

Mount Olive Presbyterian Church

Organized 1874

Mount Olive, North Carolina



Mount Olive Presbyterian Church
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**Welcome to Worship on the Lord's Day
1st Sunday of Christmas/Lessons and Laughter
December 29, 2024**

WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

BRINGING GOD'S LIGHT INTO THE CHURCH

RINGING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Joy Bayles

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: We have named our joy out loud, and it is clear—

People: God is in our joy.

Leader: God is in this room.

People: We have reason to celebrate.

Leader: We have a reason to sing.

People: Thanks be to God for the bright hope of this day.

*HYMN

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

#611 (Purple)

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Joyful God, You told us that in order to enter the kingdom of heaven, we must be like children. Did you mean that like children, we must practice unhindered joy? Did you mean that like children, we should lean into laughter, release our cynicism, and open ourselves to delight? In a world as broken and battered as ours, we admit, this often seems easier said than done. Forgive us, patient God, for the moments when we are so focused on the bad that we miss the good. Forgive us for hearing the nativity story and staying in our seats instead of jumping for joy. We know that even now you are sowing delight in our lives. Open our hearts up to it. With gratitude we pray, Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Leader: In the name of Jesus Christ: We are forgiven!

People: **Thanks be to God. Amen!**

*RESPONSE TO FORGIVENESS The Gloria Patri #581 (Purple)

WE HEAR AND RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

LESSON ONE

Scripture Readings Luke 2:10 and Isaiah 9:2-3 p. 725 & p. 489 (pew Bible)

*Hymn Joy to the World # 134 (Purple)

Sharing Joy With Our Children Rev. Savannah Demuynck

*POSTLUDE

(**Please stand as you are able.*)



This Week's Activities

Today	11:00 am	Worship
Monday	3:45 pm	Senior Fitness
Wednesday	6:45 am	Men's Group
Sunday	10:00 am	Children's and Adult Sunday School
	11:00 am	Worship

Welcome to Mount Olive Presbyterian Church! We are so glad you are here. If you would like more information on ways to get involved, see Pastor Savannah after the service.

The **altar flowers** today are given to the glory of God and in honor of Jeff and Sherry Smith's 45th anniversary (Dec. 30) and in memory of the 10th anniversary of Josh and Julie Smith. (Dec. 28)

MOPC has a **Senior Fitness and Balance class** which meets on Mondays at 3:45 pm in the Fellowship Hall. The class will not meet on Monday, Jan. 30.

The **Tuesday Morning Bible Study** will **not** meet this week on Jan. 31.

The **Church Office** will be closed Dec. 24th, 25th, 26th and Jan. 1.

The **Two Cents a Meal Offering** will be collected next Sunday, Jan. 5. The amount collected in December was \$101.02.

In Our Thoughts and Prayers

Concerns

- Dorothy Cain-gall bladder surgery
- Jordan Williams-leg surgery recovery
- Ray Price-stent placement recovery
- Ann Blanton- eye surgery recovery
- Brenda Schroeder-UNC Chapel Hill Hospital, heart valve issues, fall

Ongoing Concerns

(names listed for 2 months)

- Eddie Best—health concerns

Homebound/Nursing Facilities

- Edna Colson
- Bobbie Coley
- Vennie Jordan
- Robbie McSwain

Our Christian Sympathy is extended to the families of:

(names listed for 2 months)

- Everette Coates - father of Doug Coates
- Ann Williamson - mother of Cheryl Kornegay
- Pam Wood
- B. J. Lee - father of Julie Graham

Please call or email the church office with your prayer concern. Church members and their family will be included in the worship bulletin for the durations listed above. Please let us know as prayers are answered, so we can celebrate with you; or as needs change, so we know how best to pray with and for you. If you have a confidential concern, please contact Pastor Savannah at savannah.mopcc@gmail.com

A Brief History of Mount Olive Presbyterian Church

Two thousand, twenty-four, marks the 150th anniversary of Mount Olive Presbyterian Church. Organized in 1874, by the Reverend Alexander Kirkland, sixteen members gathered to begin what would become Mount Olive Presbyterian Church of the Wilmington Presbytery. In 1875 a lot was given to build a wooden building on the site of our current sanctuary. By 1914, the membership had outgrown the old wooden building and the church was moved to the back of an adjacent lot to make room for a new sanctuary. The new brick building was completed in 1916. Additions and improvements to our Church have continued through the years. The Mount Olive Church joined with Baker Presbyterian in 1988 and has been blessed by the guidance and love of the various ministers who have served as our leaders. We are proud of the work our congregation continues to accomplish as shared in our mission statement, "called together by God and empowered by the Holy Spirit, Mount Olive Presbyterian Church is committed to sharing the good news of Jesus Christ with all people, to nurturing Christian discipleship, and to serving the world in the name of Christ." As we celebrate our past, we look to a future defined by renewed commitment and spiritual growth.

Church Mission Statement

Called together by God and empowered by the Holy Spirit, Mount Olive Presbyterian Church is committed to sharing the good news of Jesus Christ with all people, to nurturing Christian discipleship, and to serving the world in the name of Christ

