

F E B R U A R Y 2 0 1 8

# the OLIVE BRANCH



MOUNT OLIVET LUTHERAN CHURCH

34 Prospect Street, Shrewsbury, MA 01545-2339

## Why?

At our recent annual meeting, the report from the Forward Leadership team described the central task of discerning Mount Olivet's future as answering this question: "Why?" Specifically, why is Mount Olivet important to us and to our neighbors? Further, why do we do the things we do? Why would we do it any other way? What, in essence, is the "Why" – the reason, the hope, promise – that motivates our continuing ministries and leads us into new possibilities? It is so easy to focus primarily on what we do; it is imperative to our health as a congregation that we shift our focus to our reason for following Christ and to let our action flow from that.

For example, at a recent worship committee meeting we were discussing the way we 'do' communion here at Mount Olivet. We noted, among other things, that our process is quite complex, that the grape juice is difficult to pour from the container we use, and that it is difficult to find enough worship assistants to fill all our prescribed roles. There were no shortage of ideas of things we could change to make the whole experience "better." Some ideas involved barely noticeable changes; some, like maybe abandoning the use of individual cups, were huge. Two things, however, quickly became apparent in our conversation.

First, one cannot expect to simply dictate changes in practice in something as central and dear as Holy Communion and expect those changes to be embraced. If we are to make significant changes, it ought to be done through conversations inclusive of our whole church family with consensus as one of the goals.

Second, the practical details of our communion practices attest to a deep spiritual reality, and perhaps the most important thing about our rituals is that they should communicate the truths which they seek to embody. When we act a certain way in worship, our actions say something and mean something. This is especially true for communion, which, in many ways, defines our church community. Whether or not we are going to change anything about the way we commune, it is vital for our spiritual health that we remind ourselves and each other of the "Why?" of communion and allow our particular practices to flow from that.

In truth, our committee meeting became a rich conversation about the meaning of worship and, to some extent, the nature of Christian stewardship. In the end, we decided to invite the rest of the congregation to join this conversation with us. I hope you will join us so that your voice can be heard and so that – even more importantly – we can share in an ever richer understanding of the sacrament. My intention is to host an adult forum-style conversation on a Sunday in the coming months for this purpose. I hope you will attend.

In the meantime, there are two very simple changes that we would like to make on a trial basis especially during Lent. The first we have begun already, and that is using a different container for the grape juice. The second is that we don't really need people to sign up to be presenters to bring forward the bread and wine. While volunteers are welcome to simply offer to help on the spot, we are asking that, if necessary, the ushers take on the role of bringing forth the bread and wine just after they have brought forward the offering plates. Practically this reduces the scramble to find worship assistants. It makes sense to us in terms of the "Why," because the bread and wine are really part of the offering. Together with our money, they are gifts from God that we are returning in gratitude so that God may use them in the ministry of the Church. (There are some fascinating implications as to how our Sunday morning offering is meant to be used, but we can discuss that in our upcoming conversation.)

Along with those two changes, there is one more thing we can try with great significance: using fresh bread instead of wafers. Communion wafers are very practical, quite sufficient for their purpose, and even dear to some, and I don't imagine we will abandon them any time soon. Part of the "why" of communion, however, is the opportunity for Christ to feed and nourish us. Fresh bread, or even store-bought bread, conveys that aspect in a richer way. So, let's do this: if one of you shows up on a Sunday morning and brings bread for communion, we will use it. Wafers provide a very practical option each week but can be put aside when a loaf appears. And gluten-free wafers will continue to be an option, for those who need them. So if you feel moved to do so, bring some bread on Sunday morning!

Mostly any kind will do, including leavened loaves or flatbreads. (Maybe not garlic-parmesan flavored, please.)

And if you feel especially motivated, by all means try baking a simple bread the night before! In this newsletter you'll find a recipe we used in seminary designed to be simple enough so that kitchen-inept dorm-dwelling students could take turns producing our communion bread. Consider giving it a try! Worst case you can throw it away and never tell anyone. Best, our worship will be enriched by the sharing of something that speaks to wholesomeness, nourishment, and goodness.

