

January 2023

# Olivet Connections

*Making the grace of God real for people.*

*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

# Thanks

Olivet Friends,

I am immensely grateful for you in every way! You have made 2022 so wonderful! As my health has improved it has been a delight to grow in ministry with you more and more! Your generosity is so appreciated and touches my heart! I feel truly blessed to be called to walk beside you during this exciting time in Olivet's story! Thank you, thank you, thank you!

~ Rev Natalie

Dear Olivet,

There are no words to tell you how grateful I am for your generous Christmas gift to the staff. Nor are there words to describe what a joy it is to serve our gracious, good God alongside you every single day. Thank you for your love, for your faithfulness and dedication, and for your companionship in this special ministry that we are called to do. Wishing you all a very merry Christmas!

In Christ's love,  
~ Rev. Hannah

Dear Olivet Friends,

I am so grateful and thankful to be a part of the Olivet Family! Every day is a blessing because I'm able to do what I love! My heart overflows with the love and friendship I receive from each of you. Your generosity is very much appreciated.

~ Becky

Dear Olivet family:

Your sense of community and your overwhelming generosity make each day a joy! Thank you for your very kind Christmas gift, and thank you for the way Olivet surrounds its people in love. Looking forward to 2023 with you!

~ Adriene

## Adult Educational Opportunities in the New Year

We will begin two new book studies in January 2023. Please let us know how many books we need by signing up for either study on the sheet in Fellowship Hall or here: <https://forms.gle/HsDALi5sPHnP2mF7A>

### *Christianity After Religion* by Diana Butler Bass

Bass—who has spent her career teaching the history, culture, and politics of religion—brings forth her deep knowledge of national studies and polls, alongside her own analysis, as she seeks to fully comprehend the decline in Christian attendance and affiliation that started decades ago—and has increase exponentially in recent years. Read her hope-filled plea to see and participate in creating a fresh, vital, contemporary way of faith that stands true to the real message of Jesus.

This is a self-led nine-week class. It will meet on Sundays at 9:30 AM from January 15 thru March 12.

### Contemporary Book Club

Julia Jackson will lead a book club discussion on a contemporary book of your choosing! When you sign up, you will be invited to select your top 3 choice from the following selection of books. The book with the most votes will be selected, reading and theological conversation will ensue! This group will gather on Sundays at 9:30 AM, beginning on January 15.

#### Book Club Options:

✓ *And the Mountains Echoed* by Khaled Hosseini

A novel about how we love, how we take care of one another, and how the choices we make resonate through generations.

✓ *Heartland* by Sarah Smarsh

Based in Kansas in the '80s and '90s, this novel explores the forces of cyclical poverty and the changing economic policies of the country.

✓ *Immortal Life of Henriette Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot

This New York Times bestseller tells a story of the collision between ethics, race, and medicine; of scientific discovery and faith healing; and of a daughter consumed with questions about the mother she never knew.

✓ *Killers of the Flower Moon* by David Grann

This non-fiction book investigates a series of murders of wealthy Osage people in the early 1920s that took place after big oil deposits were discovered beneath their land. It details the newly formed FBI's investigation of the murders.

✓ *Stoner* by John Williams

This novel follows the life of William Stoner as he moves from his poor Missouri farming family to college, marriage, career, and love.

✓ *Such a Fun Age* by Kiley Reid

This novel tells the story of a young black woman who is wrongly accused of kidnapping while babysitting a white child, and the events that follow the incident.

✓ *A Thousand Acres* by Jane Smiley

This powerful twentieth-century reimagining of Shakespeare's King Lear centers on a wealthy Iowa farmer who decides to divide his farm between his three daughters.

✓ *The Underground Railroad* by Colson Whitehead

This alternate history novel tells the story of Cora, a slave who makes a bid for freedom from her Georgia plantation by following the Underground Railroad, which the novel depicts as a rail transport system with safe houses and secret routes.

✓ *Wild* by Cheryl Strayed

This memoir describes Strayed's 1,100-mile hike on the Pacific Crest Trail and her journey of self-discovery.



