



Olivet Connections

NEWSLETTER

May 2025

MAKING THE GRACE OF GOD REAL FOR ALL PEOPLE

67th Olivet BBQ June 14th

The 67th Olivet Chicken BBQ will take place Saturday, June 14th from 3-6 PM. This year's event supports the Opportunity Campus, and the Olivet Ministry Fund. Adult tickets are \$15 in advance, \$17 at the door. Child tickets are \$5. We need everyone's help to make our BBQ a success! Sell your tickets, work a shift or two, bake some pies (or donate money to purchase pies), and stick around at the end to help clean-up.

A word about pies....

We offer 4 types of pies: apple, cherry, peach and pecan. While we love homemade pies, we are happy to accept store-bought pies. We do ask that all pies are at least 9 inches in diameter (larger pies are fine). We will also accept monetary donations to purchase pies. If you would like to donate pies, you may sign-up on Sign-Up Genius or sign-up at church in Fellowship Hall. More info on sign-ups coming later. We will offer a pie-baking event Wednesday, June 11 at 5:30. All ages are welcome!

This year we will be offering childcare during serving time only (3-6PM). Our kids' safety is a top priority. We know our children love to help during the BBQ, and we value their energy and enthusiasm. But even our hardest young workers need a break, and we want to offer a safe space for them.

We are looking for a few caring adults who are willing to help with childcare. Please let Hannah Ryan, Linda Graue, or Lori Valleroy know if you are willing to help. Our young workers will also be required to wear bright colored t-shirts for safety reasons. The t-shirts will be provided.

Committee chairs will be contacting folks soon on your availability to help. Thank you for your continued support of the Olivet Chicken BBQ! If you have any questions, please contact Lori Valleroy (573)808-5129 or Kim Amiot (573)999-3549.

Spring Property Work Day

Saturday, May 3rd, 9:00 AM
(weather permitting)

...to plant flowers, weed, water and mulch flower beds & trees. Bring a water bottle, sunscreen and your favorite hand tools and gloves. Wheelbarrows and flowers provided! New this year – we're starting a small-scale children's garden using the center raised bed on the Music-Education patio. Children and their parents are invited to help plant selected tomato and pepper plants, as well as some flowers. Throughout the summer, our children, parents and other interested adult volunteers can gently care for and hopefully harvest some tasty veggies. This project bubbled up from Olivet's Visioning process. We all know it's "the more, the merrier" at Olivet, so join us for a morning of fellowship and teamwork!

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NOTES of THANKS

Dear Olivet Christian Church,

Thank you for your very generous donation to COMAC & belief in our mission. With your help, we will be able to provide much needed resources for the unhoused community in Columbia. We are blessed to have your support!

Thank you!
COMAC Team
(Columbia Mobile Aid Collective)

Thank you for the prayers for our son Mike as he had a couple of months of severe pain while waiting for his hip replacement. The surgery went well, and he was walking without pain the same day. He was released from the hospital the next day and will recover at daughter Makenzie's home until after Easter. Prayers made the difference.

Blessings, Wayne and Jo Behymer



Why I ... volunteer to help with the Olivet Chicken BBQ

by Lori Valleroy

When I was asked why I help with the BBQ, I had to stop and really think about it. Why do I spend a lot of time and energy helping to make our BBQ successful? I think, for me, it comes down to the relationships I've made in my 30 plus years at Olivet.

I started out as a server on the carry-out line, working my shift, eating my delicious food, then heading home. It was a lot of fun (and work), and I started looking forward to the BBQ every year. Eventually, I became one of those folks who worked more than one shift, came in early on BBQ day to help where I could, and stayed to help cleanup.

When I was asked to co-chair the carry-out line, I took a big breath and said yes. I've definitely made mistakes over the years, but the friends I've made and the grace I've been shown have all been worth it. I love the fact that our hard work provides tangible help for so many worthy causes in our community, and helps our church as well. But mostly, I love the people I've gotten to know, and it feels good to work hard and celebrate our great event.

Put these upcoming Sustainable Living Events on your Calendar now...

Saturday, July 12th – Field Trip to Missouri River Bird Observatory's The Bird House Visitor Center in the historic village of Arrow Rock with plans for lunch following at J. Huston Tavern. At The Bird House we'll learn how MRBO actively works toward the conservation of birds and their habitats via science, education and advocacy and how

we can work toward the same, starting in our own backyards. Those who wish may also want to explore Arrow Rock's historical buildings and shopping venues more fully in the afternoon. Learn more - <https://arrowrock.org/>

Watch for more information in the June OCC.

Sunday, October 5th - Lunch 'n Learn with Chelsea Tatlow, Director of the Food Bank's Central Market, and Sarah Frost, Learning Specialist, Battle High School. Chelsea will visit with us about the value of building a more inclusive, sustainable community, in part by recruiting volunteers including persons with diverse skills and support needs. Sarah will share how their work experience at the Market has positively impacted her students.

