

Olivet Connections

Making the grace of God real for people

www.olivetchristian.org

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

OLIVET CHRISTIAN CHURCH
1991 S OLIVET RD
COLUMBIA MO 65201

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

Office Phone:
573.442.0336

Web:
www.olivetchristian.org

Facebook:
www.Facebook.com/OlivetChristianChurch

Calendar:
<http://925510.view-events.com>

Staff:
Wesley Knight
Senior Pastor
WesMKnight@yahoo.com
442.5872 (home)

Hannah Ryan
Associate Pastor
hfisherryan@gmail.com

Angela Carlson
Choral Director
Cell: 435-830-8597

Jonie Loehnig
Music Coordinator
jloehnig@gmail.com
573-301-1183

Becky Teacutter
Administrative Office Coordinator
573.442-0336
olivetcc.office@gmail.com

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT SABBATICALS

What is a sabbatical?

Sabbath is the root of sabbatical meaning to rest or cease. Recognizing the necessity of sabbath and that, in nearly 20 years of ministry Rev. Knight has never received a sabbatical, Olivet's Board voted to extend a gracious offer of a three-month sabbatical to Rev. Knight out of loving care for him. This is a time for Rev. Knight to receive spiritual nourishment and perspective, to deepen his relationship with God, himself and his family – a season of spiritual growth. It is also a season for the congregation to refresh and renew its relationship with each other, God and the larger church.

How long will Rev. Knight's sabbatical be?

Rev. Knight will take a three-month sabbatical, beginning on April 22, 2019 and concluding on July 21, 2019.

What will Rev. Knight be doing on his sabbatical?

The sabbatical work of Rev. Knight will include, but not be limited to:

- Taking care to establish healthy patterns of work and rest that contribute to renewal, while also noticing the intersections of his personal, professional, and spiritual habits and calling.
- Seeking the counsel of a trusted guide to help support and direct his sabbatical journey.
- Engaging in discernment regarding ministry.

What will the shepherd/elders be doing while Rev. Knight is on sabbatical?

The sabbatical work of the Shepherds/Elders will include, but not be limited to:

- Having honest conversations and establishing covenantal agreements with those who have been engaging in unhealthy conflict within the congregation.
- Helping to establish a safe and healthy spiritual environment within the church.
- Continuing to encourage and facilitate healthy practices of conflict resolution and a congregational climate that does not support divisive behavior.

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What will the congregation be doing while Rev. Knight is on sabbatical?

The sabbatical work of the congregation will include, but not be limited to:

- Reviewing relevant policies and methods for addressing conflict within the congregation.
- Engaging in honest dialogue regarding our behavior with and among one another.
- Working toward establishing appropriate covenantal agreements that convey how we are bound to one another in healthy and life-giving ways, but also establish processes to be followed if covenant is broken among members.

Who will cover Rev. Knight's responsibilities during his absence?

Rev. Ryan will cover Rev. Knight's responsibilities until she goes on maternity leave at the end of May. We are working with the Regional Office (Rev. Dr. Paul Koch) to find ministerial staff who can serve Olivet in the absence of Rev. Knight and Rev. Ryan in June and July.

Who do I call if I need to plan a special service, experience an illness, injury, hospitalization, personal crisis, etc.?

Call the church office and let Becky Teacutter, our Office Manager, know your needs and she will contact the appropriate shepherd/elder. If you have an urgent need outside of church office hours you may call your Mission Family (MF) shepherd: Jackie Glenn (573-424-2352 – cell – MF4); Larry Brown (573-642-9326 – home – MF4); Linda Graue (573-268-5970 – cell – MF3); Karen Broz (573-489-5731 – cell MF2); or Sharon Spotswood (573-999-1769 – cell MF1) and they will coordinate care for you.

Will the church just be in a "holding pattern" while Rev. Knight is away?

All of our ministries will continue successfully with the guidance of our congregational leaders. Our congregation will be reflecting on our work together and God's will for us while Rev. Knight is on sabbatical.

Can we contact Rev. Knight during his sabbatical?

