

Connections

Making the grace of God real for people

www.olivetchristian.org

1991 S. Olivet Rd. ~ Columbia MO 65201 573.442.0336 ~ February 2019

Olivet Christian Church
1991 S Olivet Rd
Columbia MO 65201

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Monday - Friday

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MEET OUR NEW NURSERY SUPERVISOR

Please help us welcome Madison Hoehn as Olivet's new Nursery Supervisor. Madison will be joining us on Sunday mornings to care for our youngest disciples. She is an MU student, dedicated caregiver, and welcome presence in the life of the church.

We also extend our deepest thanks to the Nursery Supervisor Search Committee: Julia Jackson, Angela Reeder, and Hannah Ryan. They have high standards for the care of Olivet's children and spent several months searching for the perfect fit.



OPEN AND AFFIRMING DISCERNMENT TO BEGIN SOON!

As you hopefully know, the Olivet Board of Directors, in cooperation with our Pastoral Staff and Christian Education Committee, agreed last Fall to begin the process of discerning whether or not Olivet is to officially achieve the designation as an "Open and Affirming Congregation." We fully realize that there are many questions and emotions among you as to what this means for the life of our church. Thus, we are designating 6 weeks during the season of Lent to that shared learning and dialogue process. The first meeting will take place on Wednesday, February 27, from 5:30 PM – 7:15 PM. We will begin with a soup and salad meal, with the class to follow. Concurrent alternative Lenten activities will be offered for youth. Skipping the ensuing week to observe Ash Wednesday, we will resume on March 13 and continue on successive Wednesdays through April 10th. Please also understand that **your presence and voice are vital to this process. Ultimately this matter will result in a final, congregational vote. It is critically important that all of us come together to discern where God's love is calling us to act on this defining issue of our time. Without your participation our efforts to find the proper way forward will be greatly diminished.**



Too few Christians plumb the depths of the liturgical calendar from year to year. The central feature of that process, of course, comes in walking with the Revised Common Lectionary from week to week. Through the Lectionary we are not only provided with an easily accessible pathway for encountering the entirety of the Scriptures every three years, but we also find a

prime opportunity for reabsorbing the biblical story of Jesus, his Disciples and the early Church. Each liturgical year begins, naturally, with the Advent and Christmas stories, which we just revived again over the past 2 months. Currently, we are in the season of "Epiphany," which begins with the story of the Wise Men, their journey to Bethlehem, and their own realization that, in this poor child born in a barn to refugee parents, God has reasserted kingship over the whole of the creation.

Yet, the story of Epiphany doesn't stop there. Jesus, too, we soon learn, had his own epiphanic moments. In the weeks following Epiphany Sunday, the Lectionary told the story of Jesus' baptism and his own acceptance of his earthly calling. (We often forget that Jesus, too, had to decide whether or not to follow God's calling in his life.) This Sunday and last, moreover, the Lectionary follows Jesus through Luke's telling as he returns home to Nazareth to formally announce the beginning of his ministry.

Reflecting on these Lectionary stories has inspired fitting spiritual meditations within me at a similar place in my own journey. More specifically, I find myself thinking during this season about what it means to be called by Jesus into pastoral ministry. Once again, I am reminded through Jesus' story that being a Pastor is a sacred calling. It is more than a job, it is a way of being that seeks to model the love of Christ through sacrifice, service and humble presence. What's more, after nearly two decades in ministry I remember again an important truth that several veteran Pastors shared with me when I was just starting out; being a Pastor, they said in some form or another, can be a supremely rewarding life, but it's also "one of the utmost challenging professions in the world." They told me this because they wanted me to know exactly what I was getting myself into.

Indeed, they were utterly correct. Pastoral ministry is, at once, both tremendously rewarding and enormously challenging. It is the most profound of privileges to walk with someone as they get married or welcome a new child into the world. Yet it is also quite a heavy load to bear in moments of crisis. And, for me, both realities are most present in helping congregants deal with the experience of their own mortality. From my own point of view, the highest of all privileges comes in providing comfort to those who must face death, and walking with them and their families as they search for God in the midst of their deepest pain and sorrow. In fact, at no other point do I experience the full weight and responsibility of the pastoral office more than when I stand before a casket as it is closed for the final time knowing that I will be the last person to see the earthly body of

(Continued on page 3)



Thank you so much for the beautiful poinsettia! I have enjoyed it so very much.

