Olive Leaves

November 2026

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From Our Pastor: Pray about our next Associate Pastor

Pastor Walt Harper

As you hopefully know, we've just begun the process of seeking an Associate Pastor to serve us here at Mt. Olive. There are a few things to say about this:



- Studies say that one pastor can effectively serve 100 to 150 people. Beyond that number, he is not keeping up. Since we average 201 per week, we could use the help.
- When you call a pastor the first decision you have to make is: from the Seminary or from the "Field"? We have decided to ask for a new Seminary graduate in the Summer of 2027.
- The last time we asked for a Seminary graduate student we did not receive one. There is a finite number of graduates, and lots of churches seeking one. This makes me tempted to tell the Seminary, "It is our turn," but I suspect that this would not be a winning argument.
- Of course, there are many wonderful aspects to living here in the suburbs of Columbia, SC, and we will point that out to the Seminary!
- When a pastor says, "Pray about this" he is very serious. Pray regularly and earnestly! A young Seminary graduate (Lord willing) could be at our parish for a long time to come!
- We've gotten our Call Committee formed, and we're working on coordinating our first meeting.
- We have also already contacted the St. Louis Seminary and gotten the initial part of the process started. They know we are looking for a 2027 graduate.
- The final point I am happy to make is this: Just this week I received a card from the Seminary. I want to share it with you. The cover of the card has II Timothy 1:3, "I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day." The inside of the card is hand-written and says, "Dear Rev. Harper, We pray for your church to be blessed by God with a new pastor who is faithful, wise, and guided by the Word in every way. God's blessings to you, Duncan, 2nd Year Seminarian." I was very delighted to receive such a card, and think the prayer stated there is well-worth being a part of our own prayers.

Pastoral Acts

Holy Baptism
Kalani Reese Nalls
October 17, 2026

Holy Baptism
Gabriella Winter Vega
October 18, 2026

Holy Baptism
Kristen Nicole Pool
Adult Baptism
October 20, 2026

Holy Baptism
Lakyn Pool
October 20, 2026

From Our President

James Sharpe

As we adjust to the time change, I'm really looking forward to enjoying the crisp fall weather, Thanksgiving, and all the upcoming fellowship. Gathering with our church family always brings a special warmth that encourages us to shine the light of Jesus even brighter as we share our time, resources, and gratitude.



Please join us for our Voters Meeting on Sunday, November 22nd, right after the second service. Registered voters and new members wishing to join are encouraged to attend. These meetings are a great way to stay informed and help guide key church decisions.

During this meeting, we will approve our 2027 budget and evaluate options for replacing our church sign. A huge thank you to those who diligently worked on the budget. We also want to thank those who have volunteered to serve on our associate pastor call committee. We have a diverse group that will represent Mt. Olive well.

Finally, please stay cautious regarding seasonal scams, including phishing emails and phone spoofing where callers impersonate utilities or law enforcement. If something looks or sounds suspicious, delete the message or hang up and call the verified number directly.

Let's keep giving thanks, look out for one another, and continue sharing God's love

Choir Director: Do you Have Musical Talent?

Renee Harper, Director



We have been blessed with two more lovely ladies joining the choir! Praise the Lord! There is still room for more! We are starting to work on our Advent and Christmas music so it's a perfect time to join us! We are also looking for instrumentalists to accompany the choir or do solo or ensemble work. Please contact Renee Harper 203-885-6733 for more information!

Board of Evangelism

James Draffin, Chairperson

"How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? [15] And how shall they preach unless they are sent?" Romans 10:14



Paul had just conclusively proven that salvation was not according to people's performance but according to their acceptance of God's grace by faith in Christ Jesus. This was great news! Yet this great news will not do people any good if they don't know it. The Gospel has to be heard to release its power. We are all called to reach the lost.

But how? We are intimidated thinking we do not know what to say. But the best witness is sharing how believing in Jesus has changed your life. Personal testimony is the best way to share one's faith.

Board of Fellowship

Rebecca Selle & Kelly Thrun, Co-Chairpersons

As we enter the month of November, we are beginning to prepare our hearts and our church for the upcoming season of Advent. This is a special time of anticipation, reflection, and preparation as we look forward to celebrating the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

One of our upcoming fellowship gatherings will be our First Advent Lunch on December 2nd. We look forward to sharing a meal, enjoying fellowship, and spending time together as a church family. Please be on the lookout for a sign-up sheet for those who would like to contribute. We will need volunteers to provide a main dish, side dishes, and dessert.



