

August 2026



Olivet connections

NEWSLETTER

MAKING THE GRACE OF GOD REAL FOR ALL PEOPLE

Faith Formation Opportunities at Olivet

No matter your age or where you are in your faith journey, there are opportunities for you to grow and learn in your relationship with God.

Children & Youth

Worship & Wonder—This class is for children in Pre-K through early elementary. We model our time together after “big” worship—telling God’s story, responding to the Word, praying together, and blessing our time together. We wonder together about what God is telling us in scripture, providing lots of space for curiosity, listening, and play. This class meets from 9:30-10:15 AM on Sundays.

Junior Youth Fellowship (JYF)—This class is for those in upper elementary and beyond. We follow the lectionary and explore in greater depth the scriptures shared in worship each Sunday. We do this through reading, acting, playing games, and crafts. This class meets from 9:30-10:15 AM on Sundays.

Adults

Bible Study—Our Bible Study group meets every Monday at 12 PM on Zoom. We read four scriptures from assigned lectionary readings for the upcoming Sunday and spend time discussing each text. Some of us bring our lunches; some of us bring ourselves. Some of us prepare; some of us do not. Some of us have brief relationships with scripture; some of us have long and enduring relationships with scripture. All are welcome!

Sunday School—We periodically offer short-term and topical Sunday School classes for adults on Sunday mornings at 9 AM. These classes range from

IN THIS ISSUE:

Upcoming Opportunities.....	p1, 2, 4 & 6
Outreach	p3, 4 & 6
Sustainable Living	p4 & 6
June Board Mtg.....	p5
Calendar	p7

book studies to self-facilitated discussions to thoughtful lectures. **If you have an idea for a class you would like to lead, let us know!**

Blessing of the Backpacks

With the beginning of a new school year in sight, we plan to gather for our annual **Blessing of the Backpacks** during worship on **August 23rd**. All students, teachers, administrators, and others involved in education are invited to bring your packs and bags to be blessed as we embark upon a new year of growing and learning.

Children & Youth Permission Forms

A completed **Universal Permission Form** is required for any youth (6-12th grades) to participate in an Olivet Christian Church-sponsored youth ministry event or for any child (preschool-5th grade) who attends any children’s ministry special event. (This does not include Sunday School or fellowship events where parents/guardians are present.) We fill out these forms annually, so all files are up to date. Please complete a form for each child in your family and **return to the church office by September 1st**. Forms can be found in the Fellowship Hall or at www.olivetchristian.org/faitH-formation.



WEAVING A VIBRANT TAPESTRY

A VISION FOR CREATING, SUSTAINING
LIFE-GIVING CONNECTIONS AT OLIVET

CONNECTING WITH ONE ANOTHER

- Create opportunities for “Get-to-Know-You” small groups/interest groups
- Continue to offer intergenerational gatherings, while also creating spaces for children, youth, and families to connect
- Foster spaces for teams to gather in person and work collaboratively
 - Develop Christian Education and Worship Teams
- Elevate our Welcome
 - Implement a Welcoming Team that has access to resources and training
 - Share information about our denomination more loudly
 - Regularly share with the congregation about membership at Olivet
 - Make a new member picture board that helps us connect faces and names

CONNECTING WITH THE WORLD AROUND US

- Get involved in and have a presence at local festivals
 - Establish a Community Ambassador Team
- Broaden our inclusive practices with the work of the Grace Expansion Team
- Be intentional about becoming more justice-oriented and build awareness through offering education and participation opportunities
 - Explore intergenerational mission trips and/or pilgrimages

CONNECTING WITH GOD

- Facilitate spiritual growth with the expansion of our sacred practices
 - Offer an outdoor prayer service in the warmer months
 - Increase opportunities for sharing and teaching spiritual practices
- Amplify the good work of the Shepherds
 - Add more people to their team
 - Implement Get-to-Know your Shepherd Event
- Support the development of sustaining and faithful practices of stewardship

2026-2029

Olivet's Crew Serves the First Meal at the New Loaves & Fishes Kitchen

The long-awaited move of Loaves and Fishes to the new Opportunity Campus L&F kitchen and dining space has been completed, and Olivet Christian was honored to serve the inaugural meal at our regular serving time on Monday, July 6. The team prepared the new serving space and welcomed the more than 123 guests who enjoyed 173 sloppy joe meals.

Helping with the daunting task of moving on Sunday, July 5 were Rod & Marvis Custer, Larry & Linda Reed Brown, and Glenda Moore.

Serving the meal on July 6 were Glenda Moore, Carolyn Henry, Lori Valleroy, Kathy Scoville, our Destiny Worship Center friend Helen Robinson, Marilyn Bettenhausen, Tim Connett, Dennis Bettenhausen, Larry Brown, Jim Clark, Curt Krehbel, Chris Valleroy, and Linda Reed Brown. Our cooks were Marilyn Bettenhausen, Glenda Moore, and Linda Reed Brown.



