



Olive Leaves



September 2026

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From Our Pastor: The Book of Proverbs

Pastor Walt Harper

One of the great books of the Bible is the book of Proverbs. It contains exactly what that name would imply: it's full of sort, pithy little sayings that talk about living a well-lived life.

Some Christians don't love the book because it doesn't preach the Gospel. That observation is correct; but beside the point. The assumption of this book is that if you value the Bible, and are reading it for guidance, then you're already a believer. So, true enough, if you want to know how to be saved, you'll have to look elsewhere. But if you're a believer wondering "How shall I live?" then Proverbs is a wonderful little book.

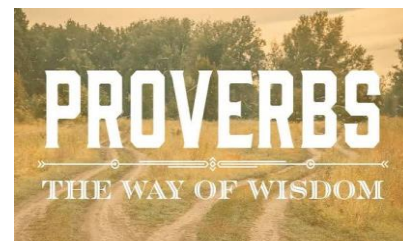
The book constantly commends "wisdom." I'm always delighted to notice that it doesn't say "intellect." Some people are really brilliant; many of us are not. But nothing about Proverbs says, "You must have a really high IQ." Both the smart and us regular people are invited to come here and learn.

So wisdom is something other than smarts. Then what is it? It's knowing how to live out one's faith in very practical matters.

Most of the proverbs were written by King Solomon, who had prayed for wisdom. God granted it to him, and he became an effective King. (But to be honest, just like all men, he had foibles as well.)

Solomon's request for wisdom implies that any of us could ask for the same. We should ask for it from God, be fervent in our prayers about it, and then open our hearts and minds to receive instruction from Him and His Word. James 1:5, "If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you." (It should come as no surprise that this verse is in James. It's also a book of "Wisdom Literature," and is often considered the "Proverbs of the New Testament.")

Some Proverbs are funny. Some are clever. All are insightful, and worthy of our attention. Most are just two lines, and easily memorable. Many still live in my brain because both of my parents peppered their conversations with the wisdom of this book of the Bible. Come to think of it, that's a good idea for all of us even now.



One of my favorites is the first half of Proverbs 13:20:

"Walk with the wise and become wise."

If you do the Bible plan printed in our bulletin you just finished this book. But it's good to visit and re-visit this book many times. Even if it's "not on the plan right now," it's always good to just randomly pick it up and read a few proverbs and then think on them. And then wonder: How would I apply this to my own life?

Do you have a favorite proverb? Or several? Text me one, or put it on my Facebook page.

Pastoral Acts

	Adult Baptism Everett Francis Thornton August 1, 2026 Grandson of the Arnolds	
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From Our President

James Sharpe

September brings with it a sense of change and new beginnings. As we transition into this new season and hopefully some cooler fall weather, I want to take a moment to reflect on both the milestones we have reached and the exciting next steps ahead of us.



First, as of September 1st, we officially welcome our incoming board members! Thank you to each of you for saying "yes" to this call to serve our church family. You are stepping into roles that are vital to our mission, and I am excited to work alongside you as we steward our ministry. I also want to express my deepest gratitude to those who have completed their terms. Your tireless dedication, wisdom, and heart for service have truly blessed this congregation. We are so much better for your leadership.

It is also such a joy to look around our church home and see the progress on our painting and flooring updates! While we still have a few small items to wrap up before everything is officially complete, we are getting so close to the finish line, and the space is already looking wonderful.

I also wanted to share a quick update regarding our church grounds. Recently, in the middle of the night, a vehicle ran into our front church sign. We are deeply grateful to report that no one was injured. The driver self-reported the accident, and we are officially beginning the process of getting the sign replaced. In the meantime, I encourage everyone to be positive and maintain your warm welcome inside our doors.

With the rhythms of school returning, I ask that we all be mindful on the roads. Traffic is heavier, and our sidewalks are once again busy with children and buses. A little extra patience and caution as we drive through our community is a simple but powerful act of love for our neighbors.

