



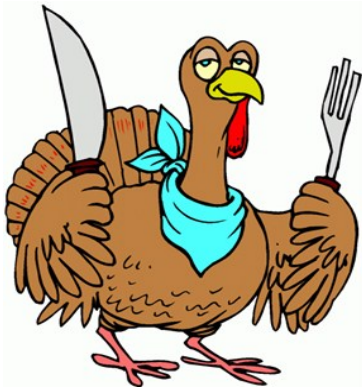
Olivet Connections

NEWSLETTER

November 2025

MAKING THE GRACE OF GOD REAL FOR ALL PEOPLE

Thanksgiving Dinner Sunday, November 9th



Enjoy turkey and all the favorite side dishes: real mashed potatoes, stuffing, gravy, sweet potato casserole, cranberry salads, and rolls! (*Gluten-free turkey, stuffing and gravy available*)

Your free-will donation helps us purchase **FOOD VOUCHERS** for our adopted Angel Tree Families and **CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS**

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, pitch in to help cook, bake, bring desserts, and help clean up.

Many, many thanks all for continuing this tradition of sharing and Thanksgiving!

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 is again adopting 8 families with approximately 26 children!

On **November 9**, you will see the **Angel Tree** (Christmas tree) with lots of tags for requested gifts in the main Fellowship Hall. **YOUR JOB:** take 1 or more tags, buy the gifts and return them to the church. Collection dates are December 16, 23, and 30. **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 or Joyce Mast. Watch for more information in the next weeks.

Don't Forget “Warm Up Columbia”

By **October 26**, bring your extra or un-needed warm, clean and gently used, outer winter clothing for all ages. Coats/fleece jackets, mittens/gloves, hats/caps, scarves, blankets, and... if you want an extra challenge, bring **NEW** socks for people of all ages!

All items will be distributed through The Wardrobe referral shopping days, when our low income neighbors shop for free.

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Youth Angel Tree Shopping

Every year, Olivet's 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 going shopping for our Angel Tree gifts on **Friday, November 14th 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!



Why I ... Participate in the Fellowship Team

by Rev. Natalie

Coming together for joy-filled play and laughter is essential for building a strong community. Our Fellowship Team operates from that point of view as we plan events throughout the year.

Whether it is Family Game Night, Olivet's Got Talent, or our Annual Wiener Roast and Hayride, the fellowship team's goal is the same: creating a space where all are welcome to come and unwind, while sharing in conversation and laughter.

Our team functions a little differently than most. The commitment is event by event, communication through email, and no meetings. This works because it only asks for folks to give what they can of themselves at any given moment. It also ensures that the most beloved fellowship events continue.

We are always looking for helpers, so if you hear of an upcoming event you are interested in or would like us to try something new just give us a shout! The Fellowship Team is here for Olivet's joy!



Food Generosity Box—October

Oct 6: 162 meals served at Loaves & Fishes that included hamburgers supplied by friends at Lenoir Woods



December Edition Deadline

Articles for the December OCN are due by November 19. Thanks!

Thanksgiving Special Offering November 23/30

The Thanksgiving Offering benefits the 15 Colleges and Universities and the 7 Seminaries and Divinity Houses affiliated with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Your generosity enables these institutions to invest in faith-centered students as they prepare to become leaders in the church and the world.

Because of scholarship support on campuses with state-of-the-art facilities, diverse degree programs, dynamic student life activities, and religious life offices, "our next generation of church leadership continues to flourish and make a difference in the world."

Please give generously to this offering. Your gift makes a difference in the lives of our students and it makes a difference in the world.

Advent Art Opportunity You Can Help!

The season of Advent is soon upon us, and we need your assistance. In preparation for transforming our sanctuary we are looking for lanterns. All sizes, shapes, and styles are welcome. Please bring them to Rev. Natalie's office by **November 18th**. Please make sure your name is on them.

We are also asking for you to use your creativity during the Sundays of November to help us create additions to our worship design. All supplies and directions will be provided.

This is an all ages/abilities art project. Nobody is too young-- or too old!



Christmas Play Recording Mark your Calendars!

Calling all children and youth! We will be recording this year's Christmas Play in the sanctuary on **Saturday, November 22nd 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 30

Help us deck the halls and prepare our spaces for the Advent season!

We'll all gather at the church on Saturday, November 29th at 10:00 AM to put up wreaths and trees and more!

All ages are welcome to participate in this church-wide event, sponsored by the Worship Team.



