



OLIVET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



The Olive Branch

October 2025 Newsletter

Rejoice in Jesus, Grow our faith, Pass it on!

13575 Olivet Road, Lusby, Maryland 20657

“A Grateful Goodbye & A Joyful Welcome”

To Olivet United Methodist Church • Lusby, MD
from District Superintendent Johnsie W. Cogman
October 2025

Greetings Olivet Church family,

As we enter this new month with your new pastor, my heart is full—full of gratitude for the love we have shared, the prayers we have lifted, and the ministry we have pursued side by side. We have laughed, cried, prayed, worshiped, served, and grown together. Thank you for opening your hearts and your hands to God’s work during this transitional season. The fruit we’ve cultivated—faith, hope, generosity, hospitality—will continue to bless Lusby and beyond.

But this is not an ending—it is a holy “hand-off.” We now look joyfully to the next chapter God is writing at Olivet UMC with the strong leadership of your new pastor, **Rev. Dr. Edward C. Andercheck** who officially began on **October 1, 2025**, and will share his first Sunday in the pulpit on **October 19, 2025**. Please join me in giving “Rev. ED” a warm, Olivet welcome!



Meet Your New Pastor

Rev. Andercheck comes to us with a deep love for Jesus, a shepherd’s heart, and a passion for community ministry. His gifts in preaching, pastoral care, and spiritual formation will serve Olivet well as we continue to strengthen relationships, grow in discipleship, and bless our neighbors. In the weeks ahead, you’ll have opportunities, through Sunday Listening Sessions to meet and greet, ask questions, and share your hopes for the future. Please attend!

How We'll Move Forward—Together

Transitions are healthiest when we lean into UNITY and choose encouragement. Here are five simple ways to help our new pastor—and our church—flourish:

1. **Pray daily** for Rev. Andercheck, his family, and your leaders.
2. **Show up**—on Sundays and in small groups—to worship, learn, and connect.
3. **Serve faithfully**—say “yes” to ministry teams that bless our community.
4. **Give generously**—your consistent giving fuels mission and ministry momentum.
5. **Speak life**—choose words that build up, unify, and point us forward in Christ.
Positivity!

Looking Ahead with Hope

In recent months we have emphasized relationship building and “working while we wait.” Now, let’s **work while we welcome**—continuing to cultivate ministries that bless Lusby: caring for families, strengthening our witness, and opening doors for new people to encounter the love of Jesus at Olivet.

I encourage you to dream courageously, serve joyfully, and keep your eyes on Christ who is faithful from season to season.

“Rejoice in the Lord always... And the God of peace will be with you.”
—Philippians 4:4–9

Thank you, Olivet, for the privilege of serving as your pastor in this chapter. I am confident that God—who began a good work in you—will carry it on as you partner with Rev. Dr. Edward C. Andercheck.

May our shared story continue to be one of grace, unity, and forward momentum.

With gratitude and blessing,
Rev. Dr. Johnsie W. Cogman
Superintendent, Two Rivers District





Rev. Dr. Edward C. Andercheck

Rev. Andercheck is an Anglican Catholic Priest, theologian and author. He has served as Rector of St. Mary's Anglican Church in Wilmington, Delaware and as a Deacon at St Annes Anglican Church in Charlotte Hall, Maryland.

He has always had the heart of a Pastor and prior to ordination had volunteered for decades in church lay and youth ministries, while working on Wall Street as a financial services executive.

He earned a Bachelor of Business Administration from The George Washington University, a Master of Theological Studies from Vanderbilt University and a Doctor of Ministry from Duke University.

Rev. Andercheck initially studied Church History and Divine Scripture at St. Meinrad's Benedictine Archabbey, where he became an Oblate. After completion of his doctorate at Duke he studied ecclesiology at the Catholic University of America, School of Canon Law. Rev. Andercheck is a published author; he has written books and articles on spirituality, ecumenism, and ecclesiology.

In his spare time, Pastor Andercheck enjoys medieval history, sailing and practicing the ancient sport of falconry and gardening. His lifelong partner and wife of 45 years, Barbara, supervises his gardening. Barbara is a kindergarten teacher at St. Anthony of Padua Catholic School in Washington, D.C.; they reside alongside the Calvert Cliffs of Chesapeake Beach in Maryland. They are the proud parents of three joy filled grownup children, Brita, Ned and Lee.