As we move forward into this busy season, let us remember to keep each other in prayer. Whether you are stepping into a new board role or continuing your service in other ways, your

contributions are what make Mt. Olive such a vibrant and caring family. Let us walk wisely, look out for one another, and continue to share Christ's love in all we do.

Mt. Olive Officers & Boards September 2026 - August 2027			
President	James Sharpe	Council Secretary	Jill Brabham
Vice President	John Meyerhoff	Financial Secretary	Randy Gifford
Church Treasurer	Bill Boykin		
Elders	Education	Evangelism	Fellowship
Michael Dosen	Liezl Baden	Gloria Meetze	Paula Helming
Robert Fong	Katie Greer	James Draffin	Rebecca Selle
Mike Knowles	Brandy Maye	Naven Olson	Jill Scuderi
Eric Matzko	Pam Northen		Sandra Stocker
Doug Lacey	Megan Weed	Social Ministry	Kelly Thrun
Eddie Magic		Tina Dixon	
Rich O'Dell	Preschool	Kalea Noda	Stewardship
Matt Williams	Bailey Barnett	Jan McCarthy	Chris Bauer
	Amanda Dalton		Barry Bost
Public Relations	Gwen Draffin	Trustees	Kevin Kibler
Audrey Harper	Becky Elam	Matthew Fletcher	Worship
Shanna Stuck	Abi Sharpe	Joe Harper	Karen Meetze
	Jaime Stuck	Bruce Helming	Neva Meyerhoff
	Peggy Weed	Merle Weed	Liz Rosinski
	Cindy Williams		Natalie Smith



Choir Director: Do you Have Musical Talent?

Renee Harper, Director

In The Shadow of Broadway

There is a phenomenon - when you ask a group of small children "Who can sing?" almost all the hands go up, but when you ask a group of adults almost no hands go up. Why is that? We started referring to it as "being in the shadow of Broadway". As you know, our first church was in a distant suburb of New York City. The shows on Broadway are fabulous. If you haven't been to a Broadway show, put it on your bucket list. Totally amazing. However, it can be intimidating when you look at yourself and your own talents. 'Sure, maybe I am good enough to sing in the shower but in public? NO WAY!!' But the thing is, most people can sing. Probably not on Broadway, or the Koger Center, but good enough.



Worship is a unique experience; it is a participatory sport. You really are supposed to read aloud the bold print **C** parts and sing the musical parts. Together, as a congregation, many voices become one voice. No one really sticks out; it blends together into a very beautiful thing. God wants us to use our voices, together, to worship Him. He has gifted us with many different talents, and I understand that not everyone is musically inclined.

But a lot of you are perfectly capable of singing in the choir. Your voice adds to the whole and they blend together in a beautiful way.

It is a commitment – albeit not that huge of one – one hour rehearsal most Sunday's at 5:00 (done at 6 and I am VERY serious about that end time!). We sing one service (sometimes on a festival Sunday – think Easter). We sing fairly early in the service so you can attend your favorite service entirely and then just pop in and sing during the service choir is scheduled for. Give us a try, you can always drop out if you don't enjoy it. Call or text me at 203-885-6733 or tackle me in the hallway sometime! Blessings, Renee Harper

Board of Worship

Liz Rosinski, Chair

"Whatsoever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for man, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving." Colossians 3:23-24

The Worship Committee will be hosting training sessions for lectors and ushers the weekend of September 26 - 27. All attendees will receive a copy of the updated training guide. These sessions will review guidelines and expectations for those serving as lectors and ushers. Pastor Walt will continue to work separately with acolytes and crucifers, and updated training guides will be made available to our youth servers as well.

To ensure we reach as many current and potential lectors and ushers as possible, the 30-40-minute sessions will be offered at the following times in the Sanctuary:

- Saturday, September 26th at 4 p.m.
- Sunday, September 27th at 9:15 a.m.



