

MT. OLIVET BAPTIST CHURCH, 3500 Edwards Mill Road, Raleigh, NC 27612

NEWS & EVENTS – February 2026

Phone...(919) 787-1910
E-mail: office@mabc.org
Web Page: www.mabc.org

SAM GORE, Senior Pastor
NANCY MCBRAYER, Office Manager
MIKE KING, Maintenance Supervisor

Three things impress me as I reflect on newsworthy commentary this last Sunday morning of January, 2026. This morning, I'm at home at a time when we generally gather together with the church to worship. Today, we are hindered in our travel by a major ice storm. The three realities that coexist are...

a storm truly is upon us, ICE agents battle protestors in the streets of American cities, and a group of Buddhist monks walking from Fort Worth, Texas to Washington D.C. seems to be a cultural attraction.

The monks are advocating that people become more aware of the practice of peace. One of their declarations was voiced in Raleigh less than 24 hours ago... *We are able to come here together in this weather in front of this Capitol, just to support the mission of peace. It means **there's no difference between all of us.*** I tend to agree in principle with that premise. And Biblical background affirms this truth as we consider... *"I most certainly understand now that God is not one to show partiality, but in every nation the man who fears Him and does what is right is welcome to Him. (Acts 10:34-36).* One similarity is that human beings are made to worship. But there is a difference in *Who or What* we worship. I find that as I consider this passage in Acts, I am compelled to dig a little deeper into the multicultural attraction of cultural worship and the meditative and diagnostic question that defines the exclusive nature of Who we worship as Christians. The Christian question, *Is Jesus God or not?* clarifies the Person of God as the object of worship from all other world religious leaders. According to *Wikipedia*, (not always a reliable source of information), the monks *maintain a meditative walking pace and pause in various communities along the way to engage with local residents and share their message.* We could learn something here as followers of Jesus. Maintaining a meditative walking pace seems to telegraph a tactic in spiritual warfare, which is often compared to worship. We can engage in prayerful practice as we travel through time and space, in our own neighborhoods, or particular workspaces. The Gospel Message we have to share is without comparison in other world religions. Another snippet from the *Wikipedia* article grabbed my attention. *A stated goal of the monks is to ask the [United States Congress](#) to recognize the [Buddha's day of birth](#) as a [federal holiday](#).* It will be interesting to see how Congress deals with that. Is Jesus God or not? Anything less than yes misses the reason we are Christian. We worship Him.

Cultural Christianity reminds me of this generation's bumper sticker where the word COEXIST displays symbols of world religious practices such as the moon, the star of David, the yin and the yang, and the cross among others. The idea of tolerance and cohesiveness of all religious practices seems to dilute the declarations of faith in what or who is worshipped. I exist as a witness of a Christ follower. This belief is offered to all of humanity but one cannot believe that Christianity is equally inclusive of other world religious convictions. We have access to God that we can call Father through only one avenue of approach according to **John 14:6.**, *Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me."* I find no credible comparable declaration from Gautama Buddha, Mohammed, or any of the many Jewish rabbis. Another nugget of news coverage was highly intriguing to me. Historically, it seems that political figures within cultures have been chronicled for their comments as to the development of religious movements. Sometimes they wish to be known as a leader who was supportive in the inclusion and integration of all faiths and religions. It seems also that some political leaders become isolated and provocative in their comments. As of this writing, according to one local newspaper, the North Carolina governor is the only state governor who came out to personally welcome the monks on their journey. Maybe that will be a good political move. A long time ago, a Roman procurator issued this prolific statement just prior to one particular public execution.

Pilate said to them, "Then what shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?" They all said, "Crucify Him!" (Matt 27:22) This question lives on in every age, in every culture, in every heart. A question from a pagan religious practitioner concerning the nature of Jesus... *What shall I do with Jesus?* Is He God or not. The best answer I can find... Worship Him...and Him alone. You can trust God...forever.

Blessings to you,
Pastor Sam

(If you are unable to attend Mt. Olivet's 11 AM Sunday worship service in person, can go to website www.mabc.org and click on "Worship Services" for live streaming or prior messages.)