



MT. OLIVE BAPTIST CHURCH

December 2023



Sunday School, 9:30 a.m. - Worship Service, 10:30 a.m.
Wednesday Nights: RAs/GAs, Youth, and Adult Bible Study, 7:00 p.m.

Upcoming Events

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| Sunday, Dec. 3: | Praise Team Practice, 5:00 p.m.
Choir Practice, 5:45 p.m.
Church Conference, 6:30 p.m. |
| Wednesday, Dec. 6: | Family Night Meal, 6:30 p.m.
RAs/GAs, Youth, and Adult Bible Study, 7:30 p.m. |
| Thursday, Dec. 7: | Sandy Creek Senior Adult Luncheon, 11:00 a.m. |
| Friday, Dec. 15: | Brown Bag Lunch and Bible Study, 12:00 p.m.
Youth Christmas Party, 7:00 p.m. |
| Saturday, Dec. 16: | Senior Adult Christmas Party, 11:00 a.m.
Children's Christmas Party, 3:00 p.m.
Game Night, 6:30 p.m. |
| Sunday, Dec. 17: | Candlelight Service, 6:00 p.m. |
| Wednesday, Dec. 20: | Christmas Caroling, 6:30 p.m. |

Lottie Moon Annual Offering: Sunday, Dec. 3rd - Sunday, Dec. 24th
BEJ Snack Pack Focus: Jelly (squeeze bottles)

*Please send submissions for the January Newsletter to christina@mtolivebaptist.com by December 29th.

Lottie Moon Christmas Card Mailbox

Mt. Olive's Lottie Moon Christmas Card Mailbox will open this year on Sunday, December 3rd. In lieu of paying U.S. postage, make a 50 – cent per card donation to the Lottie Moon Christmas Card Offering, and leave your Christmas Cards in Mt. Olive's box for free delivery to your intended recipients.

The Christmas Card Box will be in our Ladies #2 Sunday School Room, across from the nursery. Please file your cards there in alphabetical order, according to recipient last names, and leave your donation amount in the adjacent money contribution box.

Make checks payable to Mt. Olive Baptist Church with "Lottie Moon" written in the note field. Special Lottie Moon envelopes are also available for those wishing to pay and be credited for their donation.



*Please do not leave cards for those who are not regular attendees of Mt. Olive Baptist Church.

Brown Bag Lunch and Bible Study

Friday, December 15th, at Noon

What Child Is This?

Luke 2:10-12

All of us have heard the story of the birth of Jesus. It is told and acted out in many places and times during this season of Christmas. Yet very few take time to think deeply about this birth and ask "What Child is This?"

This child is much more than a gift of Peace. This child is to be the Savior of the World!



December

BIRTHDAYS		ANNIVERSARIES
	1	
	2	
	3	
	4	
Chad Ray	5	
Lily Zagapolous	6	
	7	Tom & LaVern Judd
	8	
	9	
	10	
Pam Jackson	11	
Hilda Glosson	12	
Loy Thomas, Jr.		
Casey Allred	13	
	14	
Kristina Zachary	15	
	16	Chris & Gwen Norwood
Doug Christopher	17	
Presleigh Andrews	18	
Ella Allred		
Jeff Snyder		
	19	
	20	
Barbara Love	21	
	22	
	23	
	24	
	25	
	26	
Beverly Morris	27	
	28	
	29	
	30	
	31	



It's my favorite time of the year! Somehow Christmas music gets good after Thanksgiving. Leading up to celebrating Christ's birth we probably are most excited about school getting out, but most importantly Jesus has come. Because Jesus is in the world, life has a different meaning than the rest of the world. We are called to boldly stand out from the crowd by living a different life than the other people around us. When you open the Bible on your own this month, in addition to regular readings consider reading parts of the Old Testament which focus on the coming of Christ. These places are mainly in the prophets, such as in Isaiah 1-12 and 40-66, but also many other places. Consider reading through Isaiah by day of the month for 12 days.

As we approach Christmas, look out for people who are in need, ways to love family members and others, and also ways to encourage friends at school. Invite a friend to the evening service on the 17th at Mount Olive and pray for your family members daily.



Bethlehem, Modern Day! (Where Jesus Was Born)

This month at Church we will have our annual Christmas Party! Be sure to bring a 10 dollar valued wrapped gift to play the game "white elephant." The party will be at the church and be sure to bring a friend. Please be aware that bringing a friend wrapped in a box is more than the 10 dollar value!

We also will be having our children's party for kids elementary age! Please let all children know and we will have a great time hopefully!

Coming Up:

- Friday December 15th at 7pm at the Church - Youth Christmas Party
- Saturday December 16th at 3pm at the Church - Children's Christmas Party

Full Calendar!



Read The Bible!

