

# Olivet Connections

*Making the grace of God real for people.*

Dear Faithful Members and Friends of Olivet,

I have held back from writing about life as we know it amid the pandemic of the coronavirus, and the inflection point of racism in America that we have been thrust into following the murder of George Floyd by a white Minneapolis police officer. In part, as many of you no doubt can relate to, there is simply so many pieces to this puzzle, and so much that happens in any given day, that it is simply too overwhelming to find adequate ways to respond or process what's happening! Add to that, in any given day, I have viewed and listened to and read so many wise, articulate articles and commentaries across a range of public figures, clergy, educators, and activists, that I have felt that

anything I could say pales by comparison. And yet, I also feel I cannot be silent, because, I do believe in my heart and soul, that we, people of faith, the church, those who ache for a more humane, peaceful world, and all who believe that indeed "the arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice" were put here in 2020 for such a time as this!

As I write this, I am deeply saddened by yet another killing of an unarmed black man, Rayshard Brooks, 27, in Atlanta. As of today, four black people have been found hanging from trees, which has now prompted the FBI to be brought in to investigate what were initially declared suicides in two cases. This is more than horrific! Understandably, we have outrage fatigue at the scope of violence, the degree of hatred and fear that these deaths point to, and our demands for police reforms cannot be responded to soon enough, and with legislation with real teeth to it. We are immersed in the reality that the depth of

racism and white nationalism in our country has been unmasked, and has escalated beyond our imagining. At the same time we have compassion fatigue --- for the families and communities of these victims, and for our country as we seek to not become desensitized to all that this moment calls for us to do and be. The depth of what we have signed on for to "do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with our God," is overwhelming. When you find yourself wanting to curl up on the

couch with your favorite ice cream and a movie, remember that our black sisters and brothers have been doing this work for generations, and ***still they rise!***

AND there are amazing, unbelievable signs of hope, and reasons to absolutely celebrate when we see that what has

happened in these past weeks has yielded an outpouring of people from every generation, and culture to stand against the forces of evil and injustice here and around the world! We see acts of compassion and strength, we are listening to stories of what our sisters and brothers of color experience when they walk out into the world every day, and we are hearing them!! We are engaging in conversations! Everywhere I look, there are groups engaged in book discussions, movies and podcasts that show us where we've been over the past 400 years, and how revolution has been foundational to any deep change we've seen in this country or in the world! Coalitions are being formed to take action, to make systemic change a reality, and putting pressure on lawmakers to enact legislation that really makes deep change. I hear again and again from leaders in the black community, as they reflect on how this compares to our history of racial unrest, and demands for change that "THIS. IS. DIFFERENT."

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Image by Gerd Altmann from Pixabay

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Thanks to social media, Gen Z, and millennials, this is not ONLY the same people who have fought this fight before. Our ranks and numbers are swelling, and the impact is being felt around the world! Our task is to sustain this passion; to do the work only white people can do, and not ask our black sisters and brothers to tell us what we need to do. Our task is to realize this is a beginning, not an end, and not grow complacent, smug or fall asleep AGAIN!! We are privileged to be here, now, seeing this transformational process, and being a part of it. We were made for such a time as this!

As I write this, the Supreme Court has just handed down a 6-3 decision protecting the rights of LGBTQ workers to not be fired for being who they are! This is monumental, and it denotes a seismic shift to saying that all people deserve to be seen as human beings! Full stop! Like what Jesus said! Like what our Constitution says. Amazing!

There are any number of commentaries, reflections, wisdom and inspiration that I want to refer you to, but I will limit this writing to just these:

- **Letter from A Birmingham Jail** by Martin Luther King, Jr. From the Birmingham jail, where he was imprisoned as a participant in nonviolent demonstrations against segregation, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., wrote in longhand the letter which was his response to a public statement of concern and caution issued by eight white religious leaders of the South.
- **YouTube** – in his June 8<sup>th</sup> *The Daily Show*, comedian Trevor Noah offers a very insightful look at what our social contracts with one another affirm, and what happens when we break those contracts. I found myself reflecting

on what we mean by contracts and covenants.

- **FACEBOOK LIVE – We Can Stop the Silence** – A panel discussion with Rep. James Clyburn of South Carolina; and actors/directors Viola Davis and Mariska Hargitay on the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the killing of nine African-American members of Mother Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, SC. The power of grace and forgiveness, and honest dialogue about what it means to be black in America infuse this discussion with passion and heart.
- **YouTube** - dated April, 2020, Tom shares a reading of a poem entitled **"The Great Realisation"** as a bedtime story to a child, who asks him questions about the impact of COVID-19, and what people did, are doing, and what we might do in response. Lovely bedtime story and signal for hope for every age!

