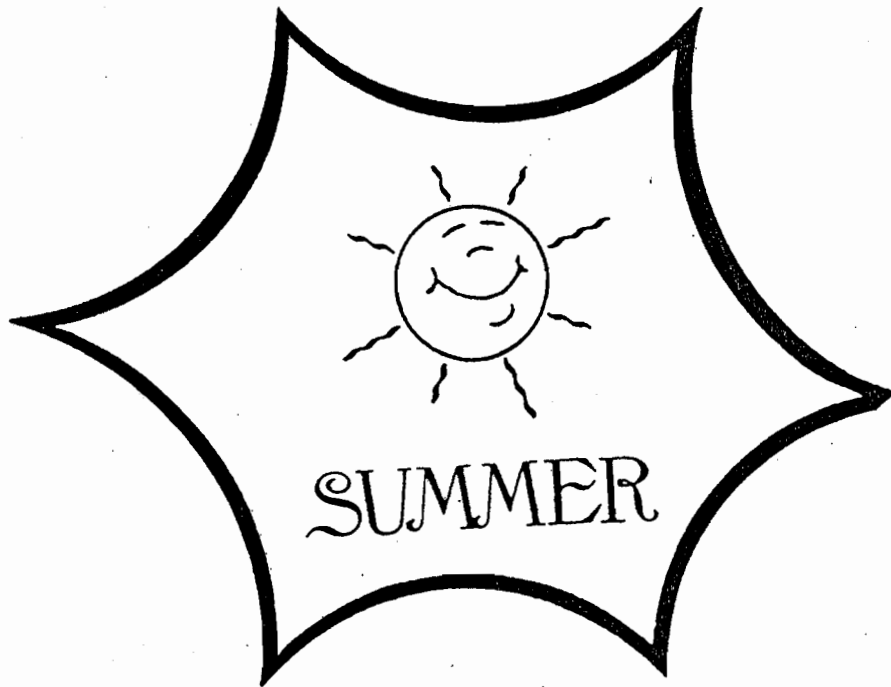


OLIVET CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

NEWSLETTER
2011



Jack Brown
Pastor

*The Spirit calls us to covenant
All work is ministry ~ All ministry is worship*



STEWARDSHIP ... *"Give First to God"*

We've seen the news coverage of the storms, the natural disasters of all sorts around the world and the devastation that is left. One can easily see the storm path. We gawk and stare at the mind numbing devastation, hardly able to comprehend it. Yet every person who is interviewed says the same thing. "We are safe. It's just things. Things can be replaced." Eventually the shock wears off. Cleanup and rebuilding will start. Some will be visible right away, but much will take months, even years to show through.

Our inner lives, our spiritual path can be visible just as cleanup and rebuilding is easily seen. Or it can be hidden for many years. Eventually our growth and rebuilding will show through. We can be knocked flat as a straight line wind simply lays a tree down. We get back up in the same spot and continue our journey. Or we may be spun around and thrown miles away, just as a tornado carries debris eventually to be dropped somewhere else.

Whether you have been knocked flat or tossed and turned upside down, God has never let go of you. He never lost his grip on you. He is as close as a simple prayer. Thank you for protection. Thank you for food to eat. Thank you for support. Thank you for the prayers of others.

We can't physically change someone's life. Only the individual can do that, but we can pray for them. The mental and spiritual bombardment of the storms is harder to overcome because it is unseen. Never give up praying for God's will. You don't need to pray aloud on the street corners. You don't need to pray for a lengthy period trying to cover all items and using theological phrases or words. A few simple words will do. "Thank you Father for being with me." "Thank you Lord for showing me your will." "Open my heart to your guidance." Whatever you do, don't stop praying and listening and looking for God in your



life. Through the storms and through the sunny days, God is everywhere.

You will keep in perfect peace
all who trust in you,
all whose thoughts are fixed on you! *(Isaiah 26:3 NLT)*

Marie Steele, Treasurer

=====



SUMMER YOUTH CHURCH CAMP

THANKS to the generosity of our church family six children are able to attend church camp this summer. A special offering was received on Easter Sunday which made possible ½ of the cost of camp for each camper. What better gift to give a child than to spend a week in a very positive, fun Christian atmosphere. This is a wonderful Christian experience for our children and you have contributed to it. **Thank you!**

Women's Fellowship.....POTLUCK

When: Thursday, June 16th
Time: 12:30 p.m. @ the church



Everyone is invited to join us!