In peace,

- Pastor Heisen

**Seminary Communion Bread Recipe**

Mix thoroughly in a large bowl:

- 2 cups whole wheat flour
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 2 teaspoons baking powder

In a small bowl, mix well:

- 1/2 cup water
- 1/4 cup vegetable oil
- 1/4 cup honey

Add the liquid ingredients to the flour mixture and stir until a soft dough is formed. Knead for about five minutes. Divide into three parts, and roll each part into a roughly 7-inch circle. Use a knife to draw the shape of a large cross on each. Bake on cookie sheets (lightly sprayed with oil) at 375 degrees until edges just begin to lightly brown (about 12 minutes).

**Prayer List**

We of Mount Olivet hold in prayer Kal Hyyrynen, Justin Lingenberg (relative of Joyce), Ryan Turner (neighbor of Don and Cathy Sheehan), Amanda Parker (relative of Vincent and Jackie Walsh), Karen Eisenhauer (Nadine Argento's sister), Kirsten Bergman, Shirley Liljegren (relative of Joyce Danielson), Bill Romey (friend of Andy Turpin), Meta Mueller, Cathy Sheehan, Dave Gruben, Alyssa Bianchi (friends of Cathy Sheehan), Fr. Dennis Gallagher (friend of Michael), Gail St. Pierre (friend of Joyce), Rev. Nancy Beckwith, Jennifer Bergstrom (niece of George), Eva Strachan, Jim and Ann (relatives of Stephanie Ruggiere), Becky Boutwell, Sarah and Jacob (Nina and Doug), Samantha Smith (friend of Frankie's), Walter Johnson, Christine Webb, Lee Webb (relatives of Cathy Sheehan), Michael Argento (Nadine's son), Liza Aston (friend of Eileen), Clarice Pavlak, Jim Vogt (Meta's husband), Roz (friend of Kris Sheehan), Julie Dawes, Valerie Duggan (friend of Dave Cote), Brian Pihl (relative of Joyce), Diane Cyr (friend of Cathy Sheehan), Alan Johnson, Fran Johansen, Patti S. (friend of Joyce), Janine Gill, Joyce Straub, Deb Brousseau, and Michael & Eileen LeBlanc.

**Ash Wednesday**

**Wednesday, February 14th**

**12:00 Noon - Mount Olivet Lutheran Church**

**7:00 PM - Trinity Episcopal Church/  
Wellspring United Methodist Church**

**Lenten Soup Suppers**

In partnership with Trinity Episcopal Church and Wellspring United Methodist Church, soup suppers will resume throughout Lent on Wednesdays at 6:00 PM according to the following schedule:

**February 21st - Trinity**

**February 28th - Mount Olivet**

**March 7th - Wellspring**

**March 14th - Trinity**

**March 21st - Mount Olivet**

Our worship includes a simple meal of soup and bread, Holden Evening Prayer and Eucharist around the table. Please use the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board if you plan to bring either soup or bread.

**Mount Olivet Holy Week Services**

This year, evening services on Thursday, Friday and Saturday will be shared services with Trinity Episcopal and Wellspring United Methodist.

**Palm Sunday, March 25th**

**10:00 AM - Mount Olivet**

**Maundy Thursday, March 29th**

**7:00 PM - Trinity Episcopal**

**Good Friday, March 30th**

**7:00 PM - Wellspring United Methodist**

**The Easter Vigil, Saturday March 31st**

**8:00 PM - Mount Olivet**

**Easter Sunday, April 1st**

**6:30 AM - Sunrise Service - on the Common  
(Hosted by Wellspring United Methodist Church)**

**Easter Sunday, April 1st**

**10:00 AM - Mount Olivet**

## Bible Sharing

**Thursdays, 7:12 PM**

Come, share an active faith with others as we consider God's Word together. ***There will be no Bible Sharing group on Thursday, March 29th.***

## IHN

**March 4th - 11th**

March 4th - 11th is Mount Olivet's week at IHN. Please consider being an evening host from approximately 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM or an overnight host from 8:00 PM - 6:30 AM.

## A Thank You to Our Quilters

Thank you all so much for the beautiful quilt. It has kept me warm and comforted, especially on these cold winter days. I very much appreciate all the hard work and love that went into this wonderful quilt. - *Love, Karen Imbalvano*

## Quilt Tying

**February 5th & 26th, 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM**

## Choir Corner

Our choir usually meets on the second Sunday of the month, however, some changes have been made to our choir calendar. The choir will sing on the following Sundays:

**February 11th**  
**March 11th**  
**April 1st (Easter Sunday)**  
**May 20th (Pentecost)**

Pick-up choir meets at 9:00 AM and is open to anyone who would like to sing regardless of musical experience.

