

March 2022

Making the grace* of God real for people.

Olivet Connections

* "Grace is unconditional love toward a person who does not deserve it." (Paul Zahl)



Lent 2022—Full to the Brim

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday (March 2nd) and lasts until Easter Sunday (April 17th). The stories of the Lenten season this year are full of parables and promises of God's abundant, extravagant, boundless grace. We've done nothing to deserve this grace, but like water, it spills over. This Lent, you will be invited to be authentically you, to counter scarcity and injustice, to pour out grace wherever it is needed, and to filled to the brim with God's endless love.

The season of Lent originated as a time of learning the faith in preparation for baptism. One was to leave their old life behind to fast and prepare to be baptized into a new way of living. This year, we too, will practice stepping away from the rat race, scarcity mentality of the world, and empty rituals and instead turn towards the promise of our baptisms—that God has already claimed us as God's own and nothing we do will ever change or erase that.

Join us as we embark upon this journey together.

Ash Wednesday

Wednesday, March 2nd | 6:00-7:00 PM

As we enter into the Lenten season, we take heed of the words of the prophet Joel: "Return to God with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning." On Ash Wednesday, we are invited to bring our authentic selves to God—our brokenness, our joy, our doubts, and our gifts. Join us for a contemplative prayer service on March 2nd. You are invited to come at any point during the 6:00 hour in Olivet's Fellowship Hall and Sanctuary. There, you will find prayer stations set up, including one where you may receive ashes, a reminder that you are enough and that you belong to God. Participate in each prayer station or simply come to receive your ashes.



Olivet Church Board Meeting - January 17, 2022, 7:00 PM

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Joe Reeder, Vickie Spain, Barb Fitzgerald, Ginny Edgar, Inge Decker, Dennis Bettenhausen, Jere Gilles, Kim Amiot, David Mast, Larry Brown, Sarah Frost

OTHERS PRESENT:

Reverend Hannah Ryan, Reverend Coletta Eichenberger, Diane Bartley, Ken Bartley,

CALL TO ORDER:

Joe Reeder at 7:03 PM

Opening Prayer offered by Coletta Eichenberger.

GOVERNANCE:

Minutes from the December 20, 2021 board meeting were reviewed. Dennis Bettenhausen and Kim Amiot need to be removed as attending in December. Jere Gilles moved that the December minutes be approved as corrected. David Mast seconded the motion. The motion passed and minutes will be amended.

Treasurer's Report:

Diane Bartley, Treasurer provided the monthly financial statements, including Balance Sheet, Income Statement, Cash on Hand Report, and Budget vs. Actual. Dennis Bettenhausen asked for clarification about unrestricted Cash on Hand Report. December ended in a positive \$1300 on ministry fund. For 2021, we ended with approximately a \$16,000 deficit. Ginny Edgar asked for explanation of the negative balance on Capital Projects Fund. Diane explained that this negative figure indicates when we were overextended in years past before it was on the budget as a line item. We leave that Capital Projects fund there until the deficit is depleted or paid back because it is easier to track. We continue to receive donated funds toward this item. Dennis Bettenhausen moved that financial statements be accepted. Inge Decker seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Finance Committee Report:

Kenneth Bartley, Finance Chair, gave the financial report. Ken noted "in celebration" that at December 31, 2021, we had a prepaid pledge balance of \$34,293.08 which was a 174 per cent increase over

2020 year end. Also, as of January 17, 2022, we currently have a prepaid pledge balance of \$41,420. Compared to January 31, 2021, we had \$20,750, so our current balance is an increase of 98.5 per cent. March 31, 2021 was the month when prepaid pledges were the most in history and we still have an increase of 25% over that month. We have not yet sent out generosity campaign. "We have received gifts of generosity that supports the ministry, which is something to celebrate."

