Olivet Connections NEWSLETTER

November 2026

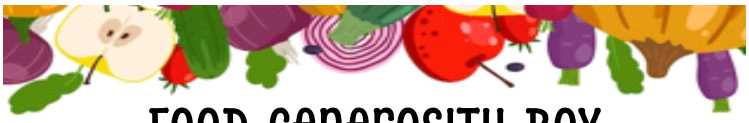
MAKING THE GRACE OF GOD REAL FOR ALL PEOPLE

Grace in Action This November

The work we do together matters. Community and connection are essential in this season of chronic loneliness. And so, we willingly choose to show up in service and fellowship to push back on what separates us.

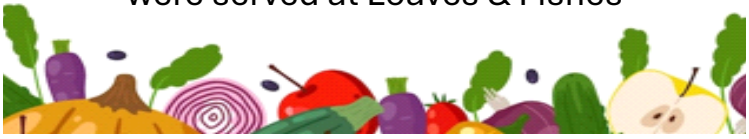
Leaning into our cry to support these vital efforts, our Stewardship Focus for the upcoming year of shared ministry calls us to pay attention to the generosity of God. We have chosen to utilize the SALT Projects giving campaign: Grace in Action. We will steer our stewardship efforts based on one simple, powerful idea at the heart of Christian faith: God is gracefully generous, and we – children of God created in the image of God – are born to be gracefully generous, too. Not because we "should," but because graceful generosity is a beautiful delight – and because it's who we really are!

Beginning on November 1, we will weave our way through three powerful, Holy texts as we will explore God as builder, teacher, homemaker, and image giver. We join God as co-builders, co-makers, co-teachers and more. We look forward to exploring and expanding our stewardship understandings together.



Food Generosity Box for October

209 meals that included Sloppy Joe and PB&Js were served at Loaves & Fishes



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And MORE!

Youth Angel Tree Shopping

Each year, Olivet's children and youth host the "Angel Tree Dinner" in February. The funds raised from that meal go towards purchasing gifts for a family in need each holiday season. The children and youth are extremely intentional and generous when picking out which gifts to buy, making our shopping trip a fun-filled event!

This year, we will be purchasing gifts for TWO families. We plan to go shopping for our Angel Tree gifts on Friday, November 6th at 5 PM. We will meet just inside the Pharmacy/Home side of the Conley Walmart. Shopping usually takes less than an hour, so grown-ups should plan to stay with their children. Children do not need to have helped with the Angel Tree Dinner to go shopping with us. Please let Rev. Hannah know if you plan to attend!

Christmas Play Recording

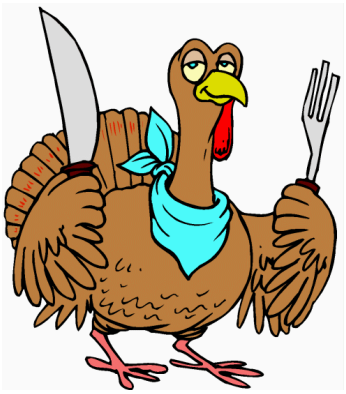
Calling all children and youth! We will be recording this year's Christmas Play in the sanctuary on Saturday, November 14th at 10:00 AM. Children of all ages are welcome to participate. There's no need to memorize lines or rehearse parts. Just come as you are, ready to join in as we tell the Christmas story together!

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to Rev. Hannah.

Hanging of the Greens

Saturday, November 28th | 10:00 AM

Help us adorn our holy spaces for the Advent and Christmas seasons! Just bring yourself. We will have all the decorations we need on hand. Many hands make light work!



THANKSGIVING DINNER

OUR ANGEL TREE FUNDRAISER AND FELLOWSHIP EVENT

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15

Enjoy turkey and all the favorite side dishes: real mashed potatoes, stuffing, gravy, sweet potato casserole, green beans, cranberry salads, and home-made rolls!

