickey & Deanne Vaughn

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 July we will be collecting dental hygiene

items: toothbrushes, toothpaste, dental floss, etc. Collection bins are located at the side entrances of the church.



Vacation Bible School- Join us this July for our VBS! There will be classes for ages 3-5th grade. If you are interested in helping, please contact Wil Lowery. Registration forms are available on our Facebook page.

Senior Adult Special Activity – Seniors please join us Friday July 8 for a special time of Bible Study and Fellowship from 10:00 – 1:00. John Green will be leading the Bible Study “I Once Was Blind, But Now I

See" Text: Ephesians 2:1-23 Please RSVP Dawn Lloyd
336 212-2032 or OneDawnLloyd@gmail.com.

Faith---Using Deborah as An Example

This month's article reminds me of our lives today...chaotic, overwhelming, worn out, dysfunctional, disappointed. There are many stories of faith that can inspire us to keep going even when the going gets tough. I want to concentrate on one person this month who can show us how we can keep going and accomplish all that God wants in our lives.

Deborah was an amazing, do it all woman. She was a leader, a judge, a prophetess, a wife, and a mother. Deborah seemed to be able to balance everything that came her way. Deborah did something a little different than most of us today. She trusted in God to provide for her and the nation of Israel. When a person examines Deborah in the scripture, they see someone who truly believed in God as a Great Deliverer.

Judges 4 tells us about Deborah and how she managed the nation of Israel during the time of the judges. Deborah believed that God would deliver Sisera and all his 900 chariots plus soldiers into their hands. Her faith was strong enough to tell the commander (Barak) to just go, but the commander wanted Deborah to go with him. Deborah did as Barak wished, and God delivered the rival army to them. How did Deborah have such strong faith? God was ever present

in her life every single day. Deborah took the time to worship God continually.

Life demands a lot from us every day. Jobs are more stressful than ever, inflation is hurting everyone, marriages are crumbling, families are being torn apart, politicians cannot get along and cause more division and chaos, and health concerns overwhelm us. We must determine to have a daily devotional time with God so that we can manage the stress of the day.

Let us decide to care for people like Deborah did. Let us serve God so that we can stand before him one day knowing that we have done everything we can to spread the Gospel. Let us work together and reconcile to become more like Christ. When you want to quit, remember that God did not quit on us...he provided the solution to all of life's problems, Jesus Christ. We can all make a difference in our world if we look to him for our answers, just as Deborah did. Pray that God will change your heart to be more like him and rid yourself of any bitterness. Allow God to use you in our world to make it a better place for everyone.

In Christ's Love,

Joe Godfrey