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Olivet Presbyterian Church
97 Myrtle Ave.
Staten Island, NY 10310

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OLIVET

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



JUNE 2021

Our MISSION is to share the love of Christ
with all people for the glory of God.
Our VISION is: Honoring God, Helping People



**SUNDAY,
JUNE 6th
@ 11:30AM**



**The Virtual Coffee Hour sign-up form can
be found at**

<http://bit.ly/olivetcoffeehour621>

**SATURDAY,
JUNE 19th
@ 6:30PM**



**The Olivet Game Night sign-up
form can be found at**

<http://bit.ly/olivetgamenight621>



**Donations are still
welcome!!!**

*If anyone wishes to make a
donation in any amount, to
the Scholarship Fund, please
do, it would be greatly
appreciated.*



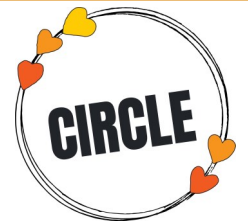
**Scholarship
Committee**

*The committee is very
grateful for your
continued support.*

**Have a Healthy, Happy Summer and
we look forward to seeing each
and everyone of you soon.**

Greetings,

*As we move toward Summer and the end
of the church calendar year, our prayers
are for continued safety and outreach to
each other, keeping in mind that in spite of
relaxed guidelines regarding Covid, we must move ahead
carefully always remembering our obligation to protect
our neighbors. So—don't go overboard!*



**Please keep each other in prayer and in particular,
Donna & Barney.**

Blessings,

Barbara L. Pietracatella

As we move into the second year of virtual church services, I look forward to preaching once more at the end of June for Choir Sunday.

With any luck we might even be able to provide some music - at least that's the goal. It has been a challenging year but it has given us an opportunity to hear from more of our members who have stepped forward to provide some very thought-provoking messages.

Unfortunately this has been a bad time to be without a minister at the helm but kudos to all those who have stepped up and MORE than kept our services and spirit alive! I remember, as I'm sure many of you do as well the first anthem sung by the choir on the first day that Stan Timari, the organist/choir director who preceded me, started at Olivet. We have repeated that anthem on a few occasions and I am hoping to do it again as soon as we're 'back' again. The title is one that asks a question and I say now, the answer from the Olivet Membership and Leadership has been a resounding YES throughout the pandemic!! The anthem? - **Do You Really Care?**

John



JUNE WORSHIP SCHEDULE

June 6 – This is Communion Sunday. We will celebrate the Lord's Supper.



Olivet will recognize and celebrate our graduates of all levels of education. We welcome Dr. Tom Harris.

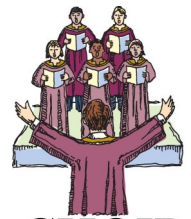


June 13 – This is the 3rd Sunday after Pentecost. We welcome Marranda Major, Candidate.

June 20 – This is Father's Day/Presbyterian Men of the Church Sunday & Choir Sunday. Men of the Church Sunday is designated as the Sunday usually recognized as Father's Day. It was an intentional act of the General Assembly to recognize the contributions of men, but not limit it to those men who have children, and to be inclusive of single men, stepparents and men who are unable to be with their children on this day. Regardless of their family situation, all men of the church have been called by God to share their time, talents, spirit and energies, fulfilling their call to be disciples of Jesus Christ. **Join us as we honor & celebrate the Father's/Men in our congregation. We welcome Regina Cassidy, D. Min.**



June 27 – This is Choir Sunday. We welcome Elder John Fiore, Olivet's Organist and Music Director.