Ed sees in the words of Matthew 18:4, "*Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.*" a fresh vision for Christian ministry. It is the attribute of humility that can overcome challenges and ignite a spark for the renewal of church in our times.

PASTORAL PERSONAL QUESTIONS

1. What are the Pastor's Family dynamics?

Married 45 years to Barbara and they have three grown children.

2. What Education degrees does the Pastor have? **BA, MTS, DMin.**

3. Does the Pastor live within the 27-mile radius required by the conference? **Yes.**

4. Does the Pastor have another job? **No.**

5. What are the Pastor's office hours? **By Appointment; Tentative Schedule.**

Monday – Community; Tuesday – Office; Wednesday – Noon and Evening Bible Study; Thursday – Ripple Center/in the office, sermon prep (tentative); Friday Sabbath. Listening sessions on Sundays in October, November, and December, 2 pm -3 pm.

6. How & when will the Pastor be in the Community? **Schools, HUB, etc,...**

7. Will the Pastor serve the Ripple Center? **Yes.**

8. What does the Pastor enjoy about being a Pastor?

Preaching and teaching the Word of God and watching lives be transformed

9. What is most challenging about being a Pastor? **Sometimes, taking care of the Flock**

10. How does the Pastor handle conflict? **Slows things down and listens to understand, rather than respond, and shows respect for all people.**

11. What does the Pastor like to do for fun? **Falconry, spending time with family.**

12. What makes the Pastor angry? **Hateful People.**

13. How does the Pastor practice self-care? **Runs on the beach, Tai Chi, Lifts weights, enjoys Falconry, and takes time with family.**

14. Why does the Pastor want to serve Olivet? **He watched the Worship service and saw the care and love when the members prayed for people and the genuine concern for all, and he wanted to be a part of that Community.**

PASTORAL LEADERSHIP QUESTIONS

15. Is the Pastor connectional (HUB, Community, District, Conference)? **Yes. He will participate in Hub, community events, district leadership, and conference events.**
16. What is the Pastor's start date? **October 1, 2025**
17. When is the Pastor's Service of Welcome? **Sunday, November 2, 2025**
18. What is the Pastor's Leadership Style? **Collaboration with the Team approach**
19. What is the Pastor's preaching style.....lectionary, sermon series, etc....?
Lectionary, coupled with current events, and sermon series.
20. Will the Pastor teach Bible Study? **Yes. Day and Evening.**
21. Does the Pastor have plans to engage the youth? **Yes. He and his wife ran youth groups together for 20 years and he will be working with the local middle and high schools.**
22. What is his Pastoral Experience? **See Bio**
23. How does the Pastor plan to engage the Middle-aged constituency?
Listening sessions
24. How does the Pastor approach or deal with change? **Change is necessary and will be implemented when it benefits the Church and the Community.**
25. How does the Pastor encourage volunteering in the Church? **Getting to know the gifts of the members and encouraging the use of those gifts.**
26. How does the Pastor plan to implement processes to bring finances into Olivet that will allow Olivet to pour into the Community?
Working with the Unified Board, community, and resources from the Conference.
27. Will the Pastor support development of United Women in Faith and United Methodist Men's Group? **Yes. Both entities will be reviewed and revamped as necessary.**



A Message From Jeannette Findley, Lay Leader

We have been using the theme of “Growing our Garden” during these past summer months. Our lives and the life of Olivet United Methodist Church is like a garden. Jesus used the metaphor frequently so that people who worked the soil could understand his message. Even today, this image helps us understand God’s provision and abiding love. But it also puts responsibility on us to tend the soil of our hearts, to plant good seeds, to nurture the plants, to keep the weeds out, and to make good use of the harvest.

And ... now we welcome a new gardener among us! Rev. Dr. Edward C. Andercheck has come to help us plant the love of God in the soil of our hearts and into this community, to teach us new gardening lessons, to help us be fruitful. I sincerely invite you to come to worship, come to the listening session where he wants to learn about you, come fellowship in the Good News Center after worship, come be a part of the gardening team!

Fall is not the time to “call it quits” on tending our garden. Fall is the time to do some clean-up of old, dead growth. Fall is time to refresh the soil with amendments and nourishment. Fall is the time to make the worms happy and keep the soil loose & aerated. Fall is a time to give comfort to the garden by mulching or planting a cover crop blanket to protect it for when freezing comes. Fall is the time to look ahead and prepare for what’s coming next. What seeds shall we think about planting in the future? Who doesn’t want our next garden to be fruitful and beautiful?