Inge Decker

Dear Olivet Christian Church,

What a nice surprise. You made my day when I received the beautiful poinsettia plant.

Thank you so much. The plant is still blooming and I enjoy it every day. God Bless everyone.

May Lou Perkins

Dear Olivet Church,

Thank you so much for the Christmas gift and the beautiful poinsettia. Your kindness and thoughtfulness are very much appreciated. Words are inadequate to express how much I love this church, how much its members mean to me, and how welcome I have felt since my first day in the office. I feel so blessed.

Becky Teacutter

Thank you to everyone who participated in the annual Chili Cook-off Competition. The chilis were tasty and the fun was fantastic. The event grossed \$770 and will support the meals and ministry of Loaves & Fishes Soup Kitchen

Olivet Christian Church, Thank you for your continuing support with the donation of \$500. You are deeply appreciated for this generous donation.

-Show Me Habitat for Humanity

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS YOUR HELP

The Food Pantries in Central Missouri and Boone County are always in need of assistance. The list below contains suggestions for donations. Items donated in the first quarter of 2019 will go to Russell Chapel Food Pantry. Place your items in the Food Pantry area of the Fellowship Hall.

Veggies

Any canned vegetables
green beans, peas, carrots,
mixed vegetables, spinach
Boxed dried potato mixes
Boxed mashed potatoes
Pickles/relish

Alternate

Cereal - rice, oatmeal
Dry pasta/ramen noodles
Chicken or tuna helper
Corn bread or biscuit mixes
Pancake mix and syrup
Jell-O pudding mixes or packets
Microwave popcorn
Catsup, mayo, mustard
Mac 'n cheese

(Continued from page 2)

this pilgrim that has gone on to be with God. Further, each time I accompany that person in a funeral coach to their final resting place I am awe-struck at the privilege and honor of being called by God into this most sacred of vocations.

So, as I continue to journey with Jesus through his story as re-told via the Lectionary each week, and with you through my sharing in your lives, I simply want to use this occasion to express my heartfelt gratitude to those of you who have entrusted me as a spiritual Shepherd during some of the most sacred moments of your lives. It is a privilege that I profoundly cherish and could never take for granted. Few who enter ministry for the right reasons ever desire, in such moments, to be the center of attention. They merely long in the core of their being to represent the face of Christ, and to embody his love to those who are hurting and searching for God in the midst of life's many challenges and celebrations. Thank you for allowing me to be your Pastor.

Blessings of Peace,
wes



Many of you noticed that Advent Awakenings looked a little bit different this past December. Instead of gathering for a meal and then going our separate ways to participate in a variety of classes, we tried something new. After eating together in the fellowship hall we all moved together to the multipurpose room, where we - children, youth, and adults - sat around tables, prayed together, read scripture together, did activities together, and participated in discussion together. Preschoolers shared their prayers for peace, hope, joy, and love with seniors and vice-versa. Adults helped children construct Advent wreathes and children infused their special brand of creativity into the task. We sang our favorite Christmas carols, retold the Nativity story in our own special ways, and hopefully, everyone learned a little something new about God and the community that gathers at Olivet.

More and more, research on faith communities is showing that these intergenerational interactions are vitally important to faith formation and congregational wholeness. It turns out, generations need one another. Intergenerational ministry empowers multiple generations to mutually invest in each other and in the community; it encourages deep relationship-building that plays an invaluable role in the development of lifelong disciples; and it brings renewal of energy and vitality to the entire congregation.

The Christian Education team will continue to offer various opportunities for intergenerational interactions - this is something the people of Olivet have always been good at. And in the meantime, I encourage you to introduce yourself to a child whose name you can't remember, ask them how they've seen God at work in the past week, and share with them a bit of your own story. You may be surprised by what develops.

I wanted a perfect ending.
Now I've learned, the hard way,
that some poems don't rhyme, and
some stories don't have a clear
beginning, middle, and end.
Life is about not knowing, having
to change, taking the moment and
making the best of it, without
knowing what's going to happen
next.

