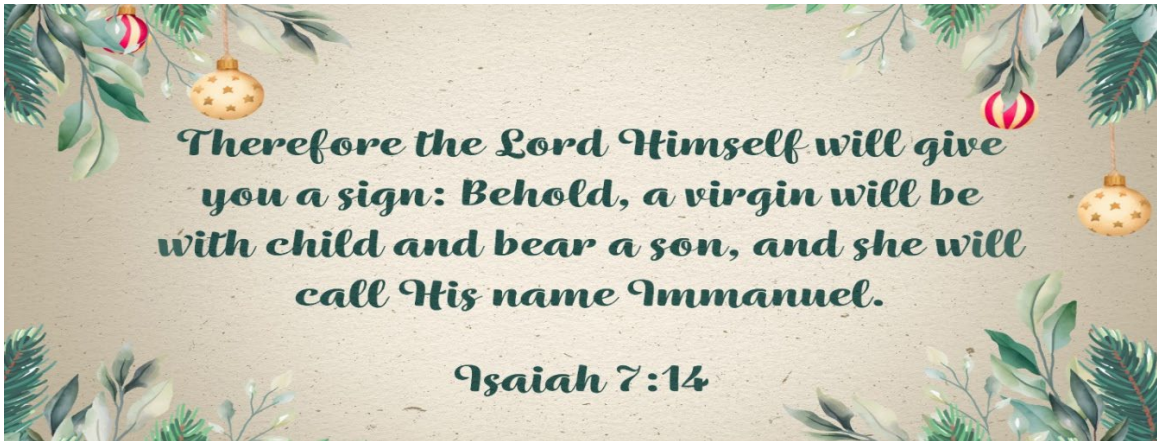




MT. OLIVE BAPTIST CHURCH

December 2022

Church News



Upcoming Events

- 12/7: Family Night Meal (provided by the Baptist Men), 6:45
RAs/GAs, Youth, and International Mission Study, 7:30
- 12/8: Sandy Creek Senior Adult Luncheon, 11:00
-At Bestfood Cafeteria in Siler City
- 12/11: Called Church Conference after the worship service
Choir Practice, 5:00
- 12/16: Brown Bag Lunch and Bible Study, Noon
- 12/18: Candlelight Service, 7:00
-Christmas Party Afterwards
- 12/19: Youth Christmas Party, 7:00
-At 348 Revmont Dr., Pittsboro
- 12/21: Christmas Caroling, 6:30
-Refreshments Afterwards
- 12/31: Mt. Olive Senior Adult Christmas Luncheon, 11:30
-At Bestfood Cafeteria in Siler City
-The church bus will leave at 11:00 for those that need a ride.



Mt. Olive,

Every year around early December I hear a lot of talk about keeping Christ in Christmas. But what I don't hear are very many people talking about how to practice their Christian beliefs during the Holidays. Here are five different ways to devotionally worship and inspire Christian fellowship in your home:

First, take the time to declutter your child's toys. Before getting a good look at their Christmas list maybe we should have the added requirement of donating your own toys. By donating their unused toys and gifting them to other children we are teaching our children the importance of keeping a clean home and of being generous to those who are less fortunate. Regardless of age, it's never a bad thing to instruct our children on personal hygiene and Christian generosity.

Second, turn decorating your Christmas tree into worship. Put on some classical or contemporary Christian music and worship with your family. Take time to explain the symbolism of the lights, star, and presents.

Three, be intentional about creating little teaching moments with your children or grandchildren. Go out of your way to share why Christ was born and what it means for your faith. Make sure they understand the reasons we celebrate Christmas; that it's more than just getting presents.

Four, pray with your family. In some ways, Christmas is really a continuation of Thanksgiving. The major difference is that at Christmas we are thankful to God for sending Jesus. We can also thank Him for being born, a huge act of humility we often miss the importance of; you are never too young to cultivate gratitude.

Fifth, read the Christmas story with your family before opening books. This shows your children that honoring God and celebrating His goodness comes from our own Christmas joy at presents. Our goal isn't to make our children feel bad about wanting presents, but to show them the joy of including God in our celebration.

These are just a few of the ways we can keep Christ in Christmas. Take your time this year to celebrate all that God has done for us, all that He has brought us through, and everything that He means to us. Celebrate His victory, His virtue, and His goodness. May this Christmas be blessed, merry, and bright.

