

# Olivet Congregational Church

## Newsletter - 2018



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

### OLIVET CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

125 College Street  
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website: [www.olivetcongregational.org](http://www.olivetcongregational.org)

### SUNDAY SCHEDULE:

9:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School  
(Nursery care available during Sunday School)  
10:30 a.m. Worship & Children's Church  
Fellowship/Refreshments (after worship)

Church Office Hours: 10 am - 2 pm Tue-Fri

### CHURCH STAFF:

Minister of Music	Penny Draper
Nursery Supervisor	JoyAnne Carpenter
Church Administrator	Sharon Palaco
Treasurer	Myrna Pedelty

### OFFICERS:

Moderator	Sharon Powell
Vice-Moderator	Brad Morton
Clerk	Cathy Claucherty

## Pastor Search Committee News.....

The Pastor Search Committee has been meeting almost weekly for several months. We met with Michael Chittum again in the fall to gain his advice regarding attracting more applicants, and it seems to have worked! We've received more applications, reviewed our interview questions, and met with candidates, by phone and in person. We've viewed sermons, had committee discussions about the best interests of our church, and prayed a lot.

Our continual goal is to hire a pastor who will be a good fit for our church, even if our search is taking a long time. We believe this is time well spent in prayer and contemplation as we consider what's important to our church. God is allowing us this time to faithfully rely on Him as He directs us to the person He wants to serve our church next.

Of course you may ask any of us questions about the process, but remember that we must respect the confidentiality of our applicants and candidates, so we ask you to respect our need to keep information quiet. We value the trust you have placed in us and in the Lord as we continue our search.

Billy White, co-chair

Lisa Bolton-Hunt, co-chair

Barb Spencer, recording secretary

Laura Barlund-Maas

Carl Eggleston

Ann Hull

Mike Judd



# GIVE IT ALL TO GOD

*But I trust in you O Lord; I say, "You are my God."  
My times are in your hands. Psalm 31: 14, 15a (NIV)*

In Old Testament times the people were instructed to "give a tithe of everything from the Lord, whether grain from the soil or fruit from the trees, belongs to the Lord." (Lev. 27:30) Stewardship materials always encourage people to tithe or pledge 10% of their income. But in reality, most pledge only ½ - 1% or even less.

In a recent sermon on TV, the Pastor asked if anyone gave 1% of their time to listen for God to speak. That would be about 15 minutes out of your day. Just quietly listen for God to speak to you. Don't plan how you would answer Him or what you want to ask for, but let Him speak to you. Listen for his still, small voice, not for justification or answers or confirmation of your plans. Just 15 minutes. It will seem like a very long time and many will not be able to do it. But you can try again and again. Never give up listening for God to speak to you. He will do so if you listen close enough.

He who answers before listening – that is his folly and his shame.  
*Proverbs 18:13. (NIV)*

As the Apostle Paul prayed for the Ephesian Church, so we can pray for our own congregation.

"I kneel before the Father, from who every family in heaven and on earth derives its name. I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge – that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. *Ephesians 3:14-19 (NIV)*

*Marie Steele  
Stewardship Chair*

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## The 40 days of Lent

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Lent is the name given to the period of preparation for the chief Christian festival, Easter. The word Lent comes from the Anglo-Saxon word *Lenten*, meaning "Spring." Christians have developed various traditions within their respective denominations for the preparation of the great festival season of Easter.

Questions have been raised about the symbolism of this significant season. Why is it 40 days long? Sundays are not counted in the days between Ash Wednesday and Easter. Forty hours were first devoted to this observance in token of the time Jesus spent in the tomb. By the third century, however, this observance had been extended to a 40-day period.

The 40 days have been likened to a number of biblical parallels: Moses' fast on Mount Sinai; the number of years of wandering in the wilderness; Elijah's fast on his journey to Mount Horeb; the 40 days' grace given to Ninevah in Jonah's preaching; and Jesus' fast at the beginning of public ministry.

—Ronald E. Ingram



## Maundy Thursday, March 29<sup>th</sup>

6:30 p.m.--PASSOVER SEDER DINNER  
(church dining room)

Reservations are requested for proper meal planning. Please sign up on the bulletin board in the dining room or call the church office (269-749-2631) by March 25<sup>th</sup>.

Frank Palacio along with volunteer helpers will be preparing the meal. Your help is needed during the day for meal preparation and dining room set-up. Help with clean-up after the meal is appreciated! There is a sign-up sheet for helpers!

*Maundy* is the English form of the Latin word meaning *mandate*. Jesus' new commandment to "love one another even as I have loved you" is the focus of Maundy Thursday and is demonstrated in Holy Communion. **Our Seder Dinner** is an informal, intimate dinner which includes a common meal and communion served at the table. This service is based on the traditional Jewish family service celebrating Passover. It takes place around the tables where the meal is served. Lisa Bolton-Hunt will lead this service.

Families are welcome ~ this is for "all ages."

There is no cost for the meal. A free will offering will be received (not required) to help defray food expense.



GOOD FRIDAY, March 30<sup>th</sup>

7:00 p.m.----"Service of Darkness"

**EASTER EGG HUNT....**sponsored by Olivet  
College Gamma Iota Sigma

**Where:** Olivet College's Campus Square

**When:** Wednesday, March 28 @ 6:00 p.m.

Please bring your own basket/bag to collect eggs!