Ken also noted that we have an Accounts Receivable of \$2,000 for Nov & Dec rent for old church building at December 31, 2021. There has been a partial payment since then, so the current balance is \$1500. David Mast is to make a report later in the meeting. Expenses in 2021 exceeded our income for by \$16,551. Our total revenue is down 4.4 per cent and expenses were up 8.8 percent from previous year. We did have an 8.65 per cent increase in identified giving and have some new contributors. We did lose some good contributors by death this last year, too.

Ken reminded us to be cognizant that 2021 was the first year that the mortgage was put on statement as a budget line item and that is the reason the expense for finance is up about 65 per cent over previous year. If it had remained off-budget with the building fund as before, it would make the budget appear in the black. This gives a clearer picture with it included in the budget. In 2021, we did not spend 13 per cent of our budget in the ministry fund budget, so we were careful with spending and did not spend all that was included in our budget. Also, Ken noted that he was given the authorization to purchase 50 shares of the IUSG(iShares Core S&P U.S. Growth ETF) fund, but the price per share went up the next day and since that time. Ken did not purchase them since they increased, so there may be a better opportunity later at a more attractive price. Ken says they will closely monitor that.

This week 4th quarter statements and generosity letter will go out. Now, that we have finished out full year of financial statements, we can talk to bank

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Olivet Church Board Meeting continued

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about interest rate on mortgage. Larry Brown asked if it was possible to look at our identifiable giving and provide a breakdown of what gift categories or levels might be? Ken responded with yes, and further stated that they provide that information about every six months. It has been shared with the board and sometimes in the past shared publicly and included in generosity letters. Dennis Bettenhausen asked if the required minimum distributions (RMD's) affected the current prepaid giving status. Ken said that is very possible that is part of the change in giving patterns.

MINISTER'S REPORT:

Rev. Ryan:

reported that in the Christian Education area, she continues to lead and participate in youth group and Bible Study weekly. The Worship & Wonder for the very young age group has gone well, but is suspended until we can be more safe from Covid levels. That age group is not vaccinated and does not wear masks that well. Youth Group is making plans to offer some form of the Super Bowl of Caring for February 13. Quarter Sunday will resume on the 5th Sundays and January 30 will be the first in 2022. For Worship, we held 2 services on Christmas Eve and uploaded one to YouTube. Hannah officiated at the memorial service and graveside services for Luanna Shively. Hannah will be attending a retreat Feb 8-11 in Phoenix for Financial Wellness program training, which is part of the grant for Excellence in Ministry grant program she is receiving. The staff has been hit hard with sickness and quarantines. Hannah is very thankful for the how this situation has been met with grace, understanding and compassion by the board and congregation.

Rev. Eichenberger:

reported that she has been participating and helping with Worship design, including the Infant Dedication of KaliJo Reeder and assisting with funeral for Luanna Shively. Coletta was involved with Bible Study and staff meetings. Provided material for at-home worship for Christmas weekend. Also participating in the Ecological and Theology Group led by Larry Brown. Worship last Sunday was intimate with only

about 13 people due to weather. Coletta will be out this next Sunday as her husband, Bob will have outpatient surgery on Friday. Coletta also continues to participate on Zoom session and provide guidance for the Search & Call Team.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Search and Call Update:

Joe Reeder gave an update for the Search & Call Team. We have extended a call to the candidate and the candidate accepted, but unforeseen circumstances have arisen to delay the call process. The S&C Team has met this month and a Zoom meeting with the candidate will take place later this month with the Co-Chairs.

Board Retreat:

Rev. Hannah will be sending out a Doodle so that board members may indicate dates they might be available for a board member training and retreat. In addition, Coletta has been in contract with Chad Mulhollen, a pastor in Sedalia, regarding a visionary retreat. This visioning process would also include other church leaders in addition to board members and will be more fully engaged when we get new co-pastor. The board retreat or training might take place in February and it may be when the Covid numbers have receded some, because online retreats are not as effective.