OLIVET CHRISTIAN CHURCH BOARD MEETING

SEPTEMBER 15, 2025 @ 7:00 PM

Present:

Officers: Karen Broz, Chris Valleroy, John Cuning

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

Staff Members: Reverend Hannah Ryan, Reverend Natalie Dixon Crewell

Treasurer: Diane Bartley, Jason Enright and Ken Bartley

The September 15, 2025, Olivet Church Board Meeting was called to order by President Karen Broz at 7:02 pm. Reverend Natalie opened the meeting with a prayer.

The minutes for August 2025 were reviewed and approved as written.

Financial Reports

The Financial Reports for August 2025 were presented by Diane Bartley. The Balance Sheet, Cash on Hand Reports, and the Budget vs Actual for August 2025 were reviewed. Chris Valleroy made a motion to approve the financial report. Mary Dewey seconded, the motion passed.

Finance Committee Report.

- Finance Report – Ken Bartley and Jason Enright
 - ◊ August was tough month for expenses, but an average month for income
 - ◊ Property expenses were up this month.
 - ◊ Prepaid pledges are up 43% compared to end of August last year.
- 2026 Budget – Ken Bartley. Motion made to approve budget with corrections by Ken Bartley and seconded by Mary Dewey, passed.
 - ◊ 2026 budget shows a 3.4% increase over 2025
 - ◊ Increases were made in the sabbatical allowances were made for both pastors.
 - ◊ The Property Team has proposed a 22% increase in the 2026 budget. Much of this increase is related to snow and ice removal.
- Personnel Budget – Rob Foss.
 - ◊ Performance reviews have been completed
 - ◊ Budget provides a cost-of-living increase of 5%
 - ◊ The 2026 budget also adds a fifth Sunday off for both pastors in 2026. Motion made to approve by Chris Valleroy, seconded by Marty Albrecht, motion passed.
 - ◊ Pastor Hannah is planning for a sabbatical in 2026.

Minister Reports

Reverend Natalie Dixon Crewell.

- Lots of pastoral care activities. Shepherds are playing a major role.
- Visioning team is working on new vision items.
- Grace Expansion Team is forming.
- Going to Phoenix with Hannah in November for a preaching conference.
- Natalie will leave for vacation soon

Reverend Hannah Ryan

- New Sunday School classes started Sept. 14. Background checks for all teachers are complete
- Natalie and Amanda Durbak started the faith and human sexuality class Sept. 14
- The new sensory space is useable, but there is some additional work to complete.
- Working on this year's Advent theme.
- Hannah plans to take some time off Oct. 6-12.

Unfinished Business

- Sign update at entryway.
 - ◊ The signs have been installed

New Business

- Slate of board members and Trustees for 2026: motion made by Joyce Mast and seconded by Marty Albrecht to approve the slate as presented and approve by email the person to fill the open position, motioned passed
 - ◊ Rob Foss (3 year term)
 - ◊ Kimberly Matthews (3 year term)
 - ◊ Bob Moore (3 year term)
 - ◊ Open (3 year term) – (update, Rockie Alden later accepted the nomination and was approved by an email vote)
 - ◊ Ginny Edgar (2 year term to finish out Jason Enright's term)
 - ◊ **Trustees:**
 - ◆ Angela Reeder (replaces Richard Edgar whose term is up – 5 year term)
 - ◆ Mike Alden (finishing out Chester Edwards term ending December 2027)
- Recommendation for equipment for accessibility for hearing impaired – motion made by Joyce Mast and seconded by Chris Valleroy, passed
 - ◊ New equipment will host a phone app that sends sound directly to a person's hearing aid.

(Cont'd on p4)

- ♦ Purchase two more headphone devices for people who may not have a cell phone.
- Letter to Crossways Church re: parking – motion to send letter regarding guidelines on parking, communication methods, and safety issues made by Joyce Mast and seconded by Marty Albrecht, passed
 - ♦ There have been several miscommunications in the past that they have been made aware of.
 - ♦ Discussion included several ideas of how to address these issues.
 - ♦ Can give Crossways the option to build a foot path.
 - ♦ Include a statement explaining why we do not want them walking through the cemetery.
 - ♦ Suggest they work with Olivet Property Team to develop solutions and address safety concerns.

The board meeting adjourned at 8:14 pm.

Submitted by John Cunning

In gratitude ...

