

Olivet

October 2026

Connections

NEWSLETTER

MAKING THE GRACE OF GOD REAL FOR ALL PEOPLE

Children & Youth Sunday School Update

We have a new Sunday School opportunity! Due to our growing class sizes, we have divided our children and youth into the classes listed below. We hope you'll join in the fun of faith formation on Sunday mornings at 9:30!

Worship & Wonder—This Montessori-style class is for 3-year-olds through 2nd grade and gathers in Classroom 5. We listen to and wonder together about the stories of our faith and practice the rituals of worship.

JYF—This class is for those in grades 3-5 and meets in Classroom 9. We learn how to read our Bibles and follow the rhythms of the Church year, engaging with the lectionary scriptures and thinking about how the stories interact with our lives.

Chi Rho & CYF—This is a class for youth in 6-12th grade. We continue to consider how our faith intersects with our lived experiences, taking a deeper and more abstract look at the scriptures. This class currently meets in Classroom 3.

We are still in need of a few more teachers and guides. If you are an adult who has an interest with helping with Sunday School for our children and youth, please contact Rev. Hannah.

Adult Education Mid-week Opportunity

We listened to you, and we hear you! Because you asked for it, a new Midweek Study for Adults is beginning soon, in addition to the already-established Sunday morning class. Each opportunity is unique,

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and participants may feel free to explore BOTH classes if they wish.

We will gather for our first session on Wednesday, October 7th, at 6pm at Olivet. At our first meeting, we'll discuss potential topics and decide how our study will move forward.

Ideas and resources are welcome for consideration. Feel free to bring a sack dinner and come as you are. We'll conclude each Wednesday by 6:50 to allow choir members to transition to their rehearsal time.

Questions may be directed to Rev. Natalie, who will be facilitating this education opportunity.

Blessing of the Animals October 4th

Join us on October 4th at 4pm for our Annual Blessing of the Animals Service. All beloved pets (and their owners) are welcome to join us for a time of fellowship. Pet lovers are welcome too! If your pet isn't a fan of traveling, you can bring a photo of them to receive a blessing.

This year we will have a photo booth set up to take a photo of you and your pets and then a small gift to accompany it. All creatures are welcome!





Annual Meeting & Carry-In Dinner

This year's annual meeting will take place on Sunday, October 18th. Immediately following worship, we will share a potluck luncheon in the Fellowship Hall. Afterward, we will gather in the sanctuary to complete some of the business work of the church.

This is an important opportunity for us to gather as a community and to hear about all the different pieces of ministry that make us who we are. We will also approve the 2027 budget and slate of Board and Trustee officers. All active members of Olivet are eligible to vote.

Bring a dish to share and an open spirit to this important annual event!

Wiener Roast & Hayride

Join us at 5:00 PM on Sunday, October 25th for our annual Wiener Roast & Hayride event. We will roast hot dogs and s'mores, partake in fall craft activities, take turns on the hayride, and enjoy a fall evening with our church friends and family. All are welcome! Bring a lawn chair and join the fun!

Warm Winter Collection

Bring on Sundays: October 11, 18, and 25

Do you have extra winter hats, gloves / mittens, scarves, coats, vests, ski pants, extra-warm sweaters, and new or used warm socks? We have just the place for those:
The Wardrobe.



They DO NOT have to be new; we just want your extras. Items must be clean and in good-to-excellent condition. This warm clothing is so important to our low-income neighbors who shop at The Wardrobe.



Thanksgiving Dinner

SAVE THE DATE!

Sunday, November 15 following worship

Thanksgiving dinner – turkey buffet with all the home-made fixings for a free-will donation – that benefits the Angel Tree, our Christmas sponsorship of families. You'll hear more about the Angel Tree in coming weeks.

The News Cycles Do Not End Our Support

You'll remember that in May and June – Mother's Day and Father's Day – your Outreach Team asked you to support special offerings for Blankets and Tools of Hope. **Together, we raised \$1,592!**

A disaster happens --- a community's suffering and recovery drops out of the public eye in days --- and yet the process of rebuilding takes months or years. But we don't forget! As a Church World Service supporter, in the 6 months of January thru June, 2026, we helped supply **68,010 HYGIENE KITS, 6,580 BLANKETS, and 2,412 CLEAN-UP BUCKETS** across the U.S. where desperately needed in times of trauma.

