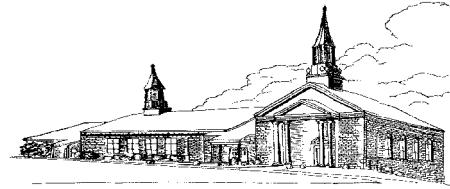


# The Olivet Observer

 NOVEMBER 2024



*"The little church with a big heart"*

Olivet Presbyterian Church  
1019 Richmond Avenue  
Staunton, VA 24401  
The Rev. Lee Thomas, Pastor  
olivetpres.org

---

## The 143<sup>rd</sup> Letter of Lee to the Olivet Church

News that is probably *not* news to any of us at this point consists of the following information: The World series is over. Congrats to the Dodgers. Halloween has passed, and I hope you were able to enjoy some good candy. In a few days, another presidential election cycle will be completed, and no matter which candidate wins, earth will keep spinning. We know the occupant of that famous oval office at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington, DC is not our Creator, Redeemer or Sustainer. Our best hope for our next president is that they will be used by God for good as they serve.

In other news, that may be news to some but certainly not news to football fans.... last Sunday night, the Washington Commanders won against the Chicago Bears after Jayden Daniels threw an amazing "hail mary" as the clock ran out bringing the Commanders a victory on a tipped reception in the end zone. Those of us fortunate enough to remember Wilma Balsley have to believe that she would have been thrilled. I'd like to think she would be pleased with the insane reaction in the Thomas household. There have been videos shared on Instagram of the reactions of Commanders fans. Lots of hooping, hollering, runs around sofas, kitchen tables, in and out of living rooms etc. have been shown. Those are fun videos to watch, really more fun than Superbowl celebrations of recent years to me. It was quite a game. I don't know the specific statistics on how often hail mary passes are successful, but when they work for the team you are pulling for, they are indeed beautiful.

When all seems pretty much hopeless, something against the odds happens, and there is cause to celebrate. Even a football play can remind us that there really is always hope! This month we will celebrate the great American holiday, Thanksgiving. Aren't we thankful that we always have hope? Remember the words of the apostle Paul, "And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us." Romans 5:5. I pray we will always live in gratitude for the eternal hope we have because of our Savior. Enjoy November of 2024. Be hopeful.

*Grace and Peace,*