## Race Onward Update

Columbia Race Onward typically meets the third Thursday of the month, but in the months that there is a 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday we take a local "pilgrimage" to one of our local congregations to hear about their experiences with racism and reconciliation. On Sunday, January 29, you are invited to "Songs of Enslaved Americans: A Historical Journey" presented by Celestine

Hayes. We will gather at St. Luke United Methodist Church, 204 East Ash; 2:00 for fellowship and refreshments, and 3:00 for the presentation. Additional information about Race Onward is posted on the bulletin board at Olivet, and/or contact Larry Brown.

## Thanks for Thanksgiving Dinner!

A big THANK YOU! to all of our Olivet family who shared Thanksgiving Dinner together on November 13. Approximately 80 of us enjoyed the special fellowship of eating together for the first time since 2019.



## Lenten Movie Series

Back by popular demand, the Lenten Movie Series returns to Olivet. Each Sunday of Lent (February 26 through April 2) we will gather in Fellowship Hall to share a meal together, at 6:00, while we watch a film and then hold discussion afterwards. Our themes typically center on sources of conflict and on reconciliation, and feature both contemporary and a few classical films. We depend primarily on “Hollywood” productions but occasionally use documentaries. This year our focus will be on Native American concerns that will include racism, reconciliation, care for the earth, and faithful integrity. Please join us! Keep posted for additional details. Contact Larry Brown for additional information.



I suppose when we wake on January 1 the world will look the same. But there is a reminder of the Resurrection at the start of each new year, each new decade. That’s why I also like sunrises, Mondays and new seasons. God seems to be saying, “*With me you can always start afresh.*”

– Ada Lum

## Start the year right with “beautiful news”



*Beautiful News—Positive Trends, Uplifting Stats, Creative Solutions* — David McCandless, c. 2022

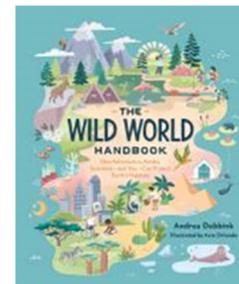
This book presents complex information through striking and elegant infographics, that help us make connections, understand relationships and take steps to better care for each other and this beautiful planet we call “Home”. Topics include education, health, clean energy development, solving the plastics problem, nature and land preservation, and much more.

Available through our local public library: 031.0222 MACC

*The Wild World Handbook: How Adventurers, Artists, Scientists—and You—Can Protect Earth’s Habitats*  
Andrea Debbink, c. 2021

This book—the first in a series for young conservationists and environmental activists—is packed with real-life adventure stories and practical tools to inspire our children and youth (and the adults in their lives) to actively participate in taking care of our world. Explore nine different habitats — forests, mountains, grasslands, oceans and more. No matter who you are or where you live, you can truly make a difference.

Available through our local public library: J333.9516 DEB



~Sustainable Living Team

### Angels of Olivet Making a Joyful Thanksgiving and Christmas

Angels who were able to make a contribution to the Thanksgiving dinner and to the Angel Tree in the form of dollars or gifts. As you well know, the cost of poinsettias and groceries for Christmas meals has escalated, so we can provide the Christmas gifts that we so dearly love to give because YOU generously gave first.

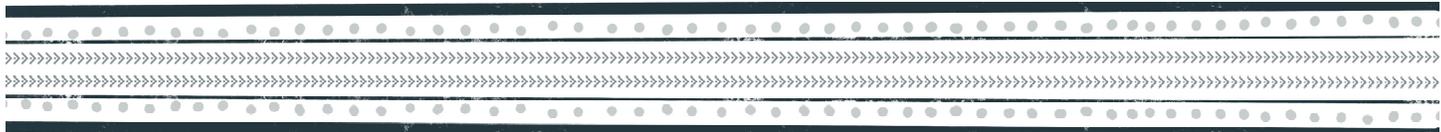
Angels who cooked turkeys, prepared the green beans, potatoes, gravy, cranberry salads and the awesome dessert buffet. And who put away tables and chairs, cleaned up the kitchen, and washed dishes. What would a meal be without the food preparation and the clean-up afterward? At the risk of leaving someone out, we especially thank the Outreach Committee members, Vickie Spain, Diane Bartley, Amanda Durbak, Karen Wolfe, Glenda Moore, Bob Broz, Karen Broz, Jackie Glenn, and everyone who brought a dessert to share.