## Mount Olivet on SPAC

Mount Olivet's worship services are broadcast on Shrewsbury Public Access Channel (SPAC), channel 28 during the following time slots:

Wednesdays - 8:00 PM  
 Thursdays - 1:00 AM  
 Thursdays - 10:00 AM

## Online Calendar

To keep up with our ever-changing calendar, you can check <http://www.mtolivetlutheran.org>

## Women's Reading Group

**Tuesday, February 20th, 12:00 Noon**

The Women's Reading Group will meet Tuesday, February 20th at 12:00 Noon. A PIECE OF THE WORLD by Christina Baker Kline will be discussed. The novel portrays the life of Christina Olson, the familiar subject of an Andrew Wyeth painting. "Christina's yearning, her determination, her will to dream, occupy the emotional center in both the novel and the painting." All are welcome for fellowship and conversation.

## Remember the Number 20!!!

The deadline for all submissions to *The Olive Branch* is the 20th of each month. Submissions for the March edition are due in the office by Saturday, February 20th. Thank you!

## Lands and People of the Bible

**Wednesday, April 18th - Location TBD**

Bishop Hazelwood will be offering a presentation on "Lands and People of the Bible: Yesterday and Today" in which he will share what he learned on his recent trip to the Holy Land. He says, "It would be a talk, some photographs and a Palestinian meal. The goal is awareness, deepening of our faith, and strengthening our relationship with our Companion Synod [the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land.]" Details are still to come, but the event will be on the evening of Wednesday, April 18th at a nearby church building.

## Drop-In Play Group

**Fridays, 9:30 - 11:30 AM**

Playgroup is open to children, infants through kindergarten. For more info, contact Karilyn Heisen at (857) 615-7626.

## Discover the Three Days

**Saturday, March 10th, 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM**

Cantor Mark Mummert, Trinity Lutheran Church, [73 Lancaster Street, Worcester](http://www.trinityworcester.org), invites you to join him and members of Trinity for a cross generational discovery event on the liturgies of the Great Three Days – Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil. Participants will learn more about the origins of the rites, look more closely at the symbols used to proclaim the death and resurrection of Christ during the liturgies, and will consider ways to make the rites cross generational and contextual. For more information and questions, please contact Cantor Mark by email: [mmummert@trinityworc.org](mailto:mmummert@trinityworc.org) or phone: 508-753-2989 Ext. 14. The event is free and will be held at Trinity. No RSVP is required.

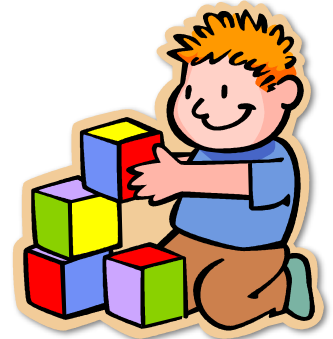
# Mt. Olivet Drop-in Playgroup

For all children from birth through kindergarten and their caregivers  
Fridays from 9:30 to 11:30



Playgroup is located in the fellowship hall (lower level) of  
Mt. Olivet Lutheran Church,  
34 Prospect St, Shrewsbury MA

Lots of toys, indoor and outdoor space to play, painting,  
play dough and coloring.  
Snacks for all and coffee/tea for the adults.



Drop-in for 15 minutes or 2 hours, 1 week or every week.  
No registration necessary!

Contact Karilyn with questions at [karilyn.heisen@gmail.com](mailto:karilyn.heisen@gmail.com) or call/text 857-615-7626



## Special Events

If you have suggestions for special events or crafts, please let me know. Even though playgroup is hosted by a Christian church, we are open to celebrating holidays from other religions. Let me know if there is a special day you want to celebrate.

**Playgroup meets every Friday when Shrewsbury schools are in session.**

**Our Schedule for Winter/Spring 2018 is below**

January 5, 12, 19, 26

February 2, 9, 16 - (No playgroup on 2/23)

March 2, 9, 16, 23 - (No playgroup on 3/30 due to Good Friday)

April 6, 13, 27 - (No playgroup on 4/27)

May 4, 11, 18, 25

June 1, 8



Snow: If Shrewsbury schools are canceled or delayed, playgroup will be canceled.

