

Connections

NEWSLETTER

MAKING THE GRACE OF GOD REAL FOR ALL PEOPLE

Tell Me Something Good: Grounding Ourselves in the Good News This Lent

You don't have to look too far to find bad news these days. There's a lot going wrong in our world.

But that's not the whole story.

This Lenten season, we hope you will journey with us as we immerse ourselves in that which was central to Jesus' life and ministry—liberation, love, mercy, and grace. Good news for us all!

To aid your journey, devotional cards and booklets are available in the Fellowship Hall. Please feel free to utilize these resources. In the Fellowship Hall, you will also find an invitation to help us decorate our sanctuary. Tell us your own good news by writing it down on a leaf, which will be added to our sanctuary adornments. We will surround ourselves with those things which we know to be good during these holy weeks.

Please watch for news of other special services, events, and activities during the Lenten season at Olivet. We look forward to the ways God's good news will inspire us to take action in a world desperate to hear, see, and taste what is good.

Adult Sunday School Class Offering: So You're New to Olivet...Now What?

This class is for those interested in learning more about Olivet—the building, the people, the teams, the ministries, the denomination, and more! If this is your first time in the building or if you would like a refresher, you are welcome to join us for this 3-week course.

This class will meet March 1, 8, & 15th at 9:30 AM.

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I'm Applying for a Grant...

Rev. Natalie Dixon Crewell

Late in 2025, Hannah mentioned to me that the Lily Endowment has a Clergy Renewal Grant that I should consider applying for to use in the summer of 2027 for my sabbatical. I began checking out what would be required and honestly got very overwhelmed. However, with the help and support of my newly formed Clergy Renewal Grant Team, Amanda Durbak and Linda Reed Brown, all of the scary faded away.

Together we have worked on navigating the many requirements and are one month from submitting our Grant request. Yes, 'our' request. You see, part of the funds we are requesting will be used right here at Olivet. We don't want to disclose too much, but the theme for the grant application has been "stories worth sharing!" Your story, my story, and our story are being highlighted and hopefully formulated to be shared far and wide!

We will find out in August 2026 if our application was chosen. At that time more details will be shared! Right now, we covet your prayers that we would finish strong. If you have ever submitted a grant, you know it can be grueling (and exciting) work. Stay tuned for updates!

We Can't Wait for You to Share Your Many Talents!!

"Olivet's Got Talent" is coming on March 13th, and we are still waiting for you to sign up!!

TALENT is more than singing and dancing! Many of you are expert quilters, woodworkers, stained-glass artists...and other talents too numerous to mention. We want to include YOU, too!

We will have display areas in the Fellowship Hall for you to share your "tangible" talents with our Olivet family: our very own Talent Gallery!

Sign up in the Fellowship Hall by March 5th, or speak with Rev. Natalie for more information. Singers, comedians and other artists are encouraged as well. Let's make it an all-church night full of fun, laughter and family; we can't wait to see you there!

Sunday, March 8 at 11:30am

OLIVET'S WORLD FAMOUS CHILI, VEGGIE BEEF SOUP, AND POTATO SOUP

Eat-in with your family and friends following worship or take it home and enjoy later!



A SIMPLE MEAL FUNDRAISER FOR THE WEEK OF COMPAS- SION – FREE WILL DONATION

Soup, crackers, carrot and celery sticks, fruit – that's more than many in our world may have to eat over several days. So, we make the meal simple to symbolize solidarity with those in need.

WEEK OF COMPASSION: In 2025, they responded alongside communities in 77 countries and US states and territories, providing support through 264 grants, totaling more than \$4.2 million dollars. This is a 35% increase from 2024. These cannot fully capture what that year revealed: that compassion endures, leadership rises from the margins, and hope persists even when systems falter. **WE HELPED AND WILL DO IT AGAIN!**



Food Generosity Box—February

- 146 meals at Loaves & Fishes on February 2
- Collected 252 pounds of food for the Voluntary Action Center emergency food pantry



It Wasn't All SOUP, but It Is SUPER!

Your Outreach Team challenged you to provide 191 pounds of ready-to-eat-food for the Voluntary Action Center's emergency food pantry as a part of your Super Bowl weekend. The emergency pantry helps family "make it" overnight or for a couple of days until the regular food pantries are open to help the need.

Once again you "kicked the goal right out of the stadium" by collecting 252 pounds of food. The goal was chosen because it would mean that Olivet CC has collected 1,000 pounds in the years since 2022, in conjunction with the annual national Souper Bowl of Caring food drive.

