



December 2025



As we approach the celebration of our Savior’s birth, I am filled with the joy, hope, and wonder that Christmas brings. This season lifts our eyes again to the glorious truth of the Incarnation—that the eternal Son of God took on flesh, dwelt among us, and came to redeem His people from their sins. What a powerful reminder of God’s sovereign grace and steadfast love toward His church.

I am thankful for each of you and for the many ways the Lord has blessed Mt. Olive this past year. We have witnessed His faithfulness in sustaining us, strengthening our fellowship, and deepening our hunger for His Word. Whether through answered prayers, renewed commitment to discipleship, or quiet acts of service, the Lord has shown Himself kind and generous to us. We rejoice, not in our own strength, but in the One who promised, “I will build My church.”

As we look forward to a new year, I want to encourage us to renew our focus on gospel outreach. The same Christ who came into the world as the Light of men has commissioned us to bear witness to that light (Matt. 28:18-20; Acts 1:8). With confidence in God’s sovereignty and the power of His Word, let us pray for open doors, engage our neighbors with compassion, and speak the truth of the gospel with clarity and boldness. Our community is filled with those who need the hope that only Christ can give.

Thank you, Mt. Olive, for your faithfulness, love, and partnership in the work of the gospel. May the peace of Christ rule in your hearts this Christmas season, and may the coming year be marked by renewed zeal for His glory.

Pastor Travis

Youth and Family Discipleship

Merry Christmas!

It's the most wonderful time of the year! Why? Because this is the time of year that we celebrate the incarnation- God becoming man. The eternal Son of God, the second person of the Trinity, took on human flesh, became of us. No one could have made up a religion like this. Really, the cross and resurrection is the centerpiece of our faith, therefore Easter is really our central holiday as Christians. But Easter wouldn't even have been possible if Christmas hadn't happened. Jesus' work on the cross would not have been effectual if he had not been both God and man. A true human had to be the one to pay for human sin. But a mere sinful human could not pay for the sins of other humans. It had to be a perfect being who could absorb the wrath of God. Only God is perfect, so the one who had to be the saving sacrifice for our sins, therefore, had to be God. The bridge, the mediator, between God and man had to be both.

Providentially, on our Wednesday night systematic theology Bible studies, we just came to the unit about "who Jesus is." The first week of December, we are talking about the incarnation! Perfect timing that wasn't planned by anyone but God.

On Sunday mornings, we are still studying Luke; we are currently in Luke 15 which includes the parable of the prodigal son.

There will be a Christmas party for youth AND children on Wednesday night, December 10 from 6PM to 8PM. Please come and enjoy!

Grace and Peace,
Jason

She will bear a son,
and you shall call
his name Jesus,
for he will save his people
from their sins.

Matthew 1:21



gathered together

On Saturday, November 1st, Mt. Olive held its annual community barbecue. Everyone enjoyed barbecue pork and chicken with all the fixin's, as well as numerous desserts. It was a night of fun, fellowship, and community outreach.

Many hours of preparation and hard work went into organizing and preparing for the event. We are thankful for all of our church members who make this possible each year!



Faith--- Surrendering in All Things

As I have grown older, I look back at times in my life when I can see how God brought me through adversity and difficult circumstances, and how my faith was shaped by those encounters. I am certain all of you can remember those times as well. How did those moments with God shape your faith? In this December edition of the newsletter, I want to look at Mary's encounter with God and how her life was shaped by her response to Him.

In Luke 1:26–38, we read that God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth to speak to Mary. Imagine the scene: a very young, virgin girl being told she would give birth to the *Son of the Most High*. The message was overwhelming, humanly impossible, and full of unknowns. Yet in this moment we see one of the most powerful examples of faith ever recorded. Mary didn't demand proof. She didn't ask for guarantees. She didn't wait to see how everything would work out. She surrendered.

Faith begins with trust. Mary believed that if God asked something of her, He would provide what she needed. Faith doesn't mean we won't have questions. Mary's situation undoubtedly stirred fear in her heart. When we face something so unexpected that it stretches our faith, how do we respond? Do we trust God's character more than we trust the fear surrounding the situation? Faith isn't the absence of questions—it's the presence of trust.

