



THE OLIVE BRANCH

MARCH 2022



From the desk of Pastor Ryan

The Breakthrough Prayer Initiative has begun at Mt. Olive and some of you may be wondering what that means. Breakthrough prayer is a short prayer we add to our regular prayers where we ask God for what is new and next in our lives that is impossible without God. There are breakthrough prayers throughout the Bible. The most famous one is: “Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.” (Matthew 6:10). Jesus tells us to pray such prayers trusting God will answer “Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you.” (Luke 11:9). Breakthrough prayers are for things impossible without God. As David prayed: “Lead me to the rock that is higher than I.” (Psalm 61:2).

We had a wonderful turnout for our initial training and a fantastic team (called the Flood Gates Team) has been formed that will compose Mt. Olive’s breakthrough prayer we will ALL be praying in the coming months. That’s where you play a crucial role: each one of us needs to add this short prayer to our regular individual prayers as well as to our collective prayers during worship and meetings. Can you imagine what God might do in your life and in our church when we use this prayer to open new possibilities? Our team meets tomorrow (March 1) to compose this breakthrough prayer and we’ll share it with you as soon as possible. I look forward to seeing what God has in store for us.

In Jesus’ love,
Pastor Ryan

Pastor Ryan and Ralph resume visits in March as Covid cases are declining. Please let us know if you would appreciate a visit.

Please pray for two Mt. Olive leaders serving other congregations right now: Chris Bass is serving as a Synodically Authorized Minister to St. John’s in Lenoir and The Reverend Paul Birkedal is serving as a part-time interim pastor to St. Mark’s in Claremont.

MT. OLIVE LUTHERAN CHURCH (ELCA)
2780 NORTH CENTER STREET
HICKORY, NC 28601
PHONE: 828-324-6198

**DEADLINE FOR APRIL
NEWSLETTER ARTICLES:
March 15**

Please note: newsletter articles
should be sent to Karen at
mtolivechurch@embarqmail.com



How to Worship from Home

If you don't have internet access: Mt. Olive is currently holding 8:30 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. in-person services each week. Communion is offered weekly. In addition to Mt. Olive's worship offerings, the NC Synod has coordinated a shared worship experience you can access via your telephone. To listen to Worship anytime, call toll-free: 833-924-1988. Press 1 to hear the full worship. Press 2 to hear only the sermon. Press 3 to hear only the prayers.

If you have internet access, but not a Facebook account: All of the above worship options are available to you. We are also offering an online interactive worship from 10:00-10:30 a.m. Also, even without a Facebook account, you can watch Mt. Olive worship live on our Facebook Business Page by searching for "Mt. Olive Lutheran Church, Hickory, NC – ELCA." Without a Facebook account you cannot leave comments. You can also watch the NC Synod's worship online at www.facebook.com/NCSynod/

If you have internet access and a Facebook account: All of the above worship options are available to you. In addition, you can comment and interact in real time during live worship on Facebook and join the "Mt. Olive Lutheran – Hickory" Facebook Group.

Worship News

God is calling you. Six people in the Bible hear God's call and every one of them responds exactly the same: "Here I am." What came next changed their lives forever. Just like them, God is busy working in our lives and invites us to join that work. Throughout Lent, we'll hear these stories and prepare ourselves to be ready with the same answer to God's invitation: "Here I am."



Each week we'll hear:

- March 6 Abraham's "Here I am": How prayer opens new possibilities
- March 13 Jacob's "Here I am": How we're able to respond to God's invitations
- March 20 Moses' "Here I am": How to get "unstuck"
- March 27 Samuel's "Here I am": Can we leave comfort zones behind?
- April 3 Isaiah's "Here I am": Finding purpose in life
- April 10 Ananias' "Here I am": A new lesson in love

Wednesday Night Lenten Prayer Vespers

Can you think of a time in your life when prayer was more needed than right now? Wednesday nights at 6 p.m. throughout Lent we'll gather together in-person for prayer with a simple vespers service. Space will be made each week to submit your own cares and concerns.

March Music Rehearsals

All are welcome!

Wednesdays 5:15– 5:45 PM Children's Music- Meets in education building

Wednesdays 6:30- 7:00 PM Faith Out Loud (Sings at 8:30 Service) - Meets in Sanctuary

Wednesdays 7:00- 8:00 PM Chancel Choir (Sings at 10:45 Service) - Meets in Olive Chapel

Sundays 5:30- 6:30 PM Handbells -Meets in Sanctuary

If you are interested in handbells, please contact me so I can plan music according to the number of ringers.