- Sunday, September 27th at 12 p.m. (immediately following the late service)

All current volunteers are asked to attend, and any members interested in serving in one or more of these roles are warmly invited to join us. We are always grateful for additional volunteers, and with our current rotation, most positions serve no more than once a month. If you are unable to attend or have any questions, please contact Liz Rosinski at lizrosinski@me.com or 803-413-3364.

Board of Evangelism

Aresa Boykin, Outgoing Chairperson



The Board of Evangelism met on August 16th to welcome its new members: James Draffin, Gloria Meetze, and Naven Olson. The group discussed the Board's roles as outlined in the church's constitution. The board is responsible for sharing the Gospel to people, both inside and outside of the church. They are to work with other boards to help new members assimilate into church activities and to discover where they might serve according to their spiritual gifts.

James Draffin, the new chairperson, shared a New Testament that could be used to help to direct those who are new to Christianity to understand their need for a savior.

Aresa brought samples of Mt. Olive's brochure and current newsletter from the narthex and showed the new board members how to share these with guests and prospective members.

As a reminder to the congregation, if you are not on the email list to receive church communications and the monthly newsletter, please contact Mary Keller in the church office, Monday-Thursday at (803) 781-5845 or email her at lcms@mtolivesc.org. Both members and guests can be added.

Thoughts, Prayers, Calls, & Cards

"But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells." 2 Peter 3:13

To say the summer has been, and still is hot is an understatement! Even the active people are staying inside as much as possible! So while you are hanging out in the house, why not take a minute to remember our homebound folks. You can take time to pray for each of them, or make a commitment to call or write cards. And if you dare to go out in the heat, why not make a visit?



You may include others who are on the weekly prayer page in the bulletin. Don't forget about family members and care givers, too. Contact information is in the church directory. Let's make a special effort to connect with one another!

Don Angen	Cleta Dunaway	Anita Meetze	Margaret Meetze	Mandy Schultz
Chuck/Marilyn Bauer	Al Jabs	Laura Meetze	Cyndi Nelson	Linda Schmidt
David Buck	Harold/Sarah Jones	Thelma Miller	Polly Roland	

Board of Education

Liezl Baden, Chairperson

The 2026-2027 Sunday School year begins on Sept. 6th. Sunday school students will meet in the upstairs classrooms. The Youth Group will meet in the Wagner House. To kick start the year, instead of "Rally Day", the Board of Education is hosting a "Sunday School Festival." All Sunday School students and Youth Group are invited to join us at the Irmo Plex Trampoline Park on September 13. Please meet at the park at 2:00 and it is \$10 per child. A sign-up sheet will be placed in the Narthex for the event. We hope all children will attend.



Join a Bible Class

September 2026 Sunday School & Bible Classes – 9:15 AM			
Infants – ge 2	Nursery	Parents may stay with their infants & toddlers in the nursery. Please listen to the worship service through the speaker. Please sanitize the toys with which your child has played.	
Circle of Friends	Preschool Area	Faithful Group of Volunteers	Bringing Jesus to Special Needs Children
PK3 – 4th Grade	Upstairs Classroom	Dana Magic, Brandy Maye, Amanda Dalton, Connie Cook	Bible Lessons from the Old Testament
Confirmation Class	Preschool Area	Pastor Walt Harper	Classes resume on September 6th
Middle & High School Youth	Wagner House	Parents of the Youth	Classes resume on September 6th
Adults	Fellowship Hall	Various Teachers	TBA
Downstairs Classrooms are accessible by stairs and elevator.			

