

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
15th Sunday after Pentecost
Sept. 10, 2023

WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

BRINGING GOD'S LIGHT INTO THE CHURCH

RINGING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Katrina Smith

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP (I Corinthians 12: 12-13; 27)

Leader: "A person's body is one thing, but it has many parts.

People: Though there are many parts to a body, all those parts make only one body.

Leader: Christ is like that also. Some of us are Jews, and some are Greeks. Some of us are slaves, and some are free.

People: But we were all baptized into one body through one Spirit. And we were all made to share in the one Spirit.

Leader: Together, you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is part of that body."
As one body, let us worship God.

*HYMN

Be Thou My Vision

#339 (Blue)

CALL TO CONFESSION

Let us confess our sins, that we may be set free from their power over us.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS (John 8:9-11) unison

Jesus was left there alone with the woman standing before him. Jesus raised up again and asked her, "Woman, where are your accusers? Has no one judged you guilty?"

She answered, "No one, sir."

Then Jesus said, "I also don't judge you guilty. You may go now, but don't sin anymore." Thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ!

*RESPONSE TO FORGIVENESS (sung in unison)

**On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross,
The emblem of suffering and shame;
And I love that old cross where the Dearest and Best
For a world of lost sinners was slain.
So I'll cherish the old rugged cross,
Till my trophies at last I lay down;
I will cling to the old rugged cross,
And exchange it someday for a crown.**

*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

2 CENTS A MEAL OFFERING

ANTHEM

Sing Glory to the Name of God

arr. R. V. Williams

Sing glory to the name of God, whose holy splendor shines abroad. Alleluia, alleluia!
Enthroned above the crashing waves, the God of grace and glory saves.

Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

The name of God is full of might: resounding thunder, flashing light. Alleluia, alleluia!
The wilderness can not contain the echoes of the great refrain!

Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

May God forever be our peace; may hymns of glory never cease: Alleluia, alleluia!

Let all the faithful people come; sing praise to God the Three-In-One:

Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

WE HEAR AND RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE READING

Acts 10:1-11:18

(pew Bible p. 778– 779)

SERMON

“Where Prejudice Goes to Die:
The Roof and the Kitchen Table”

Pastor Bob Bardin

*HYMN

All Things Bright and Beautiful

#267 (Blue)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Apostle's Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ, His Only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried. He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty, from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

SENT TO SERVE AS GOD'S PEOPLE

*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

Go Now in Peace

D. Besig & N. Price

Go now in peace.

Never be afraid

Never be afraid

God will go with you each hour of ev'ry day

Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true

Know He will guide you in all you do.

Go now in love, and show you believe.

Reach out to others so all the world can see.

God will be there watching from above.

Go now in peace, in faith, and in love. Amen

*POSTLUDE

*(*Please stand as you are able)*



This Week's Activities

Today	11:00 am	Worship
Monday	6:00 pm	Service Circle Supper
Tuesday	10:00 am	Bible Study
	11:00 am	<i>Disciplines for the Inner Life</i>
Wednesday	6:45 am	Men's Group
	5:30 pm	<i>Disciplines for the Inner Life</i>
Thursday	3:45 pm	Chair Yoga
Saturday	8:00 am	Community Farmers Market
Sunday	10:00 am	Ortberg Bible Study
	11:00 am	Worship

The **Two Cents a Meal Offering** will be collected today.

The **Service Circle** will meet Monday, Sept. 11th at 6 pm at the home of Frances Sykes for a Salad Supper. Please bring a salad. All women are invited.

Peace and Global Witness Offering It is again time to remind ourselves of the conflict and injustice around the world, even in our own backyard. All we have to do is read or watch the news to know this is true. But there is hope. There can be action. Please consider praying for the ways that systems of conflict and injustice are being addressed worldwide. On Sun, Oct. 1st, you may wish to help the church promote the Peace of Christ by contributing to the special offering.

A story and opportunity for you to ponder.....

“There once was a town high in the Alps that straddled the banks of a beautiful stream. The stream was fed by springs that were old as the earth and deep as the sea.

The water was clear like crystal. Children laughed and played beside it, swans and geese swam on it. You could see the rocks and the sand and the rainbow trout that swarmed at

High in the hills, far beyond anyone's sight, lived an old man who served as Keeper of the Springs. He had been hired so long ago that now no one could remember a time when he wasn't there. He would travel from one spring to another in the hills, removing branches or fallen leaves or debris that might pollute the water. But his work was unseen.

One year the town council decided they had better things to do with their money. No one supervised the old man anyway. They had roads to repair and taxes to collect and services to offer, and giving money to an unseen stream-cleaner had become a luxury they could no longer afford.

So the old man left his post. High in the mountains, the springs went untended; twigs and branches and worse muddied the liquid flow. Mud and silt compacted the creek bed; farm wastes turned parts of the stream into stagnant bogs.

For a time no one in the village noticed. But after a while, the water was not the same. It began to look brackish. The swans flew away to live elsewhere. The water no longer had a crisp scent that drew children to play by it. Some people in the town began to grow ill. All noticed the loss of sparkling beauty that used to flow between the banks of the streams that fed the town. The life of the village depended on the stream, and the life of the streams depended on the keeper.

The city council reconvened, the money was found, the old man was rehired. After yet another time, the springs were cleaned, the stream was pure, children played again on its banks, illness was replaced by health, the swans came home, and the village came back to life.

The life of the village depends on the health of the stream.

The stream is your soul. And you are the keeper.

Beginning next **Sunday, September 17th** we will gather in the Baker Fellowship Hall at 10:00 a.m. with John Ortberg, the author of the story above and of a six-session Bible study, "Soul Keeping: Caring for the Most Important Part of You." We'll begin promptly at 10:00 and end at 10:45. Each week we'll watch a DVD for about 25 minutes and then talk together about what we have learned from this funny, moving, insightful, and tender teacher. Will you commit six hours to the care for the most important part of your being, your eternal soul? Come and see. No need to sign up. We'll put the coffee on for you.

In Our Thoughts and Prayers

Recent Surgeries or Illnesses

(names listed for 2 weeks)

- Mark Price, (Cathy Price's step son, heart attack)
- Lynn Dail, knee replacement surgery
- Martin Powell, pancreatic cancer

Ongoing Concerns

(names listed for 2 months)

- Brenda Schroeder, knee replacement surgery
- Rudy Hooks, UTI complications
- Joe Giddings, (Barry Giddings' brother, heart and other issues)
- Tracy Draughon, (Dr. Scott Draughon's wife, lung cancer)
- Susie Cox, (Lynda Roten's sister in law, hip replacement surgery)
- Joyce Coates, (Doug Coates' mother, lung cancer surgery)
- Everett Coates, (Doug Coates' father, kidney dialysis)
- Eddie Best, (Brenda Schroeder's brother, aneurysm)
- Lorraine Kornegay, cancer
- Virginia Matthews, (Megan Kornegay's mom, hip replacement)

Our Christian Sympathy is extended to the families of:

(names listed for 2 months)

- Danny Johnson, (Lynn Coates's uncle)
- Jason Dail

Homebound/Nursing Facilities

- Bobbie Coley
- Vennie Jordan
- Barry Giddings
- Robbie McSwain
- Rudy Hooks

Please call or email the church office with your prayer concern. Church members and their family will be included in the worship bulletin and e-newsletter 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 Bob.