No experience is needed to participate in any of the musical ensembles. All you need to bring is yourself, and our purpose is to "Make a joyful noise unto the Lord." Please contact me if you have any questions at mtoorganist@gmail.com or 828-850-1153.

Soli Deo Gloria,
Jenna



Due to our Thrivent Action Team grant and the generosity of Mt. Olive members, 100 Love Bags were delivered to the Hickory Soup Kitchen in time for Valentine's Day

Each bag contained a hat, 2 pairs of gloves, deodorant, lip balm, toothbrush with cap, socks, razor, crackers, cookies, and hard candy. The folks at the soup kitchen were very appreciative when we unloaded two cars full of Love Bags. Thank you Mt. Olive!



Thank you!

You all are Amazing! Our guests are so fortunate to have your help. God bless you. Thank you for the continued support.

Austin Pearce
Hickory Soup Kitchen



1. What "work" was Jesus accused of doing on the Sabbath?
2. To whom did Jesus say John 3:16 as recorded in the NT?
3. What was the name of the first female Christian believer in Athens?

March Happenings at Mt. Olive

Trivia Answer:

1. Healing (Matt 12:9-14)
2. Nicodemus (John 3:9, 16)
3. Damaris (Acts 17:34)

Hickory Soup Kitchen

We will be assisting the Soup Kitchen on Monday, March 14. If you are interested in helping, contact Debbie Carmack.

March Birthdays

Mar 1	Maleah Garner
Mar 3	Edna Punch
Mar 5	Elma Jean Beatty
Mar 6	Halee Davis
Mar 9	Huitt Drum
Mar 13	Jim Williams
Mar 18	Marion Waldon
Mar 19	Paul Birkedal
	Eric Griggs
	Samantha Seabock
Mar 22	Mark Rauchfuss
Mar 24	Katherine Tice
Mar 28	Amanda Fu
	Amberly Horton
Mar 29	Diane Rauchfuss

Altar Flowers for February \$53.50 made payable to Mt. Olive Lutheran

- Mar. 6 Harry Heavner
 Mar. 13 Penny / Tim Lineberger
 Mar. 20 Frank / Rita Miller, Jane Miller
 Mar. 27 Mary Gregory

Martha & Esther Circle

The Martha Circle will meet on Tuesday, March 1st at 11:00 a.m. in Heritage Hall.

Esther Circle will meet on Thursday, March 3rd at 10:30 a.m. in Heritage Hall.

Youth News

Yes, we will host another Easter Egg-stravaganza this year! More details to come.

Adult Fellowship

The Adult Fellowship will meet on Wednesday, March 16th at 10:30 a.m. in Heritage Hall. Adelia Arndt will be reviewing the Christmas project from Pocahontas and after, we will discuss future plans for 2022.

Be the Light!!

We want to thank each of you that have sent a pledge card or monetary donation in for this very important ministry. Thank you and God Bless!

OFFERINGS

Cash Basis:	Jan 30	Feb 6	Feb 13	Feb 20	Feb 28
Total General Offerings	\$6,672.33	\$4,676.50	\$8,644.00	\$13,000.67	\$3,287.83
Budgeted amount needed weekly					
Designated Funds:					
World Hunger	\$110.00	\$220.00		\$220.00	
Cemetery funds					
Micah's Cupboard	\$500.00	\$85.00	\$640.30	\$60.00	\$200.00
Quilting Fund					
Pastor's discr fund					
Hospitality					
Evangelism/Outreach/School	\$300.00				
Be the Light					\$1,500.00
Youth fund	\$50.00				
Soup Kitchen		\$20.00	\$175.00		\$200.00
Operation Christmas Shoebox					
CCM			\$175.00		\$100.00
Use of building					
TOTAL DESIGNATED FUNDS	\$960.00	\$325.00	\$990.30	\$280.00	\$2,000.00

Reserve - Repairs & Maintenance	\$165.00	n/a	\$140.00	\$100.00	\$20.00
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Financial Update at a glance:	Jan	Feb
Month to date giving	\$37,240.83	\$29,609.00
Monthly budgeted amount:	\$32,000.00	\$34,000.00

JANUARY 2022 TREASURER'S REPORT

Total income for January 2022 was \$36,524, the budget amount was \$32,000, and January 2021 was \$35,325. Total expenses were \$32,386 compared with a budget amount of \$33,195. For the month, income exceeded expenses by \$4,138.