Mount Olive Preschool

Jamie Burns, Preschool Director

803-781-7180 – preschool@mtolivesc.org

Web: mtolivesc.org/preschool – Facebook.com/mountolivepreschool

Who's ready for Fall, y'all? This heat has been relentless! We're off to another great start to a new school year! Please help me welcome the newest MOLP Board members: Bailey Barnett, Gwen Draffin, Becky Elam, Jaime Stuck and Cindy Williams. We are grateful for their willingness to join us to serve in this ministry! As always, we are blessed to have continued support from board members returning: Peggy Weed, Amanda Dalton and Abigail Sharpe. We are all looking forward to working together with guidance and support for our precious preschool. We would also like to thank previous board members, Myron Trask and Dana Magic for their hard work and dedication over the last few years. You will be missed!

We are excited to welcome a new teacher to our staff! Mrs. Becca Curtis has joined us to be the 3-year-old class's teacher, with Mrs. Annie returning, of course, assisting her! We've loved getting to know Becca over the last few years as a parent. We've had the pleasure of teaching three of her four children after she and her husband, Adam, moved back to the area after being in Florida for a couple years. She is going to be great in her role as a teacher and a perfect addition to our MOLP family.



Do you know anyone with young children that would benefit from our school? We have full enrollment in the 4-year-old class but have a few open spots in the 2-year-old and 3-year-old classes! They tend to fill up quickly after the school year starts, but please send any sweet families that cross your mind!

This preschool ministry continues to be an amazing mission field, fostering commitment to children and young families. We are so grateful for the ever-present prayers, words of encouragement, and support that the congregation so generously gives to this ministry. God is good!!

Read the Bible in Three Years – September 2026

September 2026							
Sep 1	Numbers 13	Sep 8	Numbers 20	Sep 16	Numbers 28	Sep 24	Numbers 36
Sep 2	Numbers 14	Sep 9	Numbers 21	Sep 17	Numbers 29	Sep 25	Judges 1
Sep 3	Numbers 15	Sep 10	Numbers 22	Sep 18	Numbers 30	Sep 26	Judges 2
Sep 4	Numbers 16	Sep 11	Numbers 23	Sep 19	Numbers 31	Sep 27	Judges 3
Sep 5	Numbers 17	Sep 12	Numbers 24	Sep 20	Numbers 32	Sep 28	Judges 4
Sep 6	Numbers 18	Sep 13	Numbers 25	Sep 21	Numbers 33	Sep 29	Judges 5
Sep 7	Numbers 19	Sep 14	Numbers 26	Sep 22	Numbers 34	Sep 30	Judges 6
		Sep 15	Numbers 27	Sep 23	Numbers 35		

In August, we began to read the book of Numbers and continue reading it the first three weeks of September. As we begin the month in chapter 13, Moses sends a few spies into the land that God has promised the Israelites to scout it out for the upcoming invasion. Most of the spies come back in a panic, forgetting that God has already given them the land. This leads to a revolt, with the people refusing to take the land. God gives them their wish, decreeing that the whole generation will die in the wilderness, except for Caleb and Joshua, and the land will be taken by their children.

Judges is the book for the last week of September. In it, we read about the ups and downs of the Israelites as they navigate life in The Promised Land: their periods of faithfulness and periods of unfaithfulness to God; their captivity from nearby nations and times of freedom and peace. Get ready for the roller coaster ride!

Signs at the Church Entrance



The church is well into the longest of the church seasons, The Season after Pentecost. Because this season lasts through November, there will be monthly signs based on the Gospel lessons as outlined in the Year A Lectionary, Propers 17-20.

Here is the preview of the September sign. Of course, the larger version is much easier to read! As you come into the church why not take the ramp and pause a few moments by the sign to pick out the key words from the week's Gospel. If you follow Mt. Olive on social media (mtolivesc) you will have read weekly posts of these readings, so you can always use your smart phone to help you in your search.