**EASTER SUNDAY...April 1st**



**8:00 a.m.**

**EARLY WORSHIP Service** (Message: Bob Burcaw)

**8:45 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.**

**BREAKFAST** Cost: Donation (see article for details)

**10:30 a.m.**

**WORSHIP SERVICE** (Message: Rev. Marilyn Danielson)



**EASTER BREAKFAST**

Sunday, April 1st  
**8:45 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.**

Cost: **Donation** ~ proceeds will go toward camp  
Scholarships for youth to attend summer  
church camp.

If you would like to help with food expenses you may make a  
donation and place it in the offering plate or bring to the  
church office. Please mark on your check or envelope for  
"Easter Breakfast food".

**LENTEN OFFERING**

**SPECIAL OFFERING:** The Mission Board has designated a  
special offering to be received on Easter Sunday. Funds received  
will be used for church summer camp scholarships for our youth  
(completed grades 3<sup>rd</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup>) that will be attending church camp.  
A special envelope will be in the Easter bulletin or you may mail  
an offering to the church designated as "Easter" offering.

**SUMMER CHURCH CAMP**

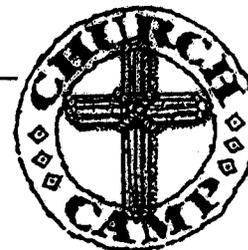
**WHEN:** Sunday, July 8<sup>th</sup> - Friday, July 13<sup>th</sup>

**WHO:** All youth who have completed 3<sup>rd</sup> thru 8<sup>th</sup> grade  
(at the time of camp)

**WHERE:** YMCA Camp Ohiyesa (Holly, MI)

Financial assistance (from our church Easter offering and Easter  
breakfast) is available to campers to help defray the cost of  
camp. Registration and information packets are available at the  
church office. What better gift to give a child than to spend a  
week in a very positive, fun Christian atmosphere.

**This is a great Christian summer experience.**





## Easter Flowers

All plants are \$10 each

~all orders must be into the church office by March 28<sup>th</sup>~

A sign-up is posted on the board in the dining room, the form below may be placed in the offering plate or you may call the church office (269-749-2631) to order.

TULIP	#ordered _____
DAFFODIL	#ordered _____
LILY	#ordered _____
HYACINTH	#ordered _____



(please list your name as you want it to be printed in the bulletin)

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_



**TUESDAY NIGHT "GET TOGETHER" .....Bible Study**

6pm to 7pm

*ALL AGES...EVERYONE WELCOME!!! JOIN US!!*

As Christians we all have questions & need encouragement. This is a casual time to discuss, share, pray & worship Jesus our Lord. If you are not able to attend each week, come when you can. ~All ages welcome!~

**AN EVENING OF FUN.....**

# JOIN US

## GAME NIGHT

**SATURDAY, MARCH 17<sup>TH</sup> @ 5:30 p.m.**

*A church and community time...invite a friend!*

Tacos will be provided!! If you would like to bring a dish to pass or snack to share while we play games you may do so (not required to attend.)

*You may bring your favorite board and card games.*

**YOUTH MUSIC CLASSES...** Penny Draper is offering weekly after school music classes for youth on Wednesday afternoons.

**Grades 6-12, 3:00-3:45 and Grades K-5, 4:00-4:45**  
(no class on April 4<sup>th</sup> due to Spring Break)





**We Care...** Our thoughts and prayers are extended to several people and their families in our congregation that are facing serious health issues at this time.

We continue to pray and give care to our church family as they may face the loss of loved ones, health issues or family trials.

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If you have a prayer concern for yourself or someone you know please contact the church office (269-749-2631) or Sharon at (269-209-7402). Also, please let us know of any illness, anyone in the hospital or anyone needing a home visit.

**It is through all of you that we can continue to meet the needs of our church family.**

**THANK YOU!**

*Thank you for the birthday cards I received for my 94<sup>th</sup> birthday from so many of my Olivet friends. It made my day special and I appreciate it very much. I want to give special thanks to Holly Webster as she continues to send me the worship bulletin each week. I enjoy the worship liturgy and the news and announcements.*

*Blessings to all, Elaine Bruce*

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

Worship Service....Sundays at 10:30

**Sun. March 4**

3:00 Olivet College Choir Concert (church sanctuary)

**Tue. March 6**

6:00 Tuesday Night Fellowship Group (pastor's office)

**Wed. March 7**

Youth Music (see article for times)

6:00 Lenten Soup/Bread Supper (our church dining room)

7:00 Choir Rehearsal

**Sun. March 11**

Trustee Meeting after worship service

LOOKING AHEAD

**Tue. March 13**

6:00 Tuesday Night Fellowship Group (pastor's office)

6:00 Church Council Meeting

**Wed. March 14**

Youth Music (see article for times)

6:00 Lenten Soup/Bread Supper (our church dining room)

7:00 Choir Rehearsal

**Tue. March 20**

6:00 Tuesday Night Fellowship Group (pastor's office)

**Wed. March 21**

Youth Music (see article for times)

6:00 Lenten Soup/Bread Supper (our church dining room)

7:00 Choir Rehearsal

**Tue. March 27**

6:00 Tuesday Night Fellowship Group (pastor's office)

**Wed. March 28**

Youth Music (see article for times)

6:00 Easter Egg Hunt (see article)

7:00 Choir Rehearsal

**Thur. March 29**

6:30 Seder Dinner (church dining room ~ see article)

**Sun. April 1 "Easter Sunday"**

**Fri. March 30**

7:00 Good Friday Service

8:00 Early Easter Service

8:45-10:00 Easter Breakfast

10:30 Easter Worship Service