

June 2020

Olivet Connections

Making the grace of God real for people.

Hi Church,

This is a confusing time, full of lots of unknowns and difficulties. We've been doing the best we can to stay connected, stay informed, and make decisions that adhere to our mission of "making the grace of God real for people." And I've learned a lot about technology, a lot about how viruses spread, a lot about videography. But I want to share with you a few of the most meaningful things I've learned during this pandemic:

The Church can be much nimbler than we thought. Often assumed to be a clunky and slow system, the Church has quickly adapted to our new reality in order to ensure the health of all involved. You, Olivet beloveds, have been flexible and creative and patient, demonstrating tremendous grace as we quickly switched gears to become a "virtual" church.

Not physically gathering is hard. You know this. I know this. We don't have to pretend that we enjoy this new physically distant reality. We can *both* be so very grateful that technology allows us to continue to stay connected while also keeping one another safe, *and* terribly sad that we cannot hug or pass communion or sing together. Loving each other looks like doing this difficult distancing thing during this time, but I also look forward to the moment when we can safely resume the incarnational ministry that has bound us together for so long.

Things will not go back the way they were. I am confident that our world will be irrevocably changed, even after a vaccine is widely available. Some changes will probably be good, while others bad. It is my great, deep hope, that after all of this is over we will hug our loved ones tighter,



work to correct the broken systems of economy and society that have failed us, and take notice of the earth that has started to heal itself in our absence and change our ways so it continues to do so. I look forward to the creative and new ways Olivet will choose to be Church in the world.

I spend too much time on screens these days.

Perhaps you do, too. Most of my meetings are on the computer. I'm emailing more. I'm FaceTimeing with family regularly. I'm screened-out. So here's what I'm going to do about it: *I'm going to be taking Fridays (my normal day off) as a "Technology Sabbath." On Fridays, I will not be checking email or social media or returning any non-urgent calls.* I, along with the staff, will be available in the case of an emergency, however. Do you need a Technology Sabbath, too? Please give yourself permission to take one.

God is with us. God abides. Still. As we've been working our way through the post-Easter stories of the lectionary, remembering the different scriptures of how various disciples and early Christians dealt with Jesus' resurrection and subsequent departure from this world, I've been struck by how frightened they were, how confused, how absolutely adrift they must have felt in his physical absence. But I've also been reminded again of how God, through Jesus, promises to be with us through the Holy Spirit. I've been comforted by the knowledge that God shepherds us through deserts and valleys and all kinds of wilderness places, no matter how scared, befuddled, and lost we may feel. Thanks be to God! Thanks be to God.

Peace be with you,
Rev. Hannah

WHAT TO EXPECT IN THE COMING MONTHS....

With the uncertainty and ever changing and highly fickle nature of this virus, it is impossible to put solid timelines, dates, or benchmarks on the different phases. Our goal is to move forward in the safest way possible, using the best guidance that our medical and scientific leaders can provide.

Phase 1--Everything continues online; nothing in-person. This includes the Pastors working from home, and the building only being used by staff for essential things such as printing, or repair and cleaning of the building by designated persons. Olivet will continue to build and affirm their community through online worship, Facebook and other social media groups, Zoom Bible Studies and Adult/Youth Christian education, while working or developing creative ways to build fellowship in new ways. All major events have been cancelled for the summer, including the BBQ, Float Trip, Mission Trips, and VBS.

Phase 2 -- The worship staff will start returning to the Church and record services in the sanctuary. All other aspects of church will continue as described in Phase 1.

Phase 3 -- "Drive-in church" services on Sunday mornings will begin. Congregants will park in the parking lot and stay in their cars to hear a live worship broadcast over the radio (equipment for this is available). Congregants are expected to stay in their cars, but this will allow us to be able to be in each others presence during worship. The outside bathroom will be available for emergencies. All other aspects of church will continue as described in Phase 1, and a virtual service will still be made available for those than cannot attend by car.

