

# The Olivet Observer



*"The little church with a big heart"*

 JANUARY 2022

Olivet Presbyterian Church  
1019 Richmond Avenue  
Staunton, VA 24401

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## The 109<sup>th</sup> Letter of Lee to the Olivet Church:

Happy New Year! It's hard for lots of us to believe it's time to print and say those words again, but another year has come. I hope you are able to begin this new year of life with a joyful heart and gratitude for the many blessings of God that have been yours. Not too long ago in choir practice, which is always fun by the way and if you sing you should join us, David MacMillan pulled out of the files an arrangement of the Hit Song "Down in the River to Pray." If you watched the movie *O Brother Where Art Thou?* you'll remember that song.

Down in the River to pray, is a song that calls mothers, fathers, brothers, sisters, and sinners to the river to pray. In the movie the song is set to a scene picturing baptism. Long lines of people dressed in white go to the river and are baptized while three fugitives watch from a distance, and they are intrigued. One of them is so moved by what he sees happening that he hands his hat to his friend and runs to the water. He forges through the water to the front of the line, and gets baptized, even without a robe of white like the others are wearing. It's a great scene. And it certainly brings to mind 1 Corinthians 5:17, "Therefore if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come. The old has gone, and the new is here."

As you enter into this new year I encourage you to remember that you are one of God's chosen and beloved. That's a very big deal. He has called you out of darkness into his marvelous light and anyone who is in Christ, is a new creation, the old has gone and the new has come.

As you live in the *newness* of this new year remember that you also live in a new way of life. A life lived in Christ. May He bless you greatly in 2022 as you walk with Him.

*Grace and Peace,*



Kay Argenbright	January 2
Jean Ann Clemmer	January 4
Michaela Crosby	January 6
Jessica Hall	January 16
Rex Frye	January 20
Steve Elmore	January 20
Barbara Masincup	January 22
David Walton	January 28
Julie Reid	January 28
Betsy Spencer	January 28
Melanie Argenbright	January 31



Esther Ann and David Walton	January 12
Maegan and John Reid Weller	January 24
Sarah and Brandon Hatcher	January 30

## Bible Study

Bible Study will resume on Tuesday, January 18, 2022 at 11:00 a.m.



We are now inside for worship services so please feel free to sign up on the flower calendar in the vestibule to provide flowers for the sanctuary.

Circle 3 will meet at 12 Noon on Wednesday, January 11, 2022 at the church.

Circle 4 will meet on January 12, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.

Circle 6 will meet on January 19. 2022 with

Carolyn Via at 7:00 p.m.



*Women's Circles*



*Flower Calendar*

A new Flower Calendar has been placed in the vestibule for your convenience to sign up to place flowers in the sanctuary on Sunday morning and to sign up to water flowers on Wednesdays. Please let the office know in advance of printing the bulletin what your dedication is for the flowers.



### NEW MEMBERS

Betsy Spencer  
Charlotte Lotts  
Alicia Fitzgerald

### DEATHS

Shirlene Charbeneau  
Anita Miller  
Elwood Byrd  
Nancy Whitesell

### MARRIAGE

Joel Balsley and Catherine Weaver



Our Diaper Ministry is doing well.

Through your generous contributions we launched a very successful Diaper Ministry. If you would like to donate, please make checks payable to *Olivet Presbyterian Church* and earmark them for the *Diaper Ministry Fund*.

Your continued support is so appreciated.

For more information and to sign up to volunteer, please contact Sherry Herr, Janna Milstead or Christel Nicklas.



## SACRA

For SACRA during the month of January we will be collecting personal hygiene products such as deodorants, toothbrushes, toothpaste, shampoos, etc. Donations may be brought to the church on Sunday mornings or left at the church on Wednesday and Friday mornings between 9:00 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. There are bins in the hall for your convenience. SACRA is most appreciative of your continued support.



Thanks to the following for giving **Children's Messages** in December:

- Melanie Argenbright
- David MacMillan
- Dickie Bell
- Lee Thomas

Thanks to all who are volunteering to do a children's message. You are appreciated! Don't forget there are several excellent resources available in the Sunday School office if you need any fresh ideas.



The Session met on December 12, 2021.

Elders and Trustee for the Class of 2024 were elected at our congregational meeting in November. They are: Pat Balsley, John Charbeneau, Alexis Reid, D. Reid, Buck Robinson, Elders and Philip Balsley, Trustee.

Alicia Fitzgerald was received as a member in good standing of Olivet.

As a Mission project the Session voted to contribute from the Mission Fund \$500 to help support Samaritan's Purse and \$500 to God's Pit Crew.

To make tax deductible donations to church funds other than the general offering, please make checks payable to *Olivet Presbyterian Church* and earmark the check as to which fund it is intended.



**Lots of fun and good food at the Christmas program on December 19<sup>th</sup>.**



## [A prayer for Epiphany](#)

O Lord Jesus Christ, heavenly King, thank you for bringing both Jews and Gentiles to hear your voice. Enable us to follow your holy Word, as those from the East followed the leading of a star. Give us grace to confess your holy name. Rule us by your Spirit, so that the joys of your birth may increase in us. Hear our prayers and cries. Accept our offerings, which you yourself have given us: the gold of our faith, the incense of our prayers, and the myrrh of our contrite hearts. Deliver us from the destructive ways of sin, and lead us in the ways of peace and in the paths of righteousness. Grant us all, when this life is done, a participation in the joys of the Year of Jubilee in heaven, where we shall praise and serve you and the Father who live and reign in unity with the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

