



Olivet United Methodist Church Tidings Newsletter

A Publication for Members & Friends of Olivet UMC in Coatesville, PA

Winter 2019

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Welcome to the New Tidings!

In 2019 we are re-launching Tidings, Olivet UMC's official newsletter. The focus of Tidings is going to correspond to the Seasons within in our Church Calendar. .

Sn 2015, Christian Contemporary band "7eventh Time Down" released a song titled "God Is On The Move." This song captures the truth that God is moving and working in our midst -- that God is working in our lives. The lyrics of this song remind me of the words Isaiah wrote to the people of Israel who were living under the reign of a Babylonian emperor in a foreign land:

"I the Lord, I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert" (*Isaiah 43:19*).

The question God asks is intriguing: "Do you not perceive it?" God challenges us to slow down to see God's handiwork in our lives. Many times, we take God's providence for granted. We do not take time to recognize that God has brought something new into our lives.

Are you aware of God's movements in your life? Are you witnessing the work of God creating new things in your life? Have you witnessed God's providence, a door that opened when you thought all hope was lost? God's promise to us is that our Savior is about to do something new in our lives. God is making a way where there seems to be no way. God provides water in the desert.

In this Tidings edition, you will read God Moments witnessed by our church family. May these stories of your community experiencing God encourage you to tune in to what God is doing in your life. I am certain that God is doing something new and providing for you during this season.

Blessings, Pastor Johnson

Who's Who in the Pew

Do you know the person sitting next to you in church? Starting in the next Tidings we will have a column in every issue called "Who's Who in the Pew". We are looking for volunteers who would be willing to share and hope eventually most of our congregation will be featured in an issue of Tidings. We want to make our church community stronger by building friendships and in order to do that we need to "know" each other -- we need a relationship. It's been said that we are all related -- "just 6 degrees of separation". As we become more acquainted with each other we will find those "6 degree" bonds and can more fully share each other's joys and sorrows. Check your weekly bulletin or contact the church office for more information.



One Memorial Day Sunday, I was driving on Kings Highway on my way to church. After a recent string of cloudy and rainy days, it was refreshing to see patches of vivid blue sky and bright sun visible through the majestic trees.

Yes — a blessing from God.

As I continued on my way, I noticed yard after yard with displays of the American flag — a large flag on a pole, a group of small flags encircling a lamppost, a beautifully landscaped garden lined with flags — homeowners demonstrating respect for our brave military, their love for our country, and the freedom we are fortunate to enjoy.

Yes — another blessing from God.

I felt invigorated, inspired, and blessed. I heard on my car radio (a Christian station) a moving rendition of “Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing.” It’s beautiful harmonies and profound words made me emotional. Then it all came full circle.

Come, Thou fount of every blessing,
Tune my heart to sing Thy grace,
Streams of mercy, never ceasing,
Call for songs of loudest praise.
While the hope of endless glory
Fills my heart with joy and love,
Teach me ever to adore Thee,
May I still Thy goodness prove.

We are beyond blessed to have a caring, loving God who is constantly at work in our lives. It’s easy to let life pass us by without acknowledging the blessings that God gives to us, but if we take the time to actively look for God in the world, we will witness God’s love and grace. God loves us more in a Moment than anyone could in a lifetime.

Kristina Stuber



My moment happened quite a number of years ago. I was told by my doctor that I needed open-heart surgery to replace my aortic valve. The surgeon told me that the space where the new valve had to fit was

very small and he hoped that the new valve would fit without too much of a problem because, if it didn’t, it could cause a fatal condition to occur.

This was very scary to me and all of my family. I prayed for strength and trust. The night before I was to enter the hospital, as I fell asleep, a dream came to me very clearly.

I was seeing myself in the OR with the doctors and nurses around me. I could see a figure standing before the surgeon. I heard a quiet voice saying to me, “You don’t need to worry. The surgeon will have no trouble fitting the new valve in the area it needs to fit.”

I knew the voice was that of Jesus.

My surgery the next day was completed with no problems at all. I never told the surgeon about my dream, but I asked him if he had any trouble fitting the new valve in the space. He said that it seemed to stretch so that the valve fit perfectly.

It’s now been 17 years since my surgery and my God Moment in a dream has not been forgotten.

Nancy Althouse

Have You Considered a Legacy Gift to Olivet?