Think about all of this as we anticipate and welcome Pastor Ed’s ministry and leadership. I am excited. I want to be part of the gardening team ... don’t you?



*A Message From
Peggy Wilson, Board Chair*

“Time to Tune In”

When the board asked Pastor Andercheck how he would like to begin his journey at Olivet, he said he wanted to begin by listening. The English language uses the word “listen” in many ways. We listen to, listen for, listen in on, and listen up. Parents and teachers may tell kids to “listen before you speak” or “be quick to listen and slow to speak.” When growing up I often heard my mother say, “listen more and talk less!” If you google “The Art of Listening” you learn there is a wealth of “how to” books about being a good listener. One author pointed out that much of today’s communication is done electronically through emails and texts instead of actual conversations where people listen to each other with genuine interest and respond with empathy and trust.

Not so at Olivet! Our time with Pastor Andercheck begins with small group listening sessions where he will have the opportunity to get to know us better and we will have the opportunity to get to know him and each other better. Many members have already been invited to one of the Sunday-afternoon listening sessions hosted by a board member. If you have not received a call yet, your host will contact you soon. Please respond to your invitation promptly so that the pastor can get to listen to each member. These sessions will continue until all members have had an opportunity to participate.

These conversations with the pastor will be an opportunity to listen and share. There will be time to share something about yourself and to talk about what you are looking forward to at Olivet. In our conversations the pastor will also tell us more about himself and his journey to us. It’s a time to have an actual conversation with each other! Let’s come prepared to listen **to** each other and listen **for** how we can all work together to build Christ’s kingdom here on earth.

Shalom,

Peggy Wilson

TREASURER'S CORNER

Annette Schneider, Treasurer

Greetings my Olivet UMC Family,

Happy Fall! It is amazing to think we are in the final quarter of 2025. Where does the time go?

During this last quarter, I want to encourage you to take the opportunity to make an even greater impact in our community and the world through your giving.

Did you know?

The United Methodist Committee on Relief (**UMCOR**) assists the most vulnerable people affected by crisis or chronic need without regard to their race, religion or status. UMCOR's work is carried out by providing relief and assistance in response to natural and human-made disasters and supporting programs in the areas of migration, health, food security and environmental sustainability.

If you would like to donate funds to UMCOR or make a donation to UMCOR for a specific relief effort, you just indicate UMCOR or UMCOR and the relief effort on your check. Olivet will remit the funds directly to UMCOR. To learn more about UMCOR, visit <https://umcmmission.org/umcor/>. To learn more about giving to UMCOR please visit <https://umcmmission.org/ways-to-give/>.

Thank you to everyone who tithes faithfully and financially to Olivet UMC. If you are unsure of how to submit your tithes or financial gifts, you may write a check, set up an automatic distribution with your financial institution, or go to our website, which is: <https://www.olivetumc-lusby.org/give> and follow the secure online link.

If you have any questions, I am in the office on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. You are also welcome to reach out to me by email at olivetumcfinance@comcast.net. I'm here to help in any way I can.

Until next month remember, "God loves a cheerful giver".



SUPPORT THROUGH SERVING

As the saying goes, many hands make light work. Olivet could use more hands to help with the various tasks that make our Sunday service and ministries run smoothly. Please look over the list of “opportunities” below and consider serving on a weekly, monthly, or occasional basis.

- ♦ Altar guild: Set up for communion on the first Sunday of the month and clean up after the service.
- ♦ Prayer Warrior Team; Extending ministry through prayer, visits, cards, or letters under the leadership of the Pastor
- ♦ Hospitality Ministry: Arrive early on Sunday mornings to help set up refreshments for fellowship hour and help with cleaning up afterwards.
- ♦ Serve as a Greeter or a Liturgist for Sunday service.
- ♦ Participate in Project Echo by making a meal or monthly donation.
- ♦ Share your Musical gifts in choir directing, singing, playing an instrument, or leading a praise band.

If you feel led to volunteer, please call the office and let our Administrative Assistant, Esedra Bishop, know where you'd like

THE RIPPLE CENTER (St. Mary's Adult Medical Day Care Center) is located 24400 Mervell Dean Rd, Hollywood, MD 20636. We worship there with the residents every Thursday at 10:30 AM with Holy Communion and lots of energetic singing. There is a Blessing with every Worship experience.



