



Olivet United Methodist Church Tidings Newsletter

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

Spring 2019

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"What is the chief end of man?"

This is the first question asked by the Westminster catechism, that was used to train young Christians the Biblical mandates of the church. In essence, we are asking ourselves what is the goal of Christian life? Why do we exist in this world? I believe the gospels address our chief end. Jesus responds to an Old Testament scholar saying:

"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself." (Luke 10:27)

This concept of loving God and neighbor sounds extremely simple and yet it takes a life of long commitment to conquer it. During this season of Lent, challenge yourself to set up two goals: 1) Become more intentional in loving God. The Christian journey is always calling us to change and become more like Christ every day. We cannot ever stop loving God. What areas in your life can you do a little better? 2) Become more intentional in loving your neighbor. We are called to love in order to fully embody the Christian life.

Here are a few ways you can consider to be intentional in loving God and your neighbor: Take part in a Bible Study; read a Lenten devotion every day; fast; pray; serve in our Wednesday lunch; read to kids through Coatesville Kids to College; and speak kind and loving words to those people who drive you nuts.

Blessings, Pastor Johnson

Lenten Days

Lent (Luke 14:1-13): A forty-day period for repentance, fasting, and prayer to prepare for Easter. *Lent* is derived from Latin for "spring season."

Shrove Tuesday (Joel 2:12-14): Preparing for Lent. *Shrove* means "to absolve." Christians consume excess foods before fasting.

Ash Wednesday (Is 58:1-12): Lent, a period of forty days of reflection and repentance, begins. Ashes signify repentance and death. Christians may fast or abstain.

Palm/Passion Sunday (Mt 21:1-11): Jesus triumphal entry into Jerusalem. Crowds waved palm branches and shout "Hosanna!" Christians bless palms and process. The "Passion" may be read from all four Gospels.

Holy Monday (John 12:12-190): Anointing of Jesus at Bethany/Cursing of the fig tree/Cleansing of the temple. Christians read the Gospels of Matthew and Mark (first half).

Holy Tuesday (John 12:20-36/13:21-38): Jesus predicts his death. Christians read The Gospels of Mark (second half) and Luke.

Spy Wednesday (Luke 22): Jesus is betrayed by Judas. *Spy* means to ambush or snare. The altar is stripped in the *Tenebrae* (darkness or shadows) service.

Maundy (Holy) Thursday (Mt 26:17-30): The Last Supper: Foot washing and First Communion. *Maundy* refers to the new commandment Jesus gave his disciples to love one another (John 13:34).

Good (Holy) Friday (John 18 and 19): Crucifixion and Death of Jesus. Christians remember the passion and death of Christ in services that end in silence. Many fast.

Holy (Black) Saturday (Mt 27:57-60:) Jesus body lies in the tomb. Due to the Sabbath, Jesus body could not be prepared for burial. Christians fast and pray.

Easter (Paschal) Sunday/Resurrection (John 20): The foundation of the Christian faith. The Easter season ends at Pentecost. Christians celebrate the risen Christ.

Who's Who in the Pew

Donna Ramsay



Donna is smart, funny, strong, mother, sister, aunt, friend and a woman of great faith. She is always ready with a smile and a hug.

Donna was born at Shamokin Hospital to Mae and Joe Fabrizio. When she was in third grade, her father moved the family from Centralia to Coatesville to work at Lukens Steel. She attended Coatesville schools and she started going to Sunday School at Olivet with school friends. She was active in the youth group. After high school she worked for Washington National Insurance and White Advertising and then in the test lab at Lukens until she had children.

She met the love of her life, Steve Ramsay, on a blind date. Two years later on May 22, 1971 they were married at Olivet Church. The family has been active faithful members of Olivet. Steve and Donna shared over 46 years of marriage. Unfortunately, Steve passed away from a heart attack in January 2018.

Donna and Steve were wonderful parents to their two daughters Stacey and Paula. Donna was on several bowling teams (her high game was 256) and she really loves to dance.

After the girls were older, Donna went back to work as a secretary for the Child Development Center. She worked there for 27-1/2 years, retiring in 2012.

She may have left Centralia at an early age, but her heart stayed upstate and the family enjoyed their camping trailer parked at J&D Campgrounds

in Catawissa (near Knoebels) for over 44 years. She still spends summer weekends at the trailer.

Donna loves having friends and family around - whether at home, an impromptu picnic/campfire at the camper, or giving parties. (And from experience, I can verify that nobody ever leaves hungry!)