(Gluten-free stuffing and gravy available)

YOUR GENEROUS DONATION WILL PURCHASE GROCERY GIFT CARDS FOR OUR ADOPTED ANGEL TREE FAMILIES and CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS FOR OUR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS WHO NEED SOME SPECIAL LOVE THIS SEASON

BRING: A DESSERT TO SHARE - AND YOUR FAMILY

The Dinner is sponsored by your OLIVET OUTREACH TEAM, and made possible by all who bake turkeys, cook, bring desserts, and help clean up.

Many, many thanks all for continuing this tradition of making Christmas grace real!

ANGEL TREE COLLECTION IS COMING!



Each year, we "adopt" families for Christmas gifts, by working with the Voluntary Action Center – this year your Outreach Team and the Olivet Youth are adopting 8 families with approximately 26 children. Gifts for 2 of the families will be purchased by the proceeds of the Angel Tree dinner hosted by the Youth in February.

This year, the Outreach Team is adding a limited number of tags for sets of new bedding and pillows for children served by a relatively new organization in Columbia, SLEEP IN HEAVENLY PEACE, which provides new beds for children without beds. More information about this very worthy organization is elsewhere in this newsletter.

On November 8, you will see the Angel Tree (Christmas tree) with lots of tags for requested gifts in the main Fellowship Hall. There will be more information at that time.

YOUR JOB: take 1 or more tags, buy the gifts listed and return them to the church on one of our collection dates – November 15, 22, and 29. ALTERNATIVE: if you would rather someone else do the shopping, put a designated donation in the offering box or hand it to Linda Reed Brown.

SHP
SLEEP IN HEAVENLY PEACE

NO KID SLEEPS ON THE FLOOR IN OUR TOWN!.

OUTREACH Ministry

323 kids in Columbia are waiting for US to help them sleep tonight and we plan to help through our Christmas Angel Tree project.

The MO-Columbia chapter of Sleep in Heavenly Peace builds, assembles, and delivers free handmade twin beds, complete with new bedding, to children ages 3 to 17 who are sleeping on floors, sofas, or air mattresses. The hub of the program is at Community United Methodist Church, where a hand-built wooden bed frame, a new mattress, and new bedding (sheets, comforter, and pillow) are made ready for delivery. Families submit a bed request directly through the Sleep in Heavenly Peace Official Website.

THANKSGIVING SPECIAL OFFERING

This Special Offering, to be received on November 22, provides a direct connection to our church-related 15 colleges and universities and our 7 seminaries and theological programs. Gifts from this offering continue the Disciples tradition of developing leaders for our communities and the Church. Four of the supported colleges are in Missouri: Columbia College, Culver-Stockton College in Canton, Drury University in Springfield, and William Woods University in Fulton.

Pastor Hannah, Pastor Natalie, Kim Ryan, and Larry Brown attended seminaries supported by this Special Offering – and you can see the quality we're blessed to have as our spiritual and organizational leaders! These Olivet leaders have helped us flourish and make big differences in the world because they are skilled pastors, community leaders, and agents of social transformation. **Bringing students and resources together because of our gifts.**



Until Dawn—Actions for the Work of Advent

Advent begins this year on Sunday, November 29th. We will light the candles and speak of hope. We will wait for the good news that God is born into the world. We will prepare with music and plays and presents. Yet, in the midst of our waiting, we know well that the world is not as it should be. Violence rages, tragedies unfold, pain persists. This Advent season, we plan to take a look at the actions we can take as we move through the night with hope for tomorrow. Night can often be frightening, but darkness also brings gifts—rest, regeneration, dreams, and a closeness with God. And so, we will examine these gifts as we move toward the horizon, trusting that God joins us in the work of Advent. We hope you will, too.

"We're Over the TOP!"



- ➔ Columbia CROP Hunger WALK Goal: $27,000
- ➔ Funds raised by mid-October: $28,586
- ➔ Olivet CROP Hunger WALK Goal: $4,000
- ➔ Funds raised by mid-October: $4,023

In this season of Thanksgiving, we are so very grateful for the generosity of our Olivet members & friends! Together we truly do improve lives around the block and around the world.