Respectfully submitted,
Amanda Durbak

I just watched "The Cross and The Lynching Tree: A Requiem for Ahmaud Arbery", a sermon by Rev. Dr. Otis Moss III, Sr. Minister of Trinity United Church of Christ in the South Side of Chicago. It is very powerful, and offers a very clear look at imbedded racism in our long history as a nation. I strongly encourage you to watch, even more than once. I know that Olivet has been engaged in conversations on white privilege and institutional racism in recent years. This is one of those pieces of powerful theological reflection and social justice oratory that I believe will add to the depth of those conversations. Watch it on YouTube.

~Pastor Coletta



"When we accept the truth about our mortality, we can also experience remarkable freedom: to take the time to say, 'I love you'; to stop nursing resentments, thinking that forgiveness can always wait for another day; to cease pretending that little annoying things matter so much; to pick up our heads and look at the beauty of the world; to examine our beliefs about what really, really counts in life; to mend relationships; and, for those who've never tried it before, even to pray."

---Kavin Rowe, New Testament professor at Duke Divinity School, whose wife is in hospice care.

OLIVET CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF COLUMBIA, MO INC. BOARD MEETING MINUTES APRIL 20, 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, JAN POE, KIM RYAN, DAVID STEINHAUER, JAKE VALLEROY.

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: NONE

CALL TO ORDER:

Amanda Durbak 7:05 PM

OPENING PRAYER:

Offered by Coletta Eichenberger shared a prayer of Bryan Stevenson

GOVERNANCE:

Due to the fact that our Board meetings will be virtual foreseeable future, Board Secretary Rebecca Dykehouse indicated that she will not be able to take meeting minutes due to technology issues. She would like to stay on as a Board member, for which the Board is excited and grateful. A request for volunteers to take turn recording meeting minutes was put forth, and several members including Kendall Enright and Jan Poe offered to fill in at future meetings. Rockie Alden offered to take this evening's minutes.

Minutes from the regular April meeting as well as the special meeting to discuss the CARE Act application were emailed out prior to the minute for review. The following corrections were noted: John Poehlmann was corrected to John Poehlmann. Ken Bartley also clarified a point where it had been noted that "There was also a notification that the fund had run out of money, but we are uncertain if we will still be receiving funds or not, despite being approved." should be clarified that it had been stated *in the news only* that the funds had run out, not that Olivet had been notified of money running out, and that we are uncertain if we are still receiving loan funds at this time.

Motion to approve the minutes with corrections made was made by Bob Broz and second by Jan Poe. Motion passed.

TREASURES REPORT:

Diane Bartley had sent out the reports by email prior, and there were no additional questions. Chalen Jackson motioned to accept finance report, Rebecca Dykehouse seconded it and

motion passed.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT:

Ken Bartley shared the great news for April, that for the first time in a long time identified giving fully funded operating expenses!!! It was noted that this the ideal way for a church to operate and there is much hope that we'll be able to continue the trend!

A question was raised as to why Property expenses have been lower, is it because of seasonal timing or because Property has been making cuts because of finances? Bob Broz answered that it was both and that we have been holding off on projects due to finances.

Ken Bartley also mentioned that Outreach has not been expending their 2020 budget. Ken also mentioned that Outreach has not been expending their 2020 budget primarily because in 2019 we had a \$62,000 deficit and in 2019 Outreach expended most of their budget, and that level of deficit cannot be repeated. After the 2019 extreme deficit Outreach came to Finance and communicated their willingness to not expend budgeted line items. Finance very much appreciates Outreach's fiscal cooperation and look forward to the time Olivet is fully funded to provide Outreach support to very worthy causes. Going forward, undesignated reserves can be only used for emergencies until which time reserved funds equals 4 months of the total Ministry Budget (per Board policy).

Hannah Ryan mentioned it is challenging not to have outreach while we are in this current climate and so many are in need at this time. Ken clarified that approximately only half of the money that Outreach spends is from "budgeted" monies. Outreach fund raising activities and Special Offerings and nonbudgeted sources that support various Outreach causes. For instance, Diane Bartley indicated that we sent \$1,300 to

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Loaves and Fishes and Rebecca reported that the BBQ committee is working on planning 2 fundraisers that will be used to support outreach.