Lord's Day	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					Dec 1 □ Matt 1 □ Psalm 1	Dec 2 □ Matt 2 □ Psalm 2
Dec 3 □ Matt 3 □ Psalm 3 □ Phil 1	Dec 4 □ Matt 4 □ Psalm 4	Dec 5 □ Matt 5 □ Psalm 5	Dec 6 □ Matt 6 □ Psalm 6	Dec 7 □ Matt 7 □ Psalm 7	Dec 8 □ Matt 8 □ Psalm 8	Dec 9 □ Matt 9 □ Psalm 9
Dec 10 □ Matt 10 □ Psalm 10 □ Phil 2	Dec 11 □ Matt 11 □ Psalm 11	Dec 12 □ Matt 12 □ Psalm 12	Dec 13 □ Matt 13 □ Psalm 13	Dec 14 □ Matt 14 □ Psalm 14	Dec 15 □ Matt 15 □ Psalm 15	Dec 16 □ Matt 16 □ Psalm 16
Dec 17 □ Matt 17 □ Psalm 17 □ Phil 3	Dec 18 □ Matt 18 □ Psalm 18	Dec 19 □ Matt 19 □ Psalm 19	Dec 20 □ Matt 20 □ Psalm 20 □ Phil 4	Dec 21 □ Matt 21 □ Psalm 21	Dec 22 □ Matt 22 □ Psalm 22	Dec 23 □ Matt 23 □ Psalm 23
Dec 24 □ Matt 24 □ Psalm 24 □ Matt 1 □ Matt 2	Dec 25 □ Matt 25 □ Psalm 25 □ Luke 2	Dec 26 □ Matt 26 □ Psalm 26	Dec 27 □ Matt 27 □ Psalm 27	Dec 28 □ Matt 28 □ Psalm 28	Dec 29 □ Phil. 1-2 □ Psalm 29	Dec 30 □ Phil. 3 □ Psalm 30
Dec 31 □ Phil. 4 □ Lam. 3	Jan 1 □ Mark 1 □ Psalm 1	Jan 2 □ Mark 2 □ Psalm 2	Jan 3 □ Mark 3 □ Psalm 3			

Stories of Faith in Action

Faith--- Opportunities to Serve

When December rolls around every year, I take the time to reflect on the past year and determine where I can best serve God when the next year comes. In 2023, Mt. Olive Baptist Church has participated in multiple acts of service in our community and our country. I am amazed at the service opportunities that our local church is a part of. It is one thing to say you are going to do something, but it is another thing to do it. Everyone who is part of God's kingdom should feel obligated to serve others, just as Christ served people when he was living on earth over 2000 years ago. Jesus provided an example of what those who love God should do, and we are commanded to follow that example. Below I want to list just some of the opportunities that Mt. Olive took part in during 2023.

Lottie Moon Christmas offering (happening right now)	Red Box Ministry
Annie Armstrong Easter offering	NC Missions offering
Appalachian Backpack ministry	Vacation Bible School
BEJ Snack pack ministry (ongoing)	Youth Summer Camp (Living Water)
Mother's Day offering (Wake Forest Baptist)	Church Barbecue
Baptist Children's Home Food Drive	Church Farm workday
Heck-Jones offering (WMU)	Baptist Retirement Homes offering
Thanksgiving Sonshine boxes	Mountaire Farms Thanksgiving for Thousands

You may not see by looking at the above list, but these opportunities to serve others run year-round. Some of them take less physical effort (such as offerings), but they are just as important because they help other people. God has enabled and blessed all of us to be able to contribute time, money, and effort to serving those in our community, state, country, and world. As we have seen in the news lately, our world desperately needs to see and hear the truth of the risen Savior, Jesus Christ. War seems to be around every corner, and suicide in the U.S. is at an all-time high. Many times, the only way people may see Jesus is by seeing him work through us as Christians. I get excited when I see others willing to help with any mission opportunity. There is a place for all age groups!

Christmastime is a great time of the year to show the love that Jesus showed us by sacrificing himself so that we can have eternal life. Share through missions and giving. Most of us have a roof over our head, food to eat, health, heat, and family. Many in our world don't see the hope that we can see. Be willing to share with others, even if it a kind word or deed. You never know...that kind word or deed may change their lives forever. I hope all of you have a blessed Christmas!

Have a Blessed Christmas,

Joe Godfrey

Appalachian Christmas Ministry

This year, Mt. Olive filled 25 backpacks that will be distributed to children in the Appalachian area this Christmas. Each bag contained toys, toiletries, food items, and a copy of The Christmas Story. Thanks to everyone who made this possible by donating products throughout the year!



2023 Church Barbecue

Mt. Olive's annual barbecue took place on November 4th. It was a time of great food and fellowship, and everyone enjoyed live music by Redeemed Harmony. We appreciate the many volunteers that worked countless hours to make this year's barbecue a success!







Mt. Olive Baptist Church

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