



THE WORD FROM OLIVET

MAY 2021



Olivet Congregational Church, UCC

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Bridgeport CT 06606
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Rev. Lisa M. Eleck, Pastor
Kathy DeMarco, Financial Secretary
Jose Carrion, Sexton
James Cravatas, Custodian



Communion Sunday – May 2nd

Mother's Day – May 9th

Installation of Officers
& Assemble Health Kits – May 16th

E-Board Meeting – May 23rd

Memorial Day – May 31st

Dear Friends in Christ,

It's May! Can you believe it? The cross in our sanctuary is still draped in white cloth to remind us that Jesus is Risen! He is risen indeed! We continue in the Easter Season until Pentecost (May 23rd). While that's easy to forget, if we look to Creation, we see signs of rebirth. From beneath the cold, hard winter ground, beauty erupts as the Master Gardener continues at work. From skunk cabbage to daffodils, we see new growth and new life. But we must take the time to notice for them to give us hope and joy.



I have seen signs of hope and joy this past month. I saw joy in your faces as we celebrated Easter in Olivet's sanctuary. I saw joy as you watched Serenity help bring in Earth Day. I saw gifts of hope as items for hygiene kits arrived and wait to be assembled. I saw hope at work as I participated in a Zoom presentation on Becoming Anti-Racist and as I toured the Bridgeport Rescue Mission's Renewed Life Women & Children's Residential Center. And I have heard messages of hope as members of this congregation support one another during difficult times. Jesus is alive in so many ways!

Our God offers us hope amidst the challenges in our days and of our times. Our God offers us hope as we are rooted in God's love, are branches of the vine of Jesus, and as we bear the fruits of our relationship with our God - love – and bring that love into our world.

I look forward to continuing to serve our loving God with you as we gather in worship and reach out to others through the ministries we support. I look forward to celebrating Pentecost and the presence of the Spirit in our midst. Guided by the Spirit, I look forward to sharing hope and joy!
~ Pastor Lisa

On the glorious splendor of your majesty, and on your wondrous works, I will meditate. The might of your awesome deeds shall be proclaimed, and I will declare your greatness. They shall celebrate the fame of your abundant goodness, and shall sing aloud of your righteousness. ⁵The LORD is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. The LORD is good to all, and his compassion is over all that he has made. All your works shall give thanks to you, O LORD, and all your faithful shall bless you. (Psalm 145: 5-10)

PRAYERS AND CONCERNS



PLEASE CONTINUE TO HOLD IN PRAYER:

Our Church Family & Community including:

Those of our church family who could not be with us this month, especially:

George Beardsley, David & Marion Bromberg, Harriet Brooks, Harrison & Marcia Dodd, Michelle Gibson, Doris Hurd, Carmen & Marcy Porto and Hazel Wermuth.

The Churches & Groups who share our building:

First Haitian Church of God in Jesus Christ and Pastor Julius Laloi

Living the Life Christian Center led by Desirea Vereen

Family Matters Preschool Program and their Director Cynthia Cummiskey

Our Regional Minister, Rev. Mike Ciba

Covenant to Care for Children programs and staff, and the children we serve together.

The Southern New England Conference, UCC and Council of Churches of Greater Bridgeport (CCGB)

The coaches and players who utilize our gym space.

For the people who sit on our steps and wait for the bus outside our doors.

Our extended family of churches who serve at Calvary-St. George's and all the guests & volunteers, especially Guy Love.

"Merciful God, we pray that your comforting and healing presence be felt by all who are convalescing, awaiting diagnoses, living with cancer or suffering in any way. Bless their families, friends, and medical teams, and all caregivers with your spirit of wisdom and compassion."

Our community's leaders as they seek solutions to the problem of violence in our city.



The following prayers appeared in our March & April bulletins:

Prayers for the 500,000+ people in the United States who have died from the COVID virus and their loved ones.

Prayers for all those who are in the midst of getting the Covid vaccine and those who are working to make that possible.