**CHOIR
SUNDAY**

OLIVET PEOPLE



Brandon C.	(2)	Ericka K.	(15)
Naomi H.	(3)	Gordon K.	(16)
Cynthia W.	(8)	Justina S.	(16)
Morgan A.	(9)	Alexandra S.	(16)
Adrienne P.	(9)	Amalia C.	(17)
Madeline P.	(10)	Agnes D.	(20)
Maria I.	(11)	Joseph Craig B.	(21)
Vera M.	(12)	Robert L.	(21)
Jacquelin I.	(14)	Claude S.	(28)
Lucille T.	(14)	Shani Tannis M.	(28)



Janice & Mike K.	(2)	Joan & Ramesh S.	(18)
Barbara & Ben N.	(5)	Lucille & Lennox T.	(21)
Marie & Richard J.	(7)	Susan & Ralph L.	(22)
Keith & Jenine M.	(10)	Chris & Jim L.	(22)
Yayah & William E.	(10)	Liza & Kaushal M.	(22)
Genevieve & Marc G.	(11)	Rev. Melodee B. & Gregory P.	(23)
Shani & Ephraim M.	(12)	Nancy & John A.	(27)

SENIORS



Dear Friends,

Finally ~ we can see each other — outdoors (parking lot) starting on Tuesday, June 1st at noon!

Come one, come all . . . Just bring a chair and a snack and prepare to share and catch up. It's been an eternity since our last gathering in October, 2020, and Praise God, everyone has made it!! Looking forward to beautiful reunion.

In Peace,

Barbara L. Pietracatella

Please continue to keep Joyce, Debbie, Lois and Olimpia in your prayers.



Please continue to pray for our Senior Shut-ins:

Caroline Chiapperino	At Sunrise
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OLIVET PEOPLE

PLEASE REMEMBER THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE IN PRAYER

Safety prayers for FDNY Engine Company 156.

FOR THOSE IN NEED OF HEALING

Adrianna, Annette Alexander, Mirna Alexander, Amazing Grace Ministries, Larry Anderson, Mark Anderson, Hope Asrelesky, Barbara, Lozena Barkat, Maurice Barkat, Saleem Barkat, Brooke Bivings, Adrienne & Clarence Blair, Emily Bryant, Joseph Bryant, Susan Pillarella Bryant, Rosemarie Callahan, Mary Carlucci, Daniel Carnevale, Carol, Jimmy Carter, Judie Castro, Nancy Chamberlin, Stuart Cooper, The Croll Family, Kjersti Myhre Cronin, Pedro Cruz, John Cunningham, Connie Cuttle, Cathy D'Amato, Agnes Dean, Anthony DeFazio & Family, Dorothy DeForest, Jerry DeForest, Olimpia Delle Donne, The DiMauro Family, Linda Discenza, Blythe Finn, Filomena Fiorino, Louise Fletcher, Robert Flores, Rev. Dr. Robert Foltz-Morrison, Janet Gallo, Lucas Garcia, Noah Garcia, Peter Garcia, John Paul Goffredo, Mary & Sam Goffredo, Genevieve & Marc Goldstein, Karen Greer, Debbie Grossman, Erin Grossman, Paul Hanast, Mary Hansen. Joshua Hardy, Bill Hart, Eve Howard, James Johnson, Jr., Kayla Kenny, Iqbal & Naseem Khokhar, Sarah King, Jim Lamberti, Marcia Languigne, Grace Larsen, Adele Lee, Genevieve Lewis, Lee MacCallum, Ashley Longuerra Macri, The Maldonado Family, Abigail Marie, Lois Marsh, Ralph Marsh, Harriet Martens, Patrice Martin, Rosemarie Martino, Zarina Masih, Diane Mastrangelo, Grace Mastrangelo, Julia Mastrangelo, Ralph Mastrangelo, AJ Micciulla, Michelle & Jeanna, Jack Minogue, Dennis & Ursula Mohamed, Charlene Munoz, Ben Naimo, Amanda Paternoster Ortiz, Horacio Ortiz, Jackie Parker, Eileen Paton, Chris Peet, Karen Peet and Family, Darlene Perrotta, Flip Phillips, Marge Piechota, Barbara & Vinny Pietracatella, Jimmy Pietracatella, Madeline Pietracatella, Michele Pietracatella, Vince Pietracatella, Janice Pillarella, Jean Pillarella, John Pillarella, John Mario Pillarella, Theresa Porto, Lawrence J. Prehn, Nanci Richards, Joan Robertson, Melissa Roman, Victor Saez, Jr., Tina Sais, Donna Scarcella-Flack, Jim Scarcella, Richard Scarcella, Maxton Scardino, Olga Sheridan, Debbie Smith-Matta, Lennox Tannis, Margaret Tannis, Tara, Beula Tressler, Norma VanWagoner, Cheryl Whigham, Laura Winans, Pamela Wright, Carajean Zukowski