Gerald Burke
Treasurer

MONTH OF MARCH		
8:30 Service	3/6/2022	10:45 Service
Chris Bass	Communion Assistant and Crucifer	Teresa Bazzle
Connie Burluson	Acolyte	Naomi East
Roxy Poovey	Lay Lector	Paulette Church
Sylvia Price	Greeter	Frances Hallman
Herman Price / Kenny Morrison	Ushers	Bryna Frye Chris Frye

8:30 Service	3/13/2022	10:45 Service
Eric Griggs	Communion Assistant and Crucifer	Libby Garner
Shirley Griggs	Acolyte	Maleah Garner
Connie Burluson	Lay Lector	Kate Rhea
Pat Neill	Greeter	Kathy Starr
Dennis Anthony John Hegert	Ushers	Craig Garner Penny Lineberger

8:30 Service	3/20/2022	10:45 Service
Connie Burluson	Communion Assistant and Crucifer	Paulette Church
Chris Bass	Acolyte	Jane Spaugh
Mickey Barnett	Lay Lector	Amy Hollar
Amy Cook	Greeter	Naomi East
Rick Carmack Debbie Carmack	Ushers	Gerald Burke Teresa Bazzle

8:30 Service	3/27/2022	10:45 Service
Mickey Barnett	Communion Assistant and Crucifer	Penny Lineberger
Eric Griggs	Acolyte	Preston Taylor
Chris Bass	Lay Lector	Geoff Yount
Rita Miller	Greeter	Jane Spaugh
Bob Eliasson / Frank Miller	Ushers	Barry Taylor Bryna Frye



**Mt. Olive Members in
Assisted Living or Nursing Facilities:**

Heritage Care
John Beatty

Trinity Village, Springs Road:
Edna Punch
Lyn Stilley
Clyde & Sarah Hull
Gwen Kingsley

Brookdale Assisted Living Falling Creek
Carol Tawney

Catawba Valley Living at Rock Barn:
Maxine Kirchin

Grace Ridge
Jennie Bost

Kingston Residence:
Sylvia Whisnant

We are proud of our Mt. Olive members who are continuing their education post high school. **Please remember to keep them in your prayers.**

Emma Barger, Ben Bazzle, Brittany Collins, Matt Davis, Keely Horton, Whitney Horton, Daniel Richter, Kayla Seabock, Paige Shook, Jenna Waters, Katie Tice, Caleb Hedgepeth, Meadow Frye, Leaci Brice, Simon Frye.

Prayer List for Members of Mt. Olive

Esther Armstrong	Chip Drum
Margaret Barger	Karen Pruet
Jennie Bost	Gail Welch
Chris Brookshire	Becky Psioda
Brad, Meredith, and Owen Elder	Wayne Hefner
Nina Fullwood	Rosa & Ronnie Owens
Mary Gregory	Carolyn Sigmon
Jeanette Huffman	Tony & Diane
Linda Huffman	Shacklady
Gwen Kingsley	Kathy Starr
Terry Laxton	Jan Hefner
K.C. Setzer	Jerry Barger
Tom Rhea Jr.	Carol Tawney
Tom East	Sonny Bolick
Van Seabock	Jimmy Seabock
John Beatty	William Truett
Sarah Garren Taylor	
Michael Bock	
Loretta Stephenson	
Miya Teague	
Thelma Jarvis	
Georgia Collins	
Clyde & Sarah Hull	
Lynette Stilley	
Sylvia Whisnant	