We would need more words to adequately thank all of you for caring and sharing so generously.

**Sunday morning discussion series –
Eastertide, April 12 – May 17, 9:00 AM**
**The Wisdom of the Hive: What Honeybees Can
Teach Us About Collective Wellbeing**
By Michelle Cassandra Johnson & Amy Burtaine

What can we learn about honeybee behavior that could help us better listen to and take care of each other and our communities? Join the conversation. Use the signup sheet posted in Fellowship Hall or contact the church office by March 15th via phone, 573-442-0336 or email, office@olivetchristian.org so sufficient books may be ordered.

Cost of books will be covered through the Christian Education budget. We look forward to learning together.

OLIVET CHRISTIAN CHURCH BOARD MEETING

JANUARY 19, 2026 @ 7:00 PM

Present:

Officers: Justin Walensky, Jim Spain, John Cuning

Board Members: Carolyn Henry, Rita Reeder, Mary Dewey, Joyce Mast, Ginny Edgar, Bob Moore, Rob Foss

Staff Members: Reverend Hannah Ryan, Reverend Natalie Dixon Crewell

Treasurer: Jason Enright, and Ken Bartley

The January 19, 2026 Olivet Church Board Meeting was called to order by Chair Justin Walensky at 7:03 pm. Reverend Hannah opened the meeting with a prayer.

The minutes for December 2025 were reviewed. Carolyn Henry moved to approve the minutes, Jim Spain seconded the motion and it was approved.

Financial Reports

The Financial Reports for December 2025 were presented by Jason Enright. The Balance Sheet, Cash on Hand Reports, and the Budget vs Actual for December 2025 were reviewed.

Finance Chairperson, Kenneth Bartley reported December 2025.

- Some donations received in December may have been intended for 2026. Jason will review the records.
- The church finished the year 2025 in the black.
- Brokerage income increased approximately 9.65% for the year.
- The Finance Team will develop recommendations for future investments.

Cell Tower Update:

- A written proposal for a 99-year lease with one-time payment of \$145,000 has been received.
- The proposal is an option for three years. The church will receive a \$1,500 payment when the option is signed.

- The church needs an attorney to review the contract before it is signed.
- The cell tower company agreed to use a single pole tower rather than the three leg design they proposed.

Minister Reports

Reverend Natalie Dixon Crewell

- January has been a busy month.
- A new pastoral support team has been formed.
- Natalie plans to take a sabbatical in the summer or fall of 2027 and is working on a grant proposal to help fund it.
- Traveled to Tulsa last week to attend the Phillips Seminary alumni board meeting and to attend a retreat on expanding our welcome.
- The church opportunity fair is scheduled for this Sunday.

Reverend Hannah Ryan

- Worship has included officiating at Charlie Andrews funeral service and developing Sunday School classes.
- Hannah is planning a sabbatical for summer 2026.
- The service on February 8 will include a board commissioning ceremony.
- February is full of church events .

The board meeting adjourned at 7:31 pm.

Submitted by John Cuning

Seeds 'n Sprouts – Sunday, April 26

Specialty tomato and pepper seedlings, annual flowers, herbs and native plants - grown by volunteers for your garden, deck or patio, as well as for our Olivet Children's Garden and church landscape beds. This is a *self-funded event* with donations greatly appreciated to cover the cost of supplies.

Look for more information in the APRIL OCC!

**Coming Next Month: BIRD WALK
at Eagle Bluffs Conservation Area
with Melina Matheney, MRBO staff member
Saturday morning, April 18th**

**Meet at the 'McBaine Station' on the KATY Trail at
8:00 AM; Carpool group will leave the Olivet
parking lot at 7:30 AM**

Based on interest generated by our visit to the Missouri River Bird Observatory last July and a subsequent bird walk on the 3M-Flat Branch-Hinkson Creek Wetlands Trail in September, Olivet's Sustainable Living Team is offering a bird walk at Eagle Bluffs Conservation Area, south of Columbia on Providence Rd/Route K. We'll meet at the 'McBaine Station' parking area on the KATY Trail just off the south end of Route K and then caravan through Eagle Bluffs, stopping at many of the wetland pools along the way. This can provide opportunities to observe a variety of birds in settings accessible to all, as we won't be walking long distances over rough terrain. Visit <https://mdc.mo.gov/discover-nature/places/eagle-bluffs-conservation-area> to learn more about this unique Conservation Area.

