

Mt. Olive Presbyterian Church Monthly Newsletter from the Session



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A Message from the Session

Most of us don't like being alone for extended periods of time. In fact, we are not designed to live in isolation. Even at the very beginning, God said, "It is not good for man to be alone" (Gen. 2:18).

But sometimes situations in life such as the case of COVID-19 leave us separated from others.

Or perhaps we simply feel lonely, even though we live with our mate or family. But whatever your situation may be, if you are a believer of Jesus Christ, you're never alone. When Jesus died

He left us a Helper who would never leave us – the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is perfectly adequate to meet our every need. Since Jesus knows us intimately, He comforts us in pain and loss when no one else can. Anytime we find ourselves in a quandary,

He knows exactly what we should do. He promises to guide us each step of the way, calming our fears and overcoming our inadequacies. (Dr. Charles Stanley)

We love you church family and are praying for each and every one of you.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

Rev. Dr. Keaton, Jr, Session and Deacons

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"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." (Isaiah 9:6)



PRESBYTERY READING GROUP

The Presbytery Reading Group is up and running online. If you would like to join us for our monthly book discussions, please let Renda Brinson know: rbrinson@upsem.edu. We send the Zoom invitations out the Tuesday before our meetings,

Our Reading Group will meet at **10:30 am on Thursday, December 17th**. We decided to read Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*. We hope reading this classic will give us renewed hope during this Advent Season.

We will meet on January 28, 2021 at 10:30 am, back on our regular schedule, again via Zoom. Our book for January will be Jane Austen's classic, *Pride and Prejudice*.

AVONDALE CHRISTMAS MARKETPLACE

Celebrating local artisans - through **December 18th**. Our 2nd annual Christmas Marketplace will be held online this year. Find goods from local artisans exhibited and on sale from Nov 15 to Dec 18. Purchase/order online then go to the drive-through pick-up at Avondale. This holiday celebration sale is open to everyone. Spread the cheer. Details on Avondale's website:

www.avondalepresbychurch.org/christmasmarket

ROOF ABOVE' NEEDS YOUR HELP!

Roof Above was born from the merger of Urban Ministry Center and Men's Shelter of Charlotte; now one comprehensive homeless service provider working to end homelessness. Roof Above offers everything from street outreach and basic services, to shelter and housing. Our services and programs reach over 1,200 individuals every day across seven campuses in Charlotte - and during COVID, we have added one more campus, converting dorms into an emergency shelter for working men.

WE NEED YOUR HELP! Winter sheltering begins in a couple of weeks and holiday needs are upon us! Visit our Wish List to see how you can support us during this critical time.

* During this holiday season, continuous prayers to all our church families and friends who are experiencing bereavement or illness. Please let the Session, Deacons or a member of the Congregation Care and Outreach know of your need.

* Your annual Per Capita is NOW DUE. Please make your donation of \$35 and mark your givings accordingly.

* Rev. Keaton and the Christian Education committee will begin a new Wednesday night bible study starting on January 6, 2021 from the book entitled, "What Jesus Demands from the World" by John Piper. Lessons will be taught for 51 weeks. If you are in need of this book please contact the church office at 704-394-8814. Books may also be purchased from Amazon for under \$20.

* Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 our givings have been down tremendously compared to previous year to date givings. We encourage you to do your best as we try to maintain our ministry's financial obligations and the needs of our members and community. You may mail or pay online any donations at any time. Thank you in advance church family.

* The roof in the sanctuary has been repaired. There are a few other repairs that are needed and we thank the Property Committee for helping to keep our facilities operative and safe.

* *"A Great Big Thank You"* to our Social Media committee and it's chairperson, Dominique Young, the Worship and Music committee, our Pastor, Rev. Dr. Keaton, Jr and our musicians, Aaron Orr, Jr. and Darrion Eichelberger for the extraordinary work they have done to keep our virtual church more and more engaging and vibrate each and every week. Tell a family member, a friend or a neighbor to visit us on FB, on our website and YouTube.