PROJECT ECHO — For many years, Olivet has supported Project Echo, a homeless shelter for men, women, and families in Prince Frederick. The Olivet family donates a meal for 40 people on the first Sunday of each month. Our 3 volunteer coordinators (Peggy Wilson, Sue Shubert, and Betty Ellis) are happy to share the vision of Project Echo with you.



Service Makes Individual Lives Exciting— Olivet is one of the founding members of SMILE. Olivet provides financial assistance from the donations offered on Communion Sundays. There are always fun volunteer opportunities in the food pantry and thrift shop! You may contact Olivet's Smile representative, Kate Wilson via email at nogreen.peppers@comcast.net, for additional information.



A United Methodist Mission Center

"A place to go for food & clothes"

Volunteers are needed and always appreciated!

Open Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday

10:00 AM—1:00 PM

or by appointment

14454 Solomons Island Rd. S., Solomons, MD 20688

solomonsmissioncenter@gmail.com, (410) 326-3278

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SCHEDULED MEETINGS



Olivet Worship Team Meeting
Tuesday October 14, 2025
6 pm
Conference Room, GNC

Olivet Unified Board Meeting
Tuesday October 14, 2025
7pm
Conference Room, GNC

LISTENING SESSIONS WITH THE PASTOR

Every member of Olivet will be contacted to attend a listening session. Please confirm your attendance as promptly as possible.

MUSIC MINISTRY REHEARSAL



October 8th, 15th, 22nd & 29th

STRUMMERS 3 pm

CHOIR 4 pm

If you are a singer or musician, consider
joining the Music Ministry

Please contact Susan Hood @ hoodsusan6@gmail.com for
more information.



ANNUAL CHURCH CONFERENCE 2025

Saturday November 1, 2025

1pm

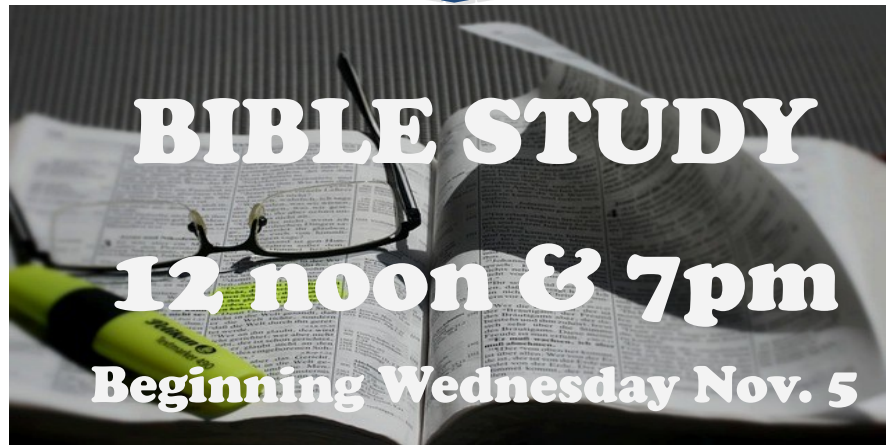
At The Trinity United Methodist Church



90 Church Street ~ Prince Frederick, Maryland 20678

"All Members are strongly encouraged to attend. Your voice and vote matters!"

OLIVET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH UPCOMING WORSHIP & FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES



Ripple Center Luncheon
Thursday November 13
10:30 am — 2 pm
@ Olivet UMC



Saturday December 13
10:30 am— 1:30 pm
@ Olivet UMC



*“Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren
to dwell together in unity!” Psalm 135:1*

Join
Olivet United Methodist Church
&
St. Paul United Methodist Church

for

Worship & Fellowship

Sunday November 30, 2025
9:30 am



Olivet UMC



St. Paul UMC

at the

Olivet United Methodist Church

13575 Olivet Road ~ Lusby, Maryland 20657

****Fellowship Luncheon following Worship ****

Rev. Dr. Edward C. Andercheck, Pastor
Olivet United Methodist Church

Rev. Dr. Johnsie W. Cogman, Interim Pastor
St. Paul United Methodist Church

ST. PAUL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

11000 HG Trueman Rd, Lusby MD



Get ready for a fun-filled afternoon!

18 October 1-3 PM

Live Music - Food - Games

Olivet UMC will be partnering with St. Paul in this Outreach event to share Jesus with the Community. Would you like to contribute? Please contact the office for more information:

olivetumcoffice@comcast.net or (410) 326-8400



“Happy Birthday!”