Lastly, I share with you the words of the incredibly wise Dr. Clarissa Pinkola Estes, American poet, Jungian psychoanalyst, post-trauma recovery specialist, author and spoken word artist. Estés grew up in the now vanished oral tradition of her immigrant, refugee families who could not read nor write, or did so haltingly, and for whom English was their third language overlying their ancient natal languages.

May we all find paths to being in solidarity with our sisters and brothers of color, and our neighbors who are struggling with every imaginable vibration of unrest and grief with the still present virus. May we renew our strength with the power of the Holy Spirit, and the ever flowing stream of compassion that keeps us on the paths of justice and equality for all of God's Children!

*In Peace, Hope, and the Love of Christ,  
Pastor Coletta*

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## WE WERE MADE FOR THESE TIMES ~

BY CLARISSA PINKOLA ESTES, SYNDICATED FROM [MOONMAGAZINE.ORG](http://MOONMAGAZINE.ORG), MARCH 13, 2020

My friends, do not lose heart. We were made for these times. I have heard from so many recently who are deeply and properly bewildered. They are concerned about the state of affairs in our world now. Ours is a time of almost daily astonishment and often righteous rage over the latest degradations of what matters most to civilized, visionary people.

You are right in your assessments. The lustre and hubris some have aspired to while endorsing acts so heinous against children, elders, everyday people, the poor, the unguarded, the helpless, is breathtaking. Yet, I urge you, ask you, gentle you, to please not spend your spirit dry by bemoaning these difficult times. Especially do not lose hope.

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Most particularly because, the fact is that we were made for these times. Yes. For years, we have been learning, practicing, been in training for and just waiting to meet on this exact plain of engagement.

I grew up on the Great Lakes and recognize a seaworthy vessel when I see one. Regarding awakened souls, there have never been more able vessels in the waters than there are right now across the world. And they are fully provisioned and able to signal one another as never before in the history of humankind.

Look out over the prow; there are millions of boats of righteous souls on the waters with you. Even though your veneers may shiver from every wave in this stormy roil, I assure you that the long timbers composing your prow and rudder come from a greater forest. That long-grained lumber is known to withstand storms, to hold together, to hold its own, and to advance, regardless.

In any dark time, there is a tendency to veer toward fainting over how much is wrong or unmended in the world. Do not focus on that. There is a tendency, too, to fall into being weakened by dwelling on what is outside your reach, by what cannot yet be. Do not focus there. That is spending the wind without raising the sails.

We are needed, that is all we can know. And though we meet resistance, we more so will meet great souls who will hail us, love us and guide us, and we will know them when they appear. Didn't you say you were a believer? Didn't you say you pledged to listen to a voice greater? Didn't you ask for grace? Don't you remember that to be in grace means to submit to the voice greater?

Ours is not the task of fixing the entire world all at once, but of stretching out to mend the part of the world that is within our reach. Any small, calm thing that one soul can do to help another soul, to assist some portion of this poor suffering world, will help immensely. It is not given to us to know which acts or by whom, will cause the critical mass to tip toward an enduring good.

What is needed for dramatic change is an accumulation of acts, adding, adding to, adding more, continuing. We know that it does not take everyone on Earth to bring justice and peace, but only a small, determined group who will not give up during the first, second, or hundredth gale.

One of the most calming and powerful actions you can do to intervene in a stormy world is to stand up and show your soul. Soul on deck shines like gold in dark times. The light of the soul throws sparks, can send up flares, builds signal fires, causes proper matters to catch fire. To display the lantern of soul in shadowy times like these - to be fierce and to show mercy toward others; both are acts of immense bravery and greatest necessity.

Struggling souls catch light from other souls who are fully lit and willing to show it.  
If you would help to calm the tumult, this is one of the strongest things you can do.  
--Clarissa Pinkola Estes

Struggling souls catch light from other souls who are fully lit and willing to show it. If you would help to calm the tumult, this is one of the strongest things you can do.

There will always be times when you feel discouraged. I too have felt despair many times in my

life, but I do not keep a chair for it. I will not entertain it. It is not allowed to eat from my plate.

The reason is this: In my uttermost bones I know something, as do you. It is that there can be no despair when you remember why you came to Earth, who you serve, and who sent you here. The good words we say and the good deeds we do are not ours. They are the words and deeds of the One who brought us here. In that spirit, I hope you will write this on your wall: When a great ship is in harbor and moored, it is safe, there can be no doubt. But that is not what great ships are built for.

Excerpted from <http://www.dailygood.org/story/1538/do-not-lose-heart-we-were-made-for-these-times-clarissa-pinkola-estes/>. Dr. Clarissa Pinkola is an American poet, Jungian psychoanalyst, post-trauma recovery specialist, author and spoken word artist. Estés grew up in the now vanished oral tradition of her immigrant, refugee families who could not read nor write, or did so haltingly, and for whom English was their third language overlying their ancient natal languages.