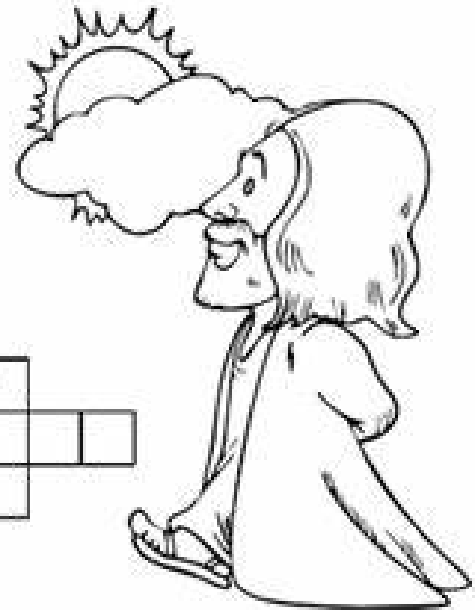
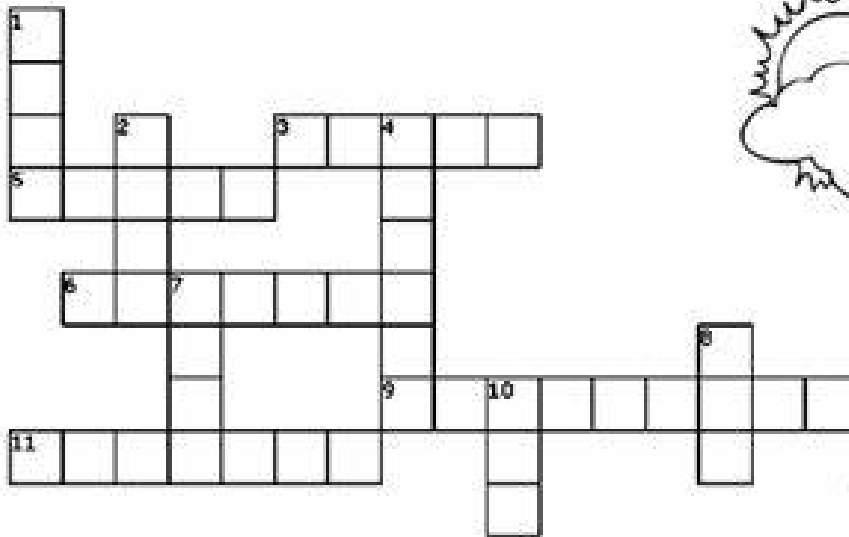
* Have a prayer request? Please leave a message on the church's voicemail and the Pastor, a Deacon or Elder will reach out to you. You may also join us for prayer and bible study on Wednesday nights beginning at 6:15pm - 7:30pm. Please look out for the Zoom meeting invitation on our FB page.

* Thank you to the anonymous donors for the turkeys that were distributed for Thanksgiving. The spirit of giving is what this walk is all about!

* Do you have an announcement you wish to put in our Monthly Newsletter from the Session then please contact the clerk of Session. All announcements are due by the first of each month.

"MERRY CHRISTMAS TO OUR CHILDREN AND YOUTH AND THEIR FAMILIES!"

Got Jesus?



ACROSS

3. The organ in the body that pumps the blood
5. To make letters and words with a pen or pencil
6. To accept as true, genuine, or real
9. Evidence given by witness in court
11. Something that continues forever

DOWN

1. To understand something
2. The period from birth to death
4. To receive something willingly, such as a gift
7. Someone who doesn't tell the truth
8. The creator and ruler of the universe
10. A male child

Check your answers

accept	believe	eternal	write
testimony	heart	life	know
God	liar	son	

From Us To You
It's Christmas time,
And I wish you well.
May the Lord bless you
With the best of health.

I hope the stockings are hung
And you're filled with wonder.
There are so many surprises
For you to ponder.

May your children be merry
When Santa brings toys.
Some for the girls
And some for the boys.

I pray you have food
And plenty to eat:
Turkey and gravy
And lots of sweets.

I hope your family's there,
Friends and neighbors, too.
So merry Christmas
From all of us to all of you.
(Kallembach)

Congregational Outreach Ministry Opportunity

As temperatures in the city of Charlotte continues to drop, our Sunday School class will be spearheading an outreach mission and prepare 100 gallon bags of love to be distribute to the residences living in "Tent City" located in the enter city of Charlotte. We will be collecting items for men, women, boys, and girls of all ages. Items to be included are toiletries, soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, hand warmers, socks, hats, scarves, batteries, razors, etc. travel size items are best. All members and friends of Mt. Olive are asked to donate these items or make a monetary donation toward this effort.

Checks can be written to Mt. Olive and designated for "Tent City. Donations to be collected through January 2, 2021. You can drop off donations at the church on Saturday December 26th from 12:00-2:00 or Saturday January 2nd from 12:00-2:00pm. Bring items in a plastic bag or you can fill your own gallon bags with those recommended items.

For additional information or to volunteer please call the church or reach out to Elders Jerry Grier, Robbie Garriett, or Sandra Grier. God Bless You!

**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.**

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:** Open **Finance & Stewardship:** Renita Spears **Personnel:** Quinten Montgomery **Property:** Leonard J. Mauney & Marlon McCullough **Worship & Music:** Ellen Young **Mission & Planning:** Wanda Belk, Jerry Grier & Robbie Garriett