Thank you for always being willing to lend a hand and make our fellowship gatherings special. We are blessed by the time we share together and look forward to celebrating this season with our church family! Wishing everyone a blessed and joyful November!

Board of Public Relations

Shanna Stuck, Chairperson

We are pleased to introduce our New Member Portal on the church website! Subscribers can easily access the Member Directory, Training Guide (for service volunteers), and Constitution & Bylaws all in one place. Just log in to your Mt. Olive account to access the portal.

We'd love to hear your suggestions and feedback. If there's something you'd like to see added, please contact Audrey Harper or Aresa Boykin.

Thoughts, Prayers, Calls, & Cards

"Oh, Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good,
for His steadfast love endures forever!" Psalm 107:1

Thanksgiving is fastly approaching, and soon the bustling holiday season will take up a lot of time for those who are able! In the midst of this season, remember our homebound. In addition to your usual cards and prayers, why not reach out to members who aren't able to get out to see if they need assistance with seasonal preparations.

MINISTRY TO OUR Homebound

As always, 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	

Join a Bible Class

November 2026 Sunday School & Bible Classes – 9:15 AM			
Infants – age 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, Connie Cook, Amanda Dalton, Paula Helming, Brandy Maye, & Melissa Marberry	Ages 2-7: Bible Lessons from the Old & New Testaments Ages 8-9: The Apostles
Confirmation Class	Preschool Area	Pr. Walt Harper	A 2-year study of Luther's Small Catechism & the Bible
Middle & High School Youth	Wagner House	Parents of the Youth	Applying Bible Lessons from *Enduring Faith* to life in our world
Adults	Fellowship Hall	TBA	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

The Preschool has had a wonderful start to the school year, and we are so thankful for each of the precious children that the Lord has put in our care. October marked a month full of learning and fun! As fall approaches, we will be getting ready to settle into our routines and prepare for Thanksgiving. This ministry is growing and touching the lives of so many families in our community. I am reminded daily of just how IMPORTANT and NEEDED our little preschool is in countless ways. I'm grateful that the Lord continues to bless us here at MOLP, so that we can be a blessing to others, all in His name.



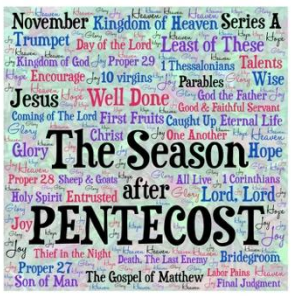
We currently have 26 students who are settling in well and enjoying school. We are at full enrollment for our 4-year-old class! Our Friday BAM class is also full! There are only a few spots available in the 2-year-old and 3-year-old classrooms. Children need to have turned 2 by September 1st of this year to enroll in the 2-year-old class and 3 by September 1st of this year to enroll in the 3-year-old class.

In the coming weeks, we would love for you to come down and peek at the beautiful artwork hanging in the halls and see the bright, engaging classrooms where we spend our days. The new carpet makes everything look so fresh and new! We are all so thankful for the nice, clean look downstairs!

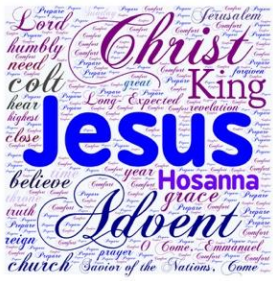
Please continue to pray for our staff, students, and families as the school year continues. Pray that the Lord protects us and keeps us healthy and equips us for His service each day. Pray for flexible spirits and for the Love of Christ to be evident in all we do.

Signs at the Church Entrance









The church is in the final month of The Season after Pentecost. November is an exciting time for our church signs because of so many special days! All Saints Day is the first Sunday of the month. The final Sunday in November is the beginning of the New Church Year with the Series B Lectionary and The Season of Advent. Sandwiched in between are the November Sundays in the Season after Pentecost and, of course, our national day of Thanksgiving.

Here are the previews of the November signs. 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 the lectionary readings, so you can always use your smart phone to help you in your search.

Board of Education

Liezl Baden, Chairperson

It's time again for Journey to Bethlehem (JTB) 2026!!! While the stations will be the same, the overall theme, scripts, and crafts will be different to make sure this wonderful event does not get stale from repetition. It is planned for the evening of December 11th from 6:00-8:00 p.m. All children are invited, from our church and pre-school families to the public. Register at https://vbsmate.com/MOLCVBS2026. Attendance will be set at 50, so sign up soon!