This summer, more than ever, opportunities to refresh body, mind and spirit and connect with our Creator who made all things 'supremely good' are critical to our well-being. Simply stepping outdoors is a good place to start – coffee or tea on your deck or patio, followed by a walk in your neighborhood or on a trail in a nearby park.



Image by Simon Lehmann from Pixabay

Head out to Rock Bridge State Park, Gans Creek Recreation Area or Three Creeks Conservation Area – all south of Columbia, Finger Lakes State Park north of town or Little Dixie Lake Conservation Area in nearby Millersburg.

If you are ready to venture a little further, consider a day trip to the Missouri Botanical Garden in St. Louis or its sister attractions – Sophia M. Sachs Butterfly House in St. Louis County or Shaw Nature Reserve just off I-44 near

Gray Summit, Missouri – all have recently re-opened to the public on a limited basis. Visit <http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/> to review safe visit protocols and obtain timed-entry tickets for admission to any of these locations.

You may also call 314-678-7442 to obtain tickets. As of mid-June, advance tickets are required; no tickets are sold at the door.

Or, plan to head west to Powell Gardens, just outside Kansas City on Highway 50. Learn more about their phased re-opening

plan at <https://powellgardens.org/visit/plan-your-visit/> Visitors to Powell are also required to reserve timed-entry tickets online in advance of their visit.

*Whatever path you choose, stay safe, stay healthy, stay connected.*

*~Sustainable Living Team*

## OLIVET EDUCATION ASSISTANCE LOAN FUND

One of the challenges of a growing church, such as Olivet, is keeping newcomers informed of all the traditions, programming, and “perks” within our fellowship. For many in our congregation one of the “best kept secrets” is the Olivet Education Assistance Loan Fund.

In the 1970’s, Ham Holt (one of the pillars of Olivet) passed away. His family requested that a student loan fund be established in his memory. Contributions in lieu of flowers went into this fund, named the Holt Memorial Fund (later renamed Olivet Education Fund). A few years later his wife Edna also passed and memorial contributions for her were added to the loan fund. Under the guidance of Martin Behymer (longtime friend, neighbor and church leader) the Holt family established the criteria for the use of the fund. The fund was to be available for low interest loans to members of the community who needed money to begin or continue their education – vocational school, college or adult education. Administrators of the fund were to be Olivet’s minister, Board chair, and treasurer. The fund would be self-sustaining and open to other contribution for those who saw the benefit of the fund.

Olivet Christian Church Education Assistance Loan fund is to help members, family members, or friends of the church to attain a degree or certification from an accredited postsecondary educational institution. This is a loan which must be repaid.

The maximum loan amount is \$3,000 prorated over 2 semesters, 3 trimesters or 4 quarters a year. This is based on a full-time academic load of 12 hours. Loans to part time students will be prorated based on number of hours being taken. Loans are subject to the availability of funds.

Following graduation, or separation from school, the loan applicant has one of two options for repayment of the loan.

- Elect to repay the full balance of the loan within 1 year of graduation, or separation from school, with no interest charged; or
- Repay over time with an Annual simple interest charge of 5%.

Administrators are Senior Minister, Board chair, and Treasurer. Applications are available by contacting the church office or the church treasurer, Diane Bartley.

## A LETTER TO THE OLIVET CONGREGATION FROM THE MINISTERIAL SEARCH TEAM

Matthew 4:18-22

### ***Jesus Calls His First Disciples***

*<sup>18</sup> As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen.*

*<sup>19</sup> "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people."*

*<sup>20</sup> At once they left their nets and followed him.*

*<sup>21</sup> Going on from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John. They were in a boat with their father Zebedee, preparing their nets. Jesus called them,*

*<sup>22</sup> and immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.*

Dear Olivet Family,

As Matthew's scripture describes, Jesus' humble service through teaching, healing, praying and glorifying God, was not something he could do on his own. In order to fulfill his ministry, he invited several others to join him, and those selected became his disciples.

The Olivet Ministerial Search Team has been researching and considering making a transition to co-ministry. This leadership style is often referred to as a "ministerial team," and would be a change from the traditional "Senior Minister" model.

As we have researched and explored this option, we have increasingly been convinced there are benefits for Olivet. Might it be more effective if two ministers were of equal status and shared the ministries and associated responsibilities, utilizing each one's strengths and interests? As equals, could they more easily act as inspiration, guidance, counsel, and support for each other as well as the congregation? Is it likely that equally sharing the responsibilities for preaching could help avoid burnout of either minister?