The recent Sustainable Living Team program – ‘Building Skills, Confidence and Community’ – clearly demonstrated the many ways the Food Bank Market benefits our community. It provides nutritious food for persons in need in Boone County and so much more. Persons can shop at the Market once a month but can access food items available in the Sharing Room as many times as needed. The Market provides grocery delivery through DoorDash to neighbors within a 10-mile radius who have mobility issues or transportation challenges. They also provide Senior Boxes and Veteran Boxes for persons who qualify and provide Share-Packs – easy-to-carry bags that provide nutrition support and hygiene projects especially designed to help unhoused neighbors.

The Market also provides recipes and cooking demonstrations showcasing nutritious meals that can be prepared with foods available at the Market. Staff can also help shoppers connect with other community resources to enable them to become more self-sufficient. Learn more about the Market at <https://sharefoodbringhope.org/the-food-bank-market/>

Battle High School students with diverse support needs not only gain confidence while developing practical vocational skills, they contribute to the operation of the Market

by re-packaging bulk food items in the warehouse or bagging groceries at the counter. They also develop problem-solving skills and gain satisfaction in knowing that their work really matters.

Our thanks to Sarah Frost for her work with these students and for facilitating this program for us and to Chelsea Tatlow for sharing the many ways the Market nourishes our community.

CROP Walk Support 2025

THANK YOU for your gracious support of our 2025 CROP WALK!

WALK DAY featured 18 Teams and 114 walkers who reported 1,123 miles walked in solidarity with our effort. Since WALK Day, 603 high-protein food items have been distributed to our 4 Columbia food partners.

Donations as of October 15th have now topped \$22,000 toward our goal of \$30,000. This amount includes \$418.13 from Shakespeare's Pizza – the largest amount we've received from a 15% Pizza fundraiser on WALK Day.

Olivet fielded a team of 13 walkers including Chris & Lori Valleroy and Garner Crewell who served as ‘Can Wranglers’ again this year, plus Linda Graue, Natalie Dixon Crewell, Pauli Landhuis, Linda Reed Brown, and Larry Brown, our featured concert performer, Dennis Bettenhausen and Laura Gust who posted our Storyboard signs, Marilyn Bettenhausen and Helen & Patrick Atkinson, friends of the Bettenhausens. Olivet folks reported 245 miles and supplied 55 food items. As of October 7th, Olivet members & friends have contributed \$3,465 toward our goal of \$5,000.

If you have not had an opportunity to make a donation and would like to do so, please contact our Walk Treasurer, Linda Reed Brown, at lreedbrown@hotmail.com or donate securely online via the Olivet Team at www.crophungerwalk.org/columbiamo. Donations received by November 7th will count toward the Top Fundraiser Traveling Trophy. Donations received by the end of this calendar year will count toward this year's WALK overall.



N·O·V·E·M·B·E·R

Sunday, November 2

21ST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

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

1:30PM Staff Meeting (Zoom)

5:30PM Program Council (Zoom)

7:00PM Board Meeting (Zoom)

Tuesday, November 18

10:00AM Grief Support Group

Monday, November 3

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

Wednesday, November 19

[Newsletter Articles Due](#)

6:30PM Chime Choir
7:00PM Choir

Tuesday, November 4

10:00AM Grief Support Group

Thursday, November 20

11:00AM Columbia Clergy meeting

Wednesday, November 5

6:30PM Chime Choir
7:00PM Choir

Saturday, November 22

10:00AM Christmas Play Recording

Saturday, November 8

9:00AM T-giving dinner Prep Day

Sunday, November 9

22ND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

[Angel Tree Collection begins](#)

9:30AM JYF Sunday School / Worship & Wonder
9:30AM Fellowship Time
10:30AM Worship
11:30AM [All-Church Thanksgiving Dinner](#)



Sunday, November 23

CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY

THANKSGIVING SPECIAL OFFERING

[Angel Tree Collection](#)

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

Monday, November 24

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

Monday, November 10

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

Tuesday, November 25

7:00PM Choir rehearsal

Wednesday, November 12

6:30PM Chime Choir
7:00PM Choir

Wednesday, November 26

6:30PM Chime Choir
7:00PM Choir

Friday, November 14

5:00PM Youth Angel Tree Shopping

Thursday, November 27

[Thanksgiving Day](#)

Church Office closed



Sunday, November 16

23RD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

THANKSGIVING SPECIAL OFFERING

[Angel Tree Collection](#)

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

Saturday, November 29

10:00AM Hanging of the Greens

Sunday, November 30

1ST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

THANKSGIVING SPECIAL OFFERING

[Angel Tree Collection](#)

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

Monday, November 17

12:00PM Bible Study (Zoom)

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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Worship Arts Supervisor
Angie Carlson
Pianist