



October 2025



I have been thinking a lot lately about joy. Now, given the events of the last month or so, you may be asking why. That is something I have thought about as well. Perhaps it is because there are many thieves to joy in this world. Catastrophe comes, sorrow builds, trials seem never-ending, stress, anxiety, you could go on and on. These are joy thieves. Of course, they are legitimate thieves. We cannot minimize the emotional impact of these negative experiences. But, there is the biblical call to joy.

In his final appeals to the church at Thessalonica, Paul says, “Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you” (1 Thess. 5:16-18). Notice how we are to rejoice, always. Again, we know that it is difficult to do that on a consistent basis. But, the text tells us that this is “the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.” It is the will of God for you to rejoice always. He loves to fill His people with joy.

Along with the call to rejoice always, I believe there are tools to help us “rejoice always” in the passage as well. First, we “pray without ceasing.” In that we give all our cares and concerns to God and leave the results to His good will. We look to God in prayer. Second, we “give thanks for all circumstances.” Paul doesn’t say, “give thanks when there is something to be thankful for.” No, he says to do it in “all circumstances.” That is good, bad, or indifferent. Thankfulness and prayer are fuels for joy.

But, how can we do that? How can we “rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances?” The answer is given in v. 18, “in Christ Jesus.” It is only when we are in Christ that we can experience true joy in all circumstances. Why? Because we look to the end of all things, not just the present. We look to God and our place in eternity with Him. This is all because we are in Christ. We are His children, and we trust our good Father. Look to Jesus, pour out your heart to God, and thank Him for His work in your life. All things will work together for our good because they are making us more like our Savior. So, let us strive to rejoice always to the glory of God, and let us encourage one another to grow in the grace to do this.

Pastor Travis

Youth and Family Discipleship

Hello church family!

First of all, let me say thank you from the bottom of my heart for recognizing me on my one year anniversary at Mt. Olive. And let me say, it has been a huge privilege to be with y'all this past year. I know no church is perfect, but it has been such a blessing to me and to my family to be worshipping with y'all this year. I can't imagine being anywhere else right now.

On October 10-12, I will be taking several of our youth back to Ambassador Camp at Lake Waccamaw for a Life Retreat. Please pray for our safety, but most of all, spiritual growth.

Right now, on Sunday mornings, we are still studying through Luke, most recently in chapter 12, talking about anxiety and also about being ready for Jesus' second coming. On Wednesday nights, we are continuing to study systematic theology. We just finished a section specifically about God and also about his providence, so we were asking some really tough questions about pain and suffering in the world and other difficult topics. We are getting ready to begin a section about humanity and sin.

Please pray for me also as I go to a Pillar Network conference at Southeastern seminary October 7-8. The topic is Multiplying Churches and equipping congregations in raising up future pastors, planters, & missionaries for Great Commission efforts. There is also a breakout extra session that will be led by the (IMB) International Mission Board (the SBC's international missions arm), specifically focusing on the Central Asia region. The IMB with Central Asia is who we worked with for 14 years before we moved back to the States, so not only should it be a great benefit spiritually and strategically, but I will also see some of my former beloved co-workers from the mission field.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Jason



Mt. Olive Sunday School Breakfast
Sunday, September 7, 2025

Faith--- Living Boldly in a Hateful World

Faith can sometimes lead to risky situations, and speaking up for your beliefs is often more difficult than staying quiet. Being a Christian believer means accepting some risks as you share your faith with others. God expects us to be bold and willing to put Christ first, sharing his good news. Today, just as in the days of Esther, faith and courage remain essential qualities for us to demonstrate. Whether it's standing up for what is right in our workplaces, supporting people in need, or facing challenges in our community, strong faith inspires others and helps build a stronger fellowship among us.

As I spent time reading the Book of Esther recently, I was inspired by Esther's unwavering faith—how she fully trusted God in the face of real danger. Esther was a beautiful and intelligent Jewish woman who lived in Persia during the reign of Xerxes. She was chosen by Xerxes to be the new queen after he vanquished the previous queen. After a period, Xerxes was tricked into issuing an edict stating all Jews were to be killed because Haman hated Mordecai. Esther found out about the plot and devised a plan with Mordecai to enter the king's inner court. It took tremendous faith for Esther to go into the king's court, as he would have to extend the gold scepter before she could enter or be killed. Before acting, Esther asked all the Jews in the city to fast for three days, showing spiritual preparation and dependence on God. Xerxes did extend his scepter, and Esther was able to devise a plan to save the Jews and have Haman killed instead. The event is still commemorated today with the Festival of Purim.

