



MT. OLIVE BAPTIST CHURCH

February 2023
Church News



Upcoming Events

- 2/4: Youth Service Day, 10:00 a.m.
- 2/11: Ham and Egg Supper, 6:30 p.m.
- 2/12: Senior Adult Valentine Fellowship, 2:00-4:00 p.m.
- 2/18: Game Night, 6:30 p.m.
Youth Trampoline Park Trip, 7:30 p.m.
- 2/25: The Revelation Study, 9:00 a.m.-Noon
- 3/17: Youth Trip to Winter Jam and Lock-in, 4:30 p.m.
- 4/21: Youth Campout, 5:30 p.m.

*Our First Corinthians Study continues Wednesday nights at 7:00 p.m., along with RAs/GAs, and Youth Group.



Mt. Olive,

This month is February, and with it comes Valentine's Day. For whatever reason, we picked February as the month to honor romantic love.

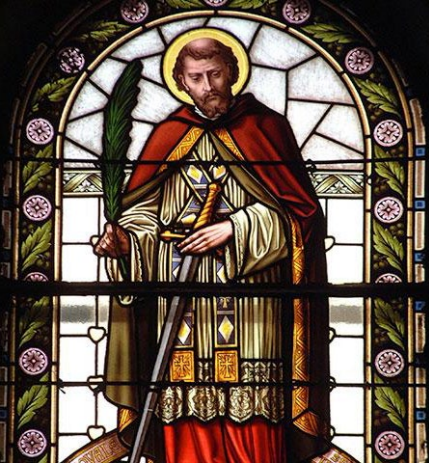
As I sat thinking about this month, I remember all the great memories I have with Anna. Eating at our favorite restaurants, going to see movies, and just spending time together. Over all our years together, I slowly changed. Anna had to teach me about hanging pictures on the wall, decorating your house, and making it home. I had to learn what household chores are important to her; most importantly which chores were important to her that I needed to do. Taking out the trash, emptying the dish washer, or making a gallon of tea all communicate love in our house. It's funny when I look back on who I was in 2016. When we first met each other, I had no idea what it meant to decorate a house, take out all the trash in the house, or kill a spider for my wife. I've learned a lot over the past several years, and I've started to think recently that our relationship with God is a lot like our relationship to our spouse.

We get married and have no idea what our vows really mean. We end up spending the rest of our lives proving them either true or false. That's a lot like following God. When we first become Christians, we have no idea how to study the Bible, how to pray, share our faith, or even attend church properly. All we know is that we are sinners in need of a Savior. All we know is that we trusted and believed that he died for our sins and rose from the grave 3 days later. It's just like marriage, all I knew was that I loved my wife and wanted to become a better man and a better husband for her. In those early days of marriage, I prayed that God would teach me how to love her better, make me the kind of man that it would be easy for Anna to love. And it's taken awhile, but over time God has slowly changed us, making us better suited for each other. God does the same thing in our lives as he transforms us, making us more and more like him.

So as you consider the month of February, as you honor black history month, romantic love, and the second month of the year, remember who you worship. We worship the God who transforms us, enables us, and matures us to become more and more like him. Take some time today to marvel at all the changes God has brought into your life and ask him if there is anything else on which he would like you to work.

Dr. Josh Peeler

February is a time when the school semester is starting to get into full swing in the midst of winter. It also can be a time of drama when relationship challenges (and successes) crop up. For some, prom is coming up, and who is dating who is talked about. For others, the desire for a relationship can be overwhelming. Gossip and “the tea” abound. Are they “dating,” or are they just “friends?” These topics can cut right to our hearts, and shake us “like the trees in the forest” (read Isaiah 7.)



St. Valentine’s day was named for multiple heroically saintly men name Valentine in the earliest of church history, who were killed for witnessing to the truth of Christianity.

It is times like these we must remember most of all to draw the very core of our strength from the Lord. If we are not firm in faith, we will not be firm at all. In the midst of drama, we must surrender our unforgiveness and bitterness towards submission to God. In the midst of success we must put away idolatry and worship of our significant other, to put God first.

When thinking about marriage and dating, what foreknowledge does God give us? Do not be deceived: “Bad company ruins good morals.” God’s wisdom teaches that who we spend a lot of time with influences us to good or evil. We end up spending a lot of time around our friends and they will have a massive impact on our lives. Will this be to our ruin, or to our healing? To our destruction, or to our deliverance?

