

# Olivet New Church

# CHATTERBOX

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## Let Not Your Heart Be Troubled

The world is offering us a lot of reasons to be anxious right now. There is, of course, a lingering pandemic—and as we navigate the reopening of schools in Ontario, many people are watching closely to see whether or not the pandemic gets worse. There are other troubling things going on in the world, including storms, fires, and social and political tensions. There's no shortage of fuel for our anxieties—and the truth is, there probably never will be.

When the Lord, in His Word, talks about our anxiety, His tone suggests that He knows very well that we see many reasons to be anxious. In *Luke*, He says, "And do not seek what you should eat or what you should drink, nor have an anxious mind. For all these things the nations of the world seek after, and your Father knows that you need these things. But seek the kingdom of God, and all these things shall be added to you" (12:29-31). He knows that the nations of the world are anxious. He sees and understands the things that trouble us. He gets it. That's one of the most important and most powerful implications of worshipping a God who is Divinely Human: He is able to look into our faces and understand us. He has been tempted. He has felt anxiety. Our Father knows what we need.

He never indicates that our anxieties mean that something in us is broken. On the contrary, He seems to say that it is inevitable that we will, at times, be anxious. "In the world you will have tribulation," He says (John 16:33). He knows what we are, and He knows what we're made of. Anxiety is fundamentally about the loss of control: it's the fear that we may not or probably won't be able to secure something that we see as important. To us, the fact that things are out of our control sometimes comes as a revelation; but the Lord has always known that a great deal of life—most of it, in fact—will be beyond our control. "For He knows our frame; He remembers that we are dust" (Psalm 103:14).

Some degree of anxiety is inevitable. In this world we will have tribulation. The Lord is not displeased with us when we look at the world and recognize the truth—that it's out of control! That is, it is out of our control. The moment in which we recognize that is never an easy moment; it's like expecting a step that isn't there when you're going up a staircase in the dark. God knows that we will have moments like that; God knows we will find ourselves overwhelmed. And His hope has always been that when we miss a step and stumble—when we're afraid—we will look up. When it hits us in the face that life is utterly out of our control, that's our moment in which to remember that virtually none of what goes on around us was ever meant to be under our control. We are responsible for our choices—for the spirits that we make homes for within our bodies. The rest is in God's hands. And none of it slips through His fingers.

*Lift up your eyes on high, and see who has created these things,  
Who brings out their host by number; He calls them all by name,  
By the greatness of His might and the strength of His power; not one is missing. (Isaiah 40:26)*

*Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid. (John 14:27)*

—Rev. Jared Buss

## **From the Pastor**

Things just aren't getting any easier! This month we hoped we would be coming closer to opening the church for services. At the September Pastors' Council meeting, we discussed the opening of the school and the baby steps we hope to take to survey the society on the subject of reopening the Church. We wanted to give the school opening a few weeks before we reconvened the Reopening Task Force team, which had met back in July.

Then, just on the day of writing (September 17), Ontario, and especially the Greater Toronto Area have taken a step backward, cutting back on numbers of people allowed to gather for social as well as other functions, including weddings, funerals, and church services. It's too early to say a "second wave" is upon us. Hopefully, the stricter laws and fines will get people's attention to take social distancing more seriously and we will avoid the higher hospitalizations we saw in April and May during the first wave.

But the fact remains that we are in the region of the highest concentration of COVID outbreaks in Canada, and although other congregations are having some in-person worship services and meetings, we in Toronto are remaining cautious. Better safe than sorry.

It is with sadness that we report that we have suddenly lost our long-time friend Bob Delyea. The family would like to have a memorial service when things ease up more and can allow a large gathering to take place. We will keep Olivet members and friends informed with a One Call notice when details are worked out.

Other than that, we look forward to "seeing" you online. We will have a Wednesday doctrinal class this month as well as starting up Zoom in Arcana and continuing with the Wednesday discussion groups. Of course, Sunday services are livestreamed and archived to be available to watch at a later time if you missed the Sunday service.

Please stay healthy and safe as we enter into the cooler months of autumn and find ourselves indoors more often. Please don't hesitate to give Jared or me a call if you wish to chat about little things or big things. And do keep us aware of people you know who could use some pastoral care or attention.

Stay healthy and stay safe,  
Michael

## **From the Assistant Pastor**

I've been enjoying the recent opportunities I've had to connect with many of you—whether it be over the internet or (better yet) in some socially-distant-but-in-person format. I'd love to connect with more of you. As one of my teachers used to say all the time (and I mean all the time), "It's all about the people." These days, my ability to reach the people I serve feels like it's under strain, simply because I see all of you so much less often than I used to. And I bet that many of you feel the same about your fellow Olivet congregants. Let's keep on looking for ways to work against the feeling of isolation! If you'd enjoy a socially distant visit, please reach out to me—and I'll be trying to reach out too.

