



# Olivet United Methodist Church

*Connect. Engage. Inspire.*

## Bi-Monthly Newsletter



### OUR CHURCH FAMILY

## OLIVET UMC

### In this newsletter you can expect:

Pastor's News

Community Updates

Adult's Activities

Kid's Activities

Conference Updates

Olivet Preschool Ministry

## Dear Beloved Church Family

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. As we begin this new season together, I want to extend a heartfelt welcome to each of you reading our very first edition of this renewed church newsletter. I hope that these pages become more than just announcements and dates on a calendar—they become a ministry of connection, reaching you wherever you are, and reminding you that you are an important part of this congregation's life.

In the United Methodist tradition, we believe God's grace is always going before us, opening doors we didn't even know to knock on. This newsletter is one such doorway: an invitation to deeper community, to shared stories, and to witnessing how God is moving among us. Whether you have been part of our church for decades or have only recently found your way into our pews, please know this: you belong here, and your presence enriches the body of Christ.

As your pastor, I am grateful for the opportunity to journey alongside you—learning, worshiping, serving, and growing together. In the weeks ahead, you'll find updates about our ministries, opportunities for fellowship, reflections on faith, and ways to serve both our congregation and our wider community. My prayer is that what you read here will encourage you, challenge you, and inspire you to join in the good and holy work God is doing in our midst.

Let us continue to seek God's guidance with open hearts, trusting that the Holy Spirit will lead us into new possibilities of grace. May this newsletter become a symbol of our shared commitment to be a church rooted in love, shaped by hope, and driven by service.

With gratitude and joy in Christ,

PASTOR RICARDO



## Community News

April and May 2026 bring meaningful celebrations and vibrant community life to Coatesville. Passover begins on April 1, followed by Good Friday and Easter Sunday on April 5, marking sacred moments of faith. Earth Day on April 22 invites us to renew our creation care. Families can enjoy the [Coatesville Easter Egg Hunt on April 4](#) and spend time exploring our [local parks](#) as spring blooms across the city. May continues the season's energy with May Day on May 1, Cinco de Mayo on May 5, Mother's Day on May 10, and Ascension Day on May 14, offering many opportunities for celebration, reflection, and connection throughout the community.

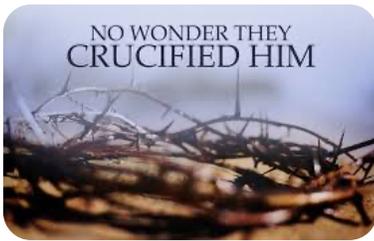
The [Coatesville Public Library](#) also enriches these months with programs that bring neighbors together. The Library Book Club meets in person on the second Monday of each month for lively discussion, and the weekly all-ages Chess Club—just come, learn, and enjoy fellowship in a supportive environment.

### Need help completing forms?

- [PA Rep. Kristine Howard](#). Office: Greentree Office Building 40 Lloyd Avenue Suite 309 Malvern, PA 19355. 610-251-1070. Chester County Library, 4th Tuesday of every month, 9:30 am to 11:30 am. 450 Exton Square Parkway Exton, PA 19341
- [State Rep Danielle Friel Otten](#). Office: 631 Pottstown Pike Exton, PA 19341 484-200-8259. Downingtown Library, 4th Wednesday of every month, 11 am to 1 pm, 122 Wallace Avenue.

### Here are some free resources!

- [State Rep Carolyn Comitta](#). Office: 17 E Gay St. Suite 301 WC PA 19380 610-692-2112. In-person Coatesville Library: 501 Lincoln Hwy. Coatesville First Wed. of month 10-12. BVAA Second Tuesday 10-12, 250 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Coatesville. BVAA Third Tuesday 10-12, 55 Country Club Road, Suite 200, Downingtown. Forms available online: <https://www.pasenatorcomitta.com/self-service/>
- [State Rep. Dan Williams](#). Office: City Hall PL Coatesville, PA 19320-3446. (484) 200-8256. T-Th 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. 3496 E Lincoln Hwy Thorndale, PA 19372-1006 M-F 9 am to 4:30 pm. Online help: <https://www.pahouse.com/Williams/Help-Services/Constituent-Services/>



Of all the people admired in the world today, Jesus of Nazareth continually ranks at the top of the list. Even those who don't call themselves Christians regard Jesus as one of the wisest teachers the world has ever known. So why did his contemporaries kill him? What did he say or do that so provoked the religious leaders of his time that wanted him dead? Why did crowds follow him? There is only one answer. Jesus was more than meek and mild; he was the Light of Heaven hitting a darkened earth like a meteor blast.

## Faith in Action Zoom Class

On April 6th, the Faith in Action Zoom class will begin the study, "No Wonder They Crucified Him." What did Jesus say and do that made Him so dangerous in His times and why do we still follow Him today? Join us as we address issues facing us today with Jesus as our guide.

Monday Mornings on Zoom 10:30

Name and Purpose for Newsletter

Faith in Action: Addressing Issues of Today With Jesus as Our Guide

- Week One: Get Off the Fence
- Week Two: Complete the Circle of Grace and Works
- Week Three: Patrol Your Pleasures
- Week Four: Check Your Bags
- Week Five: Come Die With Me
- Week Six: Follow Me

Our Next Study: The Social Principles of the UMC: What are they and why do we follow them?