An important aspect of sabbatical is to have a complete break from work related items at church. The only people who should be in contact with Rev. Knight will be his family. Jami Knight may continue to choose to be active at Olivet during Rev. Knight's sabbatical. It is important that the congregation respect the boundaries set in place to protect Rev. Knight's time away. Please do not ask Jami to communicate messages to Rev. Knight.

What will happen after Rev. Knight returns from sabbatical?

It will be important for the congregation, shepherd/elders, church board and congregation to share what they have learned during the sabbatical time and define the next steps that they will take together.



Who knew you all had so many delicious soup recipes up your sleeves??? Thank you to all of the cooks who provided us with delicious meals throughout Lent as we discussed the Open & Affirming process. And thank you to all of the behind-the-scenes kitchen helpers who made sure everything was set up in time and cleaned up promptly. We are so grateful for everything you did to make sure we began our conversations with full bellies!

Dear Olivet Beloveds,

Words cannot express how thankful Will and I remain for the ways you have shown your love and support for us as we prepare to welcome our little one in a few short weeks. We are especially grateful for the beautiful shower you threw for us on April 6th. It was a lovely event and we are so very appreciative of those of you who helped organize it and who attended or sent us gifts. How glad we are to know that Baby R is so well-loved already!

Blessings, Hannah

On April 7th, the youth of Olivet, along with the Outreach team, put on a delicious pancake breakfast. Thanks to their efforts (and their parents!) and the generosity of the Olivet community, they raised \$503.26. \$300 of the proceeds go to support the Food Bank for Central & Northeast and the rest help pay for the youth Mission Trip, which will be to Heifer Ranch this year. Thanks to everyone who helped make this event a success!

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 second quarter of 2019 will go to Central Missouri Food Pantry. Place your items in the Food Pantry area of the Fellowship Hall.

Main Dish & Protein

Any canned vegetables
green beans/peas/carrots
mixed vegetables/spinach/corn
Boxed dried potatoes mixes
Boxed mashed potatoes
Pickles/relishes

YOU CAN HELP



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



May 2019



A few years ago I planted a little mint plant in a pot on my patio. The mint took off, as it often does, and soon I had more of it than I knew what to do with. It was full and green and overflowing with little wonderfully smelling vines.

But then I moved from Texas to Iowa and the mint plant took a long ride in a hot car. And then, a couple short months later, I moved again—this time across town—and the little intrepid plant had yet another car ride and found itself in another new home. And it was July and it was hot and I was busy and that little mint plant began to look a little worse for wear. In fact, it looked pretty dead. It looked pretty dead for a whole month.

But then one day I happened to notice a courageous little shoot making its way out of the dead vines. And soon there were these gloriously green dauntless leaves coming up everywhere. They were well-rooted in the old plant, and the leaves were full and vibrant. The old plant provided structure and protection to the new life that was springing up.

I wanted to share this little Easter story with you. And I want to keep sharing it with you. Easter is the culmination of what we must do as Christians and it is more than one wonderful day of the year. Every other Sunday, every other holy day, every other ethic and moral and step we take comes back to the empty tomb of Christ. Because where there should be rocks and decay, a lifelessness that is inescapable, there is instead the promise of hope, the smell of fresh air, and a God that is capable.

We are in the midst of examining what it means to be the Church together here and now, what it looks like for our old structures to support new life. This is hard and holy Easter work, and I look forward to continuing to explore with Olivet what it means to live into this promise of hope, what it means to live into the new life offered to us, what it means to continue to tell the Easter story now, today.



Imagine this: worship that lifts your soul, stories that touch your heart, educational resources that will assist our congregation in ministry, conversations and connections that stretch your mind, messages that call you to action. All this

and much more will happen in five short days at the General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the USA and Canada, meeting in Des Moines, July 20-24. The General Assembly is the time for discernment, decision-making, and planning for the future of our church; however in recent years the Assembly has taken on more of a teaching function. This Assembly will celebrate the decision to join the National Christian Missionary Convention and the International Convention of Christian Churches that resulted in 50 years of *The Design*, our foundational document. Please register now and plan on attending; you can find more information online: <https://ga.disciples.org>.

EMBRACING THE GOOD NEWS FOR PLANET EARTH



- Sunday, May 5, 12:15 PM –**

- Youth & Property Committee Work Session**

Volunteers welcome! Join us, along with Boy Scouts from Troop 909, to fill planters in the patio area with flower and veggie seedlings, mulch trees and weed where necessary.

