



MAKING THE GRACE OF GOD REAL FOR ALL PEOPLE

Holy Week Services and More!

Palm Sunday | March 29, 10:30 AM

Join us in worship as we celebrate Jesus’ triumphal entry into Jerusalem. We will shout “Hosanna! Save us!” and wave our palm branches along with the crowd as we process into Holy Week.

Good Friday | April 3, 6:00 PM

Our friends at Millersburg Christian Church will join us for this special service, where we will recall Jesus’ invitations to service and communion at the Last Supper and where we will remember together how Jesus offers healing and forgiveness even in the midst of the betrayals, the mocking, and the violence of the Passion story.

Easter Sunday | April 5

It’s not difficult to find bad news these days. But we know, deep in our hearts, that death cannot stop the extravagant, untamed, illogical, and persistent good news that God is alive in the world! Join us to hear this good news again this Easter. We will have Fellowship Hour and an Egg Hunt at 9:30 AM and will gather for a service of worship and baptism at 10:30 AM.

Easter Flowers

You are invited to bring flowers to help adorn our sanctuary for Easter. Gather flowers from your garden or the supermarket and bring them with you before Easter worship, no later than 10:00 AM on April 5th.

No lilies, please! We have several friends with severe allergies.

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Summer Camps Registration is OPEN

Church camp season will be here soon and registration is open! Church camp is a wonderful and transformative experience for many, and our camping program has events for all ages. You can find out more and register online here:

<https://www.mid-america-disciples.org/summer>

Contact Rev. Hannah if you have questions.

Grace Expansion and Vision Team Updates

Thank you for your recent participation in ALL of the surveys recently!

Your input greatly helps our Grace Expansion Team as they determine the next steps in our Open and Affirming Process and our Vision Team as they discern where God is calling Olivet in the next three years.

Both teams are prayerfully and actively moving forward with their important work. Stay tuned!





JUNE 13, 2026!

That's the date to mark on your calendars for the **68th Annual Olivet Chicken BBQ!** You'll hear lots more about it in the coming weeks, but we want to make sure you have the date reserved.

We need MANY hands to make this event a success. Lots of opportunities to serve, many with no experience needed! Watch for signup sheets!

Upcoming Sustainable Living Programs:

- **Sunday, April 12 – Sunday, May 17, 9:00 AM –** *The Wisdom of the Hive, What Honeybees Can Teach Us About Collective Wellbeing* – Sunday morning book discussion series
- **Saturday, April 18th, Bird WALK –** Eagle Bluffs Conservation Area, 8:00 AM
 - Carpool group will leave Olivet Parking Lot at 7:30 AM
 - Meet Melina Matheney of MRBO at 'McBaine Station' on the KATY Trail at 8:00 AM.
 - Bring a water bottle, snack if desired, sun-screen, insect repellent & binoculars.
 - Some binoculars & field guides will be available for our use.
 - Sign up by Sunday, April 12th. Use this link: [BIRD WALK](#) or the signup sheet in Fellowship Hall.
- **Sunday, April 26th – Seeds 'n Sprouts –** more information & order form on p. 5.
- **Saturday, June 27th, 10 AM – Garden Tour at the Gifted Center, Columbia Public Schools**
 - We'll visit the school gardens at the Gifted Center on Rangeline St to learn how teachers and students use these special learning opportunities. Special thanks to Jess Wolfe, science teacher at the Center and incoming Sustainable Living Team member, who will be our guide.

Olivet Work Day May 2

Whether you are new at flower gardening and yard work or have years of experience, come join the fun and fellowship on **May 2 starting at 9:30 am**, as volunteers join in on the work day at Olivet.

Volunteers will spread mulch, trim bushes and plant flowers in the different areas of the church property. We will also plant a few vegetables in the raised beds by the Multipurpose entrance. If you have a favorite tool to use feel free to bring it but no experience needed and tools will be provided if you don't have them.

Come join in the fellowship with the Sustainability and Property teams as we work together to beautify the church grounds.



Angel Tree Dinner Thank You

The annual Angel Tree Dinner hosted by Olivet's children and youth is a beautiful part of our ministry. It helps us care for our neighbors, teaches our young people the ways of servant-leadership, and invites us all around the table together. Thank you to everyone who came to enjoy dinner with us on a Saturday evening in February. Because of your generosity, we will be able to purchase gifts and meal vouchers for several community members this holiday season.

