

# Olivet New Church

# CHATTERBOX

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## Giving Thanks for Our Spiritual Community

As we celebrate the national holiday of Thanksgiving here in Canada, we focus on the priorities of the Olivet Society as a spiritual community. We must always keep before us our purpose as an organized congregation—we seek to grow in our service to others from a love of their spiritual welfare, fostering the formation of heaven within each person, within the body of the Church as well as those outside it.

“Community” comes from the root ideas of “coming together” and “unity.” The origin, or the glue that holds a person or a group of people together, is Divine. The Lord is One. Divine unity, also known as the *heavenly conjugal*, is the source that holds our individual minds and our lives intact. We are able to have “integrity”—oneness or unity of mind, body, intention, words and deeds—only because the Divine is One in all these qualities.

As we grow in the Lord, so we grow in spiritual integrity, in oneness with God within ourselves. The Word repeats this theme over and over in teachings about the celestial marriage of love and wisdom, of the good and true, the Divine and human, the Lord and the Church, etc. The “heavenly marriage,” or *hierogamos* (Greek for “sacred marriage”) within the Lord, and between the Lord and the heavens/church is what we seek to emulate in our individual and community lives. It is out of this celestial marriage that all blessing, thanksgiving and gratitude come.

Individually, this is reflected in the unity between our motives/thoughts and our words/behaviours. In our personal relationships, it finds its strength in our domestic interactions, first between children and their parents, as well as between siblings, and most fully between married partners.

On earth, the full circle is completed as married partners operate as an integrated “parental unit” in the care and nurturing of children in their home, as well as nurturing the spiritual offspring of their marriage in the services they perform to each other and their neighbours.

In the heavens, the circle of life is completed as all angels (married partners) integrate with the other members of their community (society) in the care of their individual and common spiritual offspring—these being the uses of their homes and marriages, as well as their heavenly societies.

What a blessing it is to have these ideals, these images of healthy integrity in community, to focus on as a church. What are our spiritual offspring, or offerings, which we seek as a community to gather around in useful service? As a congregation, we can’t be “all things to all people.” We are obliged to examine our uses at Olivet and determine the best course to take. What can we best do to build and serve community with the gifts for which we are so thankful?

Rev. Michael Cowley

## **From the Pastor**

Our Annual Meeting is this month on October 3, and by now you will have received the mailings of the various reports. We hope to see you there! Please make every effort to attend this meeting to add your thoughts to the discussion of different activities and decisions being made regarding the life of our congregation, both internal and external. If you can't attend in person, we can connect via electronic media. See details elsewhere, or in the mailing you will have received.

Looking down the road, we will be working with Soni Werner on discussions and decisions related to the Olivet School. Her role is to help us, not make decisions for us or force any timeline on the process we began two years ago in special society meetings related to long-term plans (on November 9 and 30, 2016, when we did a review of our planning process of years past). At the second meeting, we determined to give the pastor and principal three years to undertake an outreach and marketing program to bring up enrollment. We determined then that November 2019 would be the time to reassess, or "start the clock," on any process for cutting grades. We have big decisions to make about our future. Again, please set aside the evenings when announced for special meetings with Soni to help lead us into the best decisions we can make.

As September comes to a close and October lies before us, I want to make note of the busy several weeks just past. A flurry of activity is always the case at the beginning the new church and school year, but this September, though another Olivet barbecue at West Dean Park was planned, high winds and the threat of severely dangerous thunderstorms forced us to cancel on the day before the event. With our busy schedule and the additional meeting mentioned above, we chose not to reschedule this event. Many thanks go to the group of volunteers who pulled it all together only to be left watching the heavy winds and rain on Friday from the safety of the indoors.

Please note that Jared and I continue to encourage anyone reading this to let us know if you or someone you know of would like a pastoral visit. We love coming to see you in your home or going out to coffee or lunch. Also remember that Thursday afternoons, unless otherwise noted in the calendar, are "Drop in on the Pastor" times. Come by for conversation between 12:30 and 2 pm.

Michael

## **From the Assistant to the Pastor**

This month I will be travelling out to our sister church in Oak Arbor not once, but twice. The Oak Arbor church is hosting a professional development seminar for New Church educators over the first weekend of October, and over the last weekend of the month they're hosting a GCIC-sponsored teen weekend. If you know a teenager who might like to travel with me to Oak Arbor for the latter event, be in touch! See the advertisement further on in the Chatterbox for more details.

As most of you know, Soni Werner came to Olivet last month to gather information and listen to concerns, in preparation for mediating our conversations about the future of the Olivet School. I found Soni's presence and the processes she administered quite reassuring, and I am grateful to her for offering us her services.

