



Mt. Olive Presbyterian Church



Monthly Newsletter from the Session

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A Message the Session

Prayer Makes the Difference

We should all be praying for one another and being like Peter. He was in prison and while others were praying for him an angel showed up in prison, the chains fell and he walked past two guards. We encourage you to cover those in your prayers so powerful things can happen. Supernatural things take place. Continue to grow in your faith even when you don't see a change because praying makes the difference. Blessings to you all, the Session.

Join us on social media and share how you encourage others.

Mount Olive celebrating 155 years Homecoming 2020

Who Are the Session and What Committee Do They Chair?

Moderator: Rev. Dr. Willie J. Keaton, Jr, **Clerk:** Andrea Graham **Asst. Clerk:** Robbie Garriett **Christian Education:** Andrea Graham
Congressional Care & Community Outreach: Brenda Witherspoon & Veronica Young **Evangelism:** Greg White **Finance & Stewardship:** Renita Spears **Personnel:** Quinten Montgomery **Property:** Marlon McCullough **Worship & Music:** Ellen Young **Mission & Planning:** Wanda Belk, Jerry Grier & Robbie Garriett

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Presbytery News and Events

- 2020 INTERCULTURAL TRANSFORMATION WORKSHOPS Saturdays: September 19 & 26 from 1:00 to 3:00 pm Sponsored by the Presbyterian Intercultural Network, Charlotte Presbytery, Sacramento Presbytery, Stockton Presbytery, and the Presbyterian Mission Agency. The 2018th General Assembly declared 2020-2030 as the "Decade of Intercultural Transformation". To dismantle racism in our society, the Church must also dismantle racism in its own congregational life. Connect and learn with intercultural leaders in our denomination to work together in transforming our white churches into more inclusive congregations. This virtual workshop is for pastors and laity. Learn together with your congregation!
- MRC TECHNOLOGY CONSULTANTS The Ministry Resource Committee has an agreement with several Technology Consultants to assist our churches.
- *SEPTEMBER 'FOOD FOR THOUGHT' "Why Your Community Needs You More Than Ever" Thursday, September 17th 12:00 to 1:30 pm via Zoom. What does it mean to live out our faith? We don't all have treasure to share, we don't all have time. But we all have a voice and a charge to speak out against injustice and to aid our neighbors in distress. We will discuss civic engagement strategies through the lens of the affordable housing crisis and various advocacy efforts. We're especially excited about this event because presenter Ryan Carter, the Advocacy & Outreach Coordinator/Habitat for Humanity-Charlotte, is an alum of our In Our Own Back Yard Interfaith Youth Camp and the MeckMIN Youth Council.*

*Live
Your Faith*

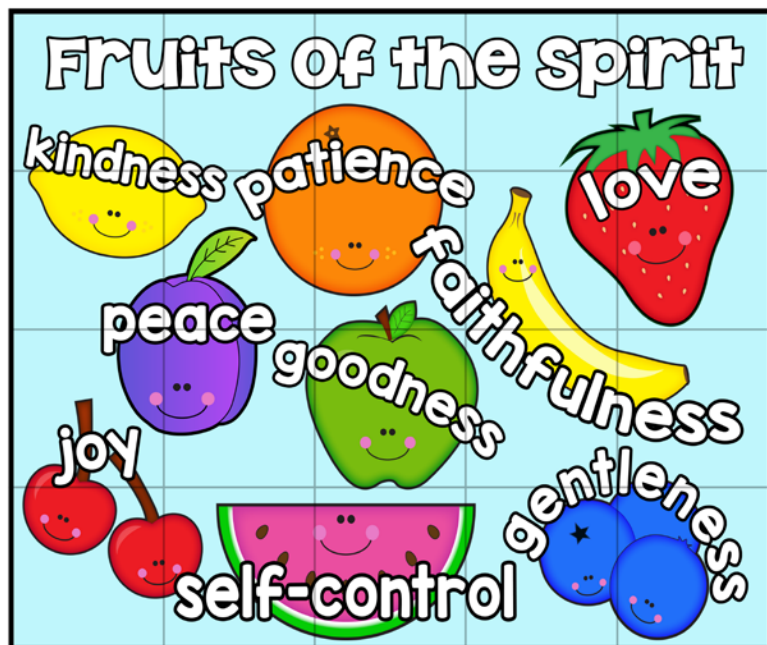
Mt. Olive News

- * You can view Rev. Keaton's sermons on YouTube and website for recordings.
- * Continuous prayers to all our church families and friends who are experiencing bereavement or illness. Please let the Session or a member of the Congregation Care and Outreach know of your need.
- * Please remember your Ministry of Compassion donation. You may make all donations by mail or on our convenient website pay portal at <https://www.mtolivepres.com/>.
- * "Back to School Supply" Drive was successful. The Christian Ed committee will be contacting families of the church for pick-up of supplies on September 12 from 11am – 1pm. A big "Thank you" for all the donations and supplies received. Thank you, Congregational Care for the donation of snacks."
- * We are working diligently to plan for our 155th Homecoming celebration. Each member is asked to pay their building fund assessment of \$150 as soon as you are able. 2 Corinthians 9:7
- * As of 8/18/2020 the church facilities have been sanitized and disinfected and are only opened for less than 10 people at a time. Procedures will be posted in each area for proper use to help keep areas sanitized and safe for everyone. The Session is continuing to evaluate plans to open the church for services.
- * At this time, the Session has approved for graveside funerals until further notice.
- *Coming Soon - "Blessing Box" by The Mission and Planning committee. More information to be presented soon.