When I asked her about a bucket list, she said she doesn't really have one - she is content with what she has. Amen - what a way to live your faith, Donna!

A Hymn a Day Lenten Devotions



From March 6 to April, Olivet is offering Lenten Devotions based on the hymns of Lent and Easter. These two-minute devotions, a verse from the hymn, a short commentary, scripture, practical application, and a prayer, will be **posted on our website or can**

be sent in a daily email. Hard copies can be picked up in our Church Office. Hymn tunes can be found at hymnary.org or on YouTube. Please send a request to the office if you would like to join us. Thank you!

Important Dates

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
5/5	Easter Cantata

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.

Who's Who in the Pew

Tom and Jean Hanna



Jean is a native of Bloomsburg, PA and attended nursing school in Harrisburg, PA. She then decided to get her BS degree at Temple University in Philadelphia.

Tom was born in Oxford, and grew up in Coatesville playing baseball. He graduated from Coatesville Scott High School and worked 4 years at Lukens Steel. He then decided to get his Business Administration degree at Temple University in Philadelphia.

Do you see it -- 2 lives intersecting at Temple? Yes, it really happened -- Tom was a patient at the infirmary when Jean was on duty...and the rest is history (a 54-year married history)! I didn't get all the details since Tom says, "Never let the truth get in the way of a good story."

Those 54 years includes raising a son and daughter, moving to Chicago, Pittsburgh and back to Coatesville, joining Olivet Church, being grandparents to 5 grandchildren, working, retiring, and traveling.

They both describe a special fabulous decade when Tom worked for Lukens in Pittsburgh. They belonged to a wonderful Presbyterian Church where Tom was baptized at 30 (same age as Jesus) and participated in a Bible study group which provided much grounded, astute Bible teaching and the best, true, strong, solid Christian fellowship group. (Listening to them talk about this group, it sounds like a story-book and made me a little jealous.)

In 1980, Tom and Jean moved back to Coatesville with their 2 teenagers Dave and Sherry. They actively started looking for a church to replace their Presbyterian Church and finally decided to join Olivet where Tom's parents were members.

After Tom sang at his daughter Sherry's wedding, he said his only singing offer was that Rev. George Mamourian asked him to join the Olivet church choir.

Tom retired after 49 years with Lukens and Jean retired after teaching nursing at Jefferson, nursing part-time for 19 years at Brandywine Hospital, working in Dr. Lyness's office and in Dr. Collins's office.

Now, Tom sings in the choir, attends Friday men's lunch, teaches Lenten study, and helps maintain the church grounds. Last summer, he showed me the longest dandelion root, I have ever seen, that he dug from around the church parking lot. He loves music, sings, and plays the organ (used to play electric and Hawaiian guitar) and attempts to compose songs.

Jean enjoys her book club, volunteering in the surgical waiting room at Brandywine Hospital and going to the Y and is part of United Methodist Women.

They both enjoy hiking while staying at their travel trailer on a forested property north of Bloomsburg.

Tom and Jean laugh a lot, love their family and love the Lord.

Tom's final words to this interviewer were, "Let's praise the Lord!"



God's Amazing Grace!

Since I was twelve years old I have struggled with my grief after my beloved aunt passed away. I continued to go through stages of grief for over three decades. Some days I was angry and most days I was depressed. I never asked for help; I didn't know how. I did pray and talk to God about it but found no acceptance.

A few years ago, my friend invited me to a Joyce Myer conference. Joyce preached that we could ask God for specific signs for answers to our questions. One day while I was visiting my aunts grave, I remembered Joyce's words and I decided to give her advice a try.

My aunt loved Johnny Jump Ups and I remember a happy time planting them with her. I asked God that if there were Johnny Jump Ups at my aunt's grave the next week, then I would know that she was okay. All week I thought how silly my request for proof was and knew there was no possible way anything would happen.

The next week, feeling very anxious and a little hopeful, I walked to her grave. There were no flowers. I told myself that this didn't mean that my aunt wasn't okay but that I knew realistically my request for proof was just whimsical.

I decided to walk the short distance behind her grave to my grandfather's grave. And there, from her grave to my grandfather's grave, were thousands of wild purple violets! JOHNNY JUMP UPS EVERYWHERE!! I was filled with joy, tears falling, smiling and thanking God! He had answered my request with visible proof that my aunt was okay!

I have since accepted her death and have happy and loving thoughts of her every day. God is amazing and supernatural!!! I am full of His loving Spirit! God is good!!

Melynn Smith