Last year we were blessed with a wonderful group who volunteered their time and talents to JTB. We hope to have the same excitement this year. The volunteer sign-up sheet is in the narthex. It includes a QR code that connects you to an information sheet with everything you need to know about JTB.



The Sunday School children will be having a Christmas Program. The songs and the costumes are sure to delight. Some costumes still had the names of parents that wore them when they were young. It is sure to bring back some sweet Christmas memories, while creating new ones. We hope you can see them on December 6th at the 10:30 a.m. Sunday Service.

Board of Social Ministry

Jan McCarthy & Tina Dixon, Co-Chairpersons

November is the month of Thanksgiving. First Thessalonians 5:18: "Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." Yes, this month emphasizes our giving thanks for all the positives of our lives, for our family, our friends, and the blessings from our Lord and Savior. The Social Ministry Board begins this November by honoring our military veterans during the services on November 7th and 8th. As you meet these men and women who serve our nation, please give them your thanks for their service to you and to our nation.



Once again, in the foyer will be the Giving Tree for those special needs during the Christmas season. Details about this year's Giving Tree will be in the bulletin beginning November 14th and 15th. To quote Rowan Blake, "November teaches the beauty of slowing down without losing direction." The Social Ministry Board wishes you a Happy Thanksgiving.

November 2026 Lectionary

Date	Festival	First Reading	Psalm	Epistle	Gospel
November 1	All Saints	Revelation 7:9–17	Psalm 149	1 John 3:1–3	Matthew 5:1–12
November 8	Proper 27	Amos 5:18–24	Psalm 70	1 Thessalonians 4:13– 18	Matthew 25:1–13
November 15	Proper 28	Zephaniah 1:7–16	Psalm 90:1–12	1 Thessalonians 5:1–11	Matthew 25:14– 30
November 22	Proper 29	Ezek. 34:11– 16, 20–24	Psalm 95:1–7a	1 Corinthians 15:20–28	Matthew 25:31– 46
November 25	Thanks Eve	Deuteronomy 8:1–10	Psalm 67	Philippians 4:6–20	Luke 17:11–19
November 29	Advent 1	Isaiah 40:1-5	Psalm 50:1-6	Philippians 44:1-9	Luke 1:5-25

Read the Bible in Three Years – November 2026

Nov 1	Isaiah 23-24	Nov 8	Isaiah 37-38	Nov 16	Isaiah 53-54	Nov 24	I Thess. 2
Nov 2	Isaiah 25-26	Nov 9	Isaiah 39-40	Nov 17	Isaiah 55-56	Nov 25	I Thess. 3
Nov 3	Isaiah 27-28	Nov 10	Isaiah 41-42	Nov 18	Isaiah 57-58	Nov 26	I Thess. 4
Nov 4	Isaiah 29-30	Nov 11	Isaiah 43-44	Nov 19	Isaiah 59-60	Nov 27	I Thess. 5
Nov 5	Isaiah 31-32	Nov 12	Isaiah 45-46	Nov 20	Isaiah 61-62	Nov 28	II Thess. 1
Nov 6	Isaiah 33-34	Nov 13	Isaiah 47-48	Nov 21	Isaiah 63-64	Nov 29	II Thess. 2
Nov 7	Isaiah 35-36	Nov 14	Isaiah 49-50	Nov 22	Isaiah 65-66	Nov 30	II Thess. 3
		Nov 15	Isaiah 51-52	Nov 23	I Thess. 1		

Our daily readings continue in the book of Isaiah, which Pr. Walt is teaching on Wednesdays through November 18th. Note that we are reading two chapters each day because of the length of the book. Isaiah is filled with Messianic prophecies to Israel and to the church. Many of these were fulfilled through Jesus' birth, life, death, and resurrection, yet we await those that will be fulfilled at His second coming.

Beginning November 23rd, we will read both of St. Paul's letters to the church at Thessaloniki which is located in northern Greece in the province of Macedonia. Paul spent a short time in Thessaloniki during his second missionary journey, forming a church of Jewish and Greek converts before intense persecution forced him to leave. After hearing a good report from Timothy, Paul wrote to encourage the believers there to remain steadfast in their faith and to look forward to Christ's return in glory.