Columbia CROP Hunger WALK
Sunday, September 20, 2026
Stephens Lake Park – Gordon Shelter



WALK – GIVE – IMPROVE LIVES – AROUND THE BLOCK ... AROUND THE WORLD

1:00 PM - Registration opens

1:30 PM – Welcome – Music – Blessing our Work – WALK Step-off

Our WALK improves the lives of real people facing real challenges in need of real solutions – here in Columbia through 4 local food programs and around the world through Church World Service. Increasing costs of food, housing, and transportation, plus the reduction of other funding, makes our support more important than ever. On July 6th, our Olivet Loaves & Fishes Team served 172 meals on opening night at the new Opportunity Center. Our guests were most appreciative of both the delicious food and also the work that went into meal prep, food service and clean up.

This month we feature 2 more local partners:

Destiny Worship Center Food Pantry in northeast Columbia provides food and other essential supplies with love and respect and helps connect persons to other needed resources. They served approximately 600 youth and 2,500 adults in 2025 and are seeing an increase in community needs and the number of homeless persons in the area they serve.

Fifth Street Christian Church has expanded their *Feed the Community* program and is upgrading their kitchen. In addition to a monthly meal at their church building, they are serving Tuesday evening meals to 40-50 senior citizens at Paquin and Oak Towers and have started to provide a major distribution of food and household items twice a year. Through the year they serve about 500 persons under age 18 and over 4,500 adults with a goal of 'Feeding the 5,000'!

NEXT MONTH: Church World Service

5 EASY WAYS WE CAN IMPROVE LIVES...TOGETHER

- 1) **WALK** with friends & neighbors – in person or in spirit - at Stephens Lake Park on WALK Day.
- 2) **DONATE** at the CROP WALK Table in Fellowship Hall on Sundays in September or online at www.crophungerwalk.org/columbiano - look up the Olivet Team.
- 3) **'STOCK THE SHELVES'** – donate some needed food items for our local partners per the list in this newsletter or on the display table in Fellowship Hall.
- 4) **ENJOY** Shakespeare's Pizza on WALK Day using the required Shakespeare's CROP WALK coupon to enable 15% of your purchase to be donated to our WALK. Coupons will be available at the CROP WALK Table in Sept. or at www.crophungerwalk.org/columbiano
- 5) **PARTICIPATE** in the 4th CROSS MISSOURI CROP WALK along the KATY Trail anytime from Sept 27 to October 12. Detailed route information available through the Signup Genius link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4BA5AB2CA5FEC52-50066014-cross#/> or via www.crophungerwalk.org/columbiano. Informational flyers will be available at the CROP WALK Table in September.

OLIVET CHRISTIAN CHURCH BOARD MEETING

JUNE 15, 2026 @ 7:00 PM

Present:

Officers: Justin Walensky, Jim Spain

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

Staff Members: Reverend Natalie Dixon Crewell

Treasurer: Jason Enright

The June 15, 2026 Olivet Church Board Meeting was called to order by Chair Justin Walensky at 7:00 pm. Pastor Natalie opened the meeting with a prayer.

The minutes for May 2026 board meeting were reviewed. Motion to approve was made by Jim Spain and seconded by Rockie Alden. Minutes were approved.

Financial Reports

The Financial Reports for June 2026 were presented by Jason Enright.

- The investment statement was provided for review.
- Doing well on income for the year
- Quick books and the bank are linked now making reconciling easier.

Minister Reports

Reverend Natalie Dixon Crewell

- Had several people attend her presentation on her civil rights pilgrimage. She will present the program again in the future.
- Worked with Grace Expansion Team on the welcome and affirming statement.
- Working with the Vision Team.
- Have new sanctuary art.
- Church camp was a wonderful experience.
- Attended a Disciples clergy lunch recently.
- Meeting with the Cornerstone program recently.
- It would be best to remove Hannah from email lists during her sabbatical.

New Business

Grace Expansion Team: Carol Gilles and Rockie Alden

- Natalie updated the board on the current draft that is being presented to the board for approval. Few updates were requested from the first draft.
- Carol read the welcome and affirming statement aloud.
- Motion to accept the welcome and affirming state as presented made by Joyce Mast.
- Carolyn Henry asked a question if there is a need to include religion to clarify you do not need to be a member of the Disciples denomination. Discussion pointed out places and wording that covers this point.
- The word “radical” may have a negative context. Phrase was kept after discussion.
- Motion was seconded by (could not tell who seconded the motion on the video). Motion passed.
- The statement will now be brought to the members to be voted on. Natalie explained the requirements to inform the congregation before a vote. Only active members can vote. Statement needs to be announced at least two weeks before a vote is taken. There was some discussion about voting by proxy. Some discussion on waiting to vote on this until the annual meeting in October; however, there was concern about losing momentum. Voting by paper ballot with the voter’s name will be required. Justin proposed the statement be made available for review for three weeks. We will then call a special business meeting and allow members who are present to vote over a three-week period. The vote will be held on July 12, 19, and 26.