Angels who provided gifts for our 5 adopted families. We delivered 3 carloads of gifts on December 7 to the Voluntary Action Center; the families actually received the gifts on Dec 9, so they are all set for Christmas! AND, thanks especially to

Lori Valleroy and Linda Reed Brown, who did the extra shopping to pickup the gift on tags that were still on the Angel Tree.

Angels who worked to make the Poinsettia Sunday a beautiful and touching expression of our love and concern for friends and family. We were able to provide an Olivet presence for 32 families as they experience the Christmas season in the face of loss, health struggles, and being home-bound during the year.

Our many, many thanks go to Mission Family Shepherds Jackie Glenn and Karen Broz; Dorothy Grant who arranges for purchase of the poinsettias; Marilyn Brown who helps get poinsettias delivered on Sunday morning; Becky Teacutter and Linda Reed Brown who created the “non-plant poinsettias” for the families who couldn’t receive a live plant; and those who delivered poinsettias that weren’t picked up at worship – Marilyn Bettenhausen, Jackie Glenn, Karen Broz, Carol Darnell, and Chester Edwards.



### New for '22! A “non-plant” poinsettia!

Maybe you saw the printed poinsettia pictures and messages in the clear plastic table-top stands on Poinsettia Sunday, December 11 and wondered *“what’s going on? Did we run out of money for plants? Were we not able to buy enough poinsettias?”*

The answer is... that some families are unable to have, or uncomfortable with, the live poinsettias for reasons that include the care required, or their living facility doesn’t allow live plants, or their pets are at risk from the live poinsettias.

So, over the past year, the Outreach Committee and our Shepherds discussed a number of ideas for a way to express our care in an alternative way. Silk plants were considered but nice ones were cost prohibitive, fruit baskets presented problems, we thought of items that required pasting, cutting and taping, and finally hit upon the idea for a printed table-top poinsettia. If you didn’t get to see them, check out the photos!



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

### Members Present:

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

### 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 meeting was called to order at 7:04 PM by Vice-President, Vickie Spain. The meeting was opened in prayer by Reverend Natalie Dixon Crewell.

**Minutes for the October 2022 Board Meeting** were reviewed by the board. Dennis Bettenhausen made a motion to approve minutes. Jere Gilles seconded the motion. The motion passed.

**Financial Statements for October 2022** were presented by Treasurer Diane Bartley. Diane noted on the October Budget to Actual Statement (Income Statement) that this statement included income in October 2022 from Dividends and pulled pork BBQ which helped this statement show a \$3,000 income for the month. David Mast made a motion to approve the financial statements. The motion was seconded by Julia Jackson. The motion passed.

Finance Chair, Ken Bartley reported that October was our second best month of the year for total revenue, which included pulled pork BBQ income and dividends from investments. Ken discussed historic and expected trends in the market and expectations that there would not be big returns this year end or next year. Ken is also looking at other ETF's related to Treasury yields as another approach at being good stewards of the church's funds.

### Minister Reports

Reverend Hannah Ryan reported a busy last few months. She noted the last Sunday of October had been dubbed Festival Sunday with the Installation of Co-Minister and the Wiener Roast/Hayride Event. Preparation for Advent/Christmas has begun. Youth and the littles are working on a program. Hannah is working with the Shepherds to arrange

for caroling. We are hosting an advent craft night and will offer a Blue Christmas Service. Hannah noted that she had completed the Antiracism/Pro-Reconciling Training requirement for Continuing Education. She will also be on vacation January 1.

Reverend Natalie Dixon Crewell noted the fun and energy around the church and that it is a wonderful time to be part of Olivet. We are planning a craft night in December. The Christmas Eve Service will have some "Natalie flair" to it along with Olivet traditions. On Christmas morning, we are planning a service along with a potluck brunch. A Covid Craft fair was planned with artwork and talents displayed. We have banners for out front as well as door hangers to share upcoming Christmas/Advent services. This is advertising or evangelism and ways to build relationships by promoting that everyone is welcome. Natalie will leave for vacation Tuesday 6:00 PM before Thanksgiving and Hannah will have first Sunday of Advent on her own.