I encourage all of you to reach out to Soni if the Olivet School is something you feel strongly about. It also occurs to me that perhaps the best way to hold this process that we, as a congregation, are now engaged in, is with the thought that we are considering what uses we, as a church, value most and will choose to offer (or continue to offer) to our community. A focus on uses—that is, on the things that are useful in the Lord's eyes—invites His presence, and we are only a church when He is present. Indeed, we're taught, "where the Lord is, there the church is" (AC §3379).

Rev. Jared Buss

## From the Principal

The school year has begun with joy and enthusiasm. We are still receiving weekly enquiries regarding admission, even though it is nearing the end of September. Our numbers have not diminished; in fact, the Playschool is at capacity with a waiting list, and the numbers from Junior Kindergarten to Grade Five are at the same level as last year.

The Olivet Parent Council is doing a cookie dough fundraiser for the school. If you like to do some easy baking, please consider purchasing cookie dough from October 1 to 19. Order forms will be in the main office.



Enjoy these recess photos!

Gabriele Pulpan

The upper grade teachers will be attending an in-service in Oak Arbor on October 4 and 5th. We are looking forward to hearing some interesting and informative speakers and mingling with teachers from other New Church schools.

The first Open House is on November 14—mark your calendars! Society members can show their support for the school by coming out to events such as these. The classrooms will be open for touring, and there will be special entertainment for the young and young at heart.



## Annual Meeting

The Olivet New Church Annual Meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 3, 2018 at 7:30 pm, preceded by a dinner at 6:30 pm. Please plan to attend, as quorum is needed. Contact the office to RSVP for dinner—the cost is \$10.

This meeting will feature society reports from the past year and elections of Board directors and officers. Copies of the Annual Report have been sent out to all members; if you haven't received your report, please reach out to the office. A proxy option for voting is attached to the reports for those members who may be unable to attend the meeting.

Additional nominations for Board directors are encouraged and welcomed and can be presented during the meeting. Please verify before the meeting if the nominee is willing to stand and is eligible to be nominated.

Janet Parker, Olivet Society Secretary

## Oak Arbor Teen Weekend

Please join us for a fun-filled and interesting weekend event in Oak Arbor! Reconnect with old friends and meet new ones!

Theme: ***How the Lord Cares for the World***

Dates: October 26-28, 2018

Address: 495 Oak Arbor Cir. W., Rochester, MI 48306, USA



### Highlights will include:

- Doctrinal class on Divine Providence
- Fun fall outing
- Games, crafts, and other activities
- Helping at local food bank

Cost of weekend: \$30.00

• Start time: 6:30-7:30 pm arrival at Oak Arbor •

Age group: Grades 7-12

Contact person: Nathan Cole, 215-692-3638, [asstpastor@carmelnewchurch.org](mailto:asstpastor@carmelnewchurch.org)



## Mediation Process Update—Participation Encouraged!

Soni Werner is a Swedenborgian mediator. Some plans are still developing, but we anticipate that Soni will be available around November 7 and 8 to meet with and listen to parents of enrolled children, and she will also be available to listen to other people's concerns individually.

She is ready to arrange any sessions for conversations in which you might want a neutral mediator between people (for those times when it may be difficult saying one's concerns directly to others). She is trained in conflict resolution and will help any of you make your assertive, but charitable, statements in a manner that ensures that all parties are respected. She does not make decisions about the future of Olivet, but offers to facilitate decision making processes so they might go more smoothly. If you want an appointment when she comes on November 7 and 8, please contact Sandy in the office.

Lynn Starkey

## Opportunity for a Creative Use

For several years, **\*\*\* Personal information removed from online version – please contact church office\*\*\*** has taken responsibility for ensuring that the church lobby is a welcoming space with design touches appropriate to every season and event. She is interested in passing the torch to someone else who would enjoy spearheading efforts to rotate art, water plants, decorate for Christmas, etc. If this is a task that you would enjoy, please contact her at **\*\*\* Personal information removed from online version\*\*\*** in time to take up your new mantle before the holiday season.

## New Start Time for AA

Please note that starting November 1, the new start time for the Kipling Group of Alcoholics Anonymous Thursday meetings will be 7:30 pm instead of 8:30 pm. Their bimonthly business meetings will start at 6:00 pm.

### The “Olivet NewChurch Video” YouTube Channel

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC671dEQFjyTkM5-fhILIEYA>

At the Sons’ meeting on Friday the September 14, we did our first livestream from the downstairs hall. There were some slight technical issues, but three people watched the live broadcast. The speech was by Michael Cowley on the topic of privilege and was based on a book by Allan G. Johnsen, *Privilege, Power, and Difference*. Please check it out on the YouTube channel. There is a link to it as well on the Olivet Church Facebook page. Hopefully, in the future we will have more content from the Sons.