WHERE DID THAT HOPE SHOW UP? Shelters, Schools, Food Pantries, and Immigrant Refugee Support Ministries! Just one more way that Olivet continues to extend GRACE.

CROP WALK Brings Us Together!

On Sunday, September 20th, 143 persons representing 13 groups (including 11 interfaith communities, Loaves & Fishes, and Kiwanis) across Columbia enjoyed a special opening program and walked together at Stephens Lake Park to raise funds for the work of Church World Service and 4 local food program partners. Number of miles reported, including the week before the WALK, totaled 1,128. As of WALK Day, 727 food items were collected with another delivery to be received this week and the upcoming Cross Missouri CROP Hunger WALK Food Challenge will bring in more.

As of Wednesday, September 23rd, contributions in the amount of \$20,241 have been confirmed and \$400+ is expected from the Shakespeare's Pizza fundraiser. Donations received by November 2nd count toward the Top Fundraiser Traveling Trophy, and donations received by December 15th count toward this year's WALK. Together we're working hard to meet our goal to raise \$27,000. Our local partners, as well as Church World Service, need our support more than ever as they seek to serve an increasing number of persons in need, as costs of food, housing and transportation escalate while other sources of funding have been reduced.

Olivet fielded a Team of 11 walkers: Chris & Lori Valeroy, Glenda Moore, Larry Brown and Linda Reed Brown, Marilyn and Dennis Bettenhausen, Rev. Hannah Ryan, and first time CROP Walkers...Nancy Flores, Curt Krehbiel, and Syreta Toson. Special thanks to Chris & Lori who transported Olivet's 285 food items to the park, Glenda who helped with the counting of all food items before distribution to the pantries, and to Dennis who posted our storybook signs along the Lake Trail early that morning and picked them up post-WALK. Thus far, Olivet members and friends have raised \$3,320 toward our goal of \$4,000, with additional donations still being received.

And the walking isn't over! The Cross Missouri CROP Hunger WALK began Sunday, September 27th, as Don Harter, long-distance hiker & member of Broadway Christian Church, set off from the St. Louis CROP Hunger WALK to walk across Missouri on the

KATY Trail – some 310 miles – inviting others to join him. Don will cross the finish line at the Kansas City Heart of America CROP Hunger WALK on Sunday, October 11th. This year Olivet's own Larry Brown and Linda Reed Brown will join Don on October 7th to walk a part of the 19-mile stretch of Trail from Windsor to Chilhowee. We invite you to consider a special donation in support of their efforts! Simply go to our WALK's webpage: www.crophungerwalk.org/columbiamo and scroll down the list of Teams to Cross Missouri CROP Hunger Walk and make a donation. Any donations made of their behalf will be credited to Olivet. Thank you!



The Canopy of Creation: Trees, Faith and the Work of Justice

Sundays, September 27 – November 15,
9:00 to 9:50 AM

This new adult education series has just begun. Join us as we explore the life cycle of trees, the environmental benefits they provide, their many images in Scripture, and also examine social inequity – those neighborhoods historically redlined also lack tree canopy – and actions we can take as a church and as a larger Columbia community to bring about healing.

A/V Crew Members Still Needed!

The audiovisual crew needs volunteers to learn the basics of running slides and audio for morning worship and special services. **It's easier than you think!!**

If you might be interested, let Robert Floyd know by emailing the [church office](#). Training can be at your convenience, and you can jump in whenever you feel comfortable with the equipment!

We Stocked a Lot of Shelves!

How could we have guessed that the generosity of Olivet would once again blast our hoped-for goal? The goal was to collect 250 food items for the special CROP Walk effort to support our local food pantries and meal programs. **We collected exactly 300 items.** The value of these items is estimated at \$857 based on costs averaged between HyVee and Aldi. Thanks so much for adding lots of healthy protein, and sometimes more expensive items, to your grocery lists during July, August and September.