You can designate a gift in three ways, as an “**Outright Gift**”, a “**Residuary Gift**”, or a “**Contingent Gift**”.

NOTE: Loved ones or charities can benefit from any of these gifts and estate taxes may be reduced.

Contact the Pastor or the church office for more information.

Over fifty years ago, I toured Central America with the Eastern Baptist College Choir. This happened in 1965, but the memory is still powerful.

As my college choir got off the plane in San Salvador, we were warned not to give food or money to the begging children. We saw lots of children with outstretched hands. It was hard not to give them something, but we resisted.

We rode a bus to a small village. We were hot, tired, and hungry from a long day of sight-seeing. As we got off the bus, children approached us selling things that they had carved. We walked right past them into a small village restaurant. After all, we were tired, and the carvings didn't look that good to us anyway.

Instructions were given to us: "You may be served a salad and some raw vegetables with your meal. Do not eat them. They probably have been washed with water that would not be healthy for you."

We ate our meals leaving the raw vegetables. A question arose among us: Should we throw away our leftovers or give them to the children? We looked into the eyes of the children pressing at the gate and couldn't resist. One by one, we gave our plates of vegetables to the children. To our surprise the children did not immediately gobble them up. Each went and shared with the others. They returned the plates and offered each of us a woodcarving.

I learned a lesson that day. As I saw the children share the little they had and again as a child offered me a gift of a woodcarving he had made, I learned what love really is. In a sense, we are all starving children. God's love fills us so that we can share it with others.

Bob Crane



My God Moment is about my nephew Danny. He had seizures as a young boy and had some learning problems. He loved to ride his bike to Hibernia Park and into Coatesville.

One Tuesday, when he was about 12, he rode his bike but didn't tell his parents where he was going. They looked for him and finally called my mother and father and the police. Since he had health and learning problems, the police came right away.

I mentioned that it was Tuesday because I was at the Church helping at the "Eat Aloners" Supper. My parents went to Hibernia Park to see if they could find him. There was no sign of him, so they come to Church to see if I had seen him as he liked to ride into town. I hadn't but went to look outside. It was raining hard and we were afraid something had happened to him. My mother prayed to God to keep him safe.

As the rain stopped, my mother looked up to see a rainbow in the sky. The end seemed to be over Hibernia Park. She told my dad to go back to Hibernia Park to see if Danny was there. As they drove into Hibernia, the rainbow was brighter than they had ever seen. The end that they could see was by the fish pond. They drove to the fish pond and there was Danny talking to a fisherman.

I believe that God answered our prayers that day. When I see the beauty of the rainbow, I recall that day and thank God for all that he has done for our family.

Donna Pluck

Important Dates

2/19	Finance Committee Mtg @ 7 PM
2/26	Church Admin Council @ 7 PM
3/6	Ash Wednesday Service @ 7 PM
3/10	Day Light Saving Time Begins!
4/14	Palm Sunday
4/18	Maundy Thursday Service @ 7 PM
4/21	Easter Sunday



Some years ago, my husband and I vacationed in the Outer Banks, NC. We went swimming and, for some reason, I swam out to sea without realizing how far from shore I was getting. I looked back and realized that I was all alone. I could barely see the shore. I panicked.

I was caught in the rip tide but because I was from Missouri and didn't know the correct thing to do I instinctively tried swimming harder back to shore. If you know anything about rip tides, that is exactly what you DON'T want to do. You just wear yourself out and might possibly drown.

I was swimming hard. I saw my husband but knew he couldn't come out to get me without getting caught himself. In a moment of clarity, I thought, *I'm going to die. I cannot swim back to shore and I cannot survive in the ocean.* Then, I yelled out loud, "Jesus save me!"

Now this is the part where I say, "God saved me, and it was amazing because I knew for sure he was real." What actually happened was that after I yelled, I stopped swimming. I gave up trying to save myself and trusted that no matter whether I lived or died, I could trust God to sort it out. I had this overwhelming feeling of peace, this feeling that no matter what happened, God is sovereign, and nothing is outside his power.

I'm not exactly sure how I got back to shore but eventually I was on the shore and a lifeguard came up to warn me about rip tides. (*Thanks, pal.*) I still don't really like water, or boats, or swimming, but I remember that God, for some reason, decided to keep me on Earth at least a little longer and I am thankful.

Jen Woltman