Livestreaming of Sunday services is going well for the most part, and we get two to four people watching live. In total for the year to date, we have done 40 events live and delayed and have over 1400 views of our videos on YouTube. We also have 35 subscribers, who by subscribing get updates when new videos or live events are coming up.

Again, I would like to put it out there that if there is anyone who would like to participate in this use to please let me know.

If anyone has any questions or suggestions or needs help with accessing our channel, please don’t hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jerry Jutras

### October Anniversaries

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*The love in marriage of one man to one woman is the precious jewel of human life. CL 457*

~ Olivet New Church and Olivet School ~  
~ October 2018 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>1</b> QSP Cookie Dough Campaign Begins (ends Oct. 19) <b>6:30p</b> Beaver Scouts <b>7p</b> Pastors council <b>7p</b> Scout Leaders Meeting	<b>2</b> <b>8:45a</b> Field Trip for KG <b>12:15p</b> QSP kickoff assembly <b>7p</b> Closed AA Mtg	<b>3</b> <b>9:30a</b> NitWits <b>6:30p</b> Social Supper <b>7:30p</b> Olivet Annual Meeting	<b>4</b> NO Drop In On The Pastor PD Day (No Classes for K-5) <b>8:30p</b> Open AA Mtg	<b>5</b> PD Day (No Classes for Playschool or K-5) <b>7p</b> Hunger for Healing Bus. Mtg <b>8p</b> Hunger for Healing NA	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> <b>10:30a</b> Thanksgiving Worship Service (MKC)	<b>8</b> Thanksgiving Thanksgiving Holiday	<b>9</b> <b>7p</b> Closed AA Mtg	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> <b>10a</b> Arcana class <b>12:30p</b> Drop In On The Pastor <b>8:30p</b> AA Mtg	<b>12</b> Charter Day <b>7p</b> Sons' <b>8p</b> Hunger for Healing NA	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> <b>10:30a</b> Children's Choir Performance <b>10:30a</b> Worship (JJB) <b>12p</b> Potluck	<b>15</b> <b>6:30p</b> Beaver Scouts <b>7p</b> Olivet Board Meeting	<b>16</b> <b>7p</b> Closed AA Mtg	<b>17</b> <b>7:30p</b> Doctrinal Class (JJB)	<b>18</b> <b>12:30p</b> Drop In On The Pastor <b>8:30p</b> Open AA Mtg	<b>19</b> Chatterbox Deadline End of QSP Cookie Dough Campaign Mid-Term Report Cards <b>4p</b> Investment Committee Meeting <b>8p</b> Hunger for Healing NA	<b>20</b> OurKids Private School Expo
<b>21</b> <b>10:30a</b> Worship (JJB)	<b>22</b> <b>6:30p</b> Beaver Scouts	<b>23</b> Photo Day <b>7p</b> Closed AA Mtg	<b>24</b> ay	<b>25</b> <b>10a</b> Arcana class in Lobby <b>12:30p</b> Drop In On The Pastor <b>8:30p</b> Open AA Mtg	<b>26</b> Teen Weekend in Oak Arbor <b>1p</b> Early Dismissal <b>1p</b> Parent-Teacher Conferences <b>8p</b> Hunger for Healing NA	<b>27</b> Teen Weekend in Oak Arbor
<b>28</b> Teen Weekend in Oak Arbor <b>10:30a</b> Worship (MKC) <b>12p</b> High School and Middle School Classes	<b>29</b> Operation Christmas Child Begins	<b>30</b> <b>7p</b> Closed AA Mtg	<b>31</b> Halloween Dress-Up Day	<b>Notes:</b>		

## Sunday Volunteer Schedule

If you are not able to come on your scheduled day, please find a sub

Date	Usher	Chancel	Organist	Sunday School 1 (PK-1)	Sunday School 2 (Gr2-4)	JOY (Gr5-8)	Greeters	Refres h-ments	Flowers
Oct 7 Thanksgiving	*** Personal information removed from online version – please contact church office***								
Oct 14 Potluck									
Oct 21 Children's Choir									
Oct 28									
Nov 4 Daylight Savings Time Ends									

## Meal Volunteer Schedule

Date	Cooks	Dishwashers
October 3 Annual Meeting	*** Personal information removed from online version – please contact church office***	
October 14 Potluck		

Olivet Church, 279 Burnhamthorpe Rd, Toronto, ON, M9B 1Z6 .....	416-239-3054
Olivet Church email address: <a href="mailto:contact@olivetnewchurch.org">contact@olivetnewchurch.org</a> .....	FAX 416-239-4935
Pastor, Michael Cowley.....	647-883-3754
Assistant to the Pastor, Jared Buss.....	647-677-2600
Chatterbox Editor, Claire Hurd.....	647-203-5875
Visitors to Olivet – NEED VOLUNTEER.....	
Rides to church, *** Personal information removed from online version – please contact church office***	