SHUT-IN OR IN THE NURSING HOME

Caroline Chiapperino, Grace Mastrangelo, Frances Pellegrino, Marie Picerno

OUR MEN/WOMEN SERVING IN THE MILITARY

Donald Branen, Michael Brown, Michael Bryant, Sgt. Damian Henderson, Michael Leonard, Bob Molinari, Will & Eric Parson, Leila Von Kreitor, Nick Zucal, Marcus Zuna

CONGRATULATIONS!

- **Jason Maldonado**—
AA Liberal Arts -
Communications from
SUNY Orange College
- **Brittany Sheridan**—
MS in Education in
Adolescent Special
Education (Grades 7-12
Generalist) from Hunter
College.
- **Lane Steele**—
BBA from SUNY
Oneonta – Pursuing
Masters in Elementary
Education at CSI.



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATES!



Good news – The Amazing Kids Connection giveaway will be returning! *Plans are in place for the annual back-to-school giveaway to resume in*



*September. We will be collecting donations of school supplies and backpacks, so we ask that you **hold on to your donations over the summer, until we have a plan for collection.***

More good news! Most of the One Great Hour of Sharing donations have been counted, and the final total will be approximately \$2,000. Thank you, Olivet, for once again being *Repairers of the Breach*.

We wish everyone a happy, healthy, and blessed summer!

~ Jeanine

- Ann Marie Battista and family** on the death of her husband, John Battista, on May 7. John was the brother of Frank Battista and son of the late Frances & Rocco Battista, members from the church on West Street.



To everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose under heaven. A time to be born, and a time to die ...

~Ecclesiastes 3:1-2a



The Garden team is grateful to those who donated perennial plants for the Heavenly Harvest welcome circle at the garden's entrance. They look beautiful!!

Thanks to Tina Sais, Kelly Morris, Carole O'Brien, Adrienne Blair, Vera Mandato, Sue Lamberti, Evelyn Nieves.

Thank you also to Lenny and Kathy Librizzi, Pastor Melodee Bottari, Justina Sais, Evelyn Nieves, Jennifer Sierra and Kelly Morris for their monetary contribution to the garden.

The garden is still in need of tarps 10x10 and soil. If you can donate, please contact Mike Prociuk, 917-685-2739. We are also in great need of volunteers. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Mike.



Project Hospitality's Soup for the Soul Virtual Event took place on May 26th. Project Hospitality honored Olivet Presbyterian Church Heavenly Harvest Community Garden with the Roland Ratmeyer Founder's Award.

This award was accepted by Susan Lamberti on behalf of Olivet and you can view the video at this link: <https://projecthospitality.org/soup-for-the-soul/>

We recognize that this award would not have been possible without the vision and support of Pastor Melodee, the Session of Olivet Presbyterian Church in 2016, our master composters, John Paternoster and Jim Scarcella, as well as Kelly Morris and ALL the numerous volunteers "staff" who continue to tirelessly work the garden to serve "the least of these" in our community.

YOUR
OFFERING



*Please continue to
mail your offerings
to the church.*

*John Paternoster
is picking up the
mail daily.*

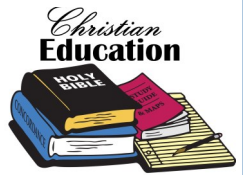


Please visit the Olivet Presbyterian Church Staten Island Facebook page. All Services/Sermons are recorded and posted each week.

