

# VOICE MAGNIFIED

Monthly Newsletter



## A Letter From The Pastor

HAPPY  
New Year

I grew up singing the old hymns. We had a volunteer organist that would be very angry if verses of a hymn got cut. She would not allow us to sing verses 1,3 and 5 for instance. Sometimes her argument makes sense, for instance try cutting out a verse or two of The First Noel. The story ceases to make sense. However, other times singing 6-8 verses gets a little long winded. In my first church, I was rather diligent that we never sang more than 10 verses of however many songs. So if we had 3 hymns, no matter the length of the verses- it usually added up to 10 for the entire worship service. I don't count verses anymore- but I am not shy about cutting a few if the hymn is rather long. What I love about hymns is that they tell the Gospel story or give a personal testimony and often each verse is needed to make it complete.

For the past 20 years, I've heard another side of the music debate: 7-11. The same 7 words sung 11 times (or vice versa). People say this

**MT. OLIVET UCC**

**410 W South Range  
Rd. North Lima, OH  
44452**

**330-549-2169  
office@mtolivetucc.org**

**Rev. Timothy Paroz  
330-979-5298  
chaproz19@gmail.com**

**Worship Service  
@ 10:30 am  
Sunday School  
9:30 am  
Children - upstairs  
Adults - Chapel**

to knock Christian praise music. Though to be fair, this argument is infrequently heard nowadays, and Christian music has evolved over the past 15 years. What I hear most now is a gripe over the repetition of the chorus or a bridge in praise music songs. As we begin 2025, I would like you to run a personal experiment during worship. Feel the praise songs. Don't try to get every word out of your mouth- feel the words. Sit with the repeated chorus and let God speak to you from the music. For instance, the chorus to "God of every Grace" we will sing about 4 times: "Now to the God of every grace, Who counts my tears, who holds my days, I sing through sorrows, sing with faith, O praise the God of every grace." During one of those choruses, you have permission to stop singing and simply feel those words: God counts your tears! And you sing with faith. These are powerful words that our Praise Team help us to feel as much as sing.

We are fortunate at Mt. Olivet that we blend both the tradition of hymns and the stories they speak to as well as modern praise songs with the different message they bring. If you find yourself annoyed at either a long boring hymn- look for the story. If you find yourself grumbling that the praise song was too long- try to relax and feel that song rather than dutifully singing along. You will get out of worship what you are willing to put into it. Holding tension, complaining, muttering and overall grumpiness will block you from experiencing God. I wish you a blessed and musical 2025!

Grace and peace,  
Pastor Tim

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## A Book Look

### "Who Stole my Church?"

by Gordon MacDonald



The story is about a church in New England that votes to make some changes. This vote stirs up a bit of controversy over the ways the church has changed over the past recent years. The pastor convenes a discussion group and the story goes from there. According to the author, it's entirely made up. There are no characters from any of his previous churches. These fictional characters reminisce, learn, sing, pray and grow together as they navigate a difficult discussion around changes in the church.

Pastor Tim

## Important Dates to Remember

**January 1**  
Happy New Year!!

**January 2**  
**NO Kid's Chimes**  
until further notice

**January 8**  
3C's Meal  
Deacons Meeting  
Spiritual Council  
Junior Youth  
Consistory

**January 9**  
Hope Center

**January 11**  
AA Meal

**January 12**  
Friends & Family Meal

**January 13**  
Mission/Hotel Meal

**January 15**  
Food & Fellowship:  
Soups & Stews Theme

**January 22**  
3C's Meal  
Youth Meeting

**January 23**  
Hope Center  
**NO Adult Belts**

**January 25**  
Mission Breakfast

**January 26**  
Congregational  
Meeting





# Mission Committee

By Kris Yocum



As the year draws to a close, we find ourselves both reflecting on the past and anticipating the future. To say that 2024 was incredible for the Mt. Olivet Mission team is an understatement. It has always been human nature to desire to "go bigger and better" in the upcoming new year. This is certainly a goal worth striving for. How do we accomplish this? It's actually quite simple. By listening for God's leading and sharing His love. By taking that extra step to be sure that others are made to feel loved and cared for, worthy and seen. Sometimes the simplest acts create the greatest impact. And this is where God uses us to accomplish great things.

In this spirit, we are asking Mt. Olivet to partner with the Mission team to bring a simple act of caring to our hotel patrons as the new year unfolds. We are asking for donations of new winter or Valentines themed mugs (no Christmas, please) and hot chocolate packets, to be distributed with the February hotel meals. At least 55 mugs/hot chocolate packets will be needed. Please consider joining us in this endeavor and bringing a simple but powerful message of love and caring to others.



**W**ith each new dawn there is delivered to your door a fresh, new package called "today." God has designed each of us in such a way that we can handle only one package at a time... and all the grace we need will be supplied by Him as we live out that day.