Prayers for our nation as we begin to remove or withdraw restrictions related to activities during Covid.

Prayers for those people in our congregation who are in need of prayers.

Prayers for nations who have yet to receive vaccines for their people.

Prayers for the victims of the mass shooting in Atlanta, GA.

Prayers for the victims & families of the mass shooting in Boulder, CO .

The people of Texas who are still struggling from the aftermath of freezing temperatures.

The people of Israel, where a tanker oil spill has washed up on 90% of its beaches, posing a risk of soaking through the sand to enter their water.

...bulletin prayers continued.

"The family and friends of John Splan, (friends of Deidra and Rich) who died recently."

"Roberta Maurer (Pastor Lisa's sister in-law) and family over the recent death of
Roberta's mother, Pauline Kavanaugh."

Prayers for the people of Kentucky who are struggling with recent flooding.

"Dear God, I am so grateful to be back in church this Sunday. Thanks be to God! Amen!"

"Thank you, God, for the blessing of being back together!"

"Dear Lord, thank you for all your blessings: for sending Rev. Lisa to help guide Olivet, for Kathey as she keeps this community informed & 'running', for the Executive Board who do so much to aid us here, locally & world-wide."

Prayers for the migrants, especially children at our borders.

"Dear Lord, thank you for bringing us together to celebrate Easter!"

"Lord, thank you so much for waking me up this morning & healing me."

"Thank you, Lord, for bringing me to church today & around my church family."

"Thank you, God, for the blessing that 'EVERY' morning is Easter morning from now on!!"

"God, please bless those who need healing in mind, body & spirit with your peace. Amen!"

"Lord, help me make the right decision about my life, and my illness that I'm going through. Amen."

"For 30 cats at shutdown plant, cats in the marker, on campus, on pedestrian streets, by the station, that they get food & water every day, protected & get a home."

"Dear Lord, help to heal the hearts of all who mourn."

"Thank you, God, for our blessings big & small!"

"Dear Lord of All, please keep Mrs. Judy in your special care as her health is waning & her husband is in & out of the hospital. Give the family hope & comfort."



WORSHIPPING AT OLIVET CHURCH

We are back in our Sanctuary for worship! We will continue to ZOOM our services for those who prefer to remain at home for a while longer. (Zoom instructions can be found below). We want to assure you that when we are in the church building, we will continue to practice social distancing. Every other pew will be blocked off in the sanctuary, masks are mandatory & we will have hand sanitizer available when entering the building.

To continue with our safety, pledges can be left in the plate as you enter the sanctuary.

Our main priority is to keep everyone safe & healthy!

ZOOM INSTRUCTIONS: To join by computer, use the link below:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88397990846?pwd=bXhOaXE3MmRHV1dtUINkUWpGUHFLUT09>

To join by phone:

1. Dial 1-646-876-9923
2. Enter 88397990846# (meeting id)
3. Enter # to skip participant id
4. Enter 499400# (passcode)



The next E-Board Meeting will be held on Sunday, May 23rd.



Celebrating May Birthdays:

May 25th - Pastor Lisa Eleck, Nicole Gemignani
May 28th - Kathey DeMarco



ST. GEORGE'S COMMUNITY SUPPER

We provided a meal to the community at Calvary St. George's on Monday, April 26th. 50 meals were served. We will continue to serve a bagged meal to keep everyone safe & healthy. Next time we serve is on Monday, June 28th. Please speak with Deidra if you would like to help.



Be sure to check out Olivet's website for up-to-date church info, resources and more. Sharon Rodko did a great job creating our website! Be sure to bookmark it at - <https://olivetcc.org/>



Thank you to all who donated supplies for the **CWS Hygiene kits**.

We are still in need of monetary donations to help with shipping costs. Each kit costs \$2 to ship.
We will be assembling the kits on Sunday, May 16th following our worship service.



Mark your calendars now for our **Annual Olivet Church Picnic on Sunday, June 13th after worship**. We missed out last year because of COVID, so let's gather together safely, outdoors at Olivet! Our Picnic will be "BYOBL", as in, 'bring your own bagged lunch' and drink! We'll set up chairs & the canopy if weather is an issue. We look forward to seeing everyone!