Pizza will be provided for volunteers at 12:15 (freewill donation - adults). Please use signup sheet on west bulletin board or contact the church office at olivetcc.office@gmail.com or 442-0336 by Friday, May 3 so sufficient pizza can be provided. Thank you.

- Coming soon - Local Lunch Club!**

In furthering the Sustainable Living Committee's focus on local systems this year, we are planning to arrange a few meals featuring locally sourced foods. We are working on putting together a lunch after church on a Sunday, possibly in early June.

Please reach out to Chalen Jackson at cdj1214@gmail.com if you are interested in attending. As we work out the details, we will share more info. There will be a small cost for the meal, which we will announce as the menu is set.

- Olivet recognized for participation in Boone Electric Cooperative's Renewable Energy Program**

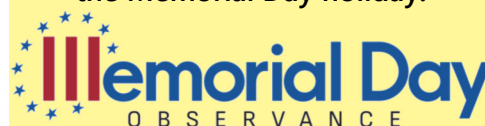
Olivet purchased 4,800 kilowatt-hours of renewable wind energy from Boone Electric Cooperative during 2018, offsetting 6,571 pounds of carbon emissions. See the Certificate posted on the south bulletin board. This represents a small but significant portion of our utility costs.

If you are a member of Boone Electric Cooperative, visit their website www.BooneElectric.coop or call 449-4181 to learn how you can participate in their wind or solar energy programs that benefit our environment.

~Sustainable Living Team

Happy Mother's Day on
May 12 to all the
special women in
our lives.

The church office will be closed
Monday, May 27 in observance of
the Memorial Day holiday.



THANK YOU!

Dear Olivet Family,

Thank you for the cards, prayers, and support during my recent surgery and subsequent complications. I am much improved and know this is due to the love expressed by my Olivet family.

~ Barbara (& Pat) Fitzgerald

Once again, the Grace of God, prayers, and loving relationships were there for me. Thanks, Olivet family, for the prayers, calls, cards, and notes you have sent since my recent hospitalization. I did not have another stroke, and I am getting therapy to cope with bone spurs. Wayne and I are very appreciative of our Olivet family.

~ Wayne and Jo Behymer

OLIVET'S KITCHEN RECYCLABLES TEAM NEEDS YOU! TAKE YOUR TURN JUNE THROUGH SEPTEMBER

- Signup Sheet is now posted for the months of June through September 2019.** Choose the time that works best for you to help with this essential task. Blue recycle bags and paper grocery sacks are stored under the sinks in both kitchens for your convenience.
- Volunteers take Olivet kitchen recyclables** to drop-off bins in town or to include with home recyclable pickup if you live in the City of Columbia. Thank you!
- City of Columbia residents**, if you have unused vouchers for the City's blue recycle bags, please donate them to our efforts. Put in Chalen Jackson's or Marilyn Bettenhausen's mail box. Or if you have more bags than you can use, please donate those as well. Thank you.

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

Life is
a gift,
don't trash it.

PERSONAL GREENING IS BACK!!!

Personal Greening is back by popular demand, sponsored by our Sustainable Living Team. We successfully held this Adult Sunday School series last summer, and will be offering a new version this summer, June 9 through August 25, entitled "Personal Greening 2." We have invited various guests representing organizations and programs in our community that work for sustainability (stewardship, environmental responsibility, ecological care, social and economic well-being, etc.) and invite you to participate. Each session stands alone and will vary from an "expert" presentation to any member of our church or community simply sharing/discussing what they do to help improve our life on the planet. We meet from 9:30 - 10:30 AM each Sunday those months, except June 16. If you want to lead or share, or invite a friend to lead/share a session, please sign up for a specific Sunday on the poster that will be available in Fellowship Hall. If you have questions, please ask Chalen Jackson or Larry Brown.



OLIVET VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY MAY SPOTLIGHT JOB POINT

Job Point, an employment center, has been linking people and jobs since 1965 by providing career planning and job placement assistance. They specialize in preparing individuals to enter the workforce while meeting a critical need of the business community. Using innovative training, education, and business partnerships, they help adults and youth older than 17 1/2 who experience disabilities, unemployment/underemployment, economic or educational obstacles, physical or mental health conditions or are offenders.