November 2026 Anniversaries

11/1	Brandon & Molly Mason	11/24	Patrick & Joyce Lauterbach
11/1	Michael & Myran Trask	11/25	Jim & Geri Harper
11/2	John & Neva Meyerhoff	11/28	Mike & Sue Knowles
11/3	Michael & Billie Whitaker	11/29	Christopher & Kara Meetze
11/11	Bruce & Paula Helming	11/29	Paul & Pam Northen

November 2026 Birthdays

11/1	Bill Vogel	11/13	Miranda Cook	11/19	Mike Knowles
11/2	Chris Bauer	11/13	Jim Harper	11/19	Paula Meetze
11/3	Connie Cook	11/15	Will Gepfert	11/19	Thomas Meetze
11/4	Cameron Dalton	11/16	Linda Selle	11/19	Perry O'Quinn
11/4	Kathryn Cheney	11/17	Kathie Voyles	11/19	Gerry Selle
11/7	Christian Baden	11/18	Calma Cook	11/20	David Meetze
11/7	Al Jabs	11-18	Tammy Crider	11/22	John Carlson
11/7	Linda Schmidt	11/18	Emily Ranta	11/23	Luanne Curry
11/11	Raymond Kapalka	11/18	Jacob Setterlund	11/24	Cyndi Nelson
11/12	Addilyn Meetze	11/18	Robert Weinberger	11/27	Kathryn Meetze
11/12	Anita Meetze			11/29	Katie Matzko

Announcements

Women's Book Club



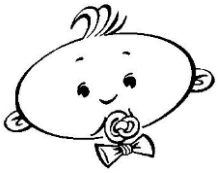
The ladies meet on the first and third Tuesdays of each month at 7:00 pm in the fellowship hall. This month, the group will meet on November 3rd and 17th**.** You do not have to read the book to join us. All ladies are welcome to join! We are currently reading *God's Provision in a Wilderness World,* by Lindsay Hausch. There is one extra copy, 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.

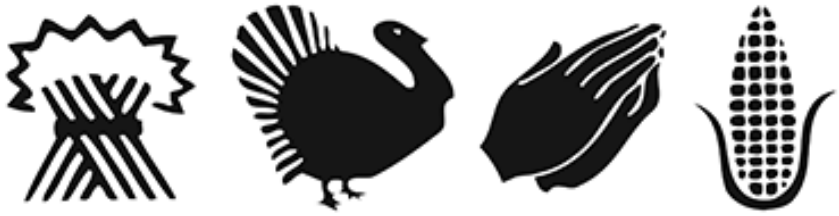




GIVE THANKS TO GOD

God gives us many blessings every day. How can we thank him?

Directions: To complete the Bible verse below, follow the code and fill in the blanks.



A=1, B=2, C=3, D=4, E=5, F=6, G=7, H=8, I=9, J=10,
K=11, L=12, M=13, N=14, O=15, P=16, Q=17, R=18,
S=19, T=20, U=21, V=22, W=23, X=24, Y=25, Z=26.

"____ will ____ ____ ____ ____ ____ ____
9 16 18 1 9 19 5

____ ____ ____', ____ name in ____ ____ ____ ____
7 15 4 19 19 15 14 7

and ____ ____ ____ ____ ____ ____ ____ ____ ____ ____ with
7 12 15 18 9 6 25 8 9 13

____ ____ ____ ____ ____ ____ ____ ____ ____ ____ ____ ____ ____."
20 8 1 14 11 19 7 9 22 9 14 7

A Veterans Day Prayer

God of all nations, you are our Strength and Shield. We give you thanks today for the devotion and courage of all those who have offered military service for this country …

We ask today that you would lift up by your Spirit those who are now at war; encourage and heal those in hospitals or mending their wounds at home; guard those in any need or trouble; hold safely in your hands all military families and bring the returning troops to joyful reunion and tranquil life at home. Give to us, your people, grateful hearts and a united will to honor these men and women and hold them always in our love and our prayers until your world is perfected in peace and all wars cease. Through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.
(Shared in a past MtO newsletter from Jennifer Phillips.)



A Heart That Remembers: The Gift of a Grateful Heart

"Give thanks in all circumstances;
for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."
1 Thessalonians 5:18

It is easy to give thanks when life is calm, the table is full, and everything is going according to plan. It is much harder—and yet infinitely more powerful—to choose gratitude when seasons are heavy or uncertain.

Thanksgiving is more than a turkey dinner or a national holiday; it is a spiritual posture. When we pause to count our blessings, we shift our focus from what we lack to the God who provides. This month, let us look past the rush of the season and anchor our hearts in His steadfast love. Who can you encourage with a word of thanks today?