Charlie Kirk was a man who embodied true faith and courage in a different way. Whereas Esther literally risked her life to save her people, Charlie risked his life acting out his faith by speaking truth, defending Christian values, and opposing popular secular views. Charlie Kirk believed faith should define him more than any political achievement. He stated, "I want to be remembered for my courage for my faith." Charlie knew the dangers of speaking against the norms of society but took the risk because his mission was to share Christ and speak truth. He framed his words and answers in terms of eternal judgment and what mattered in God's eyes. He believed that being a Christian means accepting risk — that there may be social, reputational, even physical costs — but that truth and faith call for boldness. Charlie's life was cut short by someone who had become more progressive and opposed to conservative beliefs. His life serves as a reminder that bold faith may come at a cost—but it also leaves behind a testimony that can't be silenced.

In a world filled with hate and darkness, living out your faith is never easy. Esther knew this. She called for fasting and prayer before risking her life, no doubt shaped by her devotion to God. Charlie Kirk knew it too, and it cost him his life. So how do we respond when our faith is challenged? When speaking the truth feels risky or uncomfortable, do we stand firm, or do we stay silent to keep the peace? "Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness." (Acts 4:29) May we be people who speak with the same boldness as Esther and Charlie Kirk, who stand without fear, and who leave behind a legacy of faith worth following. Will our lives, like theirs, point others to the God who gives us the courage to stand.

May God's Peace Prevail,

Joe Godfrey



Friday, October 31st
6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Fellowship & refreshments
afterwards!



Saturday, November 1st
5:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

BBQ pork & chicken with all the fixins!

Donations of tea and desserts will be needed.
Dinner is free!

Fall Conference *“Grace Alone”*

November 14th and 15th
Time: TBA



Speakers:
Lee Callicutt
Jones Ndzi



*October is Pastor
Appreciation Month.
Thank you, Pastor Travis
and Pastor Jason,
for all that you do!*

Serving This Month

Deacon of the Week

10-05 Craig Dixon
10-12 Charles Nunn
10-19 Glenn Williams
10-26 Rex Zachary

BEJ Snack Pack

Joe & Renee Godfrey
The Discovery Class
Keith & Nancy
The Norwood Family

Nursery

10-05 Teresa Garner & Kristina Zachary
10-12 Pam Jackson & Maria Wilske
10-19 Kim & Madison Bodine
10-26 Tammie Marley & Cindy Marshall

Children's Church

Cindy Marshall
Kristina Zachary
Tammie Marley
Jane Majors

Pastor: Travis Bodine, pastor@mtolivebaptist.com
Associate Pastor: Jason Lewis, family@mtolivebaptist.com
Secretary: Christina Wilkins, christina@mtolivebaptist.com

<https://www.mtolivebaptist.com/>
Church Office: 336-376-3788

Mt. Olive Baptist Church

Sunday School, 9:30 a.m. – Worship Service, 10:30 a.m.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	29	30	1 Family Night Meal 6:30 p.m. RAs/GAs, Youth, & Adult Bible Study 7:30 p.m. Birthday: Cindy Marshall	2 Birthday: Donna Andrews	3	4 Birthday: Deanne Vaughn
5	6 WMU Group 1 Meeting 2:00 p.m. Marshall Home Fellowship 6:30 p.m. Anniversary: John & Cindy Marshall	7 Yarnoff Home Fellowship 6:30 p.m.	8 RAs/GAs, Youth, & Adult Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Birthday: Corinne Norwood	9	10	11
12 Choir Practice 5:00 p.m. Birthday: Emma Evans	13 Marshall Home Fellowship 6:30 p.m. Birthday: Laura Thomas	14 Yarnoff Home Fellowship 6:30 p.m. Birthday: Bill Zachary	15 RAs/GAs, Youth, & Adult Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Anniversary: John & Doris Marshall	16	17 Birthday: Ruth Ann Jones	18 Game Night 6:30 p.m. Birthdays: Layden Brazington JoAnn McPherson
19 Praise Team Practice 5:00 p.m.	20 Marshall Home Fellowship 6:30 p.m.	21 Yarnoff Home Fellowship 6:30 p.m.	22 RAs/GAs, Youth, & Adult Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Birthdays: Ann Andrews Abegale Lawson Anniversary: Jimmy & Lisa White	23 Birthday: Tony Glosson	24 Birthday: Dan Cheek	25
26 Deacons' Meeting 4:30 p.m. Praise Team Practice 5:00 p.m.	27 Newsletter Deadline Marshall Home Fellowship 6:30 p.m. Sandy Creek Fall Gathering 6:30 p.m.	28 Yarnoff Home Fellowship 6:30 p.m.	29 RAs/GAs, Youth, & Adult Bible Study 7:00 p.m.	30	31 Trunk-or-Treat 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.	1 Community BBQ 5:00-7:30 p.m.