



Olivet United Methodist Church Tidings Newsletter

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

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Greetings from the Pastor



What a joy to join the Olivet family! Thank you for your warm welcome!

All of Olivet's members are loving and caring. As always, God has been with my ministry. I truly experience God's presence in each moment while I am serving Olivet

UMC. I am grateful to all members who are very supportive and helpful for my ministerial works and I am grateful to God to be here.

My first three months of ministry at Olivet UMC have been a time of learning about our church and our church family. By focusing on the history of our church, the spiritual lives of each member, and the function of the church, I have tried to find out what Olivet UMC needs most in terms of ministry and service.

Jim Collins, in his best-selling book, *Good to Great*, writes, "Good is the enemy of great. And that is one of the key reasons why we have so little that becomes great. We don't have great schools, principally because we have good schools. We don't have great government, principally because we have good government. Few people attain great lives, in large part because it is just so easy to settle for a good life."

Matthew 14:22-33 tells the story of Jesus and Peter walking on water. Peter did not need to venture upon the stormy waters. He could have stayed in the safety of the boat sure in the knowledge that the Lord was coming to him on the water. Instead, Peter took a chance. He asked the Lord for the power to meet him in the middle of the sea. Peter stepped out of the boat.

Followers of Jesus Christ must grow and develop. We cannot be content with being good — we must move forward to great. We must step out of the boat.

Olivet's potential for ministry is great. Growth (from good to great) presents challenges to the way we do ministry. To answer God's call to grow, we will need to work through praising, prayer, worship, evangelism, missions, encouragement, fellowship, Bible study, preaching, teaching, budgeting, and Christian stewardship matters. God wants every believer to be a minister, not a spectator. God is looking for servants, not superstars; contributors, not consumers. God empowers us. We can move forward in His anointing power to build a healthy and great church that more accurately reflects the vision of the church that Jesus gave us.

We exist to honor God, to serve one another, and to do great things together as the Kingdom of God. Our church should be the reunion of the family of God, a celebration of what God has done in our lives, a place where people love each other, and an opportunity to learn from God's Word. Each member of Olivet possesses gifts given by God. I encourage all members of Olivet UMC to utilize their spiritual gifts and God-given talents in ministry and service so that Olivet UMC will grow spiritually and in number.

May we continue to be faithful to our calling as disciples of Jesus Christ and may the Lord bless us. Now is the time for us to step into the future. Faith in God's miraculous movement is within us and among us. We claim God's promise that ordinary people can do extraordinary things!

Pastor Lee



Who's Who in the Pew



The Walker Family

By the time you are reading this, Joe and Christi Walker will have celebrated their first wedding anniversary on September 8th. The picture is from their wedding day with her son TJ and their daughter Emma.

The Walkers have been coming to Olivet since 2012. They were looking for churches and Joe suggested that they try Olivet since he had been in nursery and Sunday School here. His parents Ruth and Dennis Walker and his Grandmother Mildred Sisk were members of Olivet. So, they gave us a try. They said Pastor Davis felt like family from the first Sunday and they became members.

Joe and Christi meet through friends 11 years ago and have been together for 10 years. They were married September 8, 2018 by Pastor Johnson.

Joe drives a concrete pump. They have a very busy home life and have dealt with many medical problems. Joe had a medical scare 2 years ago but is doing well now. Since childhood Christi has had brittle Type 1 diabetes. Their daughter Emma is autistic.

TJ is 17 and a senior at Henderson High School. He is active in Boy Scouts and to earn one of his badges has been helping the Kitchen Committee by cleaning the kitchen floor. His youth and strength are much appreciated.

Emma age 9 receives care from many specialists and

therapist at school and at home to help her deal with autism. She is a remarkable young lady. You may have seen her caring for her baby doll. I know I thought one Sunday from a distance it was a real baby she was holding. Emma really enjoys Sunday School and has attended faithfully since it started during the church service.

They are gardeners and when I interviewed them for this article, they had an overabundance of basil. They had a fantastic time this summer at Family Camp at Pocono Plateau and plan to go next year!

