

FEBRUARY 2023

Olivet Connections

*Life, with its rules, its obligations, and its freedoms, is like a sonnet:
'You're given the form, but you have to write the sonnet yourself.'*
—Anna Quindlen, "An Appreciation," in *A Wrinkle in Time* by Madeleine L'Engle

Making the grace of God real for people.

Seeking: Honest Questions for Deeper Faith Lent at Olivet

During this Lenten season we will encounter stories of seekers—those who are looking for a new beginning, a different life, a deeper faith. Some of their questions are restorative ("Can these bones live?"). Some are more challenging ("Who will you listen to?"). Others contain hope and curiosity ("How do we begin again?").

We are also seeking—looking for clarity, connection, wonder, justice, balance. We are seeking our calling and the sacred. We are asking big questions about our lives, our faith, the Church. Join us this Lenten season as we unpack some of our big questions with honesty and faithfulness. Together, we'll stay curious, open, and nimble. Together, we'll broaden our perspectives and create safe spaces to explore. Together, we'll be drawn more deeply into the fullness of life, into the heart of God.



Please watch for news of special services, events, and activities during the Lenten season at Olivet.



Grief, although inevitable, is an experience that none of us are experts in. Collectively, humanity has endured immense grief these last few years coupled with unavoidable grief that comes as time passes and for some it has all been too much! Maybe that is you! Please consider joining us during Lent for a weekly gathering centered on understanding and receiving hope through grief. We will strive to create a safe space for sharing and reflection as we share our common and yet unique journeys with one another. We will meet on **Sundays @ 9:00 AM** or **Wednesdays @ 10:00 AM** here at the church. You are welcome to invite anyone who you think might benefit from this group and our time together. Our first gathering will be **February 26**. If you have any questions please contact Pastor Natalie 620-440-8843/ peace.weaver@live.com.

Olivet will soon be hosting an **Our Bodies, Our Faith Retreat**. This retreat is created to help youth make healthy decisions in faithful and life-enhancing ways. On February 10-11, 2023, all 6-12th grade youth from Disciples congregations in central Missouri are invited to gather for this special event. We will be focused on sacred values and our shared identity as children of God. All curriculum is geared towards the needs of middle school and high school students according to their age. Students will learn about positive self-esteem, healthy relationships, digital communication, and ways to counter false information about our bodies.

Our goal is to give youth the tools to embrace and respond faithfully to the spiritual, emotional, physical, and social



**OUR BODIES
OUR FAITH**
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aspects of sexuality. The retreat will be keynoted by Rev Sarah Kingsbery and Rev. Nick Larson who, along with years of youth ministry experience, co-direct our region's Our Bodies, Our Faith camp for rising 9th graders each summer. We take a holistic approach that recognizes and

respects diversity with respect to biological sex, sexual orientation, and disability status in addition to cultural and racial background.

Registered youth will gather for dinner at Olivet Christian Church in Columbia at **5:00 PM on February 10th**. Youth should be picked up at **3:00 PM on February 11th**. Please contact Rev. Hannah with questions.

Any child or adult who has not yet made their confession of faith to be baptized but is ready to prepare through classes, please contact Rev. Hannah at hfisherryan@gmail.com by **February 12th**. We often recommend these classes for children in 4th grade and beyond, but seriously interested younger children are welcome to attend. Baptism classes will meet throughout the Lenten season.



Hi all, we will be having a BBQ Team meeting following the 10:30 service on **Sunday, February 19**. This meeting is for all committee chairs, and anyone interested in being a part of the leadership team. We would welcome anyone who has a desire to learn how the BBQ works, and who feels led to share their leadership gifts. If you have any questions, please contact Lori Valleroy or Joe Reeder. Thanks!

Lori Valleroy - 573-808-5129

Joe Reeder - 573-673-5440

Lenten Movie Series

As promised, the Lenten Movie Series returns to Olivet for the 12th Annual (almost) season. Each Sunday evening during Lent (**February 26 through April 2**) we will gather in Fellowship Hall at **6:00 PM** to share a carry-in meal together, while we watch a film and then hold a discussion afterwards. Our themes center on sources of conflict and on reconciliation, and feature both contemporary and a few classical films. This year our focus will be on Native American concerns that will include racism, reconciliation, care for the earth, and faithful integrity including such films as Wind River, The Education of Little Tree, and American Indian Homelands. Please join us! Invite your friends! Keep posted for additional details. Contact Larry Brown for additional information.