Old Church Building:

David Mast reports that two major things have happened with the old church. As with other churches, the congregation leasing the building has lost members and revenue and are asking for a reduction in rent. They are currently behind two months. The new lease starts on the first of April. In addition, there has been a major sewer problem. Roto Rooter had to be called and could not get line opened up. The line had to be cut and a clean out was added at that time. A two day repair and expensive. There was a lot of paper in the drain. There has been a split in the church congregation, so there was a request to change the locks. David got the locks rekeyed at a cost of \$32.00. There are new

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Olivet Church Board Meeting continued

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keys in the church office as old keys will not work. The congregation paid \$500.00 toward overdue rent but asked consideration as to reducing rent. A decision about getting new tenants will need to be made around March 31, when the 3-year lease expires. Changes in the rent or renewing the lease would require church board approval. David, Bob Broz, Rev. Hannah and Diane & Ken Bartley met with representatives of that congregation in January.

COVID Policy:

Also, noted to the board by Joe and Hannah is that the Color Chart is at Severe status on Sunday. Larry Brown's Sunday School class will continue to meet on Sundays. Choir has taken a hiatus during this status. Adrienne is arranging for special music. Hannah's daughter had to be quarantined. Adrienne had Covid

recently. Our greatest concern is whether we can maintain enough staff for worship preparation. Becky was out with illness also this week and Hannah did a lot of secretarial duties with which she is not familiar.

New Business:

Joe Reeder stated that he has reinstated the 2022 board nominating committee to fill a vacant spot. Joe thinks they are willing to serve in this capacity again for a short time.

A motion to adjourn by Dave Mast, seconded by Inge Decker
Meeting adjourned at 7:51 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara L. Fitzgerald
Board Secretary

Thank you!

Dear Friends at Olivet,
Our hearts have been comforted by the outpouring of expressions of concerns and caring that we have received from our church family. The personal cards sent by so many have meant so much.

I'm also belatedly thanking you for the beautiful poinsettia (January kind of slipped by me!).

*With gratitude,
The Tatlows*

Angel Tree Families at VAC Holiday Program – 1,074 families were adopted (3,084 persons of which 2,372 were children). Olivet CC was one of 455 family sponsors, and you'll remember that we had 17 children and 7 adults in the 5 families. Here is one of the "Thank you's" we received from our families:

"Thank you so much for everything this holiday! As a single mom I try to make Christmas so special no matter how stressful it can get. This means a lot to my family and has lifted a weight off my shoulders while we are in transition and getting settled in Columbia."

Columbia Area Older Adult Ministry – "Dear friends at Olivet, Thank you for your donation of \$700 to Columbia Area Older Adult Ministry. We are thankful to be back in the communities we serve, continuing to follow the covid guidelines of each community. We wear our masks, which sometimes is challenging for those who have hearing loss. Last year I was able to purchase a voice amplifier to use, which has helped a great deal. Beginning in February, we will be proving a Sunday afternoon worship service twice a month at Westbury Retirement Community. Thank you for being a part of the caring team of CAOAM."

Sincerely, Sally A Robinson

We would like to thank our Olivet family for all the cards, calls and prayers during our recent health difficulties. We would also like to thank you for the beautiful poinsettia. We are still enjoying its beauty.

Paul & Joanne Andrews



Olivet Annual BBQ

Most of you know that the Olivet BBQ is not just a great time spent with your church family. The proceeds from the BBQ support not only the mission of Olivet Church, but so many local worthwhile organizations. We asked the Outreach Committee to share a list of the causes the BBQ has supported over the years. We received a list dating back to 1991 to the present.