Kids' Choir to Sing on November 1

The Kids' Choir comprised of our children and youth from Worship & Wonder, JYF and CYF Sunday School will join the Chancel Choir on November 1st to share in a combination anthem during morning worship.

The kids have been working with Carol Gilles on Sunday mornings to share one of their favorite hymns - Peace Like a River. We are so grateful for the efforts of Ms. Carol and all of her helpers who have worked on getting this special piece ready to share in worship!

Join us on Sunday, November 1, for a morning of worship, singing, All Saints Sunday, and our Fall Giving Campaign. There's so much to do at Olivet!

Devotionals, Advent Calendars, and More!

Olivet will have several resources available to help guide us this Advent season. Find them in the Fellowship Hall on Sundays. Printed daily devotional booklets offer scripture, commentary, poetry, art, hymns, and reflection prompts. A digital e-reader version is available upon request. There are also Advent prayer calendars for both children and adults that will help ground you during the season. Special children's bulletins will also be available each Sunday to help our young people make connections during our worship time.

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

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

This study series encourages participants to learn more about their community's tree canopy and to advocate for increased planting of trees in neighborhoods that lack canopy coverage. We turned to the City of Columbia's Office of Sustainability to learn more about local needs and how the city is trying to meet those needs.

We learned that Columbia has a Climate Action Plan that addresses climate change in many ways, including planting trees in neighborhoods that lack canopy coverage. In 2022, the city mapped 'heat islands' and canopy coverage and began to focus on adding trees to neighborhoods with limited resources. The CoMo Canopy program, introduced in 2025, offers free trees to residents in select neighborhoods that lack tree coverage and also to nonprofit organizations. Both canopy and understory trees are offered, as many properties don't have room for large canopy trees. In addition to posting information about this program on the city's Facebook site, city staff members have gone door to door in select neighborhoods to inform residents about this opportunity and encourage them to participate. Since the spring of 2025, 450 trees have been planted across the city, the majority in neighborhoods with the least tree coverage.

To learn more about the many ways that the city is working on climate issues, go to www.comoclimateaction.org.

Missouri Conservation Corps, a local non-profit organization in cooperation with the city, is also actively engaged in planting native trees and shrubs while removing invasive species. The group welcomes volunteers. Learn more about their work and ways to get involved at www.missouriconservationcorps.org



Aging with Grace

Qualified Charitable Distribution Reminder

Just a reminder that if you are 70.5 years old, and follow certain guidelines, you are eligible to make a Qualified Charitable Contribution (QCD) *directly* from your IRA to a charity (501(c)(3)). Many people make these contributions as part of their Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) from their retirement savings. This is an easy way to help Olivet, and help fulfill your pledge as well.

Due to Covid, the RMD's were allowed to be delayed a couple of years later and are not required until age 73. However, please note that QCD eligibility is still available at age 70.5 and can be made directly to a charity without being part of the RMD. The amount given can potentially reduce your taxable income by the same amount. Of course, this needs to be discussed with your tax and financial advisor for your specific situation.

QCDs given this tax year can also be designated for your 2027 pledge. Since the gifts are required to be generated directly from the IRA company to the charity, they are often not marked as clearly as needed. So if you make this type of gift, it is advisable to give our treasurer, Tony Keel (a.keel@keelcode.com) or Adriene Floyd (office@olivetchristian.org) a heads up that the gift is coming and from what company or bank. It is also important to tell them if you want the gift to be used toward your 2027 Pledge Year and any other details that need to be noted.

Olivet has been blessed by members and past members throughout the years who graciously supported our budget and growth through their charitable contributions via QCDs and RMDs. How exciting that we have the same opportunity!

Get Your Pic Taken at Church This November!

Olivet is working to make church resources more helpful to all of us, and one way we can do that is to add photos to our member and friend directory!

We want to include photos of everyone in our community so we'll have a resource to help out when we have those "i know the face, but I don't know the name" moments.