*"Those who know  
Your name will put their trust in You, for  
You, O Lord, have not forsaken those  
who seek you."  
Psalm 9:10*

## SUNDAY LITURGISTS



**January 5**  
**Kris Yocum**

**January 12**  
**Mindy Stewart**

**January 19**  
**Trent Rapp**

**January 26**  
**Tina Davis**

**See Kay Williams  
if you would  
like to be a  
Liturgist**



# News from Consistory

By Barb Feaster



Another month has flown past and with it goes 2024! The last minute projects of Christmas are upon us and by the time you read this...Christmas will be gone.

To me that feels like how the whole year has been. In January we are continuing to add more meals to the list with various Mobile Market opportunities. This means more food prepared, more people fed, more volunteers needed, more devotions delivered, and more of God's love shared with others. Somehow it seems impossible, but don't forget God is on our side. We are simply being His hands and feet, doing what we are called to do. And as always, God continues to bless us and make the way for these things to happen. Thank you to all of you whose efforts big or small make this happen.

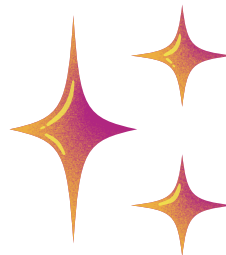
At the end of November we had a Congregational Meeting and voted to extend the stage area as part of our sanctuary face lift. The committee continues to meet and get estimates for getting the painting, flooring and construction. We will hear more from them at the end of the month at our next Congregational meeting on the last Sunday of January.

Moving forward this month please remember the Annual Report needs all information turned in ASAP! If you are the head of a committee please submit your reports soon. Also, please check information on the Directory on the back table so that it can be as updated as possible.

I hope that this Christmas will bring you all the peace and love that God provides, that you will continue to reflect that peace and love to all of those around you, loved ones and strangers alike.

Remember the angels said "Fear Not!" Whatever 2025 brings, our God is with us. All we need to do is TRUST. Blessing to all of you for 2025.

Barb



## Sunday Greeters



**January 5**  
**Jackie & Donna**  
**May Hollister**

**January 12**  
**Phyllis Manning**  
**& Nancy Crouse**

**January 19**  
**Paula Ritter &**  
**Martie Vekas**

**January 26**  
**Ayla & Jemma**  
**Lippert**

**See Donna**  
**Bruno**  
**if you would**  
**like to be a**  
**Greeter**



# Treasurer's Report



## Current Fund

Beginning Balance	\$173,566.91
<b>Income Nov.</b>	13,303.46
<b>Expense Nov.</b>	(23,765.83)
Ending Balance	\$163,104.54

## Pay Pal

Beginning Balance	\$1,618.15
Income	360.00
<b>Transfer to Current</b>	
Fees	(8.14)
Ending Balance	<b>\$1,970.01</b>

Benevolent Fund Balance	\$10,639.00
Mission Fund Balance	12,865.31
Memorial Fund Balance	46,481.05
Building Fund Balance	46,906.12
Special Fund Balance	6,148.12

Happy New Year!  
Linda Eisenbraun

You may also use this QR code to give.



# OFFERING COUNTERS

**HELP!!! Offering counters are needed on Sunday mornings following Worship. If you have 20 minutes to spare, we need volunteers to help each week. We will help you learn how by pairing you with a "seasoned" counter  
HAVE NO FEAR...VOLUNTEER!!**

**Below is a link to sign up, or see Lisa Williams after church.  
We appreciate your help!**

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0E44AC A92BAAFCC61-offering#/>



**Other groups that meet at Mt. Olivet:**

4H Club  
Girls Scouts  
Boy Scouts

Al Anon - Mon. 10 am  
AA - Sat. 7pm

## 3C's Food Distribution



**2nd & 4th Wednesdays  
from 2-4:30 pm  
Old School Marketplace  
11836 South Ave.  
North Lima  
No income requirements**



**If you have moved or changed your phone number or email address, please notify the office at [office@mtolivetucc.org](mailto:office@mtolivetucc.org) or call 330- 549-2169**

## Facebook Live

**Sunday Worship services are streamed *live* each Sunday on Facebook.**





# Thank you Notes for January

**THANK YOU!**

Thank you, Mt. Olivet, for the generous Christmas gift. It is most appreciated!  
Thank you also for the great support you continue to give me as we all make music together in celebration of God's greatest gift to us!

Natalie Biller

Thank you to the Crouse Family for setting and lighting the luminaries on Christmas Eve. They were beautiful and add a festive inviting look for the church.

Thank you to all who made caroling possible.  
Thank you to our song book editor/copier.  
Thank you to our soup and grilled cheese makers. Thank you to our chips and drinks suppliers. Thank you to our buckeye treat creators. Thank you to all who traveled locally to spread some Christmas cheer!