According to Kristen Heath-Acre, State Ornithologist, Missouri Dept. of Conservation, this should be a good time & location to see both song birds and shore birds. Melina Matheney, Conservation Educator with the Missouri River Bird Observatory, has again generously offered to be our guide and she will also bring several pairs of binoculars and field guides for us to use. We recommend you bring a water bottle, snack if desired, sunscreen, insect repellent, and your own pair of binoculars if you have them.

Please register by Sunday, April 12th using the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall or click on this link : [BIRD WALK](#). Indicate if you wish to carpool from Olivet (recommended) and if you prefer to drive or ride. We'll leave the Olivet parking lot promptly at 7:30 AM. All are welcome. We ask interested children to join us with Mom or Dad.



Giving Thanks!

There are not enough words to express how much it meant to us to receive so many prayers, emails, phone calls, cards and texts during this difficult time. You were there with your love when my sister died and when John was diagnosed and through his treatments. Thank you for everything and also for thinking of us at Christmas time with the gift of love.

Love

John, Mary and Theresa

Thank You, Olivet Christian Church

I am writing to gratefully acknowledge the generosity of your congregation to our Disciples of Christ Reconciliation Ministry in the amount of \$1,761 (the OCC Special Offering in September). Your gifts in 2025 helped us continue to move beyond brokenness to build beloved community in the General Ministries, Regions, congregations and communities we serve. Through our annual granting program, we were able to provide support for many outspoken ministries, including "Be The Neighbor," a service-learning-trip-ministry that equips youth and adults to live lives of love, service, and justice.

With gratitude and prophetic imagination,
Rev. Yvonne Gilmore, Interim Executive Director

Angel Tree Families So-o-o Grateful

Here are excerpts from thank-you notes we received for the wonderful Christmas-es we were able to GIFT:

Family #273 wrote, *"Hello from our family to yours. We greatly appreciate your time, energy, thoughts and kindness for sponsoring our family for Christmas. Thank you, love and blessings..."*

Family #177 wrote, *"Thank you so much for your incredible kindness and generosity this holiday season. Your support means more than you know. You have truly helped make this time of year brighter for my family and we are deeply grateful for your thoughtfulness..."*



MARCH

Sunday, March 1

2ND SUNDAY IN LENT

9:30AM New-to-Olivet Class
 9:30AM JYF Sunday School / Worship & Wonder
 9:30AM Fellowship Time
 10:30AM Worship
 11:30AM Sustainable Living Team- CR2

Monday, March 2

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

Wednesday, March 4

6:30PM Chime Choir
 7:00PM Choir

Saturday, March 7

10:00AM Prep Day for Soup/Chili Luncheon

Sunday, March 8

3RD SUNDAY IN LENT

9:30AM New-to-Olivet Class
 9:30AM JYF Sunday School / Worship & Wonder
 9:30AM Fellowship Time
 10:30AM Worship
 11:30AM Soup & Chili Fundraiser Luncheon for WOC

Monday, March 9

12:00PM Bible Study (Zoom)
 1:30PM Staff Meeting (Zoom)
 6:30PM Vision Team (Zoom)

Tuesday, March 10

10:00AM Grief Support Group

Wednesday, March 11

6:30PM Chime Choir
 7:00PM Choir

Friday, March 13

6:00PM Olivet's Got Talent!

Sunday, March 15

4TH SUNDAY IN LENT

9:30AM New-to-Olivet Class
 9:30AM JYF Sunday School / Worship & Wonder
 9:30AM Fellowship Time

10:30AM Worship

11:30AM BBQ Team Meeting

Monday, March 16

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

Tuesday, March 17

[St. Patrick's Day](#)

Wednesday, March 18

[Newsletter Articles Due](#)

6:30PM Chime Choir
 7:00PM Choir

Saturday, March 21

12-4PM private event - FH and sanctuary

Sunday, March 22

5TH SUNDAY IN LENT

9:30AM JYF Sunday School / Worship & Wonder
 9:30AM Fellowship Time
 10:30AM Worship
 11:30AM Outreach Spring Meeting - CR2

Monday, March 23

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

Tuesday, March 24

10:00AM Grief Support Group

Wednesday, March 25

6:30PM Chime Choir
 7:00PM Choir

Sunday, March 29

[PALM / PASSION SUNDAY](#)

[Easter Special Offering](#)

[Quarter Sunday](#)

9:30AM Fellowship Time
 9:30AM JYF Sunday School / Worship & Wonder
 10:30AM Worship



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.

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ONLINE
GIVING

www.youtube.com

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