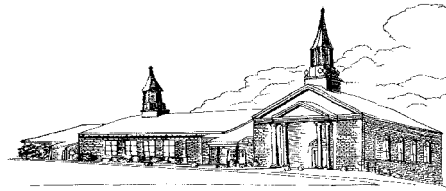


The Olivet Observer



"The little church with a big heart"



**Olivet Presbyterian Church
1019 Richmond Avenue
Staunton, VA 24401**

The 92nd Letter of Lee to the Olivet Church:

"The world can be saved by one thing and that is worship. For to worship is to quicken the conscience by the holiness of God, to feed the mind with the truth of God, to purge the imagination by the beauty of God, to pen the heart to the love of God, to devote the will to the purpose of God." William Temple, Archbishop of Canterbury 1942-1944.

As we continue to go through these unusual times, one of the most important things we can do is offer our hearts in regular times of worship to our Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer. In the last meeting of our session, it was decided that we will continue to have worship outside at Olivet through the end of September. As long as we are doing that, we will do our best to continue to live stream those services. So for now, the option remains on Sunday mornings to either come and worship together in person (weather permitting) or to join us through Facebook. We realize, understand, and respect that some of our members and friends are not yet comfortable gathering where there is a crowd, and that is okay. We only hope that you will continue to worship the Lord wherever you are.

I remember being in a conference years ago in Montreat where the subject of our statistical reports came up. For those of you who may not realize it, every year we have to send in a statistical report to the denomination. It includes things like the number of members we have, average attendance over the past year, Sunday School attendance, baptisms, weddings, funerals over the past year, and other subjects. Then it has to be divided up into gender, race, etc. It actually can become quite complex. It's not a new thing. Churches were making those reports long ago, it's just now they are more complicated than they used to be. I bring that up because in the early days of this country, there was a category each church was compelled to complete regarding a question about how many members regularly conducted worship in their homes. Though that question (to my knowledge) is no longer on the report, it's still very important. Whether we are here together or are in our homes, worshiping God makes a real and certainly positive difference in our lives. I hope you are making sure worship is a regular part of your life and the life of your family wherever you are. Worship brings peace to our souls and as scripture teaches when, we call upon the Lord, he will be with us. "Draw near to God and he will draw near to you." James 4:8

Wherever we are may we join with the psalmist who proclaimed, "I will extol the Lord at all times; his praise will always be on my lips. My soul will boast in the Lord; let the afflicted hear and rejoice. Glorify the Lord with me; let us exalt his name together." Psalm 34:1-2

Grace and Peace

AUGUST Birthdays

Mary Helen Thorne	August 4
Philip Balsley	August 8
Melody Clifton	August 8
Jennifer Lawhorn	August 10
Ashby Smith	August 10
Terri Perry	August 11
John Reid Weller	August 12
Yana Kerschke	August 13
Gail Tacy	August 15
Susan Argenbright	August 16
Laura Argenbright	August 17
David Balsley	August 17
Caroline Thorne	August 19
Amy Thomas	August 22
Mackenzie Darby	August 25
Davis Reid	August 27
Andrew Little	August 29
Linda Phillips	August 30

AUGUST Anniversaries

Christel and Joe Nicklas	August 6
Linda and Phil Phillips	August 21
Nina and Todd Stewart	August 25
Cathy and David MacMillan	August 26
Pat and David Balsley	August 29



Children's Message

We would like to thank those giving a Children's Message for July:

Mary Tacy
 Mary Jones
 Esther Ann Walton
 Langdon Reid

Congratulations to Krissi and Thomas Byrd on the birth of a daughter, Norah Madison Byrd, on July 10, 2020. Norah is the granddaughter of Dania Balsley and the great-granddaughter of Philip Balsley and Jane and Buck Robinson.



No circle meetings are scheduled until further notice.

SACRA

For SACRA during the month of August we will be collecting personal hygiene products such as deodorants, toothbrushes, toothpaste, shampoos, etc. Donations may be brought to the church during our outdoor services on Sundays or to the church on Wednesday and Friday mornings between 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. SACRA is open on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 9:00 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. so we are again making deliveries that are very much appreciated.

News from the Session

If you are unable to attend the outside service on Sunday, you may mail your contributions to the church at 1019 Richmond Avenue, Staunton VA 24401 or drop them off at the church in a box inside the entrance at the downstairs middle door on Wednesday or Friday between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Our website, olivetpres.org, now has a feature to contribute online.

The Session met on July 22, 2020. It was decided to have outside church services at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday mornings through September. No outdoor services if raining. There will be a live stream service on Facebook. Elders assigned to open and close the church each month will be responsible for setting up the outdoor services.

BAR-B-QUE GRIDS

The old bar-b-que pit will be torn down and removed from the picnic area. There are several sets of grids from the pit that are being made available to the congregation. If anyone is interested, please see D. Reid.

Patient attention, valuable discoveries

For many people, the coronavirus pandemic has been a test of patience—or worse. Medically vulnerable people face an anxious time of hypervigilance. Furloughed workers wait on hold or in lines for assistance. Special events have been canceled or rescheduled.

Those not impacted directly deal with assorted frustrations and inconveniences. Many people are learning the benefit of slowing down, being present (even virtually) to others and practicing patient attention.

What have you discovered during the Covid-19 crisis? What appreciations have you developed for aspects of life you may have previously taken for granted? What has social distancing taught you about the value of neighbors, church, community volunteering?

During the pandemic, what have you learned about persistence and God's presence? What empathy do you now feel for writers of words such as "I wait for the LORD, my whole being waits, and in his word I put my hope." (Psalm 130:5, NIV)?