Important Dates

- 10/16 UMW Boscov's "Friends Helping Friends" Day! Get your pass and support missions. See Becky Givler or Eileen White.
- 10/25 Lay Leader Breakfast @ DD Diner, 9am
- 10/27 2nd Annual Trunk or Treat! Join us after our service in the church parking lot.
- 11/2 Olivet Charge Conference @ Wayne UMC, 9 am
- 11/3 All Saints Sunday
- 11/5 Election Day! (Garden Rm in use all day)
- 11/28 -29 Thanksgiving! Church office closed
- 12/24 Christmas Eve Services:
7 pm - Family & Candlelight Service
11 PM - Holy Night Service w/communion



Please join us for our second annual Trunk-or-Treat at Olivet United Methodist Church on October 27th, beginning right after worship around 11:30 am. The event will take place in the lower parking lot by the Garden Room doors. Trunk-or-Treat is a safe place for children to celebrate Halloween with their friends and family, and a popular outreach into our local community (last year, we welcomed more than sixty guests!). The program consists of families walking through the parking lot, saying "Trunk-or-Treat" at each vehicle in order to receive candy or trinkets. Also, there is an art station, back-yard games, and refreshments. Each car will have its trunk open and decorated

with a theme of the owner's choice. The art station will have a Halloween craft and a sand art activity. We will have plenty of balls, bubbles, and sidewalk chalk for the children to enjoy at their leisure. Volunteers from Olivet will help to supply snacks and refreshments. Children and families are encouraged to arrive at the event dressed in their Halloween costumes. We will have three costume contests: funniest costume, best superhero, and most creative costume. Please attend, and invite your friends and neighbors that we do not often see at Olivet UMC. We hope for a great time of fellowship, fun, and making new friends.



In memory of the deceased members of Olivet United Methodist Church during the past year (November to November), Olivet will be producing a memorial video tribute to be used during our All Saints' Day service on Sunday, November 3, 2019.

Families are to provide us with two photographs, one from earlier years and one more recent. EACH PHOTO SHOULD BE LABELED ON THE REVERSE – include for each deceased – full name, month, day, year of birth and death. All photos will be returned.

We will need these **photographs by Friday, October 25th**. When you have them ready, you can drop them off in the church office. If you have digital copies of your photos, please email them to office@olivetumc.org. Thank you.

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.



by Michele Esworthy

The prayer shawl ministry started as a grass-roots movement which turned into an international ministry. The idea is to provide an individual in need with a gift of God's love in a tangible form. The artisans who make the shawls and blankets pray for the recipient as they work on the item.

Renee Lewis brought the Prayer Shawl Ministry to Olivet about 14 years ago. The group hand-crochets or hand-knits shawls or lap blankets. These are given to any of God's children celebrating a joy in their life - a birth of a baby, graduation, wedding, or to those facing a physical, spiritual, or mental difficulty in their lives - disease, surgery, loss of loved one, loss of home, loss of job, etc. We pray that the recipient will find peace, comfort, and encouragement while using the shawl or blanket and feel God's presence as they wrap themselves in the shawl or blanket.

Eileen White introduced the prayer squares (small crocheted or knitted rectangles) to the ministry. These also serve as a tangible reminder of God's loving presence with us no matter our circumstance. Prayer squares are a great alternative when the shawl or blanket is too cumbersome to take with the individual.

Anyone may take an item from the display to present to a loved one. Receipts are recorded in a book with the name of the recipient and date. Tags can be attached to the item if the giver would like to include one. Olivet has presented hundreds of prayer shawls, blankets, and squares including to families during the ASP Mission trips and to students attending VBS. The ministry has received many lovely notes stating the item was such a blessing to them during their time of need or in celebrating one of life's many joys.

Thanks to our many volunteers who have worked diligently for the Prayer Shawl Ministry: Michele Esworthy, Jean Hanna, Renee Lewis, Becky Givler, Eileen White, Lisa Crane, Marge Brown, Dot McGinnis (Michele's mother), and Marsha McGinnis (Michele's sister). We have had several anonymous donations as well.



On December 22th, the children of Olivet United Methodist Church will be celebrating the birth of Jesus! We will meet for our usual Children's Church hour (10 am) and then parents will join us after the service. We will be decorating cookies, making a craft, and enjoying a time of celebration. All families are welcomed to attend this party.

If you would like a New Church Photo Directory please contact the church office. We are only going to take requests and print them as needed. They can be picked up after church service or it can be mailed upon request. Please consider a free will offering to help offset preparation costs (ie: Booklet Cover, color ink, paper, etc.). Thank you!