- Woodhaven
- St. Francis/Lois Bryant House
- Central MO Food Bank
- Fellowship of John (Lenoir)
- Rainbow House
- Kosovo/Bosnia Refugee Resettlement
- Olivet Mission Trips
- Missouri Heifer Project
- Koinonia House
- Front Door House
- Eldercare Center
- Cedar Creek Therapeutic Riding Center
- RAIN
- Northeast Area Camp Coordinator
- Habitat for Humanity
- NBA Miracle Day
- Meals on Wheels
- Loaves and Fishes Soup Kitchen
- Pascale's Pals
- PET Project
- Voluntary Action Center
- The Shelter
- Phoenix House
- TREE
- Camp Hickory Hill
- Columbia Older Adult Ministries
- Centro Latino
- Columbia Center for Urban Agriculture

Last year our proceeds went to CASA--Court Appointed Special Advocate. They received \$4,711.39. Our hard work makes a difference in our community!

Please mark Saturday, June 11 on your calendars and plan to work hard, eat great food. and support your church and your community.

Lori and Chris Valleroy, 2022 BBQ Chairs

Chili in a Jar - Week of Compassion Fundraiser: "Love is a path forward"

We're still not able to have a sit-down-and-eat-together fundraiser like our traditional annual Soup and Chili Luncheon.

But, instead of just canceling it again this year, or just asking for a donation (no more virtual fundraisers for us!) the Outreach Committee is planning to make Olivet's famous chili (mild & tasty!) and put it in jars for you to take home, enjoy and perhaps share with others.



Note: An alternate soup will be available by prior special request (deadline March 4) to Linda Reed Brown.

March 6 and March 13 will be Olivet Chili Days. The chili will be fresh on March 6, but will be frozen on March 13. Chili will be in quarts and pints, and we'll be suggesting a minimal donation for each. Please contact Linda Reed Brown for more information about the chili or making a donation.

The fundraiser benefits our denominational Week of Compassion ministry – the relief, refugee and development mission fund that helps communities prepare for and recover from natural and human-caused disasters.

March Food Pantry Needs

The Food Pantries in Central Missouri and Boone County are always in need of assistance. The list below contains suggestions for donations. Items donated in the first quarter of 2022 will go to Russell Chapel Food Pantry. Place your items in the Food Pantry area of the Fellowship Hall.

- canned fruit – peaches, pears, fruit cocktail, applesauce, mandarin oranges, pie filling

- jam, jelly
- cereal – instant oatmeal, dry cereals
- cornbread mix, muffin mix, biscuit mix
- pancake mix and syrup
- granola bars



Seeds & Sprouts 2022

This will again be a drive-through, carry out event in the church parking lot following worship on Earth Sunday, April 24. The popular pre-order option will again be available. Watch for details in the April newsletter.

We're working to feature an interesting sampler of flower, herb, and veggie seedlings for your patio, garden or yard. Watch for a new variety of cherry tomato – Red Velvet – suitable for containers as small as 6 inches, plus Prospero Compact basil, with traditional Genovese aroma, but a size suitable for pots. We

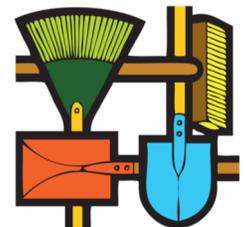


hope to offer a few special varieties of 'slicer' tomatoes and peppers that you might not find elsewhere. Summer favorites like zinnias for bright color, nectar and pollen, plus hardy and resilient marigolds which can suffer neglect and "pop up" again when watered are on our list. And we hope to offer some native wildflowers that support butterflies and other pollinators.

Plants are free; donations accepted to help offset expenses.

Spring Property Work Day

Under the direction of Olivet's Property Committee, volunteers will plant flowers, apply mulch, weed and water as necessary. This annual event is an enjoyable way to work together to help care for our lovely grounds. Adults and young people are welcome.



It's for the Birds!

Guided hike through the Columbia Audubon Society Nature Reserve off Bray Avenue, preceded by a "Bring-Your-Own" lunch and program about the Reserve at nearby Fairview Park shelter, just south of Fairview School. Watch for details in the May newsletter.



