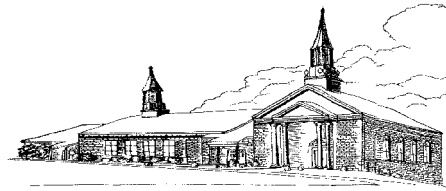


The Olivet Observer



"The little church with a big heart"



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

The 94th Letter of Lee to the Olivet Church:

As we continue living through a time when we are longing for a return to normal and we are weary of all the temporary changes imposed upon us because of COVID-19 it's easy to get discouraged. In reality, with all of the demands life puts on us it's easy enough to get discouraged when there is no coronavirus. There can be no doubt that along with the threats COVID has brought to us physically it has certainly brought emotional and spiritual challenges too.

One of the most important things we can do as followers of Christ is to get a hold of our thoughts when they start racing. Many people struggle with calming their spirits and changing the direction of their thoughts. Yet in scripture we are called to do just that. In Romans 12:2 it is written, ***"Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind."***

The renewing of the mind requires the changing of our thoughts. The changing of thoughts begins with the surrendering of the mind and will to God. Our Lord Jesus taught us that with God all things are possible, this certainly includes the ability to change us, to renew us, even our thought processes.

Although thanksgiving is more than a month away there is no better time than now to take a moment and count our blessings. Dwelling on the faithfulness of God and the evidence of His love for us forces discouragement to go away. As gratitude takes its place the praises of God will be in our minds and on our lips. (Psalm 34:1)

Be encouraged today that these trials we now face are temporary. Be encouraged that the same God who has led you to this point in life is still leading the way now. Remember that with Him all things are possible.

Grace and Peace,

OCTOBER Birthdays

Kim Smith	October 3
Jeremy Thorne	October 4
Linda Nulik	October 4
Punkie Wood	October 5
Layla Reid	October 5
Evie Little	October 5
Aaron Coiner	October 6
Lillian Gayhart	October 6
Gary Milstead	October 6
Sue Crosby	October 8
Elsie Weller	October 10
Ashlynn Armstrong	October 12
Hunter Ware	October 15
Lisa Coiner	October 18
Sherry Herr	October 22
Mary Shepherd	October 24
Loree Landes	October 25
Lynn DeBord	October 28

OCTOBER Anniversaries

Alexis and Langdon Reid	October 6
Rhonda and Chuck Richie	October 11
Mary Helen and Jeremy Thorne	October 18
Krissie and Thomas Byrd	October 21
Helena and Harry Hogshead, Jr.	October 31



Congratulations to Helena and Harry Hogshead, Jr. on the birth of a son, Ian Shockley Hogshead, on September 2, 2020. Ian is the grandson of Joy and Harry Hogshead.



Deadline for shoeboxes for Samaritan's Purse is Sunday, November 8, 2020. Please see Christel Nicklas or Janna Milstead for a list of items that may be included such as toys, clothing, personal care items, etc. It is critical that a \$9.00 donation be included with each box to cover shipping and other project costs.



Remember our
Member in the
Military

Ret Wells, Sean C.
2ND RTBN PL T 2086 CO F
Box 16245
Parris Island, SC 29905-6345



SACRA

For SACRA during the month of October we will be collecting non-perishable canned goods such as canned vegetables, fruits, sauces, soups, meats, 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 September 9, 2020 and September 20, 2020. It was decided to continue with outside services at 10:00 a.m. through the month of October. Plans are being made to reopen part of the church in November. Services will be held in the social hall and Health Department and State rules will apply. It will be required to wear masks when not seated and social distancing practiced at all times. Temperatures will be taken before entering the building. No children's messages, nursery or Sunday School at this time. Signs will be posted throughout the church showing what part of the church is open.

Confirmation Sunday will be observed on October 4, 2020. Communicants will join the church that day. There will be a congregational meeting on Sunday, October 25, 2020 for the purpose of electing 5 Elders for the Class of 2023, presenting the Budget for 2021 and approving the Terms of Call for the Pastor.

The Session met again on Sunday, September 20, 2020 at the picnic shelter. It was decided to install I Wave devices in our duct work in the sanctuary and upstairs social hall which will keep the duct work clean and kill all molds and viruses.



No circle meetings are scheduled until further notice. No annual meeting of the Women in September is planned due to COVID-19.

The Search Committee reports that even though we are in a different holding pattern than normal, the Women are looking for a Vice-Moderator, Christmas Program chair and Search Committee chair for 2020-2021. If you are feeling led to serve in these ways, please see Kim Weller. There is a chance a lot of meetings are going to be done through e-mails.