Please bring a dish to pass. Table service and beverages provided.

SUMMER INTERNSHIP.....

Lisa Bolton-Hunt met with our church council at their May meeting to request doing her internship at the Olivet Congregational Church to complete requirements for her degree from Western Theological Seminary in Holland, Michigan. As stated in Pastor Jack's letter to the congregation she was unanimously voted by the council to serve her internship with us. Below is a brief summary of her resume (complete resume is available in the church office).

Personal

- Married 32 years to husband, Rob and resides in East Lansing
- Has two grown children

Degrees from Michigan State University

- B.S. in Psychology
- B.A. in Speech
- M.A. in Language Pathology

Work Area

- 30 years experience as Speech pathologist
- Licensed Minister presently serving as Assistant Minister at Plymouth Congregational Church in Lansing.
- Served as on-call Chaplain at Sparrow Health System
- Previously manager of Pediatric Rehabilitation Department at Sparrow
- Has worked with Habitat for Humanity
- Has taught 9 week Adult Education class
- Served 2 terms on Board of Deacons/Chair & Vice-Chair
- Served term on Board of Religious Education
- Served on Church Council
- Chair of Lay Ministry Committee for 5 years
- Taught Sunday School ~ all grade levels for 9 years

Welcome Lisa



VBS.....June 28th thru July 1st Age 4-12

Theme: PANDAMANIA.....hopefully the **Binder Park Zoo Mobile** will be at VBS on the first day when we do the Creation Story.

We will again join with Lee Center Methodist Church for Vacation Bible School. Teen helpers are appreciated and needed!!!

(Please contact Mary Barkley if you can help: 749-9417).

Pastor Jack will be on the Mexico Mission trip during this time but LISA BOLTON-HUNT will participate each day at VBS.

Transportation will be available from our church to Lee Center Church (please be at the church at 8:45). **VBS Time: Tue.-Thur. 9am-**

11:30am Friday is at 10am with a program for parents and then a picnic for everyone. Information on this will be given during the week at VBS. **This is a fun week ~ don't miss it!!!!**



Summer youth activities:

Alaina and Maria Beam will be planning various activities for all age youth during the summer. These activities will be announced at church.

Some fun "ideas" include: miniature golf.....bonfire/hotdog roasts.....pool party.....& more!!! Some activities will be held at the Beam's home. **DON'T MISS THESE FUN TIMES!!!**



Let's all pull together...

FUNDRAISING

We need to continue to fund raise for general operating of our church finances and for the restoration work that is needed on our church roof and exterior stone work.

A few ideas were brought to the committee which will be done this summer and fall. We continue to need ideas so if you have something in mind please see Rich Mattea or contact Sharon in the church office. THANKS to Rich Mattea for his continued help with our fundraisers.

RETURNABLE BOTTLES & CANS

We will continue to collect bottles & cans in the box in the downstairs dining room. Proceeds will go to the Restoration Fund (repair of the church exterior and roof). Bring your clean, empty bottles & cans to the church.

\$197.50 (money earned on bottle/can returns)

MIS FUNDRAISER..... We will again this year park cars (not physically parking the cars but directing into parking areas) at Michigan International Speedway. You can either stay for the race (**entrance in will be free for working**) or you may come back to Olivet after parking ~ we should be done around noon.

We earn \$1,200 for each day of parking. We need 35 people to participate. Our two dates are:

Sunday, June 19th (call the church office if you can help on this date: 749-2631)

Sunday, August 21st

Your help is needed!

A sign-up sheet is on the board in the dining room.

FIREMAN'S FESTIVAL: July 30th

Several fundraising activities are planned for this day...Maria Beam and Frank Palacio will chair the annual BREAKFAST & LUNCH at the church.



Kathy Judd will chair a YARD SALE to be held at the church. If you have good condition items (no clothes please) that you would like to donate to the church please put them aside for our yard sale.

We will send more information at a later date. Drop off items will be on Friday night (July 29th). Watch for details!!!!

"GREENING OLIVET" at the Firemen's Fest.....

Last year, in order to provide more activities for kids at the Firemen's Festival, a few community members organized some crafts, games, and informational booths with an environmental theme. All of our activities were free and they were a big hit with families spending the day at the festival. This year we are hoping to add some more activities including some musical performances.