Photos will be taken by Rev. Natalie before and after worship throughout November. See the Updater for a schedule, or drop in as you're able!

Olivet Church Board Meeting
September 21, 2026 @ 7:00 p.m.

Present:
Officers: Justin Walensky, John Cunning,

Board Members: Rita Reeder, Joyce Mast, Ginny Edgar, Bob Moore, Rockie Alden, Rob Foss,

Staff Members: Reverend Hannah Ryan, Reverend Natalie Dixon Crewell

Finance Committee: Barb Fitzgerald

The September 21, 2026, Olivet Church Board Meeting was called to order by Chair Justin Walensky at 7:05 pm. Reverend Hannah opened the meeting with a prayer.

The minutes for August 2026 were reviewed. Rita Reeder moved to approve the minutes, Ginny Edwards seconded the motion, and the motion was approved.

Financial Reports

The Balance Sheet, Cash on Hand Reports, and the Budget vs Actual for September 2026 were reviewed.

Finance Chairperson, Barbra Fitzgerald

- Budget: the proposed 2027 budget includes a 3.5% increase, which is in line with operational costs.
  ▷ Sustainable Living has requested an increase to purchase more seeds and plants for the annual seeds and sprouts event.
  ▷ Funds for sabbaticals will be placed in a special account annually over a five year period.
  ▷ Property has requested an increase to cover the rising cost of insurance.
  ▷ Motion to accept the proposed budget was made by Joyce Mast and seconded by Rockie Alden; motion passed.

- Ken Bartley proposed investing $50,000 in an investment trust via email. This is a reinvestment for a similar investment that matured this past spring. There is limited loss on this investment.
  ▷ Motion to approve made by Rita Reeder and seconded by Rob Foss; motion passed.

- Abbreviated job descriptions for members of the finance committee were provided for review. Job duties have been spread out to a larger number of people.
  ▷ Barb thanked Jason Enright for his work as Treasurer.
  ▷ Tony Keel was nominated to become the new Treasurer. A motion to approve Tony as the new Treasurer was made by Joyce Mast and seconded by Rockie Alden; the motion passed.

- The need for a second signature on the investment accounts was discussed.
  ▷ Currently, Ken Bartley is the only signature on the accounts. To follow proper business procedures, a second person need to be listed on the accounts with the ability to access them.
  ▷ Dave Mast was nominated to fill this position. Rob Foss moved to appoint Dave to this position and Ginny Edwards seconded the motion; the motion passed (Joyce Mast abstained from voting).

Use of the new Our Church Ap [sic] **for notification of closures:**

Cont'd on p. 6

- John Cunning asked if this ap will be used in addition to, or in place of other notification methods used in the past. Pastor Hannah explained it will be used in addition to other notification methods.

Event Coordinators – Rob Foss:

- Currently, a member of the congregation serves as an event coordinator when the church is booked for weddings, meetings, etc. by someone from outside the congregation. Rob proposed that this person be compensated with 10% of the fee collected for the event.
- Bob Moore moved that the board approve the proposal, Joyce Mast seconded the motion; the motion passed.

Minister Reports

Reverend Natalie Dixon Crewell.

- Natal [sic] had her performance evaluation recently.
- She has started working on the narrative budget for annual meeting in October..
- The grief support groups in [sic] growing.
- Olivet now has nine shepherds serving the congregation.
- Stewardship planning is in the works.
- September 27 will be Olivet's first Pride Sunday.
- Bessing of the animals ceremony is scheduled for October 4.
- Midweek adult classes with begin on October 7.

Reverend Hannah Ryan.

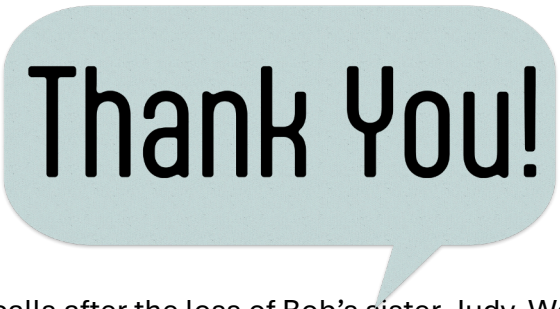
- Hannah recently met with the Finance Committee.
- She attended the Crop Walk recently.
- Annual reports are due soon – October 2.
- Planning for Advent is underway
- Olivet has started a third children's Sunday school class, and it [sic] hoping to start a youth group soon.

