



January 2026



Jesus clearly defined His mission in Luke 19:10: “For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.” This purpose, ultimately fulfilled through His death and resurrection, continues to shape the life and calling of the church. The Great Commission in Matthew 28 and its expansion in Acts 1:8 remind believers that the gospel is meant to move outward—to neighbors, nations, and the ends of the earth—through Spirit-empowered witnesses. God’s people are not called to passive faith, but to active obedience, trusting that the same authority and presence of Christ accompanies them as they go, teach, and proclaim salvation in Him.

Philip serves as a compelling example of this obedient, outward-focused faith. First introduced in Acts 6, Philip was scattered by persecution yet remained faithful in preaching the Word wherever he went. His ministry in Samaria resulted in great joy, demonstrating that God often advances His kingdom through hardship rather than in spite of it. When the Lord directed Philip to a desert road without explanation, Philip obeyed immediately. His willingness to go, without hesitation or understanding, reveals a deep trust in God and a love not only for the Lord but also for the lost.

That obedience led Philip to a single individual: an Ethiopian eunuch searching the Scriptures but excluded from full worship. Guided by the Spirit, Philip explained Isaiah’s prophecy and proclaimed Christ’s life, death, and resurrection, leading the eunuch to faith and baptism. This encounter reminds us that no moment is accidental and no person is beyond God’s reach. The Spirit orchestrates salvation, prepares hearts, and empowers witnesses, calling believers to faithful obedience rather than visible results.

Like Philip, Christians today are called to listen, go, speak, and trust, confident that God will use obedient faith to seek and save the lost for His glory. I would love to see us grow in our outreach and evangelistic efforts this year. Let us trust the Lord and be willing to go. If you have any ideas about how Mt. Olive can do this well, let me know. I would gladly discuss this with you.

Pastor Travis

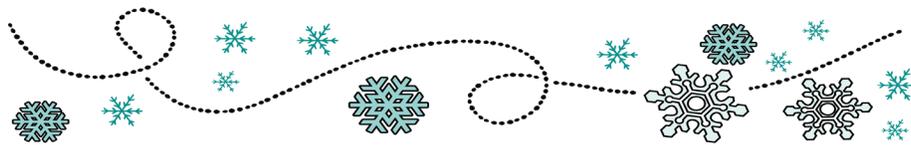
Youth and Family Discipleship

Happy New Year!

It has been wonderful celebrating the birth of the King this past month. We had our youth and children's Christmas party which was organized chaos. It was beautiful chaos, though. We had a great time eating, practicing singing for the Christmas program, taking portraits by the Christmas tree, and making cards for our homebound church members. I was proud of the youth; they really were helpful making this a special time for the young ones. The singing at the Christmas program went well, leading off the night with *Hark the Herald Angels Sing*, which is my personal favorite Christmas carol because of such great lyrics as these: "veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail the Incarnate Deity; pleased as man with men to dwell; Jesus our Immanuel."

We continue in our study of Luke on Sunday mornings in chapter 17 and in our systematic theology study Wednesday nights with the study of Christ currently. May God be lifted high in the new year 2026!

Jason



Our First through Fifth Grade Sunday School Class had a great time making ornaments while they were learning about the real reason for the Christmas season!



Faith--- New Beginnings

I don't know if you are like me, but I don't make New Years resolutions. I have tried several times but have never been able to make it through the year while keeping the resolution 100%. Most people do set goals and look ahead at the next year with high hopes and some uncertainty. Scripture reminds believers that the most important foundation for the year ahead is not self-improvement, but faith - a confident trust in God and His promises. Faith gives direction to our plans and stability to our hopes, reminding us that God's character doesn't change even as everything else turns a page.

The Bible defines faith for us in Hebrews 11:1: "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen." At the start of a new year, much of what lies ahead is unseen. We do not know the challenges we will face, or the blessings God will provide, but faith allows us to move forward without fear. In 2026, we can be encouraged to believe that God is with us in every uncertain moment and that His plans are good, even if they happen in ways we don't anticipate.

Faith shapes how we plan. Proverbs 3:5-6 reminds us, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths." Many of us have experienced years where our plans worked out—and years where they did not. As we set goals for the year—whether spiritual, relational, physical, or practical—we are called first to submit those plans to God. Faith teaches us to hold our plans with humility, inviting God to guide us and being willing to follow His direction even when it differs from our own expectations.

A new year can cause us to reflect on the past. Some will begin January grateful, while others feel the weight of mistakes or loss. Scripture gives us hope: "The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning" (Lamentations 3:22–23). Faith reminds us that God does not start the year with condemnation, but with mercy. Our lives are not defined by past failures or successes; we are sustained by God's grace today.

As 2026 unfolds, faith should be something we live out day by day. Newness will wear off and challenges will surely come. Paul's words provide steady guidance: "For we walk by faith, not by sight" (2 Corinthians 5:7). Walking by faith means trusting when answers are slow to come, practicing obedience when our path is unclear, and securing hope when we are discouraged. It is a steady reliance on God, even when progress seems minimal.