Kim Ryan asked if it was standard procedure for Committees to decide if they cut their own budgets. Ken said we have not been in this position before but also mentioned it is not a budget cut at this time, it is a decision to not to expend until its financially feasible. It was also pointed out that in the recent past that most of the committees do not fully expend their budgeted amount for various reasons, HR and Outreach being the only exceptions.

There was discussion that if we can get back to a more stable position with finances that we will be in a better position to give and do outreach. It was decided that at this point, we should make note of where we are with Outreach and to keep an eye on it later in the year when we have a better idea of what our situation will look like.

MINISTERS REPORTS:

REV. RYAN:

Rev. Ryan gave the following report: Monday Bible Studies are continuing on Zoom. She and Rev. Eichenberger will be reaching out to others to record "giving messages" so we hear the message from different folks. The Shepherds continue to do a great job with staying in contact with folks and meeting needs. She is working with others to develop more education content on zoom and possibly offering a second time for Bible Study for folks that are working 9-5 hours (maybe evenings?). Adult Mission Trip is cancelled. The Youth Trip was also cancelled, but they may offer an educational component via Zoom. She is also following up on the possibility of doing VBS in a box or format that families could pick up and do at home and has a similar idea for Pentecost in a bag/celebration kits to take home. Hannah also mentioned after her Bethany Fellows retreat she was made aware that she needs some down time from technology so she will be taking "technology free Fridays" for a chance to unplug. She will communicate this with the church, but other staff members will be available should an emergency arise.

REV. EICHENBERGER:

Rev. Eichenberger gave the following report: The Search Committee did meet. They met for ½ hour on their own and then met with Mark Briley and John Poehlmann from Broadway Christian Church to discuss what "shared ministry" looks like. After John and Mark left the meeting, the committee discussed Hannah's draft job description for a shared ministry model for Olivet that included her areas of responsibility, those for a co-minister coming on staff, and areas that would be shared by both. The committee agreed to give input via emails re: the next steps of the Search process to include a congregational survey, and consensus on a paragraph description of co-ministry to share with the congregation to begin the discussion of Co-Ministry vs. a Sr. Minister/Associate model. It was a very productive and constructive meeting.

Both Pastors Ryan and Eichenberger have been coordinating and providing virtual worship, along with Adriene Floyd, Angie Carlson and other musicians. She has also been holding a weekly Bible Study, and attending staff meetings; plus one on one time with each other as situations or ideas or questions arise.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

HOW TO PROCEED DURING COVID 19/ RESPONSE AND COMMUNICATION PLAN:

A preliminary draft of the re-gathering phases had been distributed prior to the meeting. This was a document that was created during a meeting with Revs. Ryan and Eichenberger, and Board Chair (Amanda Durbak), Vice Chair (Rockie Alden) and Secretary (Rebecca Dykehouse) and was intended to be a jumping off point for the Board as a whole to discuss and modify before being presented to the congregation for further discussion. An active discussion over the document took place. Some things that were emphasized were that it was understood that we need to have distance, but some were concerned with having too long of a time away would make it harder for congregants to return to in person church after having it from home for so long. It was noted that this is a valid concern for many churches, however, many were hopeful people will be excited to see each other once restrictions are lifted, given the close-knit community that

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OCC maintains.

It was suggested that the initial 5 phases that the first draft lays out are not enough, and that we should consider more phases. It was also noted that Phase 5 (post-vaccine, all activities return to 'normal') should not be a phase. There was also discussion of details of church design and air flow that will help in the planning process. Another question was brought up about how the Annual Meeting would proceed, since this is a major event in the life of our church and has a voting component that we want to make available to all congregants. It was suggested that this could be done using Zoom, akin to what the UCC Conference did for their conference-wide annual meeting with over 200 people. As there are individuals in our church family that do not have access to reliable internet, there will have to be modifications to this plan.

It was suggested that since the Annual Meeting does not take place until October, and much is likely to occur over the summer, we wait until August to assess the situation and then follow the leads of what other large organizations in our community such as MU, CPS and other churches are doing. We should still have plenty of time to organize the meeting at that time.

