



*February 2026*

God's  
*love*  
endures  
**FOREVER.**

Psalm 136:1

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“Life is not a sprint, it’s a marathon.” Perhaps you have heard this before. Usually it is used for achieving long-term goals, or patiently waiting things out. But, this statement is true of the Christian life as well. Paul wrote in 1 Cor. 9:24, “Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it.” Life is, indeed, a race. But, what does it mean to run so that we may obtain the prize of Christ?

First, think about what it takes to win a marathon. It is much different than a sprint. To win a sprint requires explosive speed over a short distance. Specific muscles need to be trained, different training takes place, and you go all out immediately while continuing that speed for the duration of the race. In a marathon you win by having endurance, using your muscles efficiently, and having a disciplined pace that you can maintain over a long distance. A marathon requires endurance and restraint.

Second, these are different mental practices. A sprinter can see the finish line and knows that if they go all out right away, and commit to that with all confidence, they can get there. A marathon runner cannot see the finish line immediately. So they must be patient, endure suffering, and be committed even when the excitement of the start or finish seem far off. You have to endure to the end.

We are marathon runners brothers and sisters. Often we begin the Christian life with excitement. But, as the race goes on we begin to go through the routine. Isn’t it easy to lose hope when suffering comes, or when the race seems difficult? We go through mountain top experiences, low valley shadows, and flat uneventful stretches. But, to faithfully endure we must look to Christ. This is really what sanctification is all about. It is slowly becoming more like the one who is our goal. Christ!

May we all run this marathon of the Christian life well. My prayer is that we can say with Paul again in 2 Timothy 4:7-8, “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.”

*Pastor Travis*

# Youth and Family Discipleship

It has been a great start to the new year! The youth spent one of our Wednesday nights sharing our testimonies with each other and brainstorming about some of the upcoming things we might like to do. We also have continued our systematic theology study on Wednesday nights; currently we are on the topic of Christ. What a great topic, right?! On Sunday mornings, we continue our study of Luke. I think it has been really encouraging the past few weeks thinking about the "already" and the "not yet" of the Kingdom of God.

## Upcoming events:

Sunday, February 1, 4:30-8:30- youth night of worship at Pittsboro Baptist Church FREE, including taco dinner

Saturday night, February 14- Winter Jam concert in Greensboro

If you haven't yet, please let me know if you are going to these events.

*Grace and peace!*  
*Jason*



**No Other Name**  
**Youth Night of Worship**  
Message by **PJ Cuba** (Conway, SC)      Worship Led By:  
*The Carlson Family*  
**Sunday, February 1<sup>st</sup> 2026**  
**5:30pm**  
**Pittsboro Baptist Church**  
**121 West Salisbury Street Pittsboro**

We invite you to Pittsboro Baptist Church on February 1<sup>st</sup> for an evening of worship with area youth groups called "No Other Name." Our vision is to invite students to worship the unmatched name of Jesus—our Savior and Lord—who alone is worthy of our praise and our lives. Event is FREE. Please join us!

More info? Contact Peter McDonald / 336.504.4887 or [pastorpeterpbc@gmail.com](mailto:pastorpeterpbc@gmail.com)

For more event details and registration (not required), scan here:



**Youth Winter Jam**  
**Saturday,**  
**February 14<sup>th</sup>**

## Faith--- What is True Love?

Love is one of the clearest ways we can experience God at work in our lives. Scripture reminds us that “Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love” (1 John 4:8), and that love is not simply something we talk about, but something we are called to live out daily. Often, it’s in the quiet, ordinary moments that love becomes most visible — moments where faith meets action. It’s those simple, everyday things—like a gentle word or a helping hand—that really show what love is all about.

I remember hearing a story about a man who visited his wife in a nursing home every single day. Even as her memory slipped away and she couldn’t remember who he was, he kept showing up. Someone once asked him why he kept coming if she didn’t even know him anymore. He simply said, “She might not know me, but I still know her.” That response has stayed with me, because it reflects a love that is patient, faithful, and unwavering — a love not based on convenience or reward, but on commitment. This story reminds us that real love sticks around, even when it isn’t noticed. True devotion isn’t just about big, flashy actions - it’s about showing up for each other, day in and day out.

This kind of love is a direct reflection of how God loves us. The Bible says, “Love is patient, love is kind... It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres” (1 Corinthians 13:4,7). God sticks with us no matter what, even when we mess up or feel lost. Just like the man in that story, God knows us inside and out and keeps loving us, even when we miss seeing Him at work in our lives. Honestly, it’s comforting to know there’s love that never quits, no matter what.