Board of Public Relations

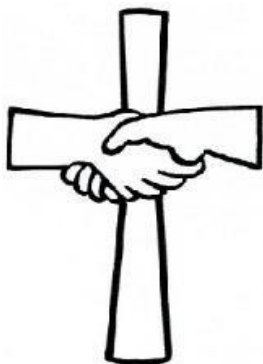
Shanna Stuck, Chairperson

After years of developing and managing Mt. Olive's website, mtolivesc.org, former member, Meghan Smith has turned over our site to our own Audrey Harper. Audrey has been managing the site for a while. She has a God-given talent for this area of technology and has needed only a little help from Meghan. Please browse our website and discover the wealth of information about Mt. Olive. There is a bi-weekly calendar, information on parish life and music ministry, Bible classes, a preschool section, the church history, and a secure church directory. Audios of sermons and special music are posted weekly. Thank you, Audrey, for your dedication to Mt. Olive's web presence.



Board of Social Ministry

Mary Keller, Outgoing Chairperson



Sharing God's Love invites you to consider serving through one of several weekly volunteer opportunities. These are ongoing weekly commitments rather than one-time service opportunities. Each opportunity is a meaningful way to serve our neighbors.

- **Receptionist:** Thursday or Friday morning, 9:00 a.m. to noon.
- **Scheduler:** Tuesday afternoon, 3:00 p.m. to about 6:00 p.m., depending on the number of appointments.
- **Interviewer:** Tuesday afternoon, 3:00 p.m. to about 6:00 p.m., depending on the number of appointments.

If you are interested in volunteering, we will schedule a time to talk with you about your interests and strengths.

Administrative Support Opening: In addition to the volunteer opportunities, Sharing God's Love is also looking for someone to provide administrative support for the Client Services and Bookkeeping Departments. The schedule is Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to noon. We are in search of a person who works well in a team setting with staff and a large volunteer team. **Contact:** For a job description or to express interest, please email Shari Selke at sgl@sharingGodslove.net or call 803-732-3188. Thank you for prayerfully considering how you might share God's love through service.

September 2026 Anniversaries

9/2	Bradley & Amy Carey	9/19	Robert & Carol Fong
9/7	Rich & Sue O'Dell	9/24	Hal & Suzie Hoffman
9/9	Richard & Laura Shealy	9/26	Pete & Rita Witt
9/15	Peter & Kari Mundeschenk	9/29	David & Connie Cook
9/16	Jeff & Kelly Thrun		

September 2026 Birthdays

9/2	Joyce Lauterbach	9/10	David Setterlund	9/17	Zachary Flynn
9/3	Randy McCoy	9/11	Ivan Harper	9/17	Millie Waldrop
9/3	Kathy Arnold	9/12	Doug Lacey	9/18	Johnny Barrett
9/3	Rick Baden	9/13	Frank Osborne	9/18	Robert Lewis
9/3	Aiden Coutant	9/14	Kim Gepfert	9/18	Scott Randall
9/3	Joey Dosen	9/14	Don Meetze	9/20	Will Marberry
9/5	Veronica Kapalka	9/15	Gary Meetze	9/21	Chris Gepfert
9/7	Laura Meetze	9/15	Neva Meyerhoff	9/24	Annette Holladay
9/9	Shuler Houck	9/16	Marge Carter	9/24	Thelma Miller
9/9	Merle Weed Jr.			9/25	David Cook

September 2026 Lectionary

Date	Festival	Old Testament	Psalm	Epistle	Gospel
Sept. 6	Proper 18	Ezekiel 33:7–9	Psalm 32:1–7	Romans 13:1–10	Matthew 18:1–20
Sept. 13	Proper 19	Genesis 50:15–21	Psalm 103:1–12	Romans 14:1–12	Matthew 18:21–35
Sept. 20	Proper 20	Isaiah 55:6–9	Psalm 27:1–9	Phil. 1:12–14, 19–30	Matthew 20:1–16
Sept. 27	Proper 21	Ezekiel 18:1–4, 25–32	Psalm 25:1–10	Phil. 2:1–4; 14–18	Matthew 21:23–27

Board of Fellowship

Kelly Thrun, Co-Chairperson; Rebecca Selle, Co-Chairperson

We had a wonderful weekend filled with fellowship, beginning with our Ice Cream Social on Saturday and followed by our Fifth Sunday Potluck. We hope everyone had a wonderful time visiting and spending time with our church family. It was also a great opportunity to enjoy and admire the beautiful new paint and flooring in our fellowship hall!