- Gilda Radnor

THE NOISINESS OF OFFERINGS

A pastor in Alabama tells the story about one of the ushers rummaging through the offering plates after worship. As the concerned pastor approached the situation, the usher said, "Don't worry! I'm not embezzling the offering. One of the kids from the church bus put buttons in the offering plate." The bus brought kids from a more modest part of town to worship each Sunday. The pastor thought he would put a stop to this nonsense by finding out who was putting the buttons in the plate.

He approached the bus full of kids and said, "Who placed these buttons in the offering plate?" A very shy little girl with big green eyes slowly raised her hand and said, "I did, Pastor." When he asked why she had done that, she replied with tears in her eyes, "I didn't mean to do anything bad. I just wanted to make an offering to God, like you said we should. But I don't have any money like the other people. So I asked my Momma what could I give and she gave me those buttons from her sewing box. She said maybe somebody could use the buttons to help someone make some clothes."

The pastor assured the little girl that she had done nothing wrong and thanked her for the gift. It sort of reminds us of the story of the widow's mite. The pastor initially failed to understand the value of the little girl's offering. On a larger scale we could ask, "Is the offering of worship and prayer in a small church any less important, any less valuable than the mega-church down the road?" It's not about the size of the offering. It's about what's in your heart and knowing that you are giving your very best and giving to glorify God.

All gifts are important and represent a level of faithfulness and dedication. Gifts go far beyond what we put in the offering plate. There are gifts of time and talent needed throughout ALL the ministries of the church. Have you made an assessment lately of your giving? I'm not advocating for buttons in the offering plate, but a reminder that regardless of the sounds.....the sound of your voice in the choir; the clatter of your hands serving at Loaves and Fishes; your time commitment to leadership positions or assisting with Room at the Inn; your attendance and/or teaching Sunday school; supporting our youth; the clanking of change; the silence of the dollar; and maybe even buttons; it all works together to fulfill God's plan and mission for this church. Are you making a sufficient amount of noise with your offerings?

ANGEL TREE DINNER 2019

The Youth Group will host their annual Angel Tree Dinner to raise funds for the Christmas Angel Tree on Saturday, February 16, 5-7 PM. Enjoy a delicious meal with your sweetheart or best friend, or invite a neighbor or a co-worker to join you! Sign up for reservations on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall or contact Hannah Ryan at hfisherryan@gmail.com.



Angel Tree Dinner



The Gift That Gives



*Love ever gives,
forgives, outlives
and ever stands
with open hands.
And while it lives, it gives.
For this is love's prerogative —
to give, and give, and give.*

—John Oxenham

Love is a Fruit in Season



At all times and within reach of every hand!
Spread love everywhere you go
First of all in your own house
Give love to your children
To your husband or wife
To a next door neighbor
Let no one ever come to you
Without leaving happier
Be the living expression of God's
Kindness, kindness in your face
Kindness in your eyes
Kindness in your smile
Kindness in your warm greeting!

—Mother Teresa

Olivet Annual

Library Book Sale

Olivet Library's Used Book Sale is coming soon! Sunday morning, February 17 in Fellowship Hall, one week before the All-Church Rummage Sale. Proceeds of the book sale will support Olivet's Library Ministry and the purchase of new resources. YOU can be part of this annual tradition and fund raiser by:

- 📖 Cleaning out your books at home (children's and adult fiction, nonfiction, hardback & paperback), and recycling them by donating to Olivet's Library Sale.
- 📖 Leave items in marked donation boxes in the front hall and both libraries.
- 📖 See any library committee member about volunteering for 30 minutes or an hour to help us by sorting books or otherwise helping set up the sale.
- 📖 Having fun browsing books at the sale, and buying "new-to-you" reading materials for yourself, family, and friends!

Gratefully, Library Committee
Carol Darnell
Curt Krehbiel
Brenda Long

Got love?

Love asks nothing in return but seeks those who need it. And who needs our love more than those who are consumed with hatred and are utterly devoid of love?

—Dietrich Bonhoeffer

SAVE THE DATE

OLIVET CHRISTIAN CHURCH

ANNUAL RUMMAGE SALE - FEBRUARY 23

We will need lots of volunteers from all Mission Families to run our ultimate recycling event, Olivet Christian Church's Annual Rummage Sale!

