

Connections

NEWSLETTER

MAKING THE GRACE OF GOD REAL FOR ALL PEOPLE

Angel Tree Dinner

Each year, the children and youth of Olivet host a special dinner in order to raise money to help them buy holiday gifts for Angel Tree families. Those of you who have dined with us know what wonderful experiences these dinners can be! This year, the **Angel Tree Dinner** will take place in the evening on **February 21st beginning at 5:00.**

Bring your sweetheart, your pals, your special someones to support a wonderful cause. Make sure to **make a reservation** by signing up in the Fellowship Hall or contacting Rev. Hannah.

A suggested donation of \$20-25 is appreciated.

SAVE THE DATE!

**All - Ages Valentine Making Party
Saturday, February 7, 2026**

Join us for a Valentine Making Party:

Saturday Feb. 7th - 10a-12p in the Fellowship Hall

All the supplies and refreshments will be supplied.

Adults and Kids!

Guys and Gals!

Bring your friends to make Valentines that you can share with whoever you want. **We'll also send some to some of our favorite folks!**

Questions-contact Rockie Alden

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Baptism Class Reminder

Any child or adult who has not yet made their confession of faith to be baptized but is ready to prepare through classes, please **contact Rev. Hannah at hfisherryan@gmail.com as soon as possible.** We often recommend these classes for children in 4th grade and beyond, but seriously interested younger children are welcome to attend. Baptism classes will meet **throughout the Lenten season**, with baptisms planned for Easter Sunday!

Olivet's Got Talent!!

We know that our community is made up of many very talented friends of all ages! So we hope you will plan to join us by participation - or audience support for **The 2026 Olivet's Got Talent Event** on **Friday, March 13th from 6-8pm.**

If you would like to showcase your talent, please sign up by contacting Rev Natalie by email at peace.weaver@live.com or the church office at office@olivetchristian.org by March 5th. Remember that this isn't a competition, but rather a time for fun and fellowship with a little talent thrown in! Snacks will be provided! If you would like to participate in the planning of this fun event, please let Rev Natalie know soon!

Remember the Book Sale - February 8th!!

Be sure to come early to worship on Sunday, February 8th! You'll definitely want the opportunity to shop Olivet's Book Sale before and after worship.

Your Library Team has been working diligently on accepting donations, organizing books and preparing for the sale.

Find your next favorite book among the many gems that will be offered! Thanks to all who have donated, and to those who will support the sale on the 8th.



Turn the Super Bowl into a SOUP-er Bowl on February 8!

Sunday, February 8 is the Super Bowl of football... and Olivet will acknowledge that monumental event by doing a **SOUPER BOWL OF CARING**.

What does this mean? It's a special Sunday when we ask that you add a few extra items to your grocery shopping list and bring them for a local food pantry. For years, we've been *helping to tackle hunger in Columbia, because hunger doesn't take a game day holiday*.

What's the "goal"? Since 2022, we've collected 809 pounds of food. *Can we reach 191 pounds to make it an even 1,000 this year???*

What to bring? Most desired foods are canned meat (tuna, salmon, chicken, ham, beef, stew), boxed entrees (Mac & Cheese and "helper mixes" like Hamburger Helper), cereal (dry or instant oatmeal), and bread mixes (cornbread, muffins, biscuits).



FYI - YOU WILL BE INTERESTED TO KNOW...

There are 3 major changes to our Rummage Sale (Feb 28) this year:

- #1 -The hours will be 7 am to 2 pm
- #2 - The clothing and shoes will be in the **Multi-Purpose Room**
- #3 - At noon there will be a "75% off sale" instead of the bag sale

For more information, see the ad on page 3!!



Food Generosity Box—December & January

- 139 meals at Loaves & Fishes on December 1
- 176 meals served at Loaves & Fishes on January 5th



OLIVET RUMMAGE SALE

FEBRUARY 28, 2026

Start gathering up the things that you'd like to have go to a new home and benefit OCC! Help us make this sale the best ever!

WHAT TO DONATE:

We WILL accept these items in good and clean condition:

- toys, games, puzzles • books • DVDs • shoes and clothing for men, women, children, babies • baby toys & accessories • home décor • kitchen and dining items • bed sheets, blankets, towels • crafts, fabric • jewelry • collectables • seasonal décor such as Spring/Easter, Halloween/Fall, Christmas, etc
- small kitchen appliances • office supplies • lawn, garden equipment • recreational, sports equipment
- plants • construction, automotive, woodworking tools • furniture in good to excellent condition

We WILL NOT accept:

- console TVs • old desktop computers • artificial Christmas trees • damaged, dirty, extremely worn furniture • items that are heavy, bulky, broken, dirty, non-functional, or damaged, defective, or unusable

ITEMS MUST BE IN GOOD CONDITION AND FUNCTION PROPERLY – THEY REFLECT ON OLIVET!!