Job Point consistently seeks volunteer assistance to help provide their services. Because volunteers must pass a criminal background check, long-term commitments are desired.

Volunteers call 573-474-8560 or contact hr@jobpointmo.org to:

- * Tutor to help at-risk youth improve their basic skills, study for the high school equivalency test, or prepare for college entrance exams
- * Assist job seekers by conducting mock interviews, and reviewing resumes or completion of paper and online job applications

Employers: consider filling a short-term position with a Job Point qualified job applicant. Go to www.jobpointmo.com/employers



Job Point uses community assistance to provide a "hand up" versus a "hand out" to inspire and ensure success. Thanks for your confidence in Job Point. Teron Wings is one of the many who have benefited from this philosophy, here is a part of his story.

"I came out of prison and was in a halfway house here in Columbia," he says. Teron was determined to make the right turn, and made his next stop at Job Point where he signed up for the heavy highway construction course. The class teaches students everything from how to operate trucks and cranes to working with asphalt and concrete. Then Teron's work in the classroom was put into action with an internship with the City of Columbia's street division where he did asphalt and concrete repair. His hard work paid off as he was recognized as dependable and eager to learn and he soon had a job with Chester Bross Construction and by the time he'd been out of prison only 3 months, he has worked all over the state.

Teron says, "I feel different because I've got this job; it's a great feeling with my background and what I've been through. Now I feel like I'm a part of something, I feel like I'm a part of America so that's what it means to me."

BACKPACKS FULL OF LOVE

The Festival of Sharing: Organized more than 35 years ago, the Festival of Sharing is a Missouri collaborative of 30 faith groups working to help alleviate the negative impacts of poverty for children and adults in Missouri and around the world. Festival's goal is to promote and support agencies by providing funding and resource goods they can pass on to those most in need. www.festivalofsharing.org

Missouri's poverty: The agencies supported are doing the daunting work of helping Missourians in need. Poverty is not always obvious, but exists in all parts of our state where 14% of adults, 19.2% of children experience poverty. Shortages of affordable housing, food insecurity, increasing healthcare costs and low-wage jobs are driving factors in the struggle.

Festival helps: Festival of Sharing events collect and distribute resources provided by local churches. In 2018 Festival of Sharing distributed resources to 89 local Missouri social service agencies to provide household and other resources to nearly 55,000 people. The agencies continuously express how much Festival makes a difference in the lives of the people they serve.

Olivet helps - Missouri Backpacks of Love for Children ages 4-11: Olivet Outreach is making plans to again participate in the Festival of Sharing by assembling Backpacks of Love. Our collection will begin in August. Our goal is: 20 completed backpacks. each "kit" will contain:

- ✓ a small backpack (new or very good used – no wheels)
- ✓ 1 soft child's toothbrush (in the original package)
- ✓ 1 tube of child flavored toothpaste (4-6 oz)
- ✓ 1 T-shirt (child M, L or adult S)
- ✓ 1 small stuffed animal (new)
- ✓ 1 child narrow tooth comb
- ✓ 1 package with 3 pair of underpants
- ✓ 1 pair of socks

Why now? Even though our collection will begin in August, we give you this information now so that as you see these items on sale, or have the time to shop over the summer, you can keep these items in mind for donation later.

What happens? Items are purchased and brought to Olivet, where they are assembled into the backpacks. You can: 1) purchase all items to make a complete backpack kit; 2) purchase a few of the items; 3) purchase several of one item. Outreach committee will deliver the assembled backpacks to a Festival ShareFest in September. Watch for the date!

More information will be available as August gets closer, or contact Linda Reed Brown and watch for additional info on the bulletin board in May.

THIS MOTHER'S DAY,
*Blanket the World with
LOVE!*



BLANKET THE WORLD WITH LOVE

Next time you cuddle up with a warm blanket, think of the families that arrive in emergency shelters and refugee camps in their darkest hours. Whether struggling in poverty and coming to a homeless shelter in Columbia, attempting to rebuild after devastation like a flood, or traveling far to escape possible danger, families are in search of warmth and comfort.