“I hate the double-minded but I love your law” (Psalm 119). Do we have a mind for following God and a mind for gratifying the desires of the flesh? We must ask, with Psalm 84, for God to “unite our hearts to fear only you.” Please pray that with me this month as we stand together against the schemes of the devil, church!

THIS MONTH LORD WILLING: We are hoping to clean up the property and get it ready for a camp-out when it warms up. We will need lots of help on site Saturday! Later we are going to DefyGravity. Hope you can make it, youth! (If it snows anytime in February, we will also have a snow day at the Church! Be on the lookout!)

February

Saturday the 4th - SERVICE DAY at the property. Show up ready to serve and to clear some sticks, branches etc. Some of us will be making a trail too! Meet at 10am at the Church! Parents Welcome.

Saturday the 18th - TRAMPOLINE PARK in the Triangle. We will meet at the church and test out our best tricks at DefyGravity Apex. Meet at the Church at 7:30pm or onsite at 8:30pm. Parents Welcome (free)

?????????????? – SNOW DAY AT THE CHURCH. We will meet all day at the church if it snows! Hot Cocoa, Pizza, snacks, Snowball fight, snowman contest.



My February
Spotify Playlist!

February

BIRTHDAYS	ANNIVERSARIES	
	1	
Carole Pope	2	Layden & Toni Brazington
Craig Dixon	3	
Eddie Vaughn		
Joseph Thomas	4	
	5	
Abby Jones	6	
	7	
Linda Pickard	8	
	9	
	10	Ray & Jill Morris Bill & Brenda Zachary
Easton Evans	11	
HannahJoy Connor		
	12	
	13	
	14	
Diane Foushee	15	
LaVern Judd		
Carol Pickard	16	
Tom Judd	17	
Evan Moore	18	
Lisa White	19	
	20	
	21	
	22	
Andrea Cheek	23	
Amanda Aldridge	24	
	25	
Terry McPherson	26	
Caitlyn Aldridge	27	
Linda Braxton		
Rhonda Thomas	28	
	29	

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

STORIES OF FAITH IN ACTION

"Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness."

James 1:3

Forward Facing Faith

I recently saw a quote from Sam Elliot. The quote reminded me that we no longer have control over what has happened in the past. We only can affect the present and future. Sam said that there is a reason that the rear-view mirror in a vehicle is so small, and the windshield is much larger. He said where you are heading is more important than where you have been. I have thought about that for several days and realize that there is a lot of truth to those statements. I don't know about you, but I want the rest of my life to be lived for God. I can only imagine the amount of time I have wasted worrying about things that don't really matter in my Christian life. Let's look at a couple of people who realized much of their life was wasted but spent the last several years doing God's work.

Saul was a persecutor of Christians. He thought he was doing the right thing, even believing that God put him in his place. Saul was zealous and believed the new Christians were enemies of God. However, Saul met the Master on the road to Damascus, and his life was changed forever. His name was even changed to Paul. Paul went on multiple missionary journeys and preached to masses of people. He wrote many of the letters of the New Testament. All the energy that Saul used to persecute Christians was redirected to living for Christ. Paul could never undo what he had done to others, but the rest of his life was used to direct others on how to live for Christ. Paul wrote in 2 Corinthians 5:17, "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come."

C.S. Lewis is known worldwide for being the most influential Christian apologist of his time, and for the many books he authored. Mere Christianity was voted best book of the 20th century by Christianity Today. The Chronicles of Narnia had very strong Christian themes aimed at young readers. Many people may not know that Lewis was once an atheist, viewing his religious upbringing as a chore and a duty. He had a strong interest in the occult and argued against God. As a matter of fact, Lewis says that he was brought into Christianity like a prodigal, looking for a reason to escape. In 1931, after years of resisting God's influence in his life, he admitted God was who he said he was, knelt, and prayed for forgiveness. For the entirety of his life, C.S. Lewis served God...even visiting RAF stations to speak on his faith during WW2.

I like to remember that Jesus had a forward-facing faith. Of course, he was God and could see beyond the present. Jesus endured the suffering and pain for everyone who was willing to turn to him. As Christians, we should endure and continue running the race that is set before us as Hebrews 12 states. Love Christ and look forward to what he has in store for all of us...eternal life!

Next month, I plan to have a faith story from someone within our congregation. I hope you will look forward to it, as I am.

Sincerely,

Joe Godfrey