Thank you

Dear Olivet Family,
Thank you for all of your prayers during my recent knee surgeries. All the thoughts & follow-up calls & texts were greatly appreciated. Receiving the lovely poinsettia was truly “the cherry on the top” for all the love you have bestowed on our family.
God’s blessing to all in 2023!
Gracie Frost

Thank you so much for the beautiful poinsettia and the many cards and kind expressions of sympathy given to me at the time of my brother Dennis’ death. I am so blessed to be a part of such a caring church family.
May God’s blessings be with each of you throughout 2023.
Dolores McCray

To our Olivet Family and Friends,
We are so grateful for all the ways you supported our family during our son, Matthew's serious illness, surgeries, and recovery. He is doing so well now, working with his new cardiology team, settling in back home in Boston. We are thankful for your prayers, notes, cards, poinsettia and love. The Grace of God is real.
In peace and love,
Paul Cary, Linda Graue, and Matthew & Meaghan Cary

It's Coming Back!

We will need lots of volunteers, all Olivet attendees are encouraged to help, to run our ultimate recycling event, OCC’s Annual Rummage Sale!

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



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

- **Monday, April 24**– Set up the tables and put away church items in Fellowship Hall and classrooms.
- **Tuesday-Friday April 25-28** – Receive, sort, and price donations.

DONATIONS:

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

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

NOTE: 2020 Rummage Sale gross proceeds were in the neighborhood of \$6,400 in support of Olivet Ministries. Can we surpass this? Let's try.

Upcoming Sustainable Living Events!

Sunday, April 23 ~ Seeds 'n Sprouts

We're working to again feature an interesting sampler of flower, herb, veggie and wildflower seedlings for your patio, garden or yard – plants to nourish body and spirit and benefit the bees and butterflies too. The popular pre-order option will again be available. Watch for details in the April Olivet Connection newsletter. Plants are free; donations accepted to help offset expenses.

Sunday, May 7 ~ Spring 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.

Sunday, June 4 ~ Visit to home of Bob and Karen Fry

Following worship, we'll meet at the home of Bob & Karen Fry, near Millersburg, to learn how and why they have created a 'bee-friendly' landscape, and how the pond they added to their property a few years ago enhances their landscaping efforts. Be sure to pack a picnic lunch.



Celebrating 27 years of CROP Walks in Columbia, we raised the most ever - \$21,029.41! Olivet Christian Church was honored for raising the Third Highest Fundraiser - \$3,683.00!

Heartfelt thanks to our participating groups and donors! Without you, we would be less supportive of hunger programs in Boone County and around the world through Church World Service.

Valentine Making Party-Olivet Church-Saturday February 4th

Do you like:

- ♥ Spreading Love?
- ♥ Being Crafty?
- ♥ Eating sweet treat?
- ♥ Visiting with friends?
- ♥ Writing to Seniors?
- ♥ Making Valentines for your family, friends, church members or strangers?

If you answered yes to any of the above then please join us for a **Valentine Making Party** at 10:00 AM on February 4th in the Fellowship Hall! We'll have all the supplies and treats. You can make valentines, address valentines or write a valentine!

Feel free to include/invite friends

Children are welcome to join the fun with parent supervision.

If you have questions??? Call or email Rockie Alden, 999-9239 or mrjalden@yahoo.com



Olivet Church Board Meeting - December 19, 2022, 7:00 PM

Members Present:

Joe Reeder, Vickie Spain, Barbara Fitzgerald, Dennis Bettenhausen, Inge Decker, Tony Keel, Ginny Edgar, Julia Jackson, Sarah Frost, Nancy Foss, David Mast

2023 Board members present:

Marty Albrecht, Karen Broz, Gabrielle Comstock

Staff Present:

Reverend Natalie Dixon Crewell and Reverend Hannah Ryan

Also present:

Treasurer, Diane Bartley and Finance Chairperson, Kenneth Bartley

The December 19, 2022 Olivet Church Board Meeting was called to order by President, Joe Reeder, at 7:01 PM. Reverend Hannah Ryan opened the meeting with a prayer

Minutes for the November 2022 Board Meeting

The minutes for November 2022 were reviewed. Marty Albrecht requested her name to be spelled correctly. A motion was made by Ginny Edgar to accept minutes as corrected. Inge Decker seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Financial Reports

The financial reports for November 2022 were presented by Diane Bartley. The Balance Sheet and Cash on Hand Reports were reviewed. The Budget to Actual Statement (Income statement) showed that we had a \$7,000 loss in November. Nancy Foss moved we accept the financial statements as presented. David Mast second the motion. The motion passed.