On Mother's Day, May 12, Olivet will take up a special offering to help those adults and children rest a bit more warmly - not only because they have a blanket but also because they know they are not alone. Just \$10 will enable Church World Service to send a blanket next door or around the world to the next place that needs help. Just like a motherly hug! Will you give blankets in honor of the important women in your life?

Confronting our feelings and giving them appropriate expression always takes strength, not weakness. It takes strength to acknowledge our anger, and sometimes more strength yet to curb the aggressive urges anger may bring and to channel them into nonviolent outlets. It takes strength to face our sadness and to grieve and to let our grief and our anger flow in tears when they need to. It takes strength to talk about our feelings and to reach out for help and comfort when we need it.

– Fred Rogers

Get in step with spring renewal; pick out a new book about God's earth and how we can keep enjoying the wonders provided by the environment..

New Books at Olivet's Children's Library

This Is The Earth

Just the paintings will make you want to get out and explore nature.

Questions and Answers Planet Earth

Journey for the Planet: A Kids 5 week Adventure to Create an Earth-Friendly Life

Note to Teachers and Parents: fun activities your kids can share with you.

Nangaris Trees of Peace A True Story From Africa

Make Arbor Day memorable with a wide-world approach.

BOOKNOTES
FOR AFTER
EASTER

New Books at Olivet's Adult Library

Down to Earth-Religious Paths Toward Custodianship of Nature

Thoughtful facts by an environmental theologian about what's happening on issues such as population growth, waste, air, and biodiversity. Decide if the ways we use creation honors God and conserves earth's gifts for our lives, or if we need to make adjustments.

These nonfiction titles are on display in each library to check out; others also available. Come browse them, find your own interests, or let God lead you to new ideas in another book.

*Breathe fresh air...relax and read...savor the goodness of life...
praise our Creator God*

Pancake Breakfast



Photos courtesy of
Rebecca
Dykhhouse

OLIVET CHRISTIAN CHURCH MAY CALENDAR OF EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

Wednesday, May 1

7:00 PM Choir

Sunday, May 5 - 3rd Sunday of Easter

Annual Youth/Property Work Day

8:30 AM Informal Worship

9:30 AM Children's Music

9:30 AM Sunday School

10:30 AM Coffee Fellowship

11:00 AM Traditional Worship & Children's Worship
(4 yrs-4th grade)

Monday, May 6

4:15 PM Loaves & Fishes Serving

Wednesday, May 8

7:00 PM Choir

Sunday, May 12 - 4th Sunday of Easter

Mother's Day

8:30 AM Informal Worship

9:30 AM Children's Music

9:30 AM Sunday School

10:30 AM Coffee Fellowship

11:00 AM Traditional Worship & Children's Worship
(4 yrs-4th grade)

Tuesday, May 14

10:00 AM Staff Mtg.

5:45 PM Mission Family Leaders Mtg.

Wednesday, May 15

7:00 PM Choir

Saturday, May 18

7:00 AM Girl Scouts (MP)

Sunday, May 19 - 5th Sunday of Easter

8:30 AM Informal Worship

9:30 AM Children's Music

10:30 AM Coffee Fellowship

11:00 AM Traditional Worship & Children's Worship
(4 yrs-4th grade)

12:15 PM Pine Ridge Orientation Mtg. #1
(lunch provided - CR #1)

Monday, May 20

7:00 PM Board Mtg.

Tuesday, May 21

10:00 AM Staff Mtg.

Wednesday, May 22

7:00 PM Choir Practice

Newsletter Deadline

Sunday, May 26 - 6th Sunday of Easter

8:30 AM Informal Worship

9:30 AM Children's Music

9:30 AM Science of Sexuality Class (Amanda Durbak)

10:30 AM Coffee Fellowship

11:00 AM Traditional Worship & Children's Worship
(4 yrs-4th grade)

Monday, May 27

Memorial Day

Church Office Closed

6:00 PM Shawl Ministry

Tuesday, May 28

10:00 AM Staff Mtg.

Wednesday, May 29

7:00 PM Choir Practice

Newsletter Mailed