In the immediate future, the Board Chair will be re-working the re-gathering phases in order to better incorporate different church events. This will be sent out via email and we can have dialogue on email.

Once the plan has been edited, the following actions for distribution were suggested: a hard copy mailed out, a recorded video/powerpoint presentation (Amanda Durbak offered to facilitate) that can be emailed or posted to the Facebook page, and possibly a live Q & A over Zoom, or Facebook to answer questions in real time.

EVENT UPDATES:

BBQ:

Rebecca Dykehouse, BBQ Chair, updated the Board on the decision to NOT be doing an in-person or take-out BBQ, citing that it would be impossible with current DHS restrictions in place.

However, the committee is developing a Virtual BBQ event for either June or July. This will be a fundraiser with the funds going towards OCC's Outreach mission. An additional fundraiser is being considered as well, a "Flocked" fundraiser, similar to one done in the past where they put a flock (*eg* plastic flamingos) in your yard and you pay to have them moved to someone else's. This would generate funds for the General Ministry Funds.

There is still an on-going discussion of a Pulled Pork event that typically occurs in November. As this event requires only minimal gathering at the church, and involves delivering the food by car, it is a possibility for the fall, and will be reconsidered again at a later date.

FLOAT TRIP:

After considerable discussion of the details of the Float Trip, the possibility of getting refunds, different aspects of liability and the amount of involvement OCC typically plays in the Float Trip, and in light of our current stance of taking extreme measures to maintain complete distancing protocols in order to protect ourselves and our surrounding community, including canceling the BBQ, VBS, and Mission Trips, a motion was made by Rebecca Dykehouse to rescind Olivet's support of any Olivet sponsored gatherings, including the Float Trip, and was seconded by Bob Broz. The motion passed unanimously.

It was noted that this decision was made with enough time to receive a full refund of all the monies paid at this time.

NEW BUSINESS:

A motion was made by Bob Broz that any future Olivet event needs to have Board review and approval until further notice. Seconded by Kim Ryan. Motion passed.

It was noted that this was not out of a desire to prevent events from happening, but rather to protect the Church and those that work there, and also to promote creative workarounds for cherished events (*e.g.*- the modified Seeds and Sprouts event last week).

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Comments that the Shepherds and other have been doing an amazing job of calling and staying in touch with folks!

LOVE OFFERING FOR ROBERT FLOYD:

Adriene's husband, Robert Floyd has been doing an amazing job assisting with the technology required for our virtual services. Many commented on how well the services look and what a difference it has made for us! He volunteered to do it and enjoys it, but he has put in a lot of time, while still working a separate full-time job.

A motion was made by Rebecca Dykehouse to send an email out to members explaining who/what Robert Floyd has been doing and suggesting that if folks would want to participate in a Love Offering and/or send thank you notes. Second by Barbara Fitzgerald. Motion passed.

Hannah will ask Becky about sending out an email and will find the best way for folks to donate; possibly mail checks to Olivet or make donation online with notation of: Robert Floyd love offering.

CHURCH CLEANING:

It was brought up that with current circumstances it would be a good idea to give our cleaning crew, the McCray's, a detailed explanation of our expectations. We can give these to HR and they can communicate them with the McCray's. Since they are currently being paid and do not need to clean the sanctuary weekly as they usually do what can they be doing instead?

Some suggestions where:

- Stripping and re-waxing the floors
- Shampoo carpets
- Murphy's oil the pews
- Clean upholstery on the Pews
- Deep Clean the nursery.

The property committee can have insight as well as the McCrays themselves. It should not be as added expense, but as things they can do in place of their normal cleaning that is not needed right now.

HR is the supervisors of the cleaning so they will be the ones that communicate.

Ken Bartley moved to Adjourn meeting, Bob Broz seconded it.

Respectfully submitted,
Amanda Durbak

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radio (equipment for this is available). Congregants are expected to stay in their cars, but this will allow us to be able to be in each others presence during worship. The outside bathroom will be available for emergencies. All other aspects of church will continue as described in Phase 1, and a virtual service will still be made available for those than cannot attend by car.