- **Now is a good time to start cleaning out your closets and hiding places for those no longer needed items and piling them in a corner in anticipation of this special Ministry fundraising/outreach/recycling event.**
- Please pre-price unique items if you have a value in mind, standard rummage sale items like clothes, shoes, books, records, CDs, and tapes do not need to be tagged as these will have standard pricing.
- "Many hands make light work" is never more accurate than on Sale Day.
- More detailed information will be available through your Mission Family Leadership and posted in Fellowship Hall in mid-February.

Outline of how the week prior to the sale will work:

- **Monday, February 18** – Set up the tables and put away church items in Fellowship Hall and classrooms.
- **Tuesday-Friday February 19-22** – Receive, sort, and price donations.

DONATIONS:

- **Items should be in respectable condition as they are a reflection of our church.**
- While we try to move leftovers on to other worthwhile organizations we do not want to have to pay someone to haul off items if possible. i.e. **we will NOT be accepting console TVs or other items that are heavy and no one wants these days OR have environmental impact when discarded (i.e. computers/monitors that are outdated...you know what these look like ☺).**
- Please be thoughtful about your donations.
- Suggested items: toys, books, household decor, men's clothing, women's clothing, children's clothing, things for baby, things for the kitchen, things for the bedroom, crafts, jewelry, collectibles, small appliances, tools, outdoor stuff such as bicycles, rakes, lawn furniture, outdoor toys, etc. Thank you. ☺

Also needed the week of the sale: hangers; bags-all sizes; pricing stickers, and clothes racks (the racks we will obviously want to return to you so please clearly mark your name on these) Thank you~

NOTE: 2018 Rummage Sale gross proceeds were in the neighborhood of \$4,100 in support of Olivet Ministries.

EMBRACING THE GOOD NEWS FOR PLANET EARTH

As a Green Chalice congregation, Olivet members and friends seek to live sustainably and to partner with God and neighbor for stewardship of the earth and its resources - living in ways that are socially acceptable, economically wise, and environmentally protective on behalf of both current and future generations.

In these days of online shopping, with instant access to goods and services from around the world, do local food systems and local businesses really matter? Do they play a role in enabling us to live in ways that are 'economically wise' and 'environmentally protective'? In what ways do they help strengthen a community's economy and multi-faceted connections?

An upcoming University of Missouri Extension workshop – Growing Local Food Economies: Good Food, Good Business on Thursday, February 21 from 9:30 AM to 3:30 PM will explore connections between local food and local economies at four sites across the state - Kansas City, St. Louis, Columbia and Springfield. The morning session will feature a webinar keynote presentation and discussion with Dr. Becca Jablonski from Colorado State University.

Each site will have their own afternoon discussion featuring local panelists and presenters. Here in Columbia, the focus will be on how to build a more inclusive and diverse food system with Tricia Woolbright from the Columbia Center for Urban Agriculture and Nick Butler from the Center for Health Policy at MU. The Columbia workshop will be held at the MU Extension Service - Boone County office, 1012 N. Highway UU, just south of the I-70 Midway exit.

This workshop is open to anyone interested in exploring the potential economic impacts of local food, farming, and related activities – consumers, farmers, economic developers, policy makers, entrepreneurs, local and state government, and non-profit organizations.

Registration is \$25. Lunch will be provided. To register, please visit <https://extension2.missouri.edu/events/growing-local-food-economies-good-food-good-business>.

Questions? Contact Bill McKelvey, University of Missouri Extension, at 573.882.4973.

Stay tuned for more information about our Sustainable Living Team's plans to schedule a 'Farm to Table' meal at a local restaurant in March and a visit to a local winery in April to learn about the challenges of sourcing local food and developing businesses that genuinely invest in their communities.

Saturday, March 30, 2019, 4 to 6 PM
Miller Performing Arts Center, Jefferson City:
***A Sense of Wonder* –**

one-woman play based on the life and works of Rachel Carson
 Presented by Legends of Conservation.