**ALL ARE WELCOME HERE!**

## Kid's Activities

Olivet's Confirmation program starts with a retreat at Pocono Plateau, April 17-19, followed by Sunday classes from April 26 to May 17 at 9:15 a.m. Registration details to come.

Faith Builders is Olivet's Sunday school for children ages 5–5th grade, held Sundays during the 10:00 a.m. worship service, led by a rotating team of teachers and volunteers.

## Adult Sunday Bible Studies

Join us for our upcoming Sunday class and make a difference in our community. All are welcome to participate! Every Sunday at 9 a.m. Here are the details:

- April 5 - "Do You Believe This?" (John 12:12-19)
- April 12 - Making Praise Real (Psalm 34:1-6, 15-22)
- April 19 - Divine Intervention? (Psalm 35:1-14, 22-28)
- April 26 - Telling Old Stories in New Ways (Psalm 78:1-8)
- May 3 - Connecting Justice and Peace (Psalm 85:1-13)
- May 10 - Letting God be God (Psalm 89)
- May 17 - How Do You Receive the Holy Spirit? (Acts 1:1-11)
- May 24 - An Unexpected Invitation (Acts 2:1-13)
- May 31 - Repentance: A Lifelong Discipline (Acts 2:29-41)



**South District Conference**

May 2, 2026 at 10:00 AM

Host Church:  
Cedarville UMC  
1092 Laurelwood Rd  
Pottstown, PA 19465-7420

**28 Days of Prayer: Preparing our hearts for Annual Conference 2026.**

Every weekday from 7:00-7:20 a.m., April 8 and through May 15, we'll gather together over Zoom for a time of intentional prayer.

We invite you to [join the journey](#).

“Seek the Lord while God may be found; call upon God while God is near.” (Isaiah 55:6, Adapted)

We are looking forward to the [2026 Annual Conference for The United Methodists of Eastern Pennsylvania](#) that will take place May 19-21, 2026 at the Wildwood Convention Center, Wildwood, NJ.

The Spring 2026 Academy for the Laity will offer a **Servant Leadership Course** on Saturday, April 25th, 2026, at Cedarville UMC in Pottstown, PA. The day includes two sessions (8:00 a.m.–12 noon and 1:00–5:00 p.m.), with check-in and breakfast starting at 7:30 a.m. The course will be taught by Joe Skarbowski, Christ Servant Minister. The program explores how Jesus exemplified servant leadership, inspiring his disciples to lead and serve others. Participants will consider what it means to “come to serve and not to be served” and how they can apply these principles in their church and community. For more information, contact Brenda Binns, Dean of the Academy, at [bbinns1@msn.com](mailto:bbinns1@msn.com).

The **2026 South District Conference** will take place on May 2<sup>nd</sup> from 10 to 12 at Cedarville UMC (1092 Laurelwood Road, Pottstown, PA 19465).

**Pray & Join**

All confidential prayer requests can be sent to Pastor Ricardo via his email: [pastorricardo@olivetumc.org](mailto:pastorricardo@olivetumc.org)

Please email [office@olivetumc.org](mailto:office@olivetumc.org) or call (610) 384-5828, from Tuesday to Friday, 10 to 2 p.m., if you would like a prayer request in the bulletin. Please send your Prayer Chain requests to Margaret at [margaretjr@verizon.net](mailto:margaretjr@verizon.net).

“We lift the following loved ones in prayer, trusting in God’s comfort and healing.”

Wes & Carol, Brenda Norm, Dona, Dave, Cindy & Dee, Helen, Larry, Vonetta, Sydney, Nancy & Sarah, Randy, Greyson F., Cindy D.



## Exciting news for Olivet! We are launching the Olivet Preschool ministry!

Olivet Church is launching Olivet Preschool, a new ministry aimed at serving local families by providing a nurturing, faith-based environment for young children. The preschool is designed to support children's academic, social, and spiritual growth, ensuring a well-rounded early education experience.

The program will offer age-appropriate learning, play, and Christian teaching. Children will have the opportunity to explore the world around them, develop essential early learning skills, and participate in activities such as creative play and Bible lessons that emphasize God's love.

Enrollment for Olivet Preschool starts in April, and the church is getting ready to welcome its first students and their families. The preschool will have one class for 4-year-olds and soon-to-be 4-year-olds, running Tuesday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to noon. We are currently looking for a head teacher and an assistant teacher.

We encourage community involvement and ask church members to help spread the word and think about applying for the Head Teacher and Assistant Teacher positions. We also have yard signs available for anyone who wants to display one in their yard or a busy area.

The church is also seeking classroom supplies such as art materials, books, and educational toys. Volunteers are needed to help set up the classroom, too. If you can donate items or offer your time, please reach out to the church office for a list of needed supplies and ways to get involved.

Everyone is invited to pray about how they might participate in this meaningful new ministry.

*Thank you for reading!*

<http://olivetumc.org>

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PA 19320

(610) 384-5828