

THE OLIVE BRANCH

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE
OLIVE CREST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

ONE HEART TO YOURS PARSON RANDY DILTS

I'm certainly having a hard time with that word patience. It seems like this virus nonsense has gone on forever and disrupted far too many "seasons"! Spring was disturbed, summer was violated, and now the fall with its many events and special times seems so vulnerable. I'm past ready to "get on" with life, get back to doing the enjoyable things of my favorite season of fall.

David is attributed to be the author of Psalm 37 and is making quite the point with the action words; be still, wait patiently, don't worry, don't fret, stop anger, turn from rage, don't envy. All in the space of two verses! OK David, I think we understand! It is just so hard to do; understanding and accomplishing are two different things.

We can know God is still in control but it is so tempting and so easy to complain and want things to change - NOW! So many times I have heard comments about wanting to go back "to normal". I think I agree with those who suggest that might not happen, that there is no going back. There will be a new normal, a new routine, a new pattern of living, moving, and having our being. I agree even more with the thoughts about it being up to us to make the new normal more than simply tolerable, to reestablish some habits, some even better ones.

We do need to remember we still have a measure of control, at least of ourselves.

I've never started at a new church with things like this! And I've been doing this for over 30 years. We have an entire list of things we "cannot" do, hospitals, homes, events are considered "off limits". We are back in the sanctuary and I am so pleased to be there. Communion is available again and I am thankful for all who help make it work. The sanctuary is "marked off" for use in a humorous and thoughtful way, well done!

Patient is defined as enduring delays, annoyances, calmly and without complaining, of showing self-control under provocation. OK Lord, I'll try! Part of the definition I like more is being contentedly expectant. That's going to take some work on my part, I hope you will join me and make it that much easier! The Bible tells us God's plans for us are good and I am ready to turn the page and find out what they are. But the page seems --- stuck! OK Lord, I guess we will just have to wait for Your timing!!!!



**"Be still
in the Presence
of the Lord,
and wait
patiently for
Him to act..."**
Psalm 37:7 par. NLT



Thank You

I am so thankful for the way many have remembered the church during these days.

Thank you for dropping off your financial gifts, for praying for the church and for us. Thank you for supporting the special mission project this past month for the Pearl food pantry. Those items were very much needed and appreciated. You all make this church go, it will move forward as far as you are willing to pray and support it in that direction. Again, thank you all!



Letters from Lily

**United Methodist Global Mission Fellowship
in Portrush Northern Ireland**

And I fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to me, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?' And I answered, 'Who are you, Lord?' And he said to me, 'I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom you are persecuting.'

Acts 22: 7-8

Along with her work with the Surf Project, Lily also writes devotionals for the local Methodist Churches on the North Coast of Northern Ireland.

This devotional is the 1st of a 3 part series on Paul.

Read: Acts 22:1-11

One thing I love about Paul's speech before the Tribune here in Acts or whenever he is talking about his life, is that he doesn't down-play his actions before his conversion. Even though he isn't proud of his actions he owns the fact that he persecuted and killed Christians and that he was originally opposed to the early church. He doesn't try to shove it under the rug or make it seem small, he owns how horrible it was and that makes his conversion story on the road to Damascus even more powerful.

Paul's initial meeting with Christ on the road is one we all know well. I am still though amazed by the complete 180-degree shift that he went through. He changed so much he decided to go by a different name. Think about that. He was such a new creation in Jesus and lived such a different life that he took on a whole new name. The story is pretty amazing, but it holds no meaning if we forget what he did before, and Paul knew that. He knew that his story wasn't complete without acknowledging his sin and all the things he had done. If he just talked about how great his life was with Jesus, that is fine, but the weight of his story would be lost without the beginning. The reverse is true as well. Paul's story of persecuting the church wouldn't be significant if not for the love of Jesus that changed him. But because Jesus meets us where we are, even in the wicked dark parts of the world, he can bring change to even those who seem far gone. So never forget or downplay where you started this journey as a Christian or times that were difficult in your life, because Christ does meet us in those moments. We believe in a transformative God, but it is impossible to see the transformation if we never acknowledge where we started. We all have stories to tell as Christians and I just want to encourage you to share that with others, the good, the bad and the ugly, because through the stories of our lives we can show how God has transformed us.