Jesus showed this kind of love in everything He did. He cared for people by serving them, reaching out to those nobody else noticed, and forgiving even when folks didn’t deserve it. In John 15:13, Jesus said, “Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.” He didn’t just talk about love—He proved it by living it and giving everything for us. His life and sacrifice are a real reminder that love isn’t just a warm, fuzzy feeling; it’s about stepping up, being there, and trusting God even when it’s tough. That’s the kind of love we should show, too—just doing little things every day that really matter.

As people following Jesus, we’re meant to show that same kind of agape love—the deep, selfless love that comes straight from God. The Bible says, “Let us love one another, for love comes from God” (1 John 4:7). When we pick patience instead of getting annoyed, show grace instead of judging, and help others instead of just thinking about ourselves, we’re actually living out our faith in real, everyday ways. That’s how love—agape love—becomes our story to share.

As we think about love during this season, let’s remember that real love starts with faith. When we care for others the way Jesus cares for us, we show the world what God’s love really looks like. That kind of love doesn’t need fancy words or big gestures - it’s the everyday stuff that matters most, and it’s the best gift we can give each other.

Wishing you a wonderful February,

Joe Godfrey

# Upcoming Special Offerings

(specific dates will be announced soon)



## Annual Offering

A promotional poster for the 2026 Heck-Jones Offering for WMU North Carolina. The poster features a central illustration of an open book with a bouquet of purple and white flowers growing from it. Below the book, the text "Stories of Joy" is written in a purple script font. Underneath that is a quote: "...then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind." attributed to Philippians 2:2. The poster is decorated with several small photographs showing diverse groups of people, including children, a large group in a red shirt, and people in traditional clothing. In the bottom right corner, there is a QR code with the text "SCAN ME" above it, and the following text: "2026 HECK-JONES® Offering", "WEEK OF PRAYER for WMU NC", "GOAL: \$325,000", and "www.wmunc.org". The WMU North Carolina logo is in the top right corner.

# Ham & Egg Supper



Saturday, February 21<sup>st</sup>  
at 6:30 p.m.

Followed by Game Night!

## Serving This Month

### Deacon of the Week

- 2-01 Phillip Thomas  
2-08 Jimmy White  
2-15 Ben Yarnoff  
2-22 Joe Godfrey

### BEJ Snack Pack

- Joe & Renee Godfrey  
The Discovery Class  
Keith Marshall & Nancy Vickers  
The Norwood Family

### Nursery

- 2-01 Oscar & Jane Majors  
2-08 Lisa & Jimmy White  
2-15 Kim & Madison Bodine  
2-22 Suzanne & Elizabeth Jones

### Children's Church

- Cindy Marshall  
Kristina Zachary  
Tammie Marley  
Jane Majors



Pastor: Travis Bodine, [pastor@mtolivebaptist.com](mailto:pastor@mtolivebaptist.com)  
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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
<b>1</b> Youth Night of Worship 4:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.  Ladies Chorus Practice 5:00 p.m.	<b>2</b> Marshall Home Fellowship 6:30 p.m.  Anniversary: Layden & Toni Brazington	<b>3</b> Yarnoff Home Fellowship 6:30 p.m.  Birthday: Craig Dixon	<b>4</b> Family Night Meal 6:30 p.m.  RAs/GAs, Youth, & Adult Bible Study 7:30 p.m.  Birthday: Joseph Thomas	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> Birthday: Abby Jones	<b>7</b> New Members Class 9:00 – 10:30
<b>8</b> Choir Practice 5:00 p.m.  Birthday: Linda Pickard	<b>9</b> WMU Group 1 Meeting 2:00 p.m.  Marshall Home Fellowship 6:30 p.m.	<b>10</b> Yarnoff Home Fellowship 6:30 p.m.  Anniversary: Bill & Brenda Zachary	<b>11</b> RAs/GAs, Youth, & Adult Bible Study 7:00 p.m.	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Youth Winter Jam in Greensboro
<b>15</b> Praise Team Practice 5:00 p.m.  Birthday: LaVern Judd	<b>16</b> Marshall Home Fellowship 6:30 p.m.	<b>17</b> Yarnoff Home Fellowship 6:30 p.m.  Birthday: Sydney Ashley	<b>18</b> RAs/GAs, Youth, & Adult Bible Study 7:00 p.m.  Birthday: Evan Moore	<b>19</b> Birthday: Lisa White	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> Ham & Egg Supper & Game Night 6:30 p.m.
<b>22</b> Deacons' Meeting 4:30 p.m.  Praise Team Practice 5:00 p.m.	<b>23</b> Marshall Home Fellowship 6:30 p.m.  Newsletter Deadline	<b>24</b> Yarnoff Home Fellowship 6:30 p.m.	<b>25</b> RAs/GAs, Youth, & Adult Bible Study 7:00 p.m.  Birthday: Joey Ashley	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> Birthday: Rhonda Thomas