Thank you, also, to our children and youth who serve with unfailing eagerness and big-heartedness. Your willingness to care for others and spread joy is a gift to us all. And thank you to our grown-up helpers—especially the Keel family—who plan and shop and keep us all focused on the important things.

May Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the May edition of the Olivet Connections newsletter will be Wednesday, April 15.

OLIVET CHRISTIAN CHURCH BOARD MEETING

FEBRUARY 16, 2026 @ 7:00 PM

Present:

Officers: Justin Walensky, Jim Spain, John Cuning

Board Members: Carolyn Henry, Mary Dewey, Joyce Mast, Ginny Edgar, Rockie Alden, Rob Foss

Staff Members: Reverend Hannah Ryan, Reverend Natalie Dixon Crewell

Treasurer: Ken Bartley

The February 16, 2026, Olivet Church Board Meeting was called to order by Chair Justin Walensky at 7:00 pm. Reverend Natalie opened the meeting with a prayer.

The minutes for January 2026 were reviewed. Rob Foss moved to approve the minutes. Joyce Mast seconded the motion; motion approved.

Cell Tower Update:

- An attorney has been hired to review the proposal from the cell tower company.
- A report is expected by the end of this week
- There are some changes that will be proposed.

Financial Reports

Jason Enright was unable to attend because he hit a deer. Financial reports will be reviewed at the next board meeting.

Finance Chairperson, Kenneth Bartley reported

- Brokerage account increased by over \$2,000 in January
- The financial report is incomplete. Ken and Justin will work on corrections.

Taking Away Youth Board Member Vote

- Justin received a complaint concerning the updated church policy which removed the ability for the youth board member to vote.
- John explained the reasoning of the policy committee was that the youth member has frequently been absent from board meetings. If they have voting privileges, their attendance counts

toward the quorum, and their absence could prevent the board from conducting business.

- This passed through the policy team, the board, and the congregational meeting. No one brought this concern up for discussion at the annual congregational meeting which voted to approve the updated policies.

Minister Reports

Reverend Hannah Ryan

- Meetings in the past month included Vision Team, Pastoral Support Team, Mid America Region Board.
- She has been working with the finance team preparing for Ken's retirement.
- Preparing for Ash Wednesday
- Preparing for Angel Tree Dinner
- Planning for Lent
- We have two 8 year olds signed up for baptism class.

Reverend Natalie Dixon Crewell

- Working with Hannah on a variety of meetings.
- A survey from the Grace Expansion Team (GET) has been developed and made available to the congregation.
- Some changes were made to the opportunity fair due to weather problems. There are currently 42 different signup sheets.
- Working on the Talent Show.
- Has been involved in a lot of pastoral care duties and working with the shepherds.

Sabbatical Proposals:

Hannah:

- Hannah plans to take her sabbatical from June 15 through September 6, 2026.
- Her plan is to visit with colleagues and friends who participated in her ordination and reconnect with art making through art classes and visiting museums.
- The church budget provides \$5,000 to cover sabbatical expenses. *(cont'd on p4)*

- Hannah is making arrangements to have her tasks covered during the time she is away.

Natalie

- Natalie has applied for a clergy renewal grant.
- She will be eligible for her sabbatical in July 2027, and plans to take her sabbatical July 19 through October 11, 2027.
- She is working with the clergy renewal team to write the grant request and should know in August the church gets the grant.
- Funds are awarded to the church to distribute.
- Board approval will be required to accept the grant funds on Natalie’s behalf.
- Joyce Mast moved that the board approve Natalie’s sabbatical proposal and agree to accept the funds if the grant is approved. Rockie Alden seconded the motion, and the board passed the motion.

The board meeting adjourned at 7:31 pm.

Submitted by John Cunning

Olivet’s Got Talent - - - for Real!!!

Here are just a few of the photos from Friday the 13th’s Olivet’s Got Talent Showcase and Display. If you forgot to join us, you really missed something! We’re already looking forward to next year.

A huge thanks to Natalie for scheduling the event, coordinating snacks, setting up talent displays, and cheering louder than anyone else!

Here’s a taste of what you missed:

Giving Thanks!



Photos courtesy Linda Graue



Seeds 'n Sprouts, Sunday, April 26, 2026, 11:30 AM to 12:30 PM

Seeds 'n Sprouts, sponsored by Olivet's Sustainable Living Team, offers a select variety of flowers, tomatoes, peppers & herbs for your garden or for containers for your deck or patio. Enjoy our convenient pre-order option AND/OR select plants at the Pavilion.