SCHEDULE (i.e. when we need your help):

Sunday, February 22 following worship – Set up the tables in Fellowship Hall and classrooms

Tuesday-Thursday, February 24-26 – 10 am to 6 pm – Receive, sort, and price donations

Friday, February 27 – 10 am to 3 pm – Final receiving, sorting, and pricing

Saturday, February 28 – Doors open at 7 AM, Doors close at 3 PM
– 3:00 Clean-up begins

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED – watch for sign-up sheets Feb 1:

Week before the Sale – people to put out signs on roadways

Sunday, Feb 22 – general set up of tables and rooms, indoor signs, etc

Tuesday thru Friday, Feb 23-27 – people to receive, sort and price

Saturday during the sale (1 or more shifts) – floor walkers, cashiers

Saturday at 3 pm – pack up unsold items and deliver to other organizations
and cleanup church to be ready for Sunday morning activities

Let your friends and neighbors know that they may contribute items to the sale!

*Early shopping is available to Olivet members and Volunteers who work at least one 4-hour shift on
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday or Friday.*

THINK SPRING!***The Wisdom of the Hive: What Honeybees Can Teach Us About Collective Wellbeing***

by Michelle Cassandra Johnson & Amy Burtaine

**Sunday morning discussion series – Eastertide,
April 12 – May 17, 9:00 AM**

“Save the Bees” – it’s a mantra we know well. Threats to bees include habitat loss, pervasive pesticide and herbicide use, parasites & pathogens, climate change adversely affecting plant bloom times, invasive plant species and the list goes on.

But what if bees could actually be instrumental in saving us? What can we learn about their behaviors that could help us better listen to and take care of each other and our communities? Are there any behaviors that would not be beneficial for us?

Richard Edgar, beekeeper & Olivet SL Team member, will start our series with an introduction to bees & beekeeping and share his experience and observations.

Authors Johnson and Burtaine are also backyard beekeepers, friends and colleagues who have worked with groups to expand racial equity. As we continue with the book, we’ll explore their premise that the hive can serve as a metaphor for our communities and consider attitudes and practices that can benefit us all. Several short chapters include meditations, poetry and mindfulness exercises.

Intrigued? Join the conversation and we’ll explore these ideas together. 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, if you are interested so sufficient books may be ordered. The cost of books will be covered through the Christian Education budget. We look forward to learning together.

**Mark Your Calendar!**

Saturday morning, April 18 – Bird Walk at Eagle Bluffs Conservation Area led by Melina Matheney of Missouri River Bird Observatory.

This should be a good time & location to see both song birds and shore birds.



Seeds ‘n Sprouts Coming Sunday, April 26

Featuring 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.

Pre-orders will be available in Fellowship Hall with additional ‘shopping’ available at the Pavilion. This is a self-funded event with donations very much appreciated to cover the costs of supplies.

Editor’s note: Did you know that the money you give to **Seeds ‘n Sprouts** ensures the livelihood of this annual event? Because Seeds ‘n Sprouts is not a budgeted undertaking, it is dependent upon the generosity of all of us who will choose our garden plants and native flowers on April 26th!

**Bible Quiz**

The New Testament uses several Greek words to describe love. Which of the following best represents the **selfless, sacrificial love** that God shows to humanity?



- A) Eros
- B) Phileo
- C) Agape
- D) Storge

Answer: C (See John 3:16 and 1 Corinthians 13)

OLIVET CHRISTIAN CHURCH BOARD MEETING

DECEMBER 15, 2025 @ 7:00 PM

Present:

Officers: Karen Broz, Chris Valleroy, John Cuning

Board Members: Gabrielle Comstock, Mary Dewey, Carolyn Henry, Joyce Mast, Rita Reeder, Jim Spain, Justin Walensky

Staff Members: Reverend Hannah Ryan, Reverend Natalie Dixon Crewell

Treasurer: Jason Enright, and Ken Bartley

The December 15, 2025, Olivet Church Board Meeting was called to order by President Karen Broz at 7:00 pm. Reverend Hannah opened the meeting with a prayer.

The minutes for November 2025 board meeting were approved as written.

Financial Reports

The Financial Reports for November 2025 were presented by Jason Enright. The Balance Sheet, Cash on Hand Reports, and the Budget vs Actual for November were reviewed. Rita Reeder made a motion to approve the financial report. Chris Valleroy seconded the motion, and it passed.

- A revised Budget to Actual report for October was reviewed and discussed by the board.
- HR expenses were less than expected due to a missed pension payment. Adrienne is aware of the issue and trying to resolve it in the current fiscal year. Jason will check with Adrienne.

Finance Chairperson, Kenneth Bartley shared his November report.

- Expenses are more than \$13,000 more than income for the year to date.
- Ken reported on the status of brokerage accounts interest.
- The church is currently maintaining a four-month reserve in the ministry budget.

Minister Reports

Reverend Natalie Dixon Crewell

- Olivet hosted the Columbia Disciple clergy group to a soup brunch.
- The sanctuary decorations received positive feedback.
- The shepherds have been assisting with pastoral care
- Natalie will be taking the last Sunday in December as a day off.
- Planning is under way for the 2026 activities schedule.