Dr. Josh Peeler



The first Christmas ever, was the beginning of the unfolding of the new covenant. This covenant had long been prophesied. God promised a day when he would deliver his people from their sins once and for all, a single day. This finally took place when Jesus died on the cross. His mission in life was to get to that cross; indeed truly Jesus was born to die. In his life he did many miracles, set up his followers to build on what he had done, and attracted a lot of attention. But none of these things were the purpose of his mission.

Let us remember this as we enter into the holiday season and spend time with loved ones!

Noble LaRocco Masi

Upcoming events: Youth Christmas Party:

Monday, December 19th, 7pm

REVMONT MANOR

348 Revmont Drive, Pittsboro NC 27312

December

BIRTHDAYS		ANNIVERSARIES
	1	
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	3	
	4	
Brian Vaughn Chad Ray Lily Zagapolous	5	
	6	
	7	Tom & LaVern Judd
	8	
	9	
	10	
David Crowther Pam Jackson Abby, Alex, Alaina McBride	11	
Hilda Glosson Larry Norwood Loy Thomas, Jr.	12	
Casey Allred	13	
	14	
Kristina Zachary	15	
Amy Foushee	16	Chris & Gwen Norwood
Doug Christopher	17	
Presleigh Andrews Ella Allred Rodney Cheek Bryan Foushee Jeff Snyder	18	
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	20	
Barbara Love	21	
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	23	
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Beverly Morris	27	
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If you have any corrections/additions to this listing, please email christina@mtolivebaptist.com

MINISTRY IN ACTION

"And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased." (Hebrews 13:16)

Mt. Olive had much to be thankful for during the month of November as we worked together to provide blessings to those in our community and beyond. We began by delivering 16 backpacks to the Appalachian Christmas Ministry. We also hosted a community barbeque, delivered Sunshine boxes to our shut-ins, and collected items for a family who was affected by a recent house fire. A lot of hard work went into our events last month, and we appreciate everyone's efforts and donations. Special thanks to Mike Jackson, Joe and Renee Godfrey, and Lisa White for leading the way!



Outreach Opportunities for December:

Christmas Caroling (12/21)

Lottie Moon Christmas Offering (through 12/25)

BEJ Snack Pack Program (full list of needed items is posted on the office bulletin board)



STORIES OF FAITH IN ACTION

“But you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness.” (1 Timothy 6:11)

Do You Believe?

I don't know about any of you, but Christmas is my favorite holiday of the year. My belief is that we celebrate Christmas because Jesus Christ was born a little over 2000 years ago in a lowly manger. One of the most memorable things I remember about Christmas when I was a kid was walking through the woods and picking out the red cedar Christmas tree that we were going to decorate in our living room. My dad would tell us that we were going to walk to the “Christmas tree patch” on a Sunday afternoon. He would carry his chainsaw and take off a few limbs before we would drag it back to the house. Smelling the cedar and feeling the sticky sap just added to our excitement. On the way back home, my parents, Lisa, Chris, and myself would pick a few holly limbs and some running cedar to put on the fireplace hearth. I have often thought about Joseph and Mary and what they smelled and remembered during the night of Jesus' birth. What about the shepherds? Imagine what they saw.

The shepherds were keeping watch over their sheep in the countryside outside Bethlehem. Imagine how dark it must have been. Suddenly, the glory of the Lord shone around them. The angel says don't be afraid (ok...right). The lowest citizens of that day were the first people told about the birth of the Messiah. The shepherds had to decide right then...do we stay in the fields, or do we go see what the angels told them about? I love the faith of the shepherds. Not only did they go see Jesus, but they also “hurried” off to see the baby. Imagine the blessing they received. I can imagine the shepherds going home to tell their families and friends exactly what they saw that night, however believable it sounded. They could have made the alternate decision to not go see the baby. Yet they believed.

As we celebrate the season and prepare to enter a new year, what has God revealed to you over the last year? Do you truly believe in the one and only savior? Are you better off spiritually right now than you were at this time last year? Our country seems to be in a spiritual decline. Many people would rather be doing other things than worshipping with fellow Christians on Sunday or Wednesday. Where are you in your spiritual walk with Christ? God revealed his son to a bunch of lowly shepherds, showing the world that everyone is equal in God's eyes. What can we do during this season to show Christ revealed through us? Are we willing to forgive others, serve others, love others? If we do this, Christ's light will shine through us, and others will wonder like the shepherds...” let's go see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about”.

Seasons Greetings,

Joe Godfrey