Pick up pre-orders in Fellowship Hall immediately following the service

AND/OR select any of the plants listed below at the Pavilion.

Volunteers will help you assemble & pack your order for easy travel home.

To pre-order, place completed form in designated box in Fellowship Hall or email, call or text Marilyn or Sarah a list of items wanted & quantity preferred, no later than Thursday, April 23rd.

- Marilyn Bettenhausen: marilynbettenhausen7@gmail.com or CALL 573-424-2692
- Sarah Frost: godflowerprincess@gmail.com or TEXT 573-289-3282

FLOWERS

- _____ Zinnias – 4-packs, assorted varieties _____ Snapdragons – 4-packs, assorted varieties
_____ Marigolds – 4-packs, assorted varieties _____ Dwarf sunflowers – 4-packs, suitable for pots

TOMATOES – individual plants

- _____ Veranda Cherry – Container friendly; grows in a 1 sq ft space. Determinate. Burpee Seeds
_____ Principe Borghese – Flavorful 1-2 oz fruits retain superb color & flavor when dried. Determinate. SSE.
_____ Giant Belgium – Fruit averages 2 pounds. Very sweet flavor. Indeterminate. Seeds 'n Such
_____ Cherokee Carbon – Heirloom Cherokee Purple X Carbon. Rich flavor. Indeterminate. Territorial Seed.
_____ Original Blue Ribbon VFFNTAST - High disease resistance. Excellent flavor. Indeterminate. Seed 'n Such
_____ Dester – Pink beefsteak heirloom. Taste Test winner. Brought from Germany. Seed Savers Exchange

PEPPERS – individual plants

- _____ Ausilio - Italian heirloom, excellent for roasting; use in chili or for bruschetta, pizza, antipasto, omelets. Robust flavor but not too hot. SSE (Seed Savers Exchange)
_____ Arriba Jalapeno – hot yet still flavorful – not to the 'burn' stage - ripens to red. Johnny's Selected Seeds.
_____ Italia – 5"-7" conical fruits. Ripens to red. Sweet, not hot. Taste test winner. SSE.
Sweet Bell Peppers: _____ Orange--Gourmet _____ Red--Olympus – both by Johnny's Selected Seeds
_____ Just Sweet – Smaller orange bell pepper. Plant grows to about 36". Container friendly. Seeds 'n Such
_____ Orange Blaze – Sweet snack pepper. Plant grows to about 12-14". Container friendly. Seeds 'n Such

HERBS - 4-packs, except Lavender available as 2-pack only

- _____ Basil - Prospera Compact DMR - Genovese-type basil suitable for pots, disease resistant
_____ Cilantro _____ Parsley _____ Rosemary _____ Lavender (2-pack)

Native plants are not available for pre-order this year. We have a limited supply as germination was difficult and unfortunately, we do not have any milkweed varieties. However, select from the following at the Pavilion:

- **Prairie Blazing Star** – blooms July-Aug, 30-48". Purple flowers. Butterfly 'restaurant'.
- **Missouri Coneflower** – blooms July-Aug, 20-30". Bright yellow flowers. Exceptional perennial for sunny well-drained beds. Good cut flower.
- **Tennessee Coneflower** – blooms June-Aug, 24". Showy pastel pink flowers follow the sun like sunflowers. Attracts many bees and butterflies. New for us this year.

For additional selections, shop Missouri Prairie Foundation's Grow Native! Sales:

- Saturday, April 11, 10 AM to 1 PM, MU Bradford Farm/Research Center, 4968 S. Rangeline Rd, Columbia
- Saturday, May 9, 10 AM to 1 PM, Bass Pro Shop near Menard's, north Columbia

Questions? Call Marilyn at 573-424-2692 or text Sarah at 573-289-3282.

Orders will be filled based on plant availability.

Plants are free – donations appreciated to offset expenses. Thank you!

Please dispose of plastic pots. We cannot recycle them.

**WHEN LOVE
ANSWERS –
March 29 and April 5**

Through the Special Easter Offering, we at Olivet find yet one-more-way to share God's resurrection

love in the world. Our gifts to our Disciples of Christ General Ministries helps strengthen global mission partnerships, sustains health and social service ministries, supports the formation of new congregations, and so much more together than we could do alone. **More ministry, more impact, more of God's love in the world!**



Love that makes a difference...