The Olivet Church Celebrates the Gift of You

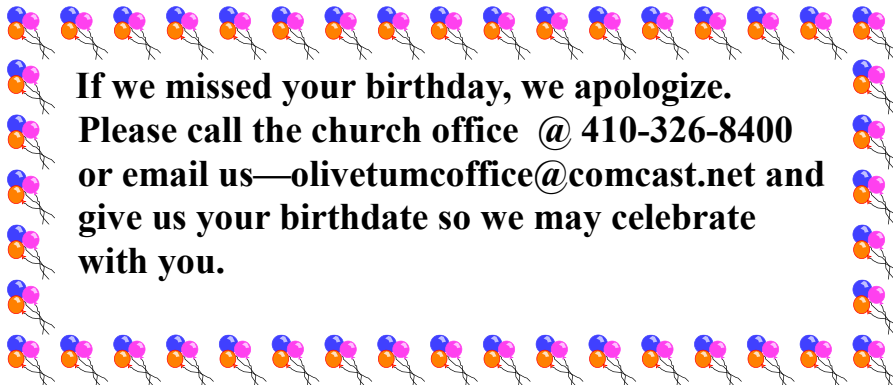
“I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.
Wonderful are your works; that I know very well.” Psalm 139:14

OCT

01 Kate Wilson
06 Bailey Jenkins
07 Sam Wisniewski
12 Holly Shunk
15 Mildred Ward
16 Sue Shubert
24 Val Hermansen
27 Sandy Woomer
30 Betty Gibson

Nov

03 Samantha Dixon
03 James Foote, III
04 Hadley Drury
13 Annette Milling
19 Camden Hood
20 Dick Findley
26 Donna Edwards
28 Lara Hood
28 Angela Postanowicz
30 Stephen Lyle



**If we missed your birthday, we apologize.
Please call the church office @ 410-326-8400
or email us—olivetumcoffice@comcast.net and
give us your birthdate so we may celebrate
with you.**



BIBLE WORD SEARCH

I	G	T	B	X	L	O	V	E	D	H	S	I	R	E	P
Y	B	D	E	E	A	E	F	P	T	A	N	H	B	N	Y
U	L	E	F	K	G	K	N	D	P	G	M	T	B	N	Y
V	E	T	I	W	N	O	S	R	E	V	E	I	L	E	B
G	S	F	L	Y	I	E	T	W	H	N	D	C	C	V	N
I	S	I	Z	Z	T	T	C	T	M	U	N	I	T	O	O
F	I	L	L	I	S	H	Z	I	E	K	O	Y	I	Y	M
T	N	E	M	H	A	G	P	E	F	N	C	X	R	Q	A
D	G	F	C	E	L	I	M	E	H	I	I	K	D	A	N
U	S	L	M	A	R	M	N	D	O	F	R	I	I	E	M
Z	A	P	R	V	E	T	B	I	I	P	W	C	T	X	E
C	V	Z	D	E	V	P	S	C	W	O	L	H	A	A	V
E	E	M	N	N	E	L	U	I	R	C	G	E	S	S	P
R	D	Y	K	O	Y	R	I	L	R	I	O	T	P	B	J
C	R	O	S	S	C	O	D	F	L	H	E	D	O	G	C
S	A	L	V	A	T	I	O	N	N	R	C	H	F	H	D

BEGOTTEN

CROSS

GOD

LOVED

PERISH

BELIEVERS

CRUCIFIXION

HEAVEN

MARY

SACRIFICE

BLESSING

EASTER

LIFE

MIGHT

SALVATION

CHRIST

EVERLASTING

LIFTED

PEACE

SAVED

CONDEMN

GIFT

LIGHTEN

PEOPLE

WORLD



Olivet Family,

We hope you enjoyed the October edition of “The Olive Branch.” Your input is invaluable and we welcome your suggestions for items you would like to see featured in your newsletter. Additionally, having your up-to-date contact information is essential for us to maintain a strong connection with you. This ensures you remain informed about the exciting events at Olivet United Methodist Church while also allowing us to celebrate the important milestones in your lives.

We kindly ask you to email the office with your current mailing address, phone numbers, and email addresses as providing this information will also greatly assist us as we prepare for the upcoming Church Conference on November 1, 2025, at 1 PM, at Trinity United Methodist Church in Prince Frederick, Maryland.

Thank you, Olivet Family, for your ongoing support of this ministry! Your engagement makes a difference!

