

Olivet

September 2026

Connections

NEWSLETTER

MAKING THE GRACE OF GOD REAL FOR ALL PEOPLE

See page 2 for all things CROP Walk!



Annual Ice Cream Social Promises Fun & Fellowship

It's almost time for Olivet's Annual Ice Cream Social and Kick Ball Game! Don't be scared away by kick-ball - it is really just an excuse to keep the kids busy so the adults can eat more ice cream! ;) You do not have to play kick ball to get in on the ice cream and fellowship!

Please plan to join us on **September 13th at 5pm** for a time of sweet community and fun! A signup sheet for volunteers and treat-bringers will be on the bulletin board soon.

Don't forget your lawn chair and a friend or two. If you don't have the time (or skill) to prepare a treat, you can always sign up to help set up or clean up following the event! See you there!

Sunday School Kick-Off

Sunday, September 13th will be Olivet's Sunday School Kick-off, when students who are ready to move up to the next level of Christian Ed programming "step up" to their new classes. If you or your kiddos haven't yet explored the classes Olivet has to offer, check out this- and last- month's OCNs for descriptions and schedules of the classes, or reach out to the office at office@olivetchristian.org.

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Fall Adult Education Opportunity: The Canopy of Creation

The Sustainable Living Team is sponsoring a Sunday Morning study series this fall, entitled, "**The Canopy of Creation: Trees, Faith, and the Work of Justice.**" This series will consider how the life and death of trees is connected to issues of justice by exploring the benefits of trees which include: being a sign to us of Divine presence, and their contribution to the health of the environment.

The series will conclude with tree planting and other specific actions. Classes will meet from **9 to 9:50 each Sunday morning, Sept. 27 through Nov. 15**. Kim Amiot and Larry Brown will be the facilitators. All are invited.

A/V Crew Members Needed!

The audiovisual crew is looking for willing helpers 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!

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



1:00 PM - Registration opens

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

TOGETHER WE AT OLIVET CAN...

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

- Bring home the Top Fundraiser Trophy ... starting with a generous \$500 Matching Challenge Grant to spark an effort to raise \$4,000+
- Walk 300 miles (including the week before the WALK)
- “Stock the Shelves” with 250 nutritious food items
- Field a Team of 18 Walkers on WALK DAY

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 or online on our webpage:
www.crophungerwalk.org/columbiamo - look up the Olivet Team.
- 3) **‘STOCK THE SHELVES’** – by donating food items for our local partners per the provided list.
- 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/columbiamo
- 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#/>

CROP WALKS IMPROVE LIVES OF REAL PEOPLE FACING REAL CHALLENGES AND NEEDING REAL SOLUTIONS ... here in Columbia through 4 local food programs and around the world through Church World Service.

Formed in the aftermath of WWII, CWS shipped over 11 million tons of food, clothing and medical supplies to war-torn Europe and Asia and began to welcome refugees to the United States. For 80 years now, CWS has been transforming communities. 3 quick examples:

1. **Through the West Timor Zero Hunger program**, Mama Orpa has doubled her harvest, providing more food for her village and teaching others to do the same. Empowering farmers like Mama Orpa not only improves their lives but benefits entire communities, creating lasting impact and hope.
2. **In Tanzania at the Nyarugusu Refugee Camp**, which serves 137,000 persons, CWS helped camp leaders initiate a successful vegetable production program & share their new skills & knowledge.
3. **In the US, CWS continues to welcome refugees** – working with sponsoring faith communities and organizations to help provide housing, food, access to medical care, training and employment to enable these persons to become valuable, contributing members of their new communities.

Our Columbia WALK is part of a much bigger picture. In 2025, more than 40,000 walkers participated in over 400 CROP Hunger Walks across the United States to raise funds for both Church World Service and over 800 local hunger fighting programs. Approximately \$1.7 million - including \$6,200 for Columbia - came back to local communities because of these CROP WALKS. **Together we improve lives around the block and around the world!**

Granny's House - Celebrating 25 Years

Olivet is invited to celebrate **25 years** of **Granny's House** serving children in central city Columbia! Join them on **Saturday, August 29, from 3:00–5:00 p.m.** to celebrate this milestone and see the newly completed expansion that will allow Granny's House to serve even more children in our community. A short presentation will be held at 4:00 p.m.