Visit the Facebook page to see Olivet People videos posted and catch up with Sue Lamberti, our most recent video posted. You can get to know your Olivet Family through their video.



Happy Summer Olivet friends and family!



While summer may not technically start until the end of June, it certainly has been feeling more like summer with the hot temperatures lately. It also feels like we're finally able to relax a little more as the city starts to open up and we're able to return to some of our favorite activities safely.

*We continue to host virtual opportunities for Christian Education. Sunday School continues for the children at 12:30 pm each Sunday. **Some of the adults have also been enjoying Betty and Regina's book study discussion group on the Sum of Us, which will meet this month on June 7 and June 21 at 7 pm.** Those of us who have attended the previous sessions have enjoyed great conversation about systemic racism with some of our members, some members from Goshen Presbyterian North Raleigh Presbyterian Churches, and some from other churches and faith traditions as well.*

The Outreach committee is also planning two virtual events for June. *On June 6, we will host another coffee hour, right after church at 11:30 am, to celebrate our graduates. Yes, we know we just had a coffee hour, but we also know that we've missed celebrating with each other as often as we used to! We will also have a virtual game night on June 19 at 6:30 pm. We will host another round of Virtual Scattegories.* While we have done this event a few times, we always have a great time with it! ***We hope you'll join us for these events.***



While we're still awaiting some direction, we are now in the season of Pentecost, when the disciples were filled with the Holy Spirit and were led to start churches in many countries. I pray that each of you are able to discern the ways that the Holy Spirit is trying to lead you through this summer!

With joyful enthusiasm,

Grace

PRESBYTERY OF NEW YORK CITY

Returning to Church: A Statement from NYC Presbytery's COVID-19 Discernment Team

The church has a mandate to seek the welfare of our members and the larger community. Jesus calls us to concern and an active love for others, especially the people who are most vulnerable.

This faith commitment informs our response to the recent guidance from the Centers for Disease Control advising that vaccinated Americans can go without masks or social distancing in most public settings. As we seek to follow Jesus, the General Cabinet of the Presbytery of New York recommends that congregations, fellowship groups, and new worshipping communities *continue* to exercise appropriate caution and provide thoughtful leadership in how they gather. Faith-based gatherings, particularly worship, are unique occasions that differ from gatherings in a general indoor setting. We are grateful to the Wisconsin Council of Churches for their work on COVID-safer practices which informs this statement.

We understand church gatherings to be somewhat like public transit, where people of mixed vaccine status are together for some time with limited ventilation. The CDC guidance which suggest there is low risk to gathering indoors without masks fail to raise specific alarms about activities such as singing and presume a fully vaccinated group. That is not the case in most faith communities.

Many members of our communities remain unvaccinated and at higher risk of COVID transmission. Some—particularly children under the age of 12 and medically fragile individuals such as pregnant women or the immunocompromised—have not had the opportunity to be vaccinated. Such members deserve the highest care and protection of the community, and all deserve to see faithful people demonstrating the love of Christ in following sensible precautions. In our excitement at good news for the vaccinated, let us not overlook some members of Christ's body. It is easy to establish practices that can exclude "the least of these" and threaten their health. The vulnerable among us should not be expected to bear the burden of others' unwillingness to be vaccinated or follow COVID-safer policies.



COVID is responsible for the deaths of up to 900,000 Americans, and long-term health consequences for millions more. Although vaccination and improved medical care have eased the consequences of the pandemic, it is not behind us. Our faith calls us to resist the temptation to assume that being vaccinated means our actions are without consequence to those we claim to love the most. Let us build up the Body of Christ by using growing scientific knowledge together with our best theology and pastoral practices. There is no safe situation when it comes to COVID-19. But there are practices which can make us all safer. Let us continue and expand such practices so we can be part of the effort to subdue this coronavirus.