Race Onward

Olivet has been invited to be a part of a local ecumenical organization dedicated to healing cultural divisions, Race Onward. After the events in Ferguson, MO and demonstrations on the MU campus, a group of people from several congregations applied for a reconciliation grant from the Mid-Missouri Area of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) to support a study of America's Original Sin by James Wallis. In the years following the study, this group organized a pilgrimage to Memphis, Birmingham and Montgomery, and a second pilgrimage to Memphis, Selma, Montgomery and Birmingham. In addition, a local pilgrimage was conducted to visit four predominately Black congregations in Columbia.

More recently, Race Onward sponsored book studies of *Healing Racial Divides*, *White Fragility*, and *Caste*; then in 2021 led a pilgrimage to Tulsa (Greenwood) and Little Rock (Central High School). The Mid-America Region has sponsored all three pilgrimages, in addition to the support for the first book study. Current plans are to do a study of *White Too Long: The Legacy of White Supremacy in American Christianity* and is cooperating with First Baptist

Church in bringing the author, the Rev. Dr. Robert Jones to Columbia. Stephen's College will host a presentation on Saturday, March 19, and Dr. Jones will preach at First Baptist Church on Sunday, March 20.

Race Onward is partnering with the MU Middleton Center to offer a modified version of the university course, *Race and the American Story*, based on primary source readings from writers such as Thomas Jefferson, Frederick Douglass, Anna Julia Cooper, Abraham Lincoln, Booker T. Washington, Martin Luther King, Jr., and others.

Many people who have participated in Race Onward projects have become much more active in Race related activities, including voter registration, NAACP meetings, and connections between various churches. Race Onward has been a co-host of presentations on legislation regarding Critical Race Theory. Those who participate in the Race Onward committee represent nearly twenty congregations in the Columbia area. Please contact Larry Brown for additional information.



Ecological Spirituality/Theology

Each Sunday morning, 9:00, (January 16 through March 13) Olivet has been offering an Adult Sunday School Class on Ecological Spirituality/Theology, led by Larry Brown. We have shared in a brief overview of the many aspects of the contemporary environmental crisis and why it is important, as Christians, to study these issues. We looked at Hebrew and Christian Biblical themes that prompt us to be caretakers of the planet, and how our worldview has shaped not only our understanding of how creation works, but what responsibilities we have in the health of the planet. After considering some contributions of indigenous/



primal understandings of the cosmos and ecology, we have been looking at the various movements and organizations (conservation, government, civic societies, churches, etc.) that currently afford us opportunities for learning and action. This class will conclude on March 6 and 13 by considering what imperatives we are given by our Christian faith for engagement in public policy and what specific actions we may need to take as individuals and congregation. A bibliography and other resources have been made available during the class. For more information contact Larry Brown.

Spring Signals New Life, New Beginnings, Resurrection

If you were an Afghan Evacuee arriving in Columbia, what would signal a new life for you?

Catholic Charities Refugee Services is the Local Resettlement Agency recognized by the US Government in mid-Missouri and has been doing so for 46 years. They are the primary coordinating agency for settlement of the Afghanistan refugees, forming partnerships with local community organizations who are key to helping the Afghans access short- and long-term support and assistance.



be collection of items needed by a family to move into and begin a new life in a new home.

The Olivet Outreach Committee is asking for your help: take one or more tags listing needed household and food items for a new home from our **“Resurrection Tree”** (remember the Angel Tree?) on 4 Sundays – March 20, 27, April 3, 10. You’ll find a Resurrection Tree in the Fellowship Hall on those Sundays. Deliver the items to the church on or before April 10 and we’ll celebrate with a parade on Palm Sunday.

Olivet CC has a history of being one of those community partners. In the years 1999 and 2000, Olivet CC served as a sponsor for settlement of a family from Bosnia led by our own dear Sally Mertz. For the resettlement efforts currently underway in Columbia, Olivet’s contribution to the partnership will

The list of needed items will also be supplied to you with an informational flyer in the weeks before, so that if you are not able or uncomfortable coming to the church building, you can still participate by purchasing the items or making a monetary donation in the envelopes that will be provided.