Nominating Committee:

- Still working to finalize the slate of officers.
- The slate of officers will be shared with the congregation Sunday, October 4.

The board meeting adjourned at 7:56 pm.

Submitted by John Cunning



Notes of Thanks

We would like to thank our church family for their cards, texts and calls after the loss of Bob's sister, Judy. We could feel the love and prayers that came our way.

~ Karen & Bob Fry

Dear Rev. Hannah and Rev. Natalie,

On behalf of Good Dads Columbia, please give our heartfelt thank you to your congregation for the incredibly generous donation. Your support will help us continue our mission of encouraging and equipping fathers to be more involved in the lives of their children. We are truly grateful for your kindness and for your investment in families and children in our community. God bless you.

~Ava Summers, Regional Coordinator, Good Dads



Sunday, November 1 - All Saints Day
Fall Giving Opportunity
9:00am Adult Ed Class
9:30am JYF /CYF Sunday School
9:30am Worship & Wonder
9:30am Fellowship Time
10:30am Worship

Monday, November 2
12:00pm Bible Study (Zoom)
1:30pm Staff Meeting (Zoom)
4:30pm - Loaves & Fishes

Tuesday, November 3
Olivet serving as Polling Place
10:00am Grief Support Group

Wednesday, November 4
6:00pm Adult Ed Mid-week
7:00pm Choir rehearsal

Sunday, November 8 - 24th Sunday after Pentecost
Angel Tree Collection Begins
9:00am Adult Ed Class
9:30am JYF /CYF Sunday School
9:30am Worship & Wonder
9:30am Fellowship Time
10:30am Worship

Monday, November 9
12:00pm Bible Study (Zoom)
1:30pm Staff Meeting (Zoom)

Wednesday, November 11
6:00pm Adult Ed Mid-week
7:00pm Choir rehearsal

Sunday, November 15 - 25th Sunday after Pentecost
Fall Giving Opportunity
Angel Tree Collection Continues
9:00am Adult Ed Class
9:30am JYF /CYF Sunday School
9:30am Worship & Wonder
9:30am Fellowship Time
10:30am Worship
11:30am All-Church T'giving Dinner Fundraiser

Monday, November 16
12:00pm Bible Study (Zoom)
1:30pm Staff Meeting (Zoom)
7:00pm Board Meeting (Zoom)

Tuesday, November 17
10:00am Grief Support Group

Wednesday, November 18
Newsletter Articles Due
6:00pm Adult Ed Mid-week
7:00pm Choir rehearsal

Sunday, November 22 - Reign of Christ Sunday
Thanksgiving Special Offering
Angel Tree Collection Continues
9:00am Adult Ed Class
9:30am JYF /CYF Sunday School
9:30am Worship & Wonder
9:30am Fellowship Time
10:30am Worship

Monday, November 23
12:00pm Bible Study (Zoom)
1:30pm Staff Meeting (Zoom)

Wednesday, November 25
6:00pm Adult Ed Mid-week
7:00pm Choir rehearsal

Thursday, November 26
Thanksgiving Day - Office Closed

Saturday, November 28
10:00am Hanging of the Greens

Sunday, November 29 - 1st Sunday of Advent
Angel Tree Collection Continues
Quarter Sunday
9:00am Adult Ed Class
9:30am JYF /CYF Sunday School
9:30am Worship & Wonder
9:30am Fellowship Time
10:30am Worship

Monday, November 30
12:00pm Bible Study (Zoom)
1:30pm Staff Meeting (Zoom)

Olivet Christian Church

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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 - 4:30am
Monday through Thursday.

SCAN HERE



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