Soon we will be asking you to share your thoughts and input for qualities and qualifications you would like to see in the individual to whom we extend a call to enter into covenant with Olivet. When that time comes, we would also like to have your feedback concerning the co-ministry model.

Below, you will find a letter from Rev. Hannah Ryan that explains her feelings on the co-ministry model. Please take the time to read it and as always, if you have questions, please feel free to contact either Rob Foss or Linda Cook, the co-chairs of the Ministerial Search Team, or our ministers, Rev. Hannah Ryan or Rev. Coletta Eichenberger.

In service to the Olivet Family,  
Your Ministerial Search Team

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## A LETTER TO THE OLIVET CONGREGATION FROM REV. HANNAH RYAN

Dear Olivet Community,

In the days, weeks, and months after Rev. Knight's departure, several members of the Olivet community approached me with this question: Why don't you just become our Senior Minister? A couple of people even went so far as to write letters to the Board. While your confidence in my abilities to minister to this congregation continues to humble me, my answer has been consistent: No. Why? Simply put, I don't want to be in a Senior Minister position. I've been there, done that, and that is not where I feel God calling me in this time and place.

However, at our first meeting with the Ministerial Search Team, the question was again posed, "Are we looking for a Senior Minister?" Discussion ensued, as did research, prayer...and more discussion, more research, and more prayer. The Team agreed that there is a possibility that God is calling Olivet in a new direction, one that might involve embracing a new model for ministry that is less hierarchical and CEO-ish and more intentionally collaborative. The model the Team is envisioning is one of co-ministry, in which two ministers are called to serve in two separate, yet occasionally overlapping, capacities. These two

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equal leaders of the church would function as teammates, along with the other members of our very capable staff.

The Ministerial Search Team requested that I write to you to share with you my perspective. Before I do so, I want to be clear about something: I felt called to Olivet Christian Church two years ago, and still do. I was drawn to this congregation that was eager to teach their young people the ways of Christ, seeking to nurture faith formation for all, and striving to embrace a new future in a changing landscape, all the while fostering a deep love for one another, despite disagreements and conflicts. I felt Olivet was a community of faith that was willing to welcome me into shared work. Since I began my time with you, various events have transpired and my role at Olivet has shifted beyond my original job description to accommodate the needs of the congregation. And while my call to Olivet has not changed, I have felt the nature of my call here shift to become broader and more rooted in relationship than was perhaps originally intended. So, I must confess that I am very excited about the prospect of co-ministry, of collaborative ministry, of shared ministry. Here are some reasons why:

- There is great Scriptural evidence for collaborative ministry. I am convinced that our God is a God of relationship. God the Creator, Christ, and Holy Spirit interact throughout the biblical witness. God created us out of a void to be in relationship with us. The Disciples pooled their strengths and resources following that first Easter and multiplied. The movement of faith has never been done in silos, but always collaboratively, and I believe co-ministry provides a healthier model to how the Church, as a whole, should function.
- We want the church's staffing model to be reflected in the church itself. As members of the Disciples of Christ (Christian Church), we adhere to a congregational-led polity. This

means we live, breathe, make decisions, and do the challenging work of faith together. We abide in covenantal relationships—meaning we do the hard work of listening, trusting, and collaborating with one another, and we hold one another accountable in love, so that we can do God's work together. A CEO-style minister who doesn't collaborate, who doesn't listen to others' voices, doesn't trust or utilize the gifts of others on the staff or in leadership, misses out on an opportunity for the organization to grow and thrive. This is inconsistent with who we are.

- Olivet has always followed their own path when it comes to staffing and the move to a co-pastorate seems like an organic next step. In its beginning, while the congregation of Olivet met each Sunday, they hired a minister to preach just once each month. It wasn't until 1975 that Olivet hired its first full-time minister. Over the years, other staff have been hired to fill various roles and shifting needs of the congregation and surrounding community. Perhaps Olivet's more recent commitment to become a program-centered church, rather than a pastor-centered one, naturally lends itself to a more collaborative ministry model.

In listening to the Ministerial Search Team, I have heard over and over again these desired candidate qualifications lifted up: humble, reflective, trusting, empathetic, challenging, collaborative. I long to work with this person. I long to do ministry with someone who listens first and listens well, who inspires followership by building relationships, who challenges me to think deeper and be better, who is grounded in prayer and rooted in faith. Olivet, I am confident that the team you have assembled to find this person is doing this important work of discerning and searching with care, love, joy, and hope.

Love and prayers surround,  
Rev. Hannah Ryan



Dear Olivet Family,

I want to start with a giant THANK YOU. Thank you to our amazing staff, to all of the hardworking volunteers and the various committees and programs that have been working diligently and creatively in this time, and especially thank you to all our congregants. In these trying, confusing, and quite frankly scary times, when it would have been very easy to fall apart, I have watched our faith community come together and grow in a truly awe-inspiring way. I have seen the true meaning of what it is to be a Church, and it has given me so much strength.