Peace be with you all,  
Jared

## **From the Principal**

As I write this report we are nearing the end of our first month back at school. Even with all of the uncertainty that this school year has brought, the staff has done a tremendous job of supporting parents and students as we reintegrate.

With all the new protocols, there has certainly been a learning curve. The new routines are becoming more familiar all the time. We are still running into challenging details as they come up. I am checking in with teachers frequently, they bring feedback to me, and we are problem solving as needs arise.

Some of our usual fall activities at the school have been cancelled and others are being reinvented for a COVID environment. We cancelled our School Opening Picnic and our Alumni BBQ as these are large group functions. We are, however, proceeding with our Terry Fox fundraiser. This worthy cause will continue to get Olivet's support; however, the run day will look different. The students will remain in their classroom cohorts and will run separately

from other cohorts. This year, we will not be inviting parents or church community members to participate. These decisions are difficult but are made in the best interest of health and safety.

Miss Sharon, our music teacher, is committed to doing the choir performance this term as usual. Since, at present, we are unable to all be in the church together, we are brainstorming ways to have the performance be integrated into the online streaming of our church service. I am sure you will all enjoy it. The children are already learning the pieces and I can hear them joyfully humming as they move through the halls!

Laura Braam

~ Olivet New Church and Olivet School ~						
~ October 2020 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Olivet School & Preschool Registration Opens 10a Arcana Class	2	3
4 10:30a Worship (MKC)	5	6	7 3p Broader Horizons (Sept 23-Oct 21) 8p Online Discussion Class	8	9 PD Day	10
11 10:30a Worship (JJB)	12 <i>Thanksgiving</i> Thanksgiving Day	13	14 3p Broader Horizons (Sept 23-Oct 21) 7:30p Doctrinal Class	15 10a Arcana	16 Chatterbox Deadline Midterm Reports Distribution 4p Investment Committee Meeting	17 3p Olivet Annual Meeting to be held in Parking Lot <b>RSVP to the office</b>
18 10:30a Worship (MKC)	19 7p Board Meeting	20	21 8a Online Discussion Class 3p Broader Horizons (Sept 23-Oct 21) 3:30p Parent-Teacher Conferences	22 3:30p Parent-Teacher Conferences	23	24
25 10:30a Worship (JJB)	26 Operation Christmas Child Campaign begins	27	28	29 10a Arcana Class	30 Dress-Up Day	31 <i>Halloween</i>

# Olivet New Church Annual Meeting

The Olivet New Church Annual Meeting will be held

Saturday, October 17th, 2020 at 3:00 pm **In the parking lot**

This meeting will feature society reports from the past year and elections of Board Directors and Officers.

***Please let the office know if you will be attending as quorum is a must***

## Pop Quiz!

What happens if you don't catch some part of an automated phone call from the church?

One option while you are receiving the call is to listen to the whole message and let it repeat, which it will do once.

If the call has finished, go to the front of the Olivet Phone Directory and call the One Call Now phone number (1-877-698-3261). You will hear a prompt informing you of the most recent message. At the prompt, press 1 to listen to this most recent message. To listen to a prior message, press 2.

If you would like a copy of the Olivet phone list, contact the office and have one mailed or emailed to you!

## Condolences

Our dear friend and long-time member of Olivet Church, Bob Delyea, passed away on Monday, September 14. He was 82 years old. A memorial service will be held in the future, perhaps when we can all celebrate together.

Our thoughts and prayers are also with Deborah Williams who lost her son Victor Parker on August 3<sup>rd</sup>. A memorial service will be livestreamed on Saturday, September 26<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm on [Olivet New Church's web page](#) or [Olivet New Church's YouTube page](#). Due to COVID regulations, only immediate family will be attending.

Donations in Victor's name will be gratefully accepted at [St. Felix Centre's donation page](#) or at Victor's alma mater, Olivet School, via etransfer to [treasurer@olivetnewchurch.org](mailto:treasurer@olivetnewchurch.org).

## October Anniversaries

Diogo and Meryl Machado.....	October 3, 11 years
Doris (and Gerard) Jutras.....	October 9, 66 years
Gilbert (and Anne) Crampton.....	October 9, 38 years
Ron (and Elaine) Smith.....	October 15, 71 years
Denis and Betty Jean-Marie.....	October 15, 65 years
Frank Raymond and Mary McDonald.....	October 15, 33 years
Greg and Sophal Cresswell.....	October 15, 32 years
Karl and Claire Herterich.....	October 18, 6 years
John and Karen Delyea.....	October 20, 36 years
Robert Morgan and Mary Chisholm-Morgan.....	October 23, 27 years
Enzo and Christine Vincenzetti.....	October 26, 29 years

*The delight of use springing from love by wisdom is the life and soul of all heavenly joys. — CL 5*

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