Reverend Hannah Ryan

- Much time has been devoted to Advent planning
- The children's Christmas play will be recorded this coming Saturday.
- Recorded, assembled and edited the children's Christmas program. A total of 14 children and youth participated in this year's program. The youth will lead the worship this coming Sunday.
- A Blue Christmas service is scheduled for Dec. 12.
- The Vision Team met in November.
- Attended the Mid-American Regional Board meeting. Hannah is now serving on the Personnel Committee.
- Hannah will take time off from December 29 through February 4.

Unfinished Business

- Policy updates:
 - ⇒ We have a person scheduled to review the church's security policy
 - ⇒ The team plans to have the updates completed in 2026.
- Cell Tower Update
 - ⇒ David Mast has discussed the initial proposal with the company representative.
 - ⇒ The church asked for a one-time cash payment of \$155,000, or a monthly fee of \$700.00 with a 6% increase every five years
 - ⇒ The company has rejected the monthly option and counter-offered a one-time payment of

(cont'd from p5)

- ⇒ \$125,000. They also wanted to change the tower design.
- ⇒ The church has sent a counteroffer of \$145,000, but expressed the preference to keep the original design.
- ⇒ The company representative has visited the site and explained that the company is re-viewing their budget.
- ⇒ The company will provide \$25,000 in an escrow account to cover removal of the tower and is required to carry liability insurance on the tower.
- Review Finances Report
- ⇒ The audit report and recommendations were reviewed and discussed.
- ⇒ Most of the recommendations can be worked out with the current personnel.
- ⇒ Two different policies give contradicting information regarding when giving statements should be sent out – this will need to be resolved.
- ⇒ Joyce Mast made a motion to approve the report; Rita Reeder seconded the motion – motion passed.

New Business

- Election of New Board Officers for 2026
 - ⇒ Justin Walensky - Board Chair
 - ⇒ Jim Spain - Vice Chair
 - ⇒ John Cuning - Secretary
 - ⇒ Motion made by Carolyn Henry to elect the slate of officers; Chris Valleroy seconded the motion - motion passed.

The board meeting adjourned at 8:14 pm.

Submitted by John Cuning



Ash Wednesday Service

February 18th at 6:00pm

Ash Wednesday begins the Lenten season and the faith journey toward Easter and the resurrection. At Olivet we acknowledge the start of the Lenten path with an **Ash Wednesday** service at which we share an imposition of ashes from the pastors, along with prayer, music and reflection.

We invite you to join us in the sanctuary on Wednesday evening, February 18th, at 6:00pm as we join in community to begin our journey together. During this Lenten season we will once again offer Lenten devotionals to aid in your personal journey.

We look forward to walking alongside you over the coming weeks as we anticipate grounding ourselves in the **GOOD** news that follows the darkness.

Notes of Thanks

Friends, before Christmas, OCC received a generous donation from a member who asked that the funds be designated for, and forwarded to, local food pantries who were serving families affected by the SNAP benefits suspension. In collaboration with your Outreach Team, those gifts of dollars were passed on as a timely blessing to them from us - Olivet Christian Church.

One recipient sent greetings and thanks... "We are praying the Lord blesses your giving heart in abundant measure. Thank you."

Olivet Christian Church, Thank you so much for your continuing support, including the December donation of \$250 to Columbia Mobile Aid Collective (COMAC). Your gifts help us supply needed items like dry warm socks, hand warmers, and emergency warming food to our neighbors experiencing homelessness and give important support to them, one-person-at-a-time. This wouldn't be possible without groups like you.

Thanks again! Your COMAC friends



FEBRUARY

Sunday, February 1

4TH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

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

Monday, February 2

Groundhog Day

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

Wednesday, February 4

6:30PM Chime Choir
7:00PM Choir

Saturday, February 7

10:00AM Valentine-Making Party

Sunday, February 8

5TH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

Library Team Book Sale

Souper Bowl of Caring Food Collection

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

Monday, February 9

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

Tuesday, February 10

10:00AM Grief Support Group

Wednesday, February 11

6:30PM Chime Choir
7:00PM Choir

Sunday, February 15

TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY

Week of Compassion Special Offering

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

Monday, February 16

Presidents' Day

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

Wednesday, February 18

Newsletter Articles Due

Ash Wednesday

6:00PM Ash Wednesday service
6:30PM Chime Choir
7:00PM Choir

Saturday, February 21

5:00PM Angel Tree Dinner

Sunday, February 22

1ST SUNDAY IN LENT

Week of Compassion Special Offering

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

Monday, February 23

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

Tuesday, February 24

10:00AM Grief Support Group

Wednesday, February 25

6:30PM Chime Choir
7:00PM Choir

Saturday, February 28

7A - 2P Rummage Sale

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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ADDRESS:
1991 S OLIVET RD
COLUMBIA MO 65201

OFFICE PHONE:
573.442.0336

EMAIL:
office@olivetchristian.org

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

WEB:
www.olivetchristian.org

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