Thanks to the Church Council for giving us permission to host these performances on the front lawn of the church (or in the sanctuary if it rains). We hope to have a show before and after the 1:00 PM parade. Of course we will encourage the concert attendees to stop by the yard sale and lunch at the church!

If anyone is interested in helping with the "Greening Olivet" activities (before or after your shift in the church kitchen!!) please contact Kirsten Almo at 749-9917 or almokirsten@gmail.com

BITS & PIECES

SUMMER BIBLE STUDY.....

Pamela Brown is hosting a Bible study for all women, on Women of the Bible. It is held at the parsonage, 119 E. Green Street every Wednesday evening from 6:30-8:00. Please join anytime. If you can't attend every week please come when you can.....YOU are welcome!!

=====

MISSION TRIP....

Pastor Jack will be away June 19th-July 2nd on the Mazahua Mission Trip. If you or anyone you know needs pastoral care during this time please contact:

Deacon chair, GREG MORRISON 517-213-3799
Church office: 269-749-2631

=====

FLOWERS.....

Our church grounds are once again beautiful with flowers planted and cared for by Marie Steele. She spends countless hours, planting, weeding, watering and caring for flowers, shrubs, etc. around the church. *Thank you!*



NEW MEMBERS

Five new members joined the church on April 17th, making their commitment to be a part of our church family. Shawna Morton joined following several months of confirmation studies with Pastor Jack.

Welcome....



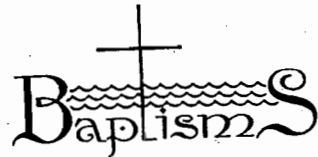
**Shawna Morton
Nick & Jackie Van De Moortel
Pam VanDorpe**

We look forward to the continued participation already demonstrated by these new members. They are an important part of our "family" and we welcome them and will encourage them in their Christian journey.

BAPTISM....

On Sunday, April 17th the sacrament of baptism was administrated to:

**Shawna Morton
&
Nick Van De Moortel**





Save the Date.....**FOOD GARDEN TOUR**

At the same time that demands on our food pantry continue to grow, the interest in home vegetable gardening and food preservation is growing. In order to help with both of these food related issues, several members of our congregation are organizing a "Food Garden Tour." In the spirit of other home tours and garden tours, this tour will visit at least 6 home gardens that focus on food.

This benefit for the Olivet Good Neighbor Food Pantry is scheduled to take place on **Saturday, August 27th**.

Several members of our congregation have agreed to be part of the tour. There will be plenty of ways to help if you'd like to get involved. Tickets will go on sale in July.

If members of our congregation are interested in hosting a "Taste of Olivet" luncheon on the day of the garden tour, this could be a great opportunity for a fundraiser for our church.

To volunteer or for more information please contact Kirsten Almo at 749-9917 or almokirsten@gmail.com

BIRTHS.....

CONGRATULATIONS!

to Jason and Kellie Beam on the birth of their son,
MASON FISHER on April 2nd 7lb 20oz
Grandparents are Jack and Maria Beam

to Gabe and Lacey Beam on the birth of their
daughter, **HADLEY VALDEAN** on April 6th5lb 12oz
Grandparents are Jack and Maria Beam

to Jeff and Angie Palacio on the birth of their
daughter, **MACKENZIE MARIE** on April 19th 5lb 8oz.
Grandparents are Frank and Sharon Palacio

to Evan Judd and Mary Pezzoni on the birth of their
son, **KELLEN EVAN** on May 23rd 7lb 11 oz.
Grandparents are Mike and Kathy Judd
Great- Grandparents are Dan and Bonnie Judd



OLIVET CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

NACCC/UCC

125 College Street

P.O. Box 368

Olivet, MI 49076

Office Phone (269)749-2631

Fax: (269)749-9028

email: olivetcongregational@olivetcollege.edu

www.olivetcongregational.com

SUMMER SUNDAY SCHEDULE:

9:30 a.m. Sunday School for youth & adults

10:30 a.m. Worship Service & Children's Church

Fellowship/Refreshments (after worship)

Church Office Hours: 9 am - 2 pm Tue-Fri

PASTOR:

Rev. Jack Brown

CHURCH STAFF:

Minister of Music

C.N. Director

Nursery

Secretary

Treasurer

Maria Beam

Maria Beam

Magan Rivera

Sharon Palacio

Marie Steele

OFFICERS:

Moderator

Vice-Moderator

Clerk

Greg Morrison

Troy Gardner

Cathy Claunchery