Think of a tipping point as a game of Jenga. That tower can stand removing almost all of the blocks holding it up; it can twist and sway and remain standing. However, the removal of the crucial block will bring the entire tower down immediately. Once the tipping point is surpassed, you cannot stop the fall, it happens quickly, and even if you could put that block back in the same place, the tower cannot return to the way it was before. It also cannot be rebuilt without using more energy to rebuild it that it took to bring it down.

The IPCC has listed 9 "Tipping Points"*:

1. Shutdown of the Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation
2. West Antarctic Ice Sheet Disintegration
3. Amazon Rainforest Dieback
4. West African Monsoon Shift
5. Permafrost and Methane Hydrates
6. Coral Reef Die-off
7. Indian Monsoon Shift
8. Greenland Ice Sheet Disintegration
9. Boreal Forest Shift

*For a detailed scientific explanation of these points, see:

PART II - TIPPING POINTS WITH A 1.5° RISE IN GLOBAL TEMPERATURE



<https://www.carbonbried.org/explainer-nine-tipping-points-that-could-be-triggered-by-climate-change>

Disruption of these systems results in Extreme Heat, Water Scarcity, Loss of Biodiversity & Range of

Plants & Animals, Loss of Coral Reefs & Sea Level Rise. What that means for people is loss of life due to heat stress, loss of life due to drought, loss of plants, animals and fish for food sources.

All of these tipping points involve complex systems, some overlap, some don't. But what they all have in common is heat. Heat is the factor that throws natural systems with their delicate checks and balances 'out of whack'. The simple version is that the more heat added to the Earth's climate system, the more out of balance natural systems get, and more destruction and suffering we see. It's almost always the people living on the fringes of society around that world that are hit the hardest. Think of 1.5° not as an absolute line in the sand but as a general indicator of where many climate impacts - on balance- go from destructive to catastrophic.

Next month: the rise in extreme weather events

What: A letter/card writing campaign for Olivet members to connect with our members who live alone, or do not connect via social media, or our older population. Also consider some of the cards going to "Save our Seniors" a project that Chalen Jackson's company is doing, where they give cards to Nursing homes and other care facilities.

When: Now, as soon as we can get it organized

Where: Pick up and drop off at Olivet?

How: We could provide a package of supplies for ten cards; paper, pens, stickers and instructions. We could have one version for kids and one for adults.

We would email members and ask them to contact me via email to place an order for packages, they would indicate child or adult and



the quantity they want. We could have a pick up time at Church (check and see how they did seeds and sprouts), I could also put some on my porch for folks to pick up if they are not available on pick up day.

We would then have a day(s) that folks could drop completed cards back at church in a drop box provided at the church entry.

Shepherds and staff would provide a list of folks and addresses that they would like to receive a card and Rockie will mail those (labels on back of envelope asking them to let the mail sit for 3 days before opening). And the remainder I would drop off at Chalen's office for them to distribute.

This does not address the plan of intergenerational pen pals.....that can be next. :)

Early morning or evening are delightful times to walk from the parking lot, through the Prayer Garden area on the new curved concrete sidewalk and then out to the Gazebo. The inviting new sidewalk, completed in early spring, is the Eagle Scout project of Weston Schlemeyer, Troop 707, son of David Schlemeyer and Catherine Moheky. It includes a small 'bump out' where chairs or a bench will be added at a later time. Additional drainage tile will be installed along the building in this area and small trees and/or shrubs will likely be added as plans evolve. This area has currently been planted with zinnias from Seeds 'n Sprouts and also coreopsis, coneflower and columbine from our native plant beds in the parking lot, which now serve as 'nursery beds' in addition to providing nectar, pollen and seeds for butterflies, bees and birds. Rose verbena, columbine and shining blue star are all currently blooming there with coreopsis and more soon to follow.

- ☼ Bright yellow flowers of roundleaf groundsel/squaw-weed, intense purple and white sage blossoms and red columbine all enliven the gazebo area. The gazebo has recently been power-washed and will be painted soon and a new railing installed.