Prayer:

Dear Heavenly Father we just are so thankful that you have chosen to see the good in each one of us and to transform each of us into your beautiful creation. You have such amazing grace to forgive us of our sins Lord and to love us out of brokenness and into being your children. Lord we are so thank you that each have a story to tell that shows how amazing your love for each of us is. We pray that your love will be alive in us and that we can show the world your love through our transformed lives. Amen.

Fridge Friendly INFO

CALENDAR

Worship Service has returned to the Sanctuary on Sunday mornings. Mask required, every other pew and 6 ft social distancing guidelines in place.

***Worship Service Sundays at 10:00 AM**

Sanctuary and on Facebook Live

***Renewal of Vows, Marcus and Tami Nielsen 10/1**

***Trustee and CARE Team Meeting 10/6 at 6 pm**

***Pastor's Fall Update 10/7**

***Leadership Meeting 10/8 at 1 pm (Lounge)**

***Simon Says Online Gift Basket Auction 10/22-10/25**

***Simon Says Mission @ Completely KIDS 10/12 at 5:30 pm**

***Simon Says Mission @ Ronald McDonald House 10/27 at 5:30 pm**

***Pups with a Purpose (Hall Rental) 10/3, 10/10, 10/17 at 10 am**

***God's Closet and More open on 10/10 & 10/24 from 9-12**

COVID-19 restrictions in place

**Office Hours:
Tuesdays from 1-4
Thursdays 10-4**

Look for the new
Sunday School page in this
addition of the newsletter.

Share with the children in your life
who are missing Sunday School.
Color and Cut along the dotted
line and fold together for a
mini Bible Story Book.

**November 7th
Fall Clean-up
8 am-12pm**

Contact Information:

**Olive Crest United Methodist Church
7180 N. 60th St. Omaha, Ne. 68152
email: olivecrestumc.omaha@gmail.com
office: 402-571-7468**

***Parson Randy Dilts: 531-200-3051
email: mendingspirit@juno.com**

***Outreach/Building Manager: Brenda Jones: 402-740-6550
email: simonsays.foundation@gmail.com**

Newsletter / calendar submissions due by 3rd Friday of each month.

**Contact
CARE Team
for Rides, Meals or
'Essentials' Pick-ups
402-571-7468**



#CreatingJoyDuringHardships

**Check out the Simon Says Online Auction @
<https://www.32auctions.com/simonsaysmission>**

**Starting on Thursday October 22nd @ 6 pm to October 25th @ 8 pm
 Bid on 20 amazing Gift Basket options arranging from
 Date Nights to a Child's Birthday Party at Go! Kids Gym**

All funds raised will go to support the Simon Says Programs



God's Closet and MORE

God's Closet has been busy!!!

This past month we were able to give a \$200 donation to each of these organizations;

the Siena Francis House, the Open Door Mission, Youth Emergency Service/YES and The Pearl Food Pantry.

We are looking for clothing donations so we can continue to offer this mission.

We are in need of girls clothing- baby thru teen.

Please share this page with someone who would benefit from this mission.

If you have clean good quality clothing to donate or have any questions contact Brenda @ 402-571-7468 .

**God's Closet is open on the
2nd and 4th Saturdays
from 9-12.**

**Excellent quality for an
amazing price.**

**All proceeds fund outreach
missions in the community.**

Covid-19 restriction in place.



Most Clothing Items \$0.25
Affordable Household Items

GOD'S CLOSET

**FIRST TIME
VISITOR
COUPON**

Olive Crest

United Methodist Church

7180 N. 60th St.

402-571-7468

2nd & 4th Saturdays 9-12

Bring in this flyer and receive
5 free clothing items!!!!