Finance Chairperson, Ken Bartley noted that identified giving and revenue are up, but expenses are also up. In 2022, we have had only 4 months where we have run "in the black" and these were months when dividends from investments and events such Pulled Pork or BBQ were booked. The Cash on Hand report note that we have a 3-month reserve at present rather than the required 4-month reserve. We plan to send out giving statements and a generosity letter will go out in January. We do have a good start on 2023 with prepaid pledges at the end of November being \$16,880. Nancy Foss asked Ken about giving through estate planning and whether we had had any presentations planned on this topic. Ken noted that we usually involve Kirby Gould in this work. Ken noted the generosity campaign will be focused on

underwriting and funding our ministry fund right now.

Minister Reports

Reverend Hannah Ryan said for Advent she has been training acolytes and it is going well. We held a meaningful Blue Christmas Service. This week we held a pre-recorded Kid's Christmas program. Hannah & Natalie spent time on the balloon arch for the Christmas party. On Sunday, 11 people participated in the Christmas Caroling. Adult education projects are planned for 2023. It has been a joyful season!

Reverend Natalie Dixon Crewell said the craft event had no attendance, but craft supplies were made available on Sunday morning and utilized then. We can revisit and see what options we can do to get better results. Natalie also reported that the Vision Team had been putting work into action and planning. This year Natalie will be planning and leading both Christmas Eve Services and the Christmas Morning Service. The Christmas morning service will be an informal conversation and Sunday Brunch and will include singing carols. On the last two Sundays in January, Natalie will preach on Stewardship. During Lent, we will be offering a study on grief.

Unfinished Business

Joe Reeder noted that a new computer had been ordered and should arrive on Christmas Eve. The one in the sanctuary completely crashed on Sunday, December 18th.

The Vision Team is in the home stretch and is about to come up with final goals as reported by Hannah, Natalie, and Joe Reeder.

Per Natalie, the Dream Team held its first Andrea Lynn Event about a week ago. We want to emphasize social media to market the space. If you wish to help with this first "like" Olivet on Facebook and then if an event comes up, please share the posting.

Per Natalie, the Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts will be meeting on the second Monday of the month starting in January. Tomorrow night they will be moving to the Olivet church and have a room located on the upper level of the new building in which to meet.

The heavy bathroom door on the Women's Restroom has been adjusted. David Mast said he needed to know if the adjustment has helped. Several reported an improvement.

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Olivet Church Board Meeting - November 21, 2022, 7:00 PM

(Continued from page 5)

Julia Jackson also noted a repair needed in the Women's Restroom in the new building, first stall.

New Business

David Mast reported that a major leak at the Old Church was reported to him by a neighbor. Water was running out in the road and also going to the sump pump. The water had also been running under the slab. The tenants had not reported the leak. David noted that the tenants have been behind on rent all year. We gave them some time to catch up, but they paid about ½ the rent for the rest of the year. Bob Broz and David Mast determined it was time to tell them to leave, especially since they were going to have to turn the water off. David Mast and Bob Broz did tell them they were going to have to vacate the building. Bob sent an email as well.

On Friday, David arranged to have two dead trees removed by the Old Church. David wanted to note that Ben Amiot had also helped with this clean up.

We discussed that a letter should be sent to them to note in writing that notice had been given for them to vacate the building, following up with what Bob and David had said to them. This letter should be signed by the Board President.

Joe Reeder then noted that he had been working on getting a committee together to discuss whether we needed to sell the

old church or determine another use for it. We had decided to do that in October prior to the annual meeting when a variety of opinions were expressed. The committee he is appointing for this purpose will be: Kim Amiot, Nancy Foss, Julia Jackson, David Mast, and Joe Reeder. Joe felt this was a balanced group with representatives from the varying points of view that were expressed on the topic a few months ago. Joe will follow up with an email and set up a meeting on Zoom.