Columbia CROP WALK Friends ... More Reasons to Celebrate!

1. Our final total of contributions for 2024 was **\$26,854.32!**
2. The amount that came back to Columbia in support of our local food program partners is **\$6,713.58!** Congratulations and many prayers continue for our partners: Loaves & Fishes Soup Kitchen; Russell Chapel Community Food Pantry; Destiny Worship Center Food Pantry; and Fifth Street Christian Feed the Community Meals.
3. **WE'RE #62 IN THE CREAM OF THE CROP!** For the 4th year in a row, the Columbia CROP Hunger WALK has ranked in the Top 100 CROP WALK fundraisers in the nation: #90 in 2021; #88 in 2022;

#63 in 2024. Thank you for your faithful support!

4. Save the date for 2025 - **Columbia CROP Hunger WALK 2025 - Sunday, September 21st.**



April Food Generosity

April 7 – At our April 7 Loaves & Fishes soup kitchen, we served 139 nutritious meals. Thanks to all who helped!

Music Opportunities Continue Year-Round!

Now that Easter Sunday has passed, many people start thinking toward summer, and vacations, and slowing down to catch our collective breath. But did you know that your Olivet music programming continues throughout the year?

Your chime choir rehearses right up until Memorial Day, and your choir keeps singing right through BBQ Sunday in mid-June. But it doesn't stop there! For the remainder of the summer, members of your church family step up to provide music each week, whether it be a vocal solo, a guitar group, or something entirely different.

If you have an interest in providing special music for any Sunday between mid-June and Labor Day, there's room for you! Contact Adriene at office@olivetchristian.org or by text at (573) 777-0864.

OLIVET CHRISTIAN CHURCH BOARD MEETING

MARCH 17, 2025 @ 7:00 PM

- Present:
Officers: Karen Broz, Chris Valleroy, John Cuning,
- Board Members: Marty Albrecht, Gabrielle Comstock, Mary Dewey, Jason Enright, Carolyn Henry, Joyce Mast, Rita Reeder, Jim Spain, Justin Walensky
- Staff Members: Reverend Hannah Ryan, Reverend Natalie Dixon Crewell
- Treasurer: Diane Bartley, and Ken Bartley
- The March 17, 2025 Olivet Church Board Meeting was called to order by Chair Karen Broz at 7:01 pm. Reverend Natalie opened the meeting with a prayer.
- Chair Karen Broz asked that the agenda item to consider the Finance Team's recommendation for outsourcing be moved up the agenda. Chris Valleroy made the motion, Carolyn Henry seconded; motion passed.
- The minutes for the February 2025 board meeting were reviewed and approved.
- Hiring an outside firm will allow for more effective checks and balances.
 - Accounting duties were not included in the job description for the church Office Administrator. The Office Administrator prefers not to take on these additional duties for additional compensation.
 - The team decided to recommend Douglas Anne Cartwright.
 - Detailed discussion and questions followed concerning what services the firm would provide.
 - The church plans to migrate data from the current QuickBooks system to a cheaper platform; it is a QuickBooks product made for churches. The firm will help with that data migration.
 - The church will pay \$540.00 per month for the firm's services. Savings on other expenditures and increases in income will cover much of the cost of these services.
 - Motion to approve made by Jim Spain, seconded by Mary Dewey. Motion passed.
 - Discussion followed regarding a way to formally acknowledge the incredible contributions Diane Bartley has made to the church in her role as treasurer. A group will be formed to discuss the most appropriate way to proceed and bring a proposal back to the board.

Financial Reports

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

- Cash on hand report – corrections regarding funds used for painting project will be made in next month's report.
- Budget to actual – better month than January.
- Rummage sale brought in \$5,900.

Finance Chairperson, Kenneth Bartley reported on February 2025.

- Details from the reports were presented and discussed.
- Dividend and interest income from a CD and a T bill that matured.

Finance Team Recommendation for Outsourcing Service.

- Karen Broz provided background on the process to develop the recommendation including who served on a group to decide what to outsource.
- The team agreed that they wanted to work with someone familiar with church finances.
- Diane Bartley plans to retire from her volunteer position as treasurer.

Minister Reports

Reverend Natalie Dixon Crewell

- Have joined with an ecumenical group of clergy in the Columbia area to discuss how best to support their congregations. Plan to meet monthly.
- The grief group continues to meet regularly in Natalie's office.
- This is the last month of her grief certificate course. Will complete the requirements this month.
- The shepherd group has grown from 4 to 8. The program has changed to allow the shepherds to work with situations they feel comfortable to address.
- Forming a new "get together" team that will help to plan events.
- Has spent time planning for Lent with various worship experiences through art.
- Holding staff work days.
- Working on planning for the float trip.