Our Family and Friends

Wayne Austin, friend of Penny & Tim Lineberger
Shirley Baker, friend of Kathy Starr
Anne Barnes, friend of Susy Morrison
Robert Beard, friend of Jimmy Seabock
Margie Black, friend of Penny Lineberger
David Bolick, friend of John & Kathie Hegert
Barbara Boudreaux, daughter of McCrorie's
Ed Byrd, friend of McCrorie's
Janice Campbell, Will Truett's aunt
Barbara Van Cleave, cousin of McCrorie's
April Colbert, niece of Van & Debbie Seabock
Frances Cranford, friend of Eva Helton
Lisa Faulkner, McCrorie cousin
Louise Foster, mother of Paulette Church
Misti Fuller, granddaughter of Mary Gregory
Deborah Gleaton, friend of Amanda Truett
James & Cathy Grant, friend of Rick and Debbie Carmack
Bobbie, Christopher, Jada, and Jason Halle
David Harwood, friend of Hank & Bernice McCrorie
Mary Howell, friend of Teresa Bazzle
Michael Hutchinson, friend of McCrorie's
Sue Johnson, friend of Pat Neill
Sandy Kauk, friend of Chris & Brenda Bass
Susan Kirkley, friend of McCrorie's
Chelsea Larkin, friend of Josh & Courtney Goble
Gregory Larochelle
Lindsay Kate LeZotte, friend of Becky Anthony
Tom McCarthy, brother-in-law of Ellis Bolick
Olivia Mason, great niece of Teresa Bazzle
Shelby Mason, niece of Teresa Bazzle
Eric Nilsen, brother of Amy Whaley
Laura Pardue, Jim William's sister
Donna Parker, sister of Frances Hallman & Margaret Barger
Lauren Parlier, Paul Rozzelle & Zeke, friend of Amy Whaley
Randall Parsons-friend of Tom & Kate Rhea
Courtney Pearce, granddaughter of Sylvia Whisnant
Richard Rhea, Tom Rhea's brother
Jim Russell, friend of McCrorie's
Alton Piester, brother of Elma Jean Beatty
Terri Brown Robbins, friend of Tom & Kate Rhea
Amanda Rogers, Jim William's sister
Norene Setzer, Cindy Sullivan's mother
Erica Sigmon, friend of Amanda Truett
Courtney Spencer, daughter of Jane Kazelman
Kristin Spencer, Marion Waldon's daughter
Wade Spencer, Marion Waldon's son-in-law
Janet & Buddy Spoon, friend of Carol Tawney
Jim Starkey & family, friend of Eva Helton
Jeff Stinson, friend of Van & Debbie Seabock
Cindy Brittain-White & Abby Brittain-daughter in law of Kate Rhea and granddaughter
Joan Whitt, friend of Jim & Sue Coble
Ann Widner, friend of Lynn Seabock
Chandler Williams, McCrorie friend
Robert & Kaye Ullman-sister, brother-in-law of Nina Fullwood
Raigen, brain surgery
Tim & Erica, son of Carol Tawney

STAFF AND CHURCH LEADERS

Pastor and Teen Ministry:

The Rev. Ryan T. Ray
Cell Phone: 828-310-0776
Email: rray001@luthersem.edu

Visitation Pastor

The Rev. Ralph Kraft
Cell Phone: 828-855-7212
Email: pastorralph@stpaulstartown.org

Organist/Pianist & Choir Director:

Jenna Waters
Email: waters.j@artist.uncsa.edu

Parish Administrator:

Karen Abernathy
Email: mtolivelutheran@embarqmail.com

Congregation President: Eric Griggs

Congregation Vice President: TBD

Congregation Council Secretary: Amy Hollar

Church Treasurer: Gerald Burke

Newsletter information Contact: Karen Abernathy

Email: mtolivelutheran@embarqmail.com

Homebound Communion Contact: Pam Sigmon

Phone: 828-320-1356

Email: jiminy@embarqmail.com

Outreach Team Chairperson:

TBD

Prayer Chain Contacts:

Karen Birkedal: 828-495-9372 or 828-303-0239

Frances Hallman: 828-638-1680

Sanctuary Flower Contact: Penny Lineberger

Phone: 828-256-6092

Email: pen_tim@yahoo.com

Micah's Cupboard Contact:

Adeliah Arndt 828-612-9774

WELCA Contact:

Debbie Carmack 828-320-0525

Hospitality Contact: Pat Neill 828-381-5375

CONTACT INFORMATION

Mt. Olive Lutheran Church

2780 North Center Street Hickory, NC 28601

Phone: 828-324-6198 Fax: 828-324-0292

Email: mtolivelutheran@embarqmail.com Website: www.mtolutheran.org

Emergency Contacts information:

Pastor Ryan: 828-310-0776

Worship Times:

Sunday Mornings

In-Person 8:30 am & 10:45 am (Facebook
broadcast)

Interactive Feedback Worship at 10:00 a.m.

Office Hours:

Monday through Thursday

9:00 am—4:00 pm

The office is closed on Friday

Our Mission Statement:

In response to the love of Jesus Christ, our mission is:

Believe, Belong, Serve. God's Work. Our Hands.