Prayer for Memorial Day

We remember, O Lord, all those people throughout the years who have made the supreme sacrifice for our country, for liberty, for us. Whenever we breathe the air of freedom or claim the right to justice or enjoy the privilege of worship, fill us with gratitude for those who selflessly gave the last full measure of devotion - their very lives - for our benefit. May these brave men and women now know the joy of eternity and your presence. And may the families of the fallen receive comfort and peace amid their grief. Help us as we minister to their needs. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



Serving Greater Bridgeport
Since 1945

The Council of Churches of Greater Bridgeport, Inc.
Leveraging Hope, Transforming Communities
Service * Dialogue * Collaboration

Rev. Lisa Eleck
Olivet Congregational Church
2102 Main Street
Bridgeport, CT 06606

March 30, 2021

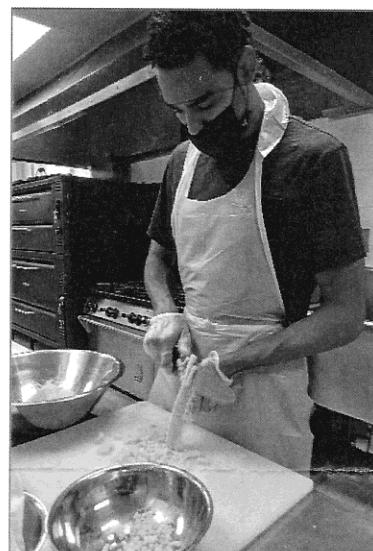
Dear Rev. Eleck and Members of the Congregation,

Please extend my thanks to the whole congregation for the church's donation of \$150.00 on March 9, 2021. On behalf of our Board, our staff, and especially our clients, we are grateful for your support, right when we need it most.

Although we are all encouraged by the number of people being vaccinated, it's clear it will still be a long, difficult road ahead, especially for those who are most vulnerable. Significant numbers of foreclosures and evictions still loom ahead, and we know that all too many people will be hungry and homeless.

Your gift to The Council helps us continue our work with at-risk youth, people who are hungry, those returning to our community after incarceration, and hundreds of people participating in our series of workshops on Raising the BAR (Becoming Anti-Racist).

2020 marked our 75th anniversary year and as I think about what our community, our country and our world has endured over the generations, I'm confident that our resilience through this past winter has positioned us to be even more successful in combatting poverty and providing effective support for those who need it the most. Thank you so much for being part of this ministry! I hope you're staying safe and healthy.



Warmly,

Rev. Cass L. Shaw
President and Chief Executive Officer

MAY 2021

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
						1
2 Communion Sunday Worship 10:00am in our Sanctuary & via Zoom! Pastor Lisa Eleck	3	4	5 Psalm Series 6pm via Zoom	6	7	8
9 Worship 10:00am in our Sanctuary & via Zoom! Pastor Lisa Eleck Mother's Day!	10	11	12 Psalm Series 6pm via Zoom	13	14	15
16 Worship 10:00am in our Sanctuary & via ZOOM! Installation of Officers Pastor Lisa Eleck Assemble Health Kits	17	18	19 Psalm Series 6pm via Zoom	20	21	22
23 Pentecost Sunday Worship 10:00am in our Sanctuary & via ZOOM! Pastor Lisa Eleck Strengthen the Church Special Mission Offering E-Board Meeting	24	25	26 Psalm Series 6pm via Zoom	27	28	29
30 Worship 10:00am in our Sanctuary & via ZOOM! Pastor Lisa Eleck	31  Memorial Day!					

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2102 Main Street
Bridgeport, CT 06606-5312

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Important Dates in May 2021

Communion Sunday – May 2nd

Mother's Day – May 9th

Installation of Officers & Assemble Health Kits – May 16th

E-Board Meeting – May 23rd

Memorial Day – May 31st