As we begin reorganizing the church pantry, some items may temporarily be in a different location than usual. Please feel free to call if you need help locating anything. We are always happy to help!

As we head into the back-to-school season, we want to wish all of our students, teachers, and school staff a wonderful and successful year ahead. May this new school year be filled with learning, growth, new friendships, and many blessings.



Announcements

Women's Book Club

The ladies meet the first and third Tuesdays of each month at 7:00pm in the fellowship hall. The group resumes on September 15th. You do not have to read the book to join us. All ladies are welcome to join! We are currently reading *God's Provision in a Wilderness World*, by Lindsay Hausch. There are 2 extra copies, or you can order the book from CPH.org, Amazon, or Christianbook.com. Please contact Renee Harper for more information at 203-885-6733



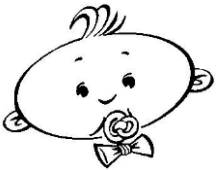
Secure E Giving

E Giving is becoming a more popular way to give. If you would like to set up a new account, the link is on the home page of our church website, mtolivesc.org, or scan the QR code. You may give through your checking account or by credit card.



Once you set up your account and log in, you should see pictures of Mt. Olive above the giving labels. Choose one and follow the prompts. Our e-giving is powered by VANCO, a secure company that follows strict guidelines and policies that we must adhere to. Even though the e-giving page looks like our website, Mt. Olive will have no record of your card/bank account number or your personal information. If you need help setting up your account, contact Aresa Boykin.

Nursery "Cry Room" Reminder



Mt. Olive's nursery is located downstairs, just behind the sanctuary. Parents are welcome to stay with their children during any worship service. There is a speaker so you will be able to hear the worship service. Parents, as you are leaving, please tidy up and sanitize the toys with which your child has played.

Proverbs Word Search

H W S S E L E M A L B N X B M U S Q B P I S D U
 R F Y G N I N R E C S I D T M D Z U A A B S T R
 B P N D D W E H J P R U J Q N H G K U Z A P C E
 I R T D V O M N U Y D S B E Y Q E K C V B A Z M
 Q V S N K L O W D C R L I R O S N Z T B I C V O
 Y T E J X U C H L Z N R G G P O E P N P P K U C
 P B N C G K E O E L F W R Y R X R C E K C P D K
 G W O L C L D Q H S U V E C S L O G I V Q K J I
 W B H E P F G F O V L F M A J P U E T L Q E C N
 R N Z L T T S T E R K A E H L Y S S A I H U N G
 W D I X K R I C W X Z D F C H T F D P N P M H Z
 P R Z J T U M O V W E Q Z Y A U H L S P P B R P
 N G D P I S E P C G N L O Y T R H O C H N B T K
 R S G Q T T V L S X Q O J E S S G G S B D S D O
 W A E N T W X J T P I R V Q D F S S X T X S A X
 D K E H K O Q X T R H T U H U L V P I K W K P V
 F X O C L R B Z C W J N K J I A R T Q D H S D W
 B Y B Q T T B N F E O O D D H J O O N B F D V G
 I V Q M H H D L J A C C N A M T I Q X F B P G O
 S B U F T Y F T K R P F A I O M V R G Y P R N S
 G J R X Q Z B O S W M L Q I D M A C J V O R M S
 I K I A L Y T W F C P E V I S T H E S W Z M B I
 L P T D G V M I F T C S V B I L E H D X P G H P
 B O L V T N O K F C A L L W W I B B D N L K R I

Trust worthy

Self Control

Disgraceful

Discerning

Falsehood

Blameless

Generous

Behavior

Friends

Patient

Mocking

Wealth

Wisdom

Honest

Gossip

Gold