Another aspect of faith is that it invites surrender. When Mary received God's promise through Gabriel, she wasn't given a roadmap showing how everything would unfold. Faith didn't tell her how Joseph would react, how her community would treat her, or what the future would require of her. Yet her response was not hesitant or conditional; it was an act of surrender: *"I am the Lord's servant. May your word to me be fulfilled."*

The final aspect of faith is perseverance. Faith isn't something we believe just once; it's something we keep believing—especially as circumstances shift, prayers seem unanswered, or God's promises unfold slowly. Persevering faith is the quiet, steady choice to stay anchored in God even when the answers aren't clear. One of the most powerful images of Mary's persevering faith is her standing at the foot of Jesus' cross (John 19:25–27). Everything the angel promised decades earlier appears to be unraveling. She sees her Son suffering, the Messiah rejected, and her own soul pierced just as Simeon foretold. Yet Mary stays. She does not run or distance herself from the pain. Her presence is itself an act of faith. She holds on to God even when her understanding collapses. Mary's perseverance shows that faith is not just for beginnings (trust) or major turning points (surrender); it is for the long, difficult middle—when we stay committed to God's purposes despite suffering, confusion, or silence.

Trust, surrender, and perseverance form a natural progression of what biblical faith looks like. Faith starts when we trust God, grows when we're willing to let go, and stays strong when we keep going even when life is hard. Mary shows us this beautifully, reminding us that faith is simply saying "yes" to God again and again in our everyday lives.

I hope everyone has a remarkable Christmas season! May God bless you and sustain you.

Merry Christmas to All,
Joe Godfrey



November 30th – December 21st

Lottie Moon Christmas Card Mailbox

November 30th – December 21st

(located in the former Ladies #2 Sunday school room, across from the nursery)



Combined Baby Shower for Ashley Yarnoff and Lauren Rhyne

Sunday, December 7th, from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Both ladies are expecting baby girls!



Christmas Party

for youth and children!

Wednesday, December 10th, from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.



Christmas Caroling

Wednesday, December 17th, at 6:30 p.m.

(fellowship and refreshments afterwards)

Christmas Music Program

Sunday, December 21st, at 6:00 p.m.

(followed by fellowship and refreshments)





Serving This Month

Deacon of the Week

12-07 Mike Jackson
 12-14 Steve Jones
 12-21 Mike Marley
 12-28 Craig Dixon

BEJ Snack Pack

The Discovery Class
 Keith Marshall & Nancy Vickers
 Christmas Break
 Christmas Break

Nursery

12-07 Pam Jackson
 12-14 Kim & Madison Bodine
 12-21 Teresa Garner & Cindy Marshall
 12-28 Tammie Marley

Children's Church

Cindy Marshall
 Kristina Zachary
 Tammie Marley
 Jane Majors



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Mt. Olive Baptist Church

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



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	1 Marshall Home Fellowship 6:30 p.m.	2 Yarnoff Home Fellowship 6:30 p.m.	3 Family Night Meal 6:30 p.m. RAs/GAs, Youth, & Adult Bible Study 7:30 p.m.	4	5 Birthdays: Chad Ray Lily Zagapolous	6
7 Yarnoff/Rhyne Baby Shower 2:00-4:00 p.m. Praise Team Practice 5:00 p.m. Church Conference 6:30 p.m.	8 WMU Group 1 Meeting 2:00 p.m. Marshall Home Fellowship 6:30 p.m.	9 Yarnoff Home Fellowship 6:30 p.m.	10 Youth & Children's Christmas Party 6:00-8:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study 7:00 p.m.	11 Birthdays: Pam Jackson Jodi Morris	12 Birthdays: Hilda Glosson Loy Thomas, Jr.	13 Birthday: Casey Allred
14 Choir Practice Time TBD	15 Marshall Home Fellowship 6:30 p.m. Birthday: Kristina Zachary	16 Yarnoff Home Fellowship 6:30 p.m. Anniversary: Chris & Gwen Norwood	17 Christmas Caroling 6:30 p.m. Birthday: Doug Christopher	18 Birthdays: Presleigh Andrews Ella Allred Jeff Snyder	19 Birthday: Ashley Yarnoff	20
21 Christmas Music Program 6:00 p.m. Birthday: Barbara Love	22	23	24	25 Birthday: Nolan Yarnoff	26	27 Birthday: Beverly Morris
28	29 Birthday: Ben Yarnoff	30 Anniversary: Rick & Jodi Morris	31	1	2	3