☼ Be sure to enjoy the water feature by the main entry to our building. Watching and listening to the burbling water is always refreshing. Blue sage and vivid pink dianthus are currently in bloom there. Just to the right of the main entry door, wild sweet William (blue phlox) has been blooming since April. As it completes its cycle, star tickseed coreopsis and purple coneflower will come into bloom.

All our property maintenance work, except regular mowing, is done by volunteers. If you would like to help in any way, contact Property Committee members Bob Broz, at BrozR@missouri.edu or (573) 489-5730, or Dave Steinhauer, at steinhauer4@gmail.com or (573) 673-5647. They will be happy to hear from you.

While we cannot gather together in person during this unprecedented time, we appreciate the many ways our pastoral and lay leadership are keeping us connected. We remain a strong community in spirit and there are many ways to support Olivet's mission and ministry.

~Sustainable Living Team and Property Committee



Thank You!



Our Seeds 'n Sprouts event last month provided a welcome sign of hope with flower, herb, and veggie seedlings ready to stretch their roots and grow! Well over 30 families are now enjoying fresh spring plants – the pre-orders really helped speed things up and a couple home deliveries were made as well. Zinnias were planted in a portion of the Prayer Garden and we also donated about 6 dozen pepper plants to the Interfaith Garden, where volunteers from Newman Center and Congregation Beth Shalom grow produce at the CBS site for the Food Bank's Central Pantry.

Thanks to all our volunteers and to all who participated in our drive-through, carry-out event this year, which was held in accordance with public health guidelines.

~Sustainable Living Team

MAY CALENDAR OF EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

Monday, June 1

4:15 PM Serving at Loaves & Fishes

Sunday, June 7

1st Sunday after Pentecost

8:00 AM Worship (YouTube)

10:00 AM Worship (FaceBook)

Monday, June 8

12:00 PM Bible Study (Zoom)

1:30 PM Staff Mtg. (Zoom)

Sunday, June 14

2nd Sunday after Pentecost

8:00 AM Worship (YouTube)

10:00 AM Worship (FaceBook)

Monday, June 15

12:00 PM Bible Study (Zoom)

1:30 PM Staff Mtg. (Zoom)

Wednesday, June 17

Newsletter Articles Due

Sunday, June 21

3rd Sunday after Pentecost

Father's Day

8:00 AM Worship (YouTube)

10:00 AM Worship (FaceBook)

Monday, June 22

12:00 PM Bible Study (Zoom)

1:30 PM Staff Mtg. (Zoom)

7:00 PM Board Mtg. (Zoom)

Wednesday, June 24

Newsletters Mailed

Sunday, June 28

4th Sunday after Pentecost

8:00 AM Worship (YouTube)

10:00 AM Worship (FaceBook)

Monday, June 29

12:00 PM Bible Study (Zoom)

1:30 PM Staff Mtg. (Zoom)

"Is it not clear by now that wars and the arms race cannot solve today's global problems? War is a sign of defeat, a failure of politics. The overriding goal must be human security; providing food, water, and a clean environment and caring for people's health."

---Mikhail Gorbachev, former president of the Soviet Union, on what the world should look like post-pandemic.



June 7

1st Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 1:1-2:4a
2 Corinthians 13:11-13
Matthew 28:16-20
Psalm 8

June 14

2nd Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 18:1-15, (21:1-7)
Exodus 19:2-8a
Romans 5:1-8
Matthew 9:35-10:8, (9-23)
Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19
Psalm 100

June 21

3rd Sunday after Pentecost

Father's Day

Genesis 21:8-21
Jeremiah 20:7-13
Romans 6:1b-11
Matthew 10:24-39
Psalm 86:1-10, 16-17
Psalm 69:7-10, (11-15), 16-18

June 28

4th Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 22:1-14
Jeremiah 28:5-9
Romans 6:12-23
Matthew 10:40-42
Psalm 13
Psalm 89:1-4; 15-18

Olivet Christian Church
1991 S Olivet Rd
Columbia MO 65201

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



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

OFFICE PHONE:

573.442.0336

WEB:

www.olivetchristian.org

FACEBOOK:

[www.Facebook.com/OlivetChristianChurch](https://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