October Food Pantry Shopping List

Our 4th quarter food pantry donations will go to
Destiny Worship Center Food Pantry

Our October Food List:

- Canned Meat - tuna, salmon, chicken, ham, beef
- Canned Entrees - Ravioli, spaghetti with meatballs, chicken or beef stew
- Beans - pork 'n beans, chili beans, pinto/black/navy beans, dried beans
- Soup
- Peanut Butter
- Boxed Entrees - "Helper" Meals, rice meal mixes, macaroni & cheese, pizza, pasta salad, ramen noodles

thank you

Olivet Christian Church,

Thank you for your faithful support and partnership with CWS! Your gift will provide warmth and hope to people in crisis and equip individuals and communities with the tools they need to thrive.

Thank you for caring for your neighbors in need.

Peace,
Rev. Dr. Tiffany DeTienne
Development Operations Coordinator
Church World Service



- 183 meals served at Loaves & Fishes Soup Kitchen on September 7th
- 300 food items shared with CROP Walk food programs



Movie Night at Olivet – Sunday, October 11th *Groundswell*

Groundswell – an award-winning documentary about regenerative agriculture practices in use around the world and why this is so important, as well as other ways that people are working for the good of our only home – Planet Earth!

- 5:30 PM – Gathering time – refreshments, snacks provided
- 6:00 PM – Show time followed by short discussion. We'll head home by 8:00 PM

This film can provide an informative sequel to our recent Four Oaks Farm Tour where we learned about many regenerative agriculture practices in use locally. However, you don't have to have participated in the Four Oaks Farm Tour to enjoy the film.

~activities sponsored by the Olivet Sustainable Living Team

**Grief
SUPPORT
Group**

Grief Support Group continues to meet every other Tuesday (Oct 6 & 20) at 10am in Rev. Natalie's office. This informal group welcomes any person, whatever the stage or reason for their grief journey, in a supportive and prayerful setting.

OLIVET CHRISTIAN CHURCH BOARD MEETING

AUGUST 17, 2026 @ 7:00 PM

Present:

Officers: Justin Walensky, Jim Spain, John Cuning

Board Members: Rita Reeder, Mary Dewey, Joyce Mast, Bob Moore, Rockie Alden, Kimberly Matthews, Rob Foss

Staff Members: Reverend Natalie Dixon Crewell

Treasurer: Jason Enright and Barb Fitzgerald

The August 7, 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.

A motion to approve the updates to the June 2026 and the July 2026 board meeting was made by Rockie Alden, seconded by Mary Dewey and were approved.

Financial Reports

Jason Enright reported:

- The at a glance report had two accounts flip-flopped. Those have been corrected and sent out.
- Propane for July cost \$6,226.50 and was the major cost for the month.

Barb Fitzgerald reported:

- Sent a written report regarding pass through fund changes to meet IRS regulations.
- Budget development for 2027 will begin in September.

Honorary Elders - Joyce Mast

- Two nominations have been made for Honorary Elders – Chester Edwards and Dorthy Grant.
- Joyce has interviewed them and both meet the qualifications.
- We have signatures from six members of the congregation supporting their nominations.
- Joyce Mast made a motion to approve the nominations. Jim Spain seconded the motion, and it passed.
- The congregation will need to vote on these nominations at the annual meeting.

Minister's Reports

Reverend Natalie Dixon Crewell

- We are in the process of implementing the new vision plan by focusing on building connections with the community, and developing an in-house photo directory for the church.
- The river retreat this year was unique. They were not able to float the river due to flooding, but everyone still enjoyed the experience.
- Natalie's annual review was held last week. The review and updated job description to better document her duties.
- The church hosted a wedding this month.
- Natalie also officiated a wedding and a funeral last Saturday.
- The chimes for the chimes choir need to be replaced. Options being reviewed include replacing the chimes and possibly hosting and joining the Columbia Handbell Ensemble.
- The church has purchased Advent materials.
- Eight fourth graders will receive Bibles Sunday.

New Business

- John Cuning, Rita Reeder, Rockie Alden, Linda Graue, and Rob Floyd will make up the nominating committee.

Jim Spain moved that the meeting adjourn, and the motion passed. The board meeting adjourned at 7:23 pm.