As we start our 4<sup>th</sup> month of virtual worship, I understand that the physical distancing that we have had to endure has taken its toll on many and the desire to engage with each other is strong. As a lifelong 'hugger', not being able to share this basic act of love and friendship has been hard for me. I'm sure we are all aware that many other churches and organizations are starting to take the slow steps of reconvening in person. Although our worship staff are working on moving up to our next phase, greatly aided by a recent grant we were awarded from Bethany Fellows to purchase the technology we will need to make the next few reopening phases successful, we are still choosing to limit physical interactions at this time. This decision comes through continuous discussion amongst church leadership who are all in agreement, and this

decision is not made lightly. As I write this, Boone County has experienced record numbers of increases in positive COVID-19 cases several days in a row. As state and local restrictions continue to lift and people continue to interact more, it is likely that this increase will continue to trend. For many, these increased physical interactions are necessary for people's livelihoods and to provide essential services in our community. Keeping this in mind, along with the knowledge that public health experts place church as one of the highest risk activities, we feel that continuing virtual worship for the time being is the most compassionate and loving act we can do for our church and the community at large. As a faith community, while it may feel like we are losing something with not being able to worship together in person, the fact that we have all witnessed the OCC family come together and grow in such a beautiful way serves as a daily reminder that God lives within each of us, and rejoices in all acts of worship and love. I can assure you that we are all chomping at the bit to get back to normal, I think the worship staff would agree that the videos are way more work (although the hard work is so apparent and so appreciated!), and that Zoom burnout is a real thing, and as soon as conditions make it such that the risk is reduced we will see you all on Sunday!

*With love,  
Amanda Durbak  
Board Chair*

**OLIVET CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF COLUMBIA, MO INC. BOARD MEETING MINUTES JUNE 15, 2020**

MEMBERS PRESENT: ROCKIE ALDEN, KEN BARTLEY, BOB BROZ, INGE DECKER, AMANDA DURBAK, REBECCA DYKHOUSE, RICH EDGAR, KENDALL ENRIGHT, BARB FITZGERALD, JERE GILLES, CHALEN JACKSON, TONY KEEL, KIM RYAN, DAVID STEINHAEUER.

OTHERS PRESENT: PASTOR HANNAH RYAN, INTERIM PASTOR COLETTA EICHENBERGER, DIANE BARTLEY

MEMBERS ABSENT: JAN POE, JAKE VALLEROY

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Amanda Durbak 7:02 PM

**OPENING PRAYER:**

Offered by Hannah Ryan

**GOVERNANCE:**

In order to provide minutes, the Zoom session was recorded and minutes will be written up from the recording and from notes taken by members present at the meeting.

Minutes from the May meeting were emailed out prior to the meeting for review. Several grammatical and formatting errors were indicated by Bob Broz, who will be sending a corrected copy to the board chair so that they can be fixed in the official records. Motion to approve the minutes with corrections made was made by Bob Broz and second by Inge Decker. Motion passed.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:**

Diane Bartley had sent out the reports by email prior, and there were no additional questions. It was noted that the Outreach budget was also included in this report. Chalen Jackson motioned to accept finance report, Tony Keel seconded it and motion passed.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT:**

Ken Bartley presented the finance report and reported the great news that May has been the best month to date for giving. Our income would have outweighed our expenses except that we did have a payment made towards the Bethany Fellows this month in order to meet PPP requirements. It was also noted that our emergency fund is still below the 4 month level that we normally keep it at, and that we need to grow the building and capital project funds. There was also a request to consider placing the mortgage as part of the general ministry fund.

Although identified giving has been up for the year, which is a great cause for celebration, especially as many churches have reported declines in giving, there are concerns that key fundraising events such as the pulled pork BBQ and rummage sale will not be viable this year, and these are events we will have to think about from a financial standpoint.

**MINISTERS' REPORTS:**

**Rev. Ryan:**

Rev. Ryan reported that she continues to record and upload videos for worship weekly. She also passed out about 20 Pentecost Celebration Kits, that were well-received. She continues to stay in touch with the Shepherds, coordinating pastoral care and on-going check-ins with members.

Rev. Ryan serves as the moderator of the "Olivet Faith Formation" page and is striving to make that a forum for conversation and connection. The Adult Education team will be beginning an Anti-Racism book study in July, with the hope that we can continue to educate ourselves on how to become an anti-racist and reconciling congregation. Adult Ed will also be hosting a Theological Movie Night via Zoom on June 26, where we will view a sermon by Rev. Otis Moss.