Mt. Olivet Church,  
Thank you so much for allowing our family to use the New Fellowship Hall for our Christmas party.  
Enclosed is a donation from us.  
With Love, Carol (Allen) Osberg



And thanks for allowing our family to use the Hall for a New Year family gathering over the holiday!  
Thanks again, Crouse & Allen families

Thank you, Mt Olivet!!! My Christmas gift was delightfully perfect! I LOVE going to Panera for their delicious soups and coffees and sandwiches; I LOVE fuzzy socks; and I ABSOLUTELY love Dove Chocolates! My deepest gratitude. ❤️

Mary Burkey



Mt Olivet UCC:  
Thank you so much for coming and feeding and helping during the Helene Flood Crisis. You stopped your "normal" lives and came to help total strangers in their time of need. It is the best example I have seen of putting Jesus' teachings into practice.  
Thank you also for the \$1000 donation to use for Hurricane Helene Relief.

--From All Your Friends  
at Embreeville UMC  
Tennessee



# Thank you



With Special Thanks:  
It's really nice when caring people do special things. Thank you for all of your prayers and kindness at this time.  
--Ann Wilson

NEW ADDRESS:  
ANN WILSON  
228 MILL ST. N.W.  
SUGARCREEK, OH 44681

HAPPY  
new year

# Women's Guild



Thank you to all the people who attended our  
WOMEN'S CHRISTMAS BRUNCH  
on Saturday, December 7th. A wonderful time  
was had by all!

**SPECIAL THANKS**  
to Linda Eisenbraun &  
Tina Turnbull

for your hard work in making everything come together,  
for the delicious food, the beautiful program & devotions,  
and the creative craft, immensely enjoyed by everyone!!



## AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

**Tuesday, January 28, 2025  
12:00-5:00 pm**

Please consider donating blood at our  
upcoming American Red Cross Blood Drive on  
Tuesday, January 28, 2025 at Mt Olivet.  
It only takes about 1 hour out of your day and  
could save a life!



You may pre-register by calling 1-800-RED-CROSS (800-733-2767) or  
visit: <https://www.redcross.org>. If you sign up for RapidPass, this is  
basically a ticket that you download to your phone or  
you may print it out and take it with you. This way you  
can avoid the paperwork at arrival. You will go directly  
to the sign-in and blood-giving area.



# HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



**January 1:**  
Joan Bregar

**January 2:**  
John Bradley

**January 7:**  
Josh Smith  
Aria Reed

**January 10:**  
Jensen Lippert

**January 13:**  
Kris Yocum  
Liam Jarrett

**January 15:**  
Karen Sahli  
Jill Dickey

**January 19:**  
Kelly Husted  
Peggy Hanlon  
Cynthia Walker

**January 26:**  
Carrie Austin

**January 29:**  
Stephen Lippert

**January 31:**  
Katie Jones



# A New Year is Upon Us

*“The land you are to take possession of is a land of mountains and valleys that drinks rain from heaven. It is a land the Lord your God cares for; the eyes of the Lord your God are continually on it from the beginning of the year to its end.”*

--Deuteronomy 11:11-12

Today, dear friends, we stand upon the verge of the unknown. There lies before us the new year and we are going forth to possess it. Who can tell what we shall find? What new experiences, what changes shall come, what new needs shall arise? But here is the cheering, comforting, gladdening message from our Heavenly Father, "The Lord thy God careth for it."

All our supply is to come from the Lord. Here are springs that shall never dry; here are fountains and streams that shall never be cut off. Here anxious one, is the gracious pledge of the Heavenly Father. If He be the Source of our mercies they can never fail us. No heat, no drought can parch that river, "the streams whereof make glad the city of God."

The land is a land of hills and valleys. It is not all smooth nor all down hill. If life were all one dead level the dull sameness would oppress us; we want the hills and the valleys. The hills collect the rain for a hundred fruitful valleys. Ah, so it is grace and brings down the shower of blessing; the hills, the bleak hills of life that we wonder at and perhaps grumble at, bring down showers. How many have perished in the wilderness, buried under its golden sands, who would have lived and thriven in the hill-country; how many would have been killed by the frost, blighted with winds, swept desolate of tree and fruit but for the hill- stern, hard, rugged, so steep to climb. God's hills are a gracious protection for His people against their foes!

We cannot tell what loss and sorrow and trial are doing. Trust only. The Father comes near to take our hand and lead us on our way today. It shall be a good, a blessed new year!

**He leads us on by paths we did not know;  
Upward He leads us, though our steps be slow,  
Though oft we faint and falter on the way,  
Though storms and darkness oft obscure the day;  
Yet when the clouds are gone,  
We know He leads us on.  
He leads us on through all the unquiet years;  
Past all our dreamland hopes, and doubts and fears,  
He guides our steps, through all the tangled maze  
Of losses, sorrows, and o'er clouded days;  
We know His will is done;  
And still He leads us on.  
--Nicholaus Ludwig Zinzendorf**





Mt Olivet United Church of Christ  
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office@mtolivetucc.org  
Address service requested

# JANUARY 2025