As January begins, we get a chance to look ahead with hope. New beginnings don't have to be big or perfect—they often start with small steps and open hearts. No matter where we're coming from, 2026 is an invitation to let go of the past and trust that God will be working, guiding, and making things new. As we move forward together at Mount Olive Baptist Church, we can take comfort in knowing our faith brings us together and helps carry us through. By showing kindness to one another and trusting God along the way, we can step into this new year feeling supported, hopeful, and never alone.

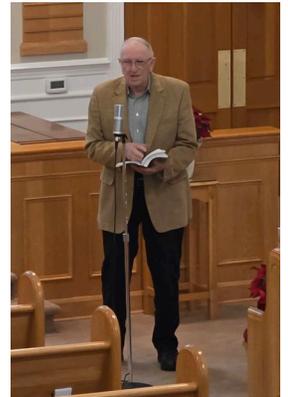
Happy New Year to All,

Joe Godfrey





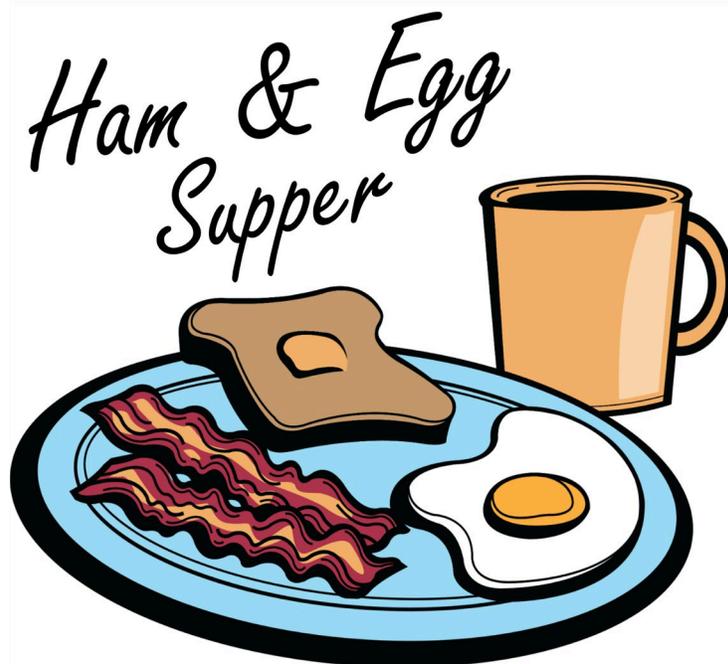
Christmas Music Service



BAPTIST RETIREMENT HOMES
FOUNDATION

Annual Offering

January 25th – February 8th



Saturday, January 24th, at 6:30 p.m.

Followed by Game Night!

O Lord, let my
New Year's resolution
be to 
follow you
more closely
and to
trust in your
loving guidance.



Serving This Month

Deacon of the Week

1-04 Charles Nunn
1-11 Glenn Williams
1-18 Rex Zachary
1-25 Steve McCarty

BEJ Snack Pack

The Norwood Family
The Jones Family
The Bodine Family
Jane Majors

Nursery

1-04 Jimmy & Lisa White
1-11 Pam Jackson & Joan Snyder
1-18 Cindy Marshall & Maria Wilske
1-25 Tammie Marley & Kristina Zachary

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

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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
28	29	30	31	1	2	3 Birthday: Oscar Majors
4	5 Marshall Home Fellowship 6:30 p.m.	6 Yarnoff Home Fellowship 6:30 p.m. Birthday: Payton Wilkins	7 RAs/GAs, Youth, and Adult Bible Study 7:00 p.m. (no Family Night Meal)	8	9	10
11 Choir Practice 5:00 p.m. Birthday: Jackson Batchelor	12 WMU Group 1 Meeting 2:00 p.m. Marshall Home Fellowship 6:30 p.m.	13 Yarnoff Home Fellowship 6:30 p.m. Birthday: Jimmy White	14 RAs/GAs, Youth, and Adult Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Birthday: Debbie Henry	15	16 Birthday: Joyce Tarrant	17 Birthday: John C. Marshall Anniversary: Jeff & Joan Snyder
18 Praise Team Practice 5:00 p.m.	19 Marshall Home Fellowship 6:30 p.m. Birthday: Layton Curl	20 Yarnoff Home Fellowship 6:30 p.m. Anniversary: Willie & Rhonda Thomas	21 RAs/GAs, Youth, and Adult Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Birthday: Christina Wilkins	22 Birthdays: Hannah Jones Black Lisa Kernodle	23 Birthday: Elizabeth Jones	24 Ham & Egg Supper/Game Night 6:30 p.m. Birthday: Alice Cheek
25 Deacons' Meeting 4:30 p.m. Praise Team Practice 5:00 p.m. Birthday: Hayden Morris	26 Marshall Home Fellowship 6:30 p.m. Newsletter Deadline Birthday: Cassie Moore	27 Yarnoff Home Fellowship 6:30 p.m. Birthday: Chip Coble	28 RAs/GAs, Youth, and Adult Bible Study 7:00 p.m.	29 Birthdays: Preston Andrews Madison Bodine Anniversaries: Preston & Kim Andrews Joey & Sydney Ashley	30	31 Anniversary: Chip & Brenda Coble