### Vision Team Update

The Vision Team is meeting once this month. The survey they received back is aligned with their discussion and discernment. The group is wonderful and exciting. They will have one more meeting before Christmas.

### Dream Team Update

Kim Amiot is working on Andrea Lyn Events doing an event on November 29 to showcase what is available at Olivet for event coordinators. They are already looking at booking events. They have reviewed any needs with the insurance company. The board is involved in determining these needs as well.

### New Business

The bathroom door on the Fellowship Hall Bathrooms has been difficult to push, especially for people who are utilizing walkers or canes. The property committee is looking into this and will report back after attempting to adjust.

### Scout Troop

Tonya with Troop 7 Scout group has contacted church. Their regular location to meet and be sponsored has been at New Horizons Methodist Church. This church is closing in June 2023 and the church has notified them to begin a relocation process. They are required to be chartered by another organization. Scouts is now a male and female organization, but this troop currently has 7 male members. Greg Crewell,

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

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who is a past scout and scout master, has volunteered to sponsor the charter for them. This would also include housing their trailer and a shed that belongs to the troop and providing a meeting place for them. The troop carries its own insurance. David Mast made a motion to accept supporting and bringing the troop to Olivet. Inge Decker seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Board officer nominations must be submitted by December 20. Vickie Spain noted that nominations for board officers needed to be sent to the chair by December 20, so that

officers can be elected at December board meeting. There are three elected positions: president, vice-president, and secretary. The vice-chair has the duty of coordinating the Program Council and attending those meetings.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:49 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Barbara Fitzgerald  
Board Secretary

Another year is dawning, dear Father, let it be,  
in working or in waiting, another year with thee...  
Another year of progress, another year of praise,  
another year of proving thy presence all the days.

Another year of service, of witness for thy love,  
another year of training for holier work above.  
Another year is dawning! Dear Father, let it be,  
on earth, or else in heaven, another year for thee.

-Frances Ridley Havergal

## Olivet Education Assistance Loan Fund

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Olivet January Calendar of Activities

### Sunday, January 1

*Happy New Year!*

#### 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Christmas

##### No Worship & Wonder

10:30 AM In-person & Drive-in Worship

3:00 PM Worship posted to YouTube

### Monday, January 2

#### Church Office Closed

4:30 PM Loaves & Fishes

### Wednesday, January 4

6:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal

7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal

### Sunday, January 8

#### Baptism of the Lord

9:30 AM Fellowship Time

9:30 AM Worship & Wonder

10:30 AM Worship

3:00 PM Worship posted to YouTube

### Monday, January 9

6:00 PM Cub Scouts

7:00 PM Boy Scouts

12:00 PM Bible Study (Zoom)

1:30 PM Staff Meeting (Zoom)

### Wednesday, January 11

7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal

### Sunday, January 15

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after the Epiphany

9:30 AM Book Study: Christianity after Religion

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, January 16

#### Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

12:00 PM Bible Study (Zoom)

1:30 PM Staff Meeting (Zoom)

5:30 PM Program Council

6:00 PM Cub Scouts

7:00 PM Boy Scouts

7:00 PM Board Meeting (Zoom)

### Wednesday, January 18

#### Newsletters Articles Due

7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal

### Sunday, January 22

#### 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after the Epiphany

9:30 AM Book Study: Christianity after Religion

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, January 23

12:00 PM Bible Study (Zoom)

1:30 PM Staff Meeting (Zoom)

6:00 PM Cub Scouts

7:00 PM Boy Scouts

### Wednesday, January 25

#### Newsletters Articles Due

7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal

### Sunday, January 29

#### 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after the Epiphany

##### Heifer Quarter Sunday

9:30 AM Book Study: Christianity after Religion

9:30 AM Contemporary Book Club

9:30 AM Fellowship Time

9:30 AM Worship & Wonder

3:00 PM Worship posted to YouTube

### Monday, January 30

12:00 PM Bible Study (Zoom)

1:30 PM Staff Meeting (Zoom)

6:00 PM Cub Scouts

7:00 PM Boy Scouts



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Columbia MO 65201

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Monday - Friday

**WEB:**

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**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*