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Rev. Ryan has been writing a curriculum for VBS in a Box. Once assembled, these boxes will be available to families who wish to participate in Vacation Bible School at home. She is also continuing to plan a virtual mission trip experience for this summer.

Rev. Ryan notified the Board that she has applied for a technology grant from Bethany Fellows which would help offset the cost of buying new and updating equipment to support drive-in church, outdoor worship, and livestreaming from our sanctuary. (\*Olivet received notice on 6/18/20 that we received said grant.\*)

Lastly, Rev. Ryan notified the Board that she will be taking vacation, having not been able to take her week off in March, from June 29—July 5, 2020.

**Rev. Eichenberger:**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**SEARCH TEAM UPDATE:**

A letter from the search team had been emailed to the congregation earlier in the day, and is being mailed to the congregation through the post as well. The letter stated that the search team is considering a co-ministry model as a possible future for Olivet's ministerial leadership, as well as a note from Rev. Hannah Ryan on her thoughts on this. The letter is the first step in introducing the congregation to the idea of a co-ministry, and the plan was to follow up with a survey. It was noted that several congregants had brought their thoughts privately to Board members, and it was noted that the Board should encourage these questions to be directed towards the Search Committee Co-Chairs (Robb Foss and Linda Cook) or to Rev. Ryan and Rev. Eichenberger. Additionally, there were concerns about the timing of the survey before people have a chance to really understand what co-ministry is. The original intent was to have listening sessions for people to ask these questions, but COVID-19 forced these to be cancelled. It was suggested that online Zoom sessions should occur, or an invitation to email or phone in questions before the survey goes out. A procedural question about whether the Board needs to approve the actions of the search team was raised. According to policy, the Board does not need to approve anything until the time at which a candidate is being proposed.

**UPDATE ON OUTREACH AND BUDGET:**

During the last meeting, there was some question of how the outreach budget was being spent with regards to who has the authority to spend or not spend out allocated funds. We continued with this conversation, which was greatly enhanced by having the Outreach budget on hand, provided by our treasurer. Through conversation, it was noted that budget items, as they have been historically set up, can be confusing and not always the easiest to understand. Ways to set up the budget to make it more user friendly and more transparent were suggested. This will be a continuing conversation.

**REGATHERING PHASES UPDATE:**

Given that the cases in Missouri and in Boone County are on the rise, we will continue on at phase 1, although the pastors have indicated that they are starting to think about how phase 2 will work, and hope that the cases will even out soon so that we can forward.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Christ Apostolic Church Request**

A request was made from the pastor of the Christ Apostolic Church, who are the current tenants of the old church building, to provide some leniency in rent due to a loss of funds as a result of having to close for COVID-19. It was noted that the letter was sent in May, although it was not received by OCC

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until June, and in the meantime, the renters did go ahead and pay June rent. It was noted that the right thing to do would be to forgive them the rent for 2 months, especially in light of the blessing OCC received in the form of the CARES ACT loan, paying forward the generosity we have received. A motion to waive rental obligations for the months of July and August 2020 was made by Bob Broz, and seconded by Ken Bartley. The motion passed. A letter will be sent to them by the Board Chair informing them of the decision.

### Proposal and update on allocation of virtual BBQ funds

Since adjustments had to be made to the BBQ fundraiser this year, the BBQ Committee, chaired by Rebecca Dykhouse, submitted a proposal for the Virtual BBQ Event. This event will kick-off July 1 and extend through July 15. The BBQ Committee plans to maintain a goal of \$10,000, noting that there will be drastically decreased overhead costs this year. The proposal included how proceeds from the virtual BBQ event will be distributed: 50% will go to the Ministry Budget and the other 50% will be distributed among the three charities selected by the Outreach Committee (The Food Bank, Meals on Wheels, and Rainbow House). The only change to the letter, which will serve as the letter that will be used to promote the fundraiser, was to include the Ministry Budget as one of the items that the money raised will benefit.

### Organization of BBQ Policies and Procedures

As preparations and modifications to the BBQ fundraiser have been going as a result of COVID-19, it was noted that there appeared to be little centralized information resources on the running of the BBQ, and little mention of the BBQ in the Policies and Procedures Manual. In light of this, it was suggested that we should start centralizing all the resources and instructions for the BBQ in one place, a Google Doc for virtual access and a binder kept on church property.

Rebecca Dykhouse moved to adjourn meeting, Ken Bartley seconded it.