Submitted by John Cuning



Articles for the November newsletter will be due no later than October 21st. Thanks to ALL of you for ensuring timely delivery of your newsletter each month!



'Our Church Body' App Needs YOU

This spring Olivet introduced a new church app designed to keep all things "church" in one place. The app, entitled **'Our Church Body'**, is easy to use and allows church members to keep their online giving, committee emails, access to the church calendar and livestream, and MORE in one easy-to-use app.

This winter, we will use the app to **announce office closings** or **service cancellations** due to inclement weather, so users will know as early as possible when changes may occur.

You **MUST** join Olivet Christian Church on the app in order to be included. Call the office or speak with Adriene to join the community!

Submit Your Photos for Our In-House Directory!

You've heard a little bit lately about submitting pictures for our membership directory. But here's something you might not know: you **DON'T** have to be a "member" to be included!

If you worship in the Olivet community, we consider you part of the family. We pray for you and with you, and you belong here! Joining the church is a requirement for voting at the Annual Meeting, but it's not a requirement for being "Olivet".

If you think of Olivet as "your church", then we think of you as "our church", and we want to include you in the directory. There's no better way for us to give you a tool to connect names and faces!

Please either submit a photo via email, or have Pastor Natalie take one of you...OR bring a photo by the office during office hours, and we'll scan it into the system for you.

We look forward to seeing your smiling faces!



Choir Begins Cantata Rehearsals

Once again this year, your Olivet Choir will present a Christmas cantata as part of our Advent services. This year's cantata - **The Ballad of Bethlehem** - will be shared with the congregation during morning worship on **Sunday, December 13th**.

Cantata rehearsals will begin **October 7th at 7pm**. Olivet has a rich tradition of opening the cantata to ALL interested singers, whether or not they are members of the choir. Cantata books and rehearsal materials will be provided.

This is a great opportunity to sing with the choir while not committing to a long-term time investment. Of course, we **ALWAYS** hope that you'll choose to stay with us after the cantata has been shared. We'd love to have you!

Because this is a short-term commitment, attendance at all rehearsals is important. Enter the building through Door M, to the left of the Multipurpose Room. See you there!



**Friday, October 2**

[Team Reports due for Annual Meeting](#)

Sunday, October 4 - 19TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
RECONCILIATION SPECIAL OFFERING

9:00AM Adult Ed Class
 9:30AM JYF Sunday School / Worship & Wonder
 9:30AM Fellowship Time
 10:30AM Worship
 11:30AM Fall Outreach Meeting
 4:00PM Blessing of the Animals

Monday, October 5

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

Tuesday, October 6

10:00AM Grief Support Group

Wednesday, October 7

6:00PM Adult Ed Mid-week
 7:00PM Choir rehearsal

Sunday, October 11 - 20TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
WARM-WEAR COLLECTION BEGINS

9:00AM Adult Ed Class
 9:30AM JYF Sunday School / Worship & Wonder
 9:30AM Fellowship Time
 10:30AM Worship
[5:30PM Sustainable Living Movie Night](#)

Monday, October 12

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

Wednesday, October 16

6:00PM Adult Ed Mid-week
 7:00PM Choir rehearsal

Sunday, October 18 - 21ST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
WARM-WEAR COLLECTION CONTINUES

9:00AM Adult Ed Class
 9:30AM JYF Sunday School / Worship & Wonder
 9:30AM Fellowship Time
 10:30AM Worship
[11:30am Annual Meeting and Carry-In Luncheon](#)

Monday, October 19

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

Tuesday, October 20

10:00AM Grief Support Group

Wednesday, October 21

6:00PM Adult Ed Mid-week
 7:00PM Choir rehearsal

Sunday, October 25 - 22ND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
WARM-WEAR COLLECTION FINAL SUNDAY

9:00AM Adult Ed Class
 9:30AM JYF Sunday School / Worship & Wonder
 9:30AM Fellowship Time
 10:30AM Worship
 5:00PM Annual Hayride & Wiener Roast

Monday, October 26

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

Wednesday, October 28

6:00pm Adult Ed Mid-week
 7:00PM Choir rehearsal

Saturday, October 31

Halloween

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

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Co-Minister

Rev. Natalie Dixon Crewell
Co-Minister

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