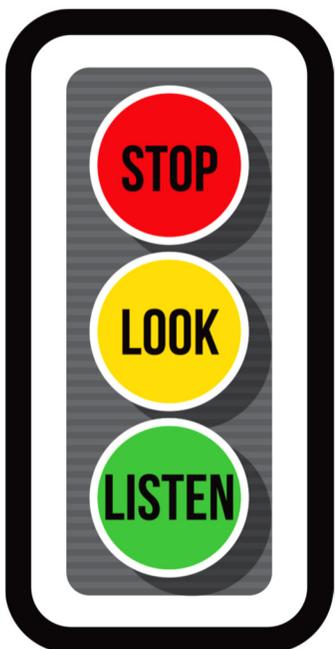
Joe had received some suggestions and nominations for 2023 Board Office positions. The slate they had been able to derive from suggested nominations and those who were willing to serve is as follows:

- * Vickie Spain, Chair
- * Julia Jackson, Vice-Chair
- * Sarah Frost, Secretary

David Mast made a motion to approve this slate of officers for 2023 Board Officers. Nancy Foss seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Nancy Foss motioned we adjourn the meeting. With no objection the meeting adjourned at 7:47 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Fitzgerald, Board Secretary



Why should we observe Lent? This 40-day season of repentance and reflection that begins on Ash Wednesday has three important purposes. Lent helps us **STOP**, **LOOK** and **LISTEN**.

We observe Lent because it tells us to **STOP** and rest awhile – and to stop sinning. Lent tells us to **LOOK** inward for an honest self-examination, to look upward to see the cross of Jesus with healing and love, and to look forward to the hope of the Resurrection. And we observe Lent because it tells us to **LISTEN** – to the voice of God, the words of Christ and the movement of the Holy Spirit.

STOP, **LOOK** and **LISTEN**! These commands that are so crucial for travel safety are also important for our journey through Lent.

Olivet February Calendar of Activities

Wednesday, February 1

6:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal
7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal

Saturday, February 4

10:00 AM Valentine Making Party

Sunday, February 5

5th Sunday after the Epiphany

9:30 AM Contemporary Book Club
9:30 AM Fellowship Time
9:30 AM Worship & Wonder
10:30 AM Worship
3:00 PM Worship posted to YouTube

Monday, February 6

6:00 PM Scout Committee Mtg.
7:00 PM Troop Mtg.
12:00 PM Bible Study (Zoom)
1:30 PM Staff Meeting (Zoom)
4:30 PM Loaves & Fishes

Wednesday, February 8

6:00 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal
7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal

Friday & Saturday, February 10-11

Our Bodies, Our Faith Youth Retreat

Sunday, February 12

6th Sunday after the Epiphany

9:30 AM Contemporary Book Club
9:30 AM Fellowship Time
9:30 AM Worship & Wonder
10:30 AM Worship
3:00 PM Worship posted to YouTube

Monday, February 13

12:00 PM Bible Study (Zoom)
1:30 PM Staff Meeting (Zoom)
6:00 PM Scout Den Mtg.
7:00 PM Troop Mtg.

Tuesday, February 14

Valentine's Day

Wednesday, February 15

Newsletters Articles Due

6:00 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal
7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, February 19

Transfiguration Sunday

9:30 AM Contemporary Book Club
9:30 AM Fellowship Time
9:30 AM Worship & Wonder
10:30 AM Worship
11:30 AM BBQ Mtg.
3:00 PM Worship posted to YouTube

Monday, February 20

Presidents' Day

12:00 PM Bible Study (Zoom)
1:30 PM Staff Meeting (Zoom)
5:30 PM Program Council
7:00 PM Board Mtg. (Zoom)
6:00 PM Scout Pack Mtg.
7:00 PM Troop Mtg.

Wednesday, February 22

Newsletters Mailed

Ash Wednesday

6:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal
7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal

Saturday, February 25

10:00 AM Fellowship Hall Reserved

Sunday, February 26

1st Sunday in Lent

9:00 am Grief Support Group
9:30 AM Contemporary Book Club
9:30 AM Fellowship Time
9:30 AM Worship & Wonder
3:00 PM Worship posted to YouTube
6:00 PM Lenten Movie Night

Monday, February 27

12:00 PM Bible Study (Zoom)
1:30 PM Staff Meeting (Zoom)
6:00 PM Scout Den Mtg.
7:00 PM Troop Mtg.



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

WEB:

www.olivetchristian.org

FACEBOOK:

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

CALENDAR:

[https://
www.olivetchristian.org/
calendar](https://www.olivetchristian.org/calendar)

STAFF:

Rev. Hannah Ryan
Co-Minister

Rev. Natalie Dixon Crewell
Co-Minister

Aдриene Floyd
Worship Arts Supervisor

Becky Teacutter
Administrative Office Coordinator