Jim is retiring in September, and we will need a new Vice Chair.

Motion to adjourn made by Jim Spain.

The board meeting adjourned at 7:53 pm.

Submitted by John Cunning

Four Oaks Farm Tour
11805 E Judy School Rd
Columbia, MO 65202

Saturday morning, September 26, 9:30 to 11:30 AM

Use the Signup Sheet posted in Fellowship Hall or click [HERE](#).
Persons carpooling/caravanning will leave the Olivet parking lot at 9:00 AM

Coming up this fall, Olivet members and friends will have an enjoyable opportunity to learn how **Four Oaks Farm** uses a variety of conservation practices to promote soil health and crop and livestock production, not only for immediate benefits but for the future as well. Four Oaks Farm is a fourth-generation family farm in the **Two Mile Prairie** neighborhood here in **Boone County** just across the road from the Glenn family farm. The DeShon family truly knows the value of long-term planning and care for the land.

As we tour the farm via wagon ride, we'll learn about the benefits of rotational and multi-species grazing (Four Oaks raises cattle, sheep and goats), no-till crop planting, stream protection and field borders to name just a few of the sustainable farming methods implemented here, and why these practices are so important. There is no charge for this special tour. Please use the Sign-up Sheet posted on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall or [click here](#). Tour is limited to 30 participants. Questions? Visit with JR Flores at church or email him at okee4121@yahoo.com

After our tour, persons who wish, may enjoy additional seasonal activities at the Farm, available on a fee-basis, such as picking sunflowers or pumpkins, navigating a small 2-acre corn maze and visiting barnyard animals, or return on another weekend in October to do so.

~sponsored by the Olivet Sustainable Living Team



Food Generosity Box

- 173 meals of Sloppy Joe served at Loaves & Fishes on Monday, July 6
- 127 pounds of food delivered to the Russell Chapel Food Pantry for the 2nd Quarter
- 36 qts of potatoes from the BBQ delivered to each Harbor House Shelter and Loaves & Fishes Soup Kitchen, valued at \$216



3rd Quarter Food Collection for the CROP Walk "Stock the Shelves"

Remember, this collection is a special one for the pantries and meal programs of our CROP Walk food program partners.

(see the July newsletter for more details)

Our August Food List:

- Baked Beans – 15 oz up to 28 oz cans
- Chicken & Dumplings – 20 oz cans
- Chili – 14 or 15 oz cans
- Hamburger/Tuna Helper Mixes
- #10 cans of Chili Beans
- #10 cans of Pinto or Black Beans
- Peanut Butter – 16 oz

AUGUST

Saturday, August 1

2026 Olivet River Retreat

Sunday, August 2 - 10TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

2026 Olivet River Retreat

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

9:30AM Fellowship Time

10:30AM Worship

Monday, August 3

12:00PM Bible Study (Zoom)

4:30PM Loaves & Fishes

Wednesday, August 5

7:00PM Summer Choir rehearsal

Sunday, August 9 - 11TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

9:30AM JYF Sunday School / Worship & Wonder

9:30AM Fellowship Time

10:30AM Worship

11:30AM Sustainable Living Team

Monday, August 10

12:00PM Bible Study (Zoom)

Tuesday, August 11

10:00AM Grief Support Group

Sunday, August 16 - 12TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

9:30AM Fellowship Time

9:30AM JYF Sunday School / Worship & Wonder

10:30AM Worship

11:30AM Outreach Team

Monday, August 17

12:00PM Bible Study (Zoom)

7:00PM Board Meeting (Zoom)

Sunday, August 23 - 13TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

9:30AM JYF Sunday School / Worship & Wonder

9:30AM Fellowship Time

10:30AM Worship - [Blessing of the Backpacks](#)

11:30AM BBQ Recap Meeting

Monday, August 24

12:00PM Bible Study (Zoom)

Wednesday, August 26

7:00PM Choir rehearsal

Sunday, August 30 - 14TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

[Quarter Sunday / Hymn Sing Sunday](#)

9:30AM JYF Sunday School / Worship & Wonder

9:30AM Fellowship Time

10:30AM Worship

Monday, August 31

12:00PM Bible Study (Zoom)



Native & Non-Native Flowers Add to Olivet's Beauty



Olivet Christian Church

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LIVESTREAM

www.youtube.com

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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