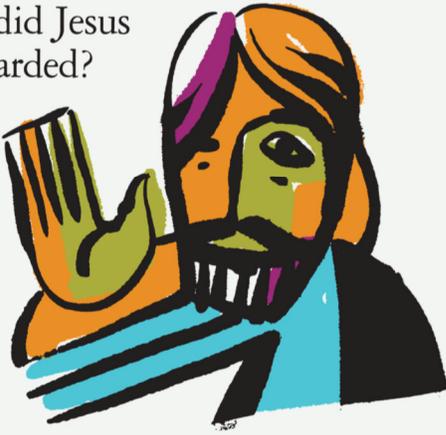
Meeting was adjourned at 8:34 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Amanda Durbak

**Bible Quiz**

What seemingly small act did Jesus specifically say would be rewarded?

- A. Giving a child a toy
- B. Giving a lost traveler directions
- C. Giving someone a cup of cold water
- D. Giving a sad person a hug



Answer: C (See Matthew 10:42.)

The Climate crisis doesn't start at 1.5C, its ALREADY HERE! EXTREME weather like the fires in Australia and the American West, SEVERE Droughts and Flooding events everywhere, EXTREME Hurricanes/Tornadoes. Have we always had these events? SURE. The word is EXTREME. These events are getting larger, lasting longer, creating more damage than ever before. Think Harvey, Irma, Marie, Joplin Tornado.

Nations have delayed curbing their greenhouse gas emissions for so long that warming of 1.5C is now all but inevitable. At current rates of warming, the world will likely cross the 1.5C threshold between 2030-2052 well within the lifetime of most adults and children alive today. AND 1.5C is a best case scenario. Without an Extremely Rapid, and perhaps unrealistic, global push to ZERO out fossil fuel emissions and remove CO2 from the atmosphere, 2C or higher this century looks more likely.

In Missouri, we are likely to see a gradual, then large rise in temp. The winter will not kill off pests, this leads to wider disease spread. There



will be a flood/drought cycle that is more prevalent than it currently is. Water will become scarce. It will become more difficult, possibly impossible, to raise crops/livestock.

CO<sub>2</sub> is the product of human respirations, but also of burning of fossil fuels, and the thawing of permafrost. The earth offset CO<sub>2</sub> by plant respiration, sequestration in the ocean and in carbon buried - like in permafrost, coal, oil, methane and natural gas, and in life - stands of old growth forest, boreal forest and rainforest. CO<sub>2</sub> is an acid, that acidification of the ocean heats it, corals cannot live or reproduce. Fish cannot sustain, especially in the face of overharvesting, the ocean currents that normally "move the heat around", don't. This creates extreme weather patterns, heat increases at the poles causing melt and ocean rise. Vast amounts of "desalination" change the pH of the ocean further, feeding the cycle. There is an inordinate of solid scientific evidence and information available to explain the how and why.

Next month: GOOD NEWS – making a difference



## The Weight of Hate

Word lovers, delight! The lexicon has tongue-twisting terms that describe hatred for just about anything.

According to *Mental Floss*, if you're a misodotakleidist, for example, you hate practicing the piano. Misogelasts hate laughter, while misopogonists hate beards and misophonists hate certain irritating sounds. There's even a word for someone who hates hatred (in the form of war or strife): a misopolemist.

Some of these words may make us smile, yet hate is deadly serious. No matter the target, hatred weighs us down and distracts us from Godly living.

That's why Paul instructs followers of Jesus to "put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice" (Ephesians 4:31, NRSV). Once that hateful weight is gone, we'll be freed up to "be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you" (verse 32).

**"Mutton or Chicken?"** The Olivet BBQ has been a time-honored tradition for 63 years. Due to health concerns this year, we want to invite you to a **"Virtual Olivet BBQ"**.

**What is a virtual BBQ?**

- It is a way for all of us to support local agencies and the ministries of Olivet Christian Church through donations. All donations will be split between the non-profits we have chosen and the ministries of Olivet Christian Church.

**What is our financial goal?**

- We have set a target goal of \$10,000

**When is the virtual BBQ?**

- The virtual BBQ will be held between July 1<sup>st</sup> – July 15<sup>th</sup>.

**What can I do to help?**

- Participate by giving a donation (for example, if you normally give \$20 for pies and buy \$20 worth of tickets consider giving a donation of \$40 this year instead)
- Invite your friends and family to donate This may be a new experience for them but let them know their donation will go for the good causes they have contributed to for past Olivet BBQ's.
- All donations are 100% tax deductible as allowed by law. Receipt provided upon request or as required by IRS regulations on a donation of \$250 or more.

**How can I donate?**

- Go online at <https://www.continuetogive.com/4874148>.
- Send a check to Olivet Christian Church in the enclosed envelope to 1991 S. Olivet Rd., Columbia, MO 65201 with BBQ in the memo line of the check.