Why is this important to us at Olivet? Because in 2024, Our 150th Anniversary Team, our Children's Christian Ed Department, and our Outreach Team collaborated to make sure children had school supplies, with collections taking place in just 4 weeks. The goal was to provide 25 each of 17 items on the public school lists for children served by Granny's House – that would have been 425. How could we have guessed at our own generosity? ***We collected 855 items!***

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 September Food List:

Canned Chicken – 12 oz cans
Pork & Beans – 15 oz up to 28 oz cans
Pinto or Black Beans – 15/16 oz cans
Chili Beans – 15/16 oz cans
Mac & Cheese Mixes
#10 cans of Baked Beans
#10 cans of Fruit (any)
Peanut Butter – 40 oz or larger



Food Generosity Box

- 163 meals served to guests at Loaves & Fishes Soup Kitchen on August 3
- Unused memorial dinner groceries delivered to St. Francis House on August 16



Reconciliation Special Offering,

the opportunity for Olivet to join our denomination's support for programs that reveal, re-educate, and remove systemic and structural barriers to human rights in our communities that are based on RACE. This program provides grants to congregations actively working to develop and implement new ministries to battle the hate, violent and racist activities in their communities.

The Special Offering will be received on September 27 and October 4.

The time is always ripe to stand up for justice to ensure that all of God's children are treated equitably. Thank you for being generous and joining us on this journey.



RECONCILIATION MINISTRY



Articles for the October newsletter will be due September 16th. Thanks to ALL of you for ensuring timely delivery of your newsletter each month!

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 on Saturday, September 26th, we have a special opportunity to tour Four Oaks Farm by wagon ride to learn about the many ways the DeShon family promotes soil health and crop and livestock production, not only for immediate benefits, but for the future as well.

Rotational grazing, multi-species grazing (Four Oaks raises cattle, sheep and goats), no-till planting, stream protection and field borders are just some of the important sustainable farming methods used here. As fourth-generation family farmers, the DeShons truly know the value of long-term planning and care for the land.

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](#) and register by Sunday, September 20th so we can let the family know how many people to expect. Tour is limited to 30 participants.

After our tour, persons who wish, may enjoy additional farm friendly activities on a fee-based admission basis. Check out the **Four Oaks Farm Facebook page** for details.

~sponsored by the Olivet Sustainable Living Team

thank you

Dear Olivet Family,

The Frost Families really appreciated your time and friendship at our anniversary celebration.

We thank God for the love and fellowship Olivet Christian Church has shared with all of us over the years.

In Christian Love,
Frosty and Gracie

Movie Night at Olivet – Sunday, October 11

Groundswell – 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

SMALL
ACTS.
BIG
IMPACT.



OLIVET CHRISTIAN CHURCH BOARD MEETING

JULY 20, 2026 @ 7:00 PM

Present:

Officers: Jim Spain, John Cunning

Board Members: Rita Reeder, Mary Dewey, Joyce Mast, Ginny Edgar, Kimberly Matthews, Rob Foss

Staff Members: Reverend Natalie Dixon Crewell

Treasurer: Jason Enright and Barb Fitzgerald

The July 20, Olivet Church Board Meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Jim Spain at 7:00 pm. Reverend Natalie opened the meeting with a prayer.

The minutes for June 2026 were reviewed. Two corrections were required: 1) Mary Dewey was present but was not listed; and 2) Mary Dewey seconded the motion to approve the Olivet Welcome and Affirming statement. The minutes were approved as corrected.

Financial Reports

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

- No questions or concerns.
- June was BBQ month. There were more expenses and income than we typically have.
- Propane costs in July were approx. \$6,000.
- We can expect expenses to be greater than income in July.

Finance Chairperson Barb Fitzgerald:

- The congregation renting the old church building is paying their rent regularly and on time.
- Sarah Frost has agreed to serve as an assistant treasurer.
- Motion to approve Sarah Frost as a new assistant treasurer made by Joyce Mast and seconded by Rita Reeder. Motion passed.
- The committee has drafted an abbreviated job description for the treasurer and assistants.
- Jason has announced that he would like to step down as treasurer.
- The committee is sending out budget worksheets to division heads; they will be due in August. The committee is also reviewing the budget process.

Minister's Reports

Reverend Natalie Dixon Crewell

- The Vision Team has presented their new 2026-2028 Vision Document.
- There is one more Sunday of extended voting on the new Welcome and Affirming Statement. Two Shepherds have agreed to count the votes.
- So far, 13 new members have joined the church.
- It has been a busy month for pastoral care.
- The Frosts celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary.
- Natalie completed her required boundary training.
- Planning the River Retreat. A total of 37 people signed up.
- There will not be a fall BBQ this year.
- Attended the virtual general assembly meeting.

New Business

- Natalie is working on ideas for a picture and name board to help get to know new members.
- Working on quarterly updated pictorial directories.