Reverend Hannah Ryan

- Prepared the sanctuary for lent with the help from members providing handprints for the handprint sheet.
- Have added a giant coloring sheet in Fellowship Hall.

(Cont'd on p4)



MAY

calendar

(Board Meeting cont'd from p3)

- Hoping for more opportunities for similar art related activities.
- Held Ash Wednesday service on March 5; 38 attended the service.
- Planning one Holy Week service on Maundy Thursday, April 17 at 6:30.
- Easter morning will have an egg hunt along with our coffee hour and Easter service at 10:30.
- Have been working on updating safety policies for children and youth. Recently attended a webinar and incorporating what she learned into those policies.
- Working through two online courses. One on anti-racism training which is required for Mid-America Clergy. The other is on building congregational community safety.
- Hannah has registered to attend our General Assembly in July in Memphis. We are allowed three voting representatives in addition to ordained clergy

Unfinished Business

Policy/Procedure Manual Update

- The team is making their way through the policies.
- The team is trying to determine the best way to present these updates to the board for approval.
- Have updated the Bylaws and the Constitution.
- The Human Resources part has already been updated.
- Adriene is working on updates to the wedding and church use procedures.
- At the next meeting the team will work on conflict of interest, harassment, inclement weather, church membership, congregational delegates, location of critical documents and records retention.
- Have a recommendation for a new layout for the final manual.
- John is seeking information from other churches who have a policy regarding retention of security camera footage and who has access to that footage.

Bethany Fellows Request

- Meeting scheduled for March 31.
- Bethany Fellows is a group that supports our ministers.

New Business

Move the April Board meeting from April 21 to April 14

- April 21 is the day after Easter and both Hannah and Natalie would normally have that day off.
- Motion made by Joyce Mast, seconded by Marty Albrecht. Motion passed.

The board meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm.

Submitted by John Cunning

Sunday, May 4 - 3RD SUNDAY OF EASTER

- 9:30AM JYF Sunday School / Worship & Wonder
- 9:30AM Fellowship Time
- 10:30AM Worship
- 11:30AM Shepherds Meeting

Monday, May 5

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

Tuesday, May 6

- 10:00AM Grief Support Group

Wednesday, May 7

- 6:15PM Chimes rehearsal
- 7:00PM Choir rehearsal

Sunday, May 11 - 4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

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

Monday, May 12

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

Wednesday, May 14

- 6:15PM Chimes rehearsal
- 7:00PM Choir rehearsal

Sunday, May 18 - 5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

- 9:30AM JYF Sunday School / Worship & Wonder
- 9:30AM Fellowship Hour
- 10:30AM Worship
- 11:30AM Sustainable Living Team

Monday, May 19

- 12:00PM Bible Study (Zoom) / 1:30PM Staff Meeting (Zoom)
- 5:30PM Program Council (Zoom)
- 7:00PM Board Meeting (Zoom)

Tuesday, May 20

- 10:00AM Grief Support Group

Wednesday, May 21

- 6:15PM Chimes rehearsal
- 7:00PM Choir rehearsal

Sunday, May 25 - 6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

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

Monday, May 26 - Memorial Day - Office Closed

Wednesday, May 28

- 6:15PM Chimes rehearsal
- 7:00PM Choir rehearsal

2025 BBQ – OUR 67TH YEAR!

SATURDAY, JUNE 14TH

Serving BBQ Chicken in the drive-thru from 3 – 6 pm

Watch for sign-up sheets!

Listen for phone calls asking for your help!

Plan to work hard selling the tickets that will soon be in your Olivet mailbox!

The 2025 Olivet BBQ will benefit the

OPPORTUNITY CAMPUS

VAC ♦ Loaves & Fishes ♦ Room At the Inn ♦ Turning Point and more...



Your sale of Olivet Christian Church Chicken BBQ tickets will change the way we address homelessness in our county!

For the first time in Boone County history, multiple agencies across Columbia will come together in one place to offer comprehensive services to our homeless neighbors.

SHELTER – approximately 30,174 square feet that will operate 24/7 and provide overnight sleeping accommodations for up to 150 adults, meals for 80 or more, laundry facilities, showers, secure personal property storage, kennel facilities, computer lab and case management resources, and day center resources to adult men and women experiencing chronic and unsheltered homelessness in Boone County.

RESOURCE CENTER – approximately 19,000 square feet that will provide wraparound services, office space for partner agencies, and the Voluntary Action Center offices. A medical clinic providing medical, mental health, dental, and substance abuse services is included in this space.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS – In addition to the 4 entities listed above, Community Partners identified as of March, 2025 include: Burrell Mental Health, Central Missouri Community Action, Central Missouri Humane Society, Clarity Healthcare, Columbia Center for Urban Agriculture, Compass Health Network, Job Point and Truman Veterans Administration Homeless Programs.

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 - 4:30PM
Monday through Thursday.

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