**What agencies and ministries are we supporting this year with the BBQ Proceeds? All donations will be split between the non-profits we have chosen and the ministries of Olivet Christian Church. These local agencies**

**have expanded their services to address situations made worse by the COVID-19 pandemic.**

**The Food Bank of Central and Northeast Missouri:**

- Collaborates with 150 schools who distribute meals and Buddy Packs to students to ensure meals will be available
- Continues regular Mobile Pantry distributions with special precautions; introduced Fresh Mobiles, which distributes fresh produce and refrigerated items.

**Meals on Wheels:**

- Expanded their service area; changed their criteria to recognize "staying home" as a qualifying reason to receive services
- Reduced the qualifying age from 70 to 60; offered payment leniency where needed

**Rainbow House:**

- Offering Emergency Child Care for key and essential personnel in Boone County (those who must report to work for critical governmental functions and provide for the health, safety and welfare of the public).

This year you won't receive a delicious mutton or chicken dinner at the Olivet BBQ but you will know the satisfaction of assisting our community and Olivet's ministries in ways that are significant and meaningful.

Thank you for helping us "Make the grace of God real for people",

*~Olivet Christian Church Board and BBQ Committee*



**JULY CALENDAR OF EVENTS & ACTIVITIES**

**Wednesday, July 1 - July 15**  
63<sup>rd</sup> Annual Olivet BBQ - Virtual Style!

**Saturday, July 4**  
Independence Day

**Sunday, July 5**  
**5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**  
8:00 AM Worship (YouTube)  
10:00 AM Worship (FaceBook)

**Monday, July 6**  
12:00 PM Bible Study (Zoom)  
1:30 PM Staff Mtg. (Zoom)  
4:15 PM Loaves & Fishes Serving

**Tuesday, July 7**  
7:00 PM Tuesdays with Mark (& Larry) (Zoom)

**Sunday, July 12**  
**6<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**  
8:00 AM Worship (YouTube)  
10:00 AM Worship (FaceBook)

**Monday, July 13**  
12:00 PM Bible Study (Zoom)  
1:30 PM Staff Mtg. (Zoom)

**Tuesday, July 14**  
7:00 PM Tuesdays with Mark (& Larry) (Zoom)

**Sunday, July 19**  
**7<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**  
8:00 AM Worship (YouTube)  
10:00 AM Worship (FaceBook)

**Monday, July 20**  
12:00 PM Bible Study (Zoom)  
1:30 PM Staff Mtg. (Zoom)  
5:30 PM Program Council (Zoom)  
7:00 PM Board Mtg. (Zoom)

**Tuesday, July 21**  
7:00 PM Tuesdays with Mark (& Larry) (Zoom)

**Wednesday, July 22**  
**Newsletter Articles Due**

**Sunday, July 26**  
**8<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**  
8:00 AM Worship (YouTube)  
10:00 AM Worship (FaceBook)

**Monday, July 27**  
12:00 PM Bible Study (Zoom)  
1:30 PM Staff Mtg. (Zoom)

**Tuesday, July 28**  
7:00 PM Tuesdays with Mark (& Larry) (Zoom)

**Wednesday, July 29**  
**Newsletters Mailed**



**July 5**  
**5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**  
Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67  
Psalm 45:10-17  
Song of Solomon 2:8-13  
Zechariah 9:9-12  
Psalm 145:8-14  
Romans 7:15-25a  
Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

**July 12**  
**6<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**  
Genesis 25:19-34  
Psalm 119:105-112  
Isaiah 55:10-13  
Psalm 65:(1-8), 9-13  
Romans 8:1-11  
Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

**July 19**  
**7<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**  
Genesis 28:10-19a  
Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24  
Wisdom of Solomon 12:13, 16-19  
Isaiah 44:6-8  
Psalm 86:11-17  
Romans 8:12-25  
Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

**July 26**  
**8<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**  
Genesis 29:15-28  
Psalm 105:1-11, 45b  
Psalm 128  
1 Kings 3:5-12  
Psalm 119:129-136  
Romans 8:26-39  
Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

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 *Disciples of Christ*

**OFFICE HOURS:**

8:30 AM to 4:30 PM  
Monday - Friday

**OFFICE PHONE:**

573.442.0336

**TEMPORARY PHONE:**

636-649-5606

**WEB:**

[www.olivetchristian.org](http://www.olivetchristian.org)

**FACEBOOK:**

[www.Facebook.com/OlivetChristianChurch](http://www.Facebook.com/OlivetChristianChurch)

**CALENDAR:**

<https://www.olivetchristian.org/calendar>

**STAFF:**

Coletta Eichenberger  
Interim Ministry Consultant

Hannah Ryan  
Associate Pastor

Adriene Floyd  
Music Coordinator/Accompanist

Angela Carlson  
Choral Director

Becky Teacutter  
Administrative Office Coordinator