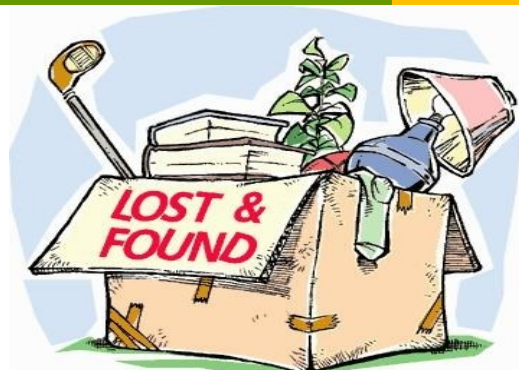
Reverend [sic] Natalie closed the meeting with a prayer. The board meeting adjourned at 7:26 pm.

Submitted by John Cunning

Annual Meeting to be held October 18th

Olivet's Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, October 18th, following worship. The purposes of the Annual Meeting are to approve the budget for the coming year, incoming Board candidates and new Trustees, and to review the closing year.

All active members may vote at the annual meeting. If you haven't yet joined the congregation, now is a great time to do so! **Olivet permits dual membership**, meaning that you may become a member of Olivet even if you already hold membership at your family's home church located elsewhere. Come be a part of the good things happening at Olivet!



Come Claim Your Items!

Numerous items have been living at the church lately, and have been asking to go HOME! There are particularly a great deal of kitchen items and dishes.

For the next couple of weeks, all forgotten and lonely pieces will be on a table in Fellowship Hall for reclaiming. Please take a moment to see whether or not you may have inadvertently left something - or lost something - that you've been missing.

Unclaimed items may be disposed of, or may end up in the church rummage sale, so be sure to stop by and take a look!

'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!

Choir Begins Fall Season

The choir has just started rehearsals for the fall season, and they'd love to invite you to join them! If you love to sing but haven't yet explored church choir, this is your opportunity!

Olivet's choir is a group of all ages and all skill levels. The one thing we have in common is a desire to share the Word through music in the hope of bringing someone closer to Christ. While we love the music, we definitely love the Message MORE!

We invite all who are interested - or curious - to join us for a rehearsal on Wednesday evenings at 7:00pm. You can sit in and sing with us, or you are more than welcome to sit back and observe.

Rehearsals are in the choir room, with entrance to the building through Door M off the back parking lot. If you'd like more information, speak with Adriene or email the office at office@olivetchristian.org, or just drop in any Wednesday evening.





SEPTEMBER

Wednesday, September 2

7:00PM Choir rehearsal

Sunday, September 6 - 15TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

9:30AM JYF Sunday School / Worship & Wonder

9:30AM Fellowship Time

10:30AM Worship

Monday, September 7**Labor Day - Church Office closed**

No regularly-scheduled meetings

4:30PM - Loaves & Fishes

Tuesday, September 8

10:00AM Grief Support Group

Wednesday, September 9

7:00PM Choir rehearsal

Sunday, September 13 - 16TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**Sunday School Kick-off**

9:30AM JYF Sunday School / Worship & Wonder

9:30AM Fellowship Time

10:30AM Worship

11:30AM Shepherds Meeting

5:00PM Ice Cream Social & Kickball Game

Monday, September 14

12:00PM Bible Study (Zoom)

1:30PM Staff Meeting (Zoom)

Tuesday, September 15

7:00PM Finance Team meeting

Wednesday, September 16

7:00PM Choir rehearsal

Sunday, September 20 - 17TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

9:30AM JYF Sunday School / Worship & Wonder

9:30AM Fellowship Time

10:30AM Worship

1:00PM CROP Walk

Monday, September 21

12:00PM Bible Study (Zoom)

1:30PM Staff Meeting (Zoom)

5:30PM Program Council (Zoom)

7:00PM Board Meeting (Zoom)

Tuesday, September 22

10:00AM Grief Support Group

Wednesday, September 23

7:00PM Choir rehearsal

Saturday, September 26

9:30AM Sustainable Living Farm Visit

Sunday, September 27 - 18TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**Reconciliation Special Offering**

9:30AM JYF Sunday School / Worship & Wonder

9:30AM Fellowship Time

10:30AM Worship

Monday, September 28

12:00PM Bible Study (Zoom)

1:30PM Staff Meeting (zoom)

Wednesday, September 30

11:00AM The Wardrobe Work Day

7:00PM Choir rehearsal

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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EMAIL:
office@olivetchristian.org

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8:30AM to 4:30PM M-TH

WEB:
www.olivetchristian.org

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Rev. Hannah Ryan
Co-Minister
Rev. Natalie Dixon Crewell
Co-Minister
Adriene Floyd
Administrative Office Coordinator
Worship Arts Supervisor
Angie Carlson
Pianist