Mount Olivet Lutheran Church, Outside Groups, Holidays in United States Feb 2018 (Eastern Time)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28 Annual Meeting 10am - Morning Worship @ 7pm - AA Meeting	29	30 6pm - Weight Center	31 10:30am - Russian Play 7pm - Brassboro Ensemble 7pm - Ecumenical Meeting 7pm - Prayer Shawl	1 6pm - Girl Scout Troop 7:12pm - Bible Sharing @	2 9:30am - Drop-in Playgroup	3 7pm - AI-Anon meeting
4 10am - Morning Worship @ 1pm - Schoolhouse Quilters 7pm - AA Meeting	5 1pm - Quilt Tying 6pm - Girl Scout Troop	6	7 10:30am - Russian Play 7pm - Brassboro Ensemble	8 6pm - Celestial Stitchers 7:12pm - Bible Sharing @	9 9:30am - Drop-in Playgroup	10 7pm - AI-Anon meeting
11 9am - Choir Practice 10am - Morning Worship @ 2:30pm - Worship @ 7pm - AA Meeting	12 9am - Garden Club	13 9am - Garden Club (snow) 6pm - Weight Center 7pm - Congregation Council	14 Ash Wednesday Valentine's Day 12pm - Ash Wednesday 3pm - Confirmation Class 7pm - Ash Wednesday 7pm - Prayer Shawl	15 6pm - Girl Scout Troop 7:12pm - Bible Sharing @	16 9:30am - Drop-in Playgroup	17 7pm - AI-Anon meeting
18 10am - Morning Worship @ 6pm - Girl Scout Troop 7pm - AA Meeting	19 Presidents' Day 7:30pm - Brassboro	20 Office Closed 12pm - Women's Reading	21 10:30am - Russian Play 7pm - Brassboro Ensemble	22 7:12pm - Bible Sharing @	23	24 7pm - AI-Anon meeting
25 10am - Morning Worship @ 7pm - AA Meeting	26 1pm - Quilt-Tying	27 6pm - Weight Center	28 10:30am - Russian Play 7pm - Brassboro Ensemble 7pm - Prayer Shawl	1 6pm - Girl Scout Troop 7:12pm - Bible Sharing @	2 9:30am - Drop-in Playgroup	3 7pm - AI-Anon meeting

# Worship Assistant Schedules for February, 2018

**If you are unavailable on your assigned dates, please find a substitute.**

*Thank you for your continued service.*

February	4th	11th	18th	25th
<b>Cantor</b>	Kris Sheehan	Frankie Morelli	Karilyn Heisen	George Bergstrom
<b>Lector</b>	Holly Pavlak	Michael LeBlanc	Kris Sheehan	Joyce Danielson
<b>Usher/Presenter 1</b>	Ginny Aikens	Nancy Cowan	Sue Whalen	Stephanie Ruggiere
<b>Usher/Presenter 2</b>	Sue Whalen	Rob Erickson	Ginny Aikens	Carolyn Skoglund
<b>Coffee/Snack</b>	Eileen Straub LeBlanc	Nancy Robbins	Karen McKenzie	Gabriela Szabo
<b>Altar Guild</b>	<i>Ginny Aikens &amp; Nancy Cowan</i>			
<b>Counters</b>	<i>Warren Englund &amp; Bill Robbins</i>			

## the OLIVE BRANCH



As recipients of God's gracious love shown through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, we are called in faith to:

- receive God's love in Word and Sacrament
- celebrate God's love in Christian community; and
- share God's love in inviting, caring and service toward one another and the world

### PASTOR

Rev. Andrew Heisen  
Cell: (617) 999-9796

Email: [pastor\\_mtolivet@townisp.com](mailto:pastor_mtolivet@townisp.com)

### OFFICE SECRETARY/ORGANIST

Eileen Straub LeBlanc  
E-mail: [office\\_mtolivet@townisp.com](mailto:office_mtolivet@townisp.com)

### OFFICERS

Don Harbert.....President  
Don Sheehan.....Vice-President  
Kathleen Keohane.....Secretary  
Cathy Sheehan.....Treasurer  
Holly Pavlak.....Financial Secretary

### CONGREGATION COUNCIL

George Bergstrom	Kathleen Keohane
Don Harbert	Holly Pavlak
Nadine Argento	Carolyn Skoglund
Lina Dickey	Rebecca Hanson-
Rob Erickson	Richardson
Don Sheehan	

Church telephone: 508-842-2731

Website: [www.mtolivetlutheran.org](http://www.mtolivetlutheran.org)



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