For more information, or to order tickets, go to:
<https://midmotix.com/events/legends-of-conservation-presents-a-sense-of-wonder>



BBQ Committee Chairs Mtg.
Sunday, February 24
Immediately following worship
Bring your lunch if you wish.
This will be our first planning
session for the 2019 Annual
Olivet BBQ
Questions?
Contact Dawn Brown



Dear members of Olivet Christian Church, thank you so much for your faithful support in 2018 of Columbia Area Older Adult Ministry. Your gift of \$500 helped this important ministry to bring love and care to many older adults. Beth and I are constantly surprised at how our services touch people's lives. We see people with dementia singing hymns, knowing every word, and yet they do not speak any other time. Often residents say to us, "don't forget us, come back again." We continue to share compassion, love and care of God with folks in: Bluff Creek Terrace & Arbors, Columbia Manor, The Bluffs, Tiger Place, Lenoir Woods, Southampton Place, The Terrace, Mill creek Village and The Villas at Blue Ridge. *Blessings, Rev Sally A. Robinson*

February 2019 Olivet Christian Church Calendar of Events

Friday, February 1

5 PM James Earl Grant - Visitation (Parker-Millard)

Saturday, February 2

11AM James Ear Grant - Funeral (Parker-Millard)

Sunday, February 3 - 4th Sunday after the Epiphany

8:30 AM Informal Worship
 9:30 AM Super Heroes Sunday School
 (3 Grade & Older)
 9:30 AM Music Program for children/youth
 9:30 AM Adult Sunday School
 10 AM Children/Youth Sunday School
 10:30 AM Coffee Fellowship
 10:45 AM Traditional Worship & Children's Worship
 (4 yrs-4th grade)
 12:30 PM Sustainable Living Steering Committee

Monday, February 4

4:15 PM Loaves & Fishes Serving

Tuesday, February 5

10 AM Staff Mtg.

Wednesday, February 6

7 PM Choir Practice

Saturday, February 9

Boy Scout Blue & Gold Banquet
 12 PM Girl Scouts (FH)

Sunday, February 10 - 5th Sunday after the Epiphany

8:30 AM Informal Worship
 9:30 AM Super Heroes Sunday School
 (3 Grade & Older)
 9:30 AM Music Program for children/youth
 9:30 AM Adult Sunday School
 10 AM Children/Youth Sunday School
 10:30 AM Coffee Fellowship
 10:45 AM Traditional Worship & Children's Worship
 (4 yrs-4th grade)
 12 PM Worship Committee Mtg.

Tuesday, February 12

10 AM Staff Mtg.
 5:45 PM Mission Family Leaders Mtg.

Wednesday, February 13

10 AM Library Book Sale Setup (FH)
 7 PM Choir Practice

Thursday, February 14 - *Valentine's Day*

Saturday, February 16

9 AM Girl Scouts (MP)
 10 AM Library Book Sale Setup (FH)
 5 PM Angel Tree Dinner

Sunday, February 17 - 6th Sunday after the Epiphany Week of Compassion Special Offering Library Book Sale

8:30 AM Informal Worship
 9:30 AM Super Heroes Sunday School
 (3 Grade & Older)
 9:30 AM Music Program for children/youth
 9:30 AM Adult Sunday School
 10 AM Children/Youth Sunday School
 10:30 AM Coffee Fellowship
 10:45 AM Traditional Worship & Children's Worship
 (4 yrs-4th grade)
 12 PM Float Trip Mtg.

Monday, February 18 - *Presidents Day*

5:30 PM Program Council Mtg.
 7 PM Board Mtg.

Tuesday, February 19

10 AM Rummage Sale Setup
 10 AM Staff Mtg.

Wednesday, February 20

10 AM Rummage Sale Setup
 7 PM Choir Practice
Newsletter Deadline

Thursday, February 21

10 AM Rummage Sale Setup

Friday, February 22

9 AM Rummage Sale Setup
 6:30 PM Theological Movie Night

Saturday, February 23

7 AM Annual Rummage Sale

Sunday, February 24 - 4th Sunday after the Epiphany Week of Compassion Special Offering

8:30 AM Informal Worship
 9:30 AM Music Program for children/youth
 9:30 AM Super Heroes Sunday School
 (3 Grade & Older)
 9:30 AM Adult Sunday School
 10 AM Children/Youth Sunday School
 10:30 AM Coffee Fellowship
 10:45 AM Traditional Worship & Children's Worship
 (4 yrs-4th grade)
 12 PM Barbecue Mtg.

Monday, February 25

6:00 PM Shawl Ministry

Tuesday, February 26

10 AM Staff Mtg.

Wednesday, February 27

5:30 PM Open & Affirming Conversations
 7 PM Choir Practice
 Newsletter mailed

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