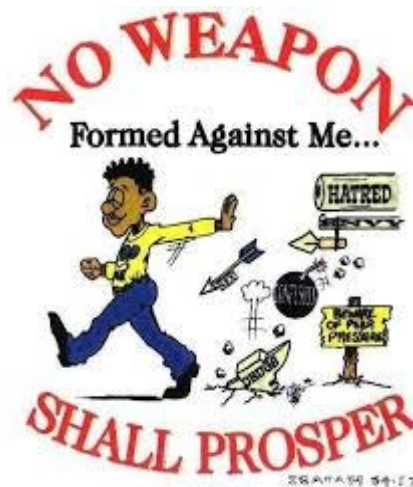
Children Returning to School Prayer

Lord, we pray Your emotional, physical, and spiritual protection over our children. Keep evil far from them, and help them to trust You as their refuge and strength. We pray You will guard their minds from harmful instruction, and grant them discernment to recognize truth. We pray You will make them strong and courageous in the presence of danger. Help them to find rest in Your shadow, as they live in the spiritual shelter You provide for them. Let them know that the only safe place is in Jesus, and their home on earth is only temporary. (2Thessalonians 3:3, Psalm 46:1; John 17:15 and Psalm 91)



A Message from the Deacons:

“We are humble servants here to support the Session and help the church move forward during these days we are in currently” –*John Lathan, Deacon President*



When Our Plans Don't Go As Planned

By. Jordan W. | Covid-19

Looking back on the beginning of 2020, we never could have imagined that this season would have turned out this way – that our current realities would be so far from what we expected them to be just a few months ago. But this season has been the most convicting, yet lovely reminder that we are not the ones in control and that God’s plans are so much greater than anything we could imagine for ourselves. I am reminded daily of all the ways that this season has been a blessing in disguise – my “plans” completely thrown out the window, but with the promise of sweet blessings from the Lord in their place. **Commit your activities to the LORD, and your plans will be established.** (Proverbs 16:3 CSB)

Keeping in mind that God's plans are greater, it has felt especially strange to have a calendar free of the usual activities and plans that we would normally be filling our days with. Flipping through the pages of my planner over the last few months, I've crossed out wedding showers, my brother's college graduation, pre-marital counseling sessions, book club meetings, Easter Sunday celebrations with my family, a show at our local theater, girl's nights with friends, a volunteer event, and so much more. So many events I'd been so looking forward to have been postponed, rescheduled, or cancelled altogether.

But an empty calendar today doesn't mean that our calendars will be empty forever. One day in the (hopefully) not-so-distant future, we will be putting book clubs, Bible studies, soccer games, weddings, and all the life events in between back into the pages of our planners. But before that day comes, there are still things that we can do right where we are to remember these days. Below are a few ways that I myself and others have decided to re-purpose our planners during this season. Let us know how you're using yours! ***Growing Deeper in Your Faith***

I got a Chronological Bible for Christmas this year, so as my planner started to empty out, I started keeping track of what passages I was reading daily there instead. I'll always be able to look back and see what I was studying at the time! Many people have taken this time to jump into a new Bible study or devotional, keeping track of what they're studying and their takeaways within the days of their planner. If Bible study overwhelms you, or you're just not sure where to begin, you could even just start by looking up some of your favorite Scriptures and writing one daily in your planner. Any time spent in the Word is time well-spent, so use your planner to help you dig even deeper!

Remembering This Season

The evening after the first day I spent working from home due to COVID-19, I started a journal so I wouldn't ever forget all of the thoughts and feelings of this strange time. I've been very consistent in writing in it every day – filling the pages with news updates, little joys, what I feel God is teaching me, life updates, and just the random thoughts of a girl spending all of her days at home with her dog. You can do the same thing with your planner! At the end of each day, write down one memorable thing that happened that day, 3 things you're grateful for, or your highs and lows for the day. Anything that will help you remember this time, how you were feeling, and what God was doing in your life! I believe that someday when we look back on these things, it will be incredible to see the growth that took place here.

Just Doing Life

Did you find yourself a working-from-home and homeschooling mom during this season? Use your planner to keep track of all of the Zoom and Skype and Facetimes that happen throughout your week. You might be using this time to do a major home project or work through some health goals. Track them here! You can even use the pages of your planner to keep track of the cards that you're sending! Birthdays, anniversaries, graduations, and other big or difficult life moments are so different right now – sending a card is always a good idea!

No matter how you choose to spend these days, you're doing it just right. We can't plan, control, or predict the future, but we know Who does, and He will be right there with you every step of the way.



Victory Is Still Yours



Dee Eichelberger...

You Can Still Win During A Pandemic

To survive a storm is a miracle, but to still be able to succeed even through a pandemic is a miracle as well.

Philippians 4:13 says that we can do all things through Christ who strengthens us.

God is most certainly still able and still wants to do incredible things in your life, even through a pandemic.

2020 is a year of new beginnings and a year of change for the better.



It is time to update our church membership roll information.

Please complete information by going to <http://postable.com/mtolivepresbyterianchurch> or send email to the church secretary at mtolivepres@bellsouth.net or clerk of Session, Andrea Graham at agraham708@gmail.com.