Christian Symbol

40—In Scripture, this number often indicates a time of trial or testing, or simply marks significance. It rained 40 days and nights during the Flood. Israel wandered in the wilderness for 40 years. Jesus fasted for 40 days and was with the disciples for 40 days between his resurrection and ascension. The Christian church has long observed 40 days of Lent (not counting Sundays).



Love is a Path Forward - Love Remains

The tapestry of love we weave as we generously give to this special offering includes: a mother working alongside her neighbors to rebuild her child’s school after a hurricane; a new homeowner starting over after a devastating tornado; and chickens providing a new future for a family; a drink of clean water; a warm blanket given to a refugee family in an unfamiliar place. AND love is people responding to the needs of a hurting world, trusting that love can make a difference; that transformation is possible.



We cannot be in all of these places ourselves to see them with our own eyes or sometimes even believe the images we see through the media; but, through our generous gifts, we show that love remains, in spite of all obstacles. Let us give, joyfully and generously, in that spirit.

Our annual Week of Compassion Special Offering will be received on Sundays, February 27 and March 6.

MARCH OLIVET Activities & Events

Wednesday, March 2

Ash Wednesday

6:00 PM Ash Wednesday Service
7:00 PM Choir

Saturday, March 5

Groundhog Day

9:00 AM Cook & Jar Chili for Fundraiser

Sunday, March 6

1st Sunday in Lent

Week of Compassion Special Offering

Chili Sale Fundraiser

9:00 AM Ecological Spirituality/Theology Class
9:30 AM Worship & Wonder
10:30 AM In-person & Drive-in Worship
3:00 PM Worship posted to YouTube
3:30 PM Youth Group (Zoom)

Monday, March 7

12:00 PM Bible Study (Zoom)
1:30 PM Staff Mtg. (Zoom)
4:30 PM Loaves & Fishes

Wednesday, March 9

7:00 PM Choir

Sunday, March 13

2nd Sunday in Lent

Chili Sale Fundraiser

Daylight Saving Time Begins

9:00 AM Ecological Spirituality/Theology Class
9:30 AM Worship & Wonder
10:30 AM In-person & Drive-in Worship
3:00 PM Worship posted to YouTube
3:30 PM Youth Group (Zoom)

Monday, March 14

12:00 PM Bible Study (Zoom)
1:30 PM Staff Mtg. (Zoom)

Wednesday, March 16

7:00 PM Choir

Thursday, March 17

St. Patrick's Day

Sunday, March 20

3rd Sunday in Lent

9:30 AM Worship & Wonder
10:30 AM In-person & Drive-in Worship
3:00 PM Worship posted to YouTube
3:30 PM Youth Group (Zoom)

Monday, March 21

12:00 PM Bible Study (Zoom)
1:30 PM Staff Mtg. (Zoom)
7:00 PM Board Meeting

Wednesday, March 23

Newsletter Articles Due

7:00 PM Choir

Saturday, March 26

8:00 AM Board Retreat

Sunday, March 27

4th Sunday in Lent

9:30 AM Worship & Wonder
10:30 AM In-person & Drive-in Worship
3:00 PM Worship posted to YouTube
3:30 PM Youth Group (Zoom)

Monday, March 28

12:00 PM Bible Study (Zoom)
1:30 PM Staff Mtg. (Zoom)

Wednesday, March 30

7:00 PM Choir



Seeds & Sprouts
Sunday, April 24



Annual Float Trip
Friday - Saturday
August 12 -14

Olivet Christian Church
1991 S Olivet Rd
Columbia MO 65201

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Olivet 
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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:

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

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Worship Arts Supervisor

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Administrative Office Coordinator