- Spiritual care for those in prison
- Resources for housing, medical care, mental health and trauma care
- Global ministry partners who work for justice, reconciliation and peace
- Collaborative response in the wake of disasters and violence
- Supports that feed hungry neighbors
- Ministries and sustenance for Men, Women, Children, Youth, Older Youth, Seniors, Asian & Pacific partners, Native American partners, diverse communities, and more

IT WAS A SOUP-Y DAY

The Outreach Team sincerely thanks the estimated 75 people who generously supported and (evidently) enjoyed our annual Olivet Soup and Chili fundraiser luncheon on March 8. We had NO veggie beef, chili, or potato soup left over – the cookers of home-made soups were empty.

We anticipate that because of your generosity, we have raised about \$500 profit to supplement our Week of Compassion special collection held in February.



Food Generosity Box—March

- 151 meals at Loaves & Fishes on March 2

**YOUR “TREASURES” (ie rummage/extras),
ENERGY, TALENT, AND TIME
TURNED INTO OLIVET MINISTRY ‘
ON FEBRUARY 28
– THE STATISTICS IN A NUT-SHELL -**

26: The approximate number of volunteers who supplied the absolutely critical work of receiving, displaying, and pricing of donations on Tuesday thru Friday (more than 36 hours of having the church doors open)

31: The approximate number of volunteers who supplied the equally necessary work of cashiering, floating helpers, and clean-up on Saturday (a 9 1/2 hour day)

12: The approximate number of volunteers who did the planning: ie promotion; coordination of the set-up; making logistical decisions; picking up donations; evaluating; and so much more (countless hours since December)

5: The number of items still “on the market” thru Facebook Marketplace; items we still hope to sell at full price

\$7,000: The approximate PROFIT for this year’s Rummage Sale (the best ever)

There are many ways to say thanks:

We are in awe of your energy...

Words cannot express how much your support meant; it made a difference...

You have given such wonderful and fun gifts...

Our ministries sincerely appreciate your time, expertise, and effort...

Thanks a million, billion, ton, bunch...

You rock, Olivet...

You're the best...

We did it...

What a team...

or, just THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP!





APRIL

Wednesday, April 1

6:30PM Chime Choir

7:00PM Choir

Friday, April 3

6:00PM Good Friday service

Sunday, April 5**EASTER SUNDAY**[Easter Special Offering](#)

9:30AM NO JYF Sunday School / Worship & Wonder

9:30AM Easter Egg Hunt

9:30AM Fellowship Time

10:30AM Worship

Monday, April 6[Easter Monday - Office Closed](#)

12:00PM NO Bible Study (Zoom)

4:00PM Loaves & Fishes

Tuesday, April 7

10:00AM Grief Support Group

Wednesday, April 8

6:30PM Chime Choir

7:00PM Choir

Sunday, April 12**2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER**

9:30AM JYF Sunday School / Worship & Wonder

9:30AM Fellowship Time

10:30AM Worship

11:30AM Shepherds Meeting

Monday, April 13

12:00PM Bible Study (Zoom)

1:30PM Staff Meeting (Zoom)

Wednesday, April 15[Newsletter Articles Due](#)

6:30PM Chime Choir

7:00PM Choir

Saturday, April 18

8:00AM Sustainable Living Bird Walk @ Eagle Bluffs

Sunday, April 19**3RD SUNDAY OF EASTER**

9:30AM JYF Sunday School / Worship & Wonder

9:30AM Fellowship Time

10:30AM Worship

Monday, April 20

12:00PM Bible Study (Zoom)

1:30PM Staff Meeting (Zoom)

5:30PM Program Council (Zoom)

7:00PM Board Meeting (Zoom)

Tuesday, April 21

10:00AM Grief Support Group

Wednesday, April 22

6:30PM Chime Choir

7:00PM Choir

Thursday, April 23

6:30PM Vision Team (Zoom)

Sunday, April 26**4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER**[Seeds 'n Sprouts](#)

9:30AM Fellowship Time

9:30AM JYF Sunday School / Worship & Wonder

10:30AM Worship

Monday, April 27

12:00PM Bible Study (Zoom)

1:30PM Staff Meeting (Zoom)

Wednesday, April 29

11:00AM The Wardrobe Work Day

6:30PM Chime Choir

7:00PM Choir

Olivet Christian Church

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LIVESTREAM

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Articles for the Olivet Connections Newsletter
must be received
by the 3rd Wednesday of each month,
and will be edited for clarity and/or brevity.

The Church Office is open 8:30AM - 4:30PM
Monday through Thursday.

SCAN HERE



ONLINE
GIVING

www.youtube.com

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