

**"Where there is no vision, the people perish:
but he that keepeth the law, happy is he."
Proverbs 29:18 Dake KJV**

ONE HEART TO YOURS ☙ PARSON RANDY DILTS

Looking at 2021 – (and beyond)!

Well pastor, does this verse mean if you can't see you are going to perish? No, we can't get so tracksided that we only think physical sight, there are several types of "vision". Finis Dake provided some notes on this verse and he began by saying, "Where there is no vision or consciousness of responsibility regarding keeping the law, the people perish for its lack of enforcement..."

Back then people died for disobeying the law. We now live in an age of grace, blood bought grace purchased by Jesus on a cross long ago. What we are talking about today is that there are a number of ways to "perish". When a business is founded, a business plan is put forth, a vision of the how the business will operate, it's primary purpose for existence, how it plans on growing and expanding. At the core are statements describing what the business is, its definition, and its identity. When companies follow solid business plans their prosperity and success are much more likely to be obtained. Deviations from a defined plan of operation can lead to wasted time, talent, resources, lost revenue, potential failure. Often distracted companies are the ones taken over by those keenly following their prescribed path.

Churches have a destiny. I firmly believe every church has a reason for being, a call to fulfill. There are things God wants accomplished. Our destiny, our anointing to use more of our language should be our focus. We should be keeping our eyes on the prize! Do we know what that is here? Churches that can articulate who they are and what they are called to be about are successes. Sometimes our own "niceness" has been our distraction in many a church as we have tried to be all things to all people. Doesn't work well. Often when looking at a churches mission statement that is meandering and "churchy sounding" while not saying a whole lot reveals a distracted body of people.

We are in the middle of interesting times and events. I can't help but think God has allowed this time to give the local church another chance to focus in who they and whose they are. How many have used the time wisely? Have we? Are we conscious of our responsibility?

Thanks again to everyone who participated in the Advent/Christmas shower for Assure. It was a joy to have Toni Clarke, executive director with us one Sunday. (Remember their annual banquet is coming up!) Thanks to all who helped with our February book drive. And thanks as well to all for remembering the church even when you can't get here and through the several cancellations we have experienced. Olive Crest exists to get things done and thanks for getting on board and keeping the church moving along!



Letters from Lily

United Methodist Global Mission Fellow
in Portrush Northern Ireland

"We rejoice in our suffering because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character hope. And hope will never disappoint us."
--- Romans 5:3-5

Hello Olive Crest Family!

Have you ever felt like you are just barely surviving? All you could do everyday was just get through it, moving from one stressful obstacle to the next? Have you ever felt like you are alive, but you aren't really living? Have you ever felt unfulfilled, lost, or disconnected from your purpose? I know I have, and this past year I have felt that way more often than not. Somewhere during the pandemic, political tension, natural disasters, and everything else that has happened this year, we began to look at the world around us as something we just had to survive. But that is not the way God wants us to live, that is not the life that Jesus came to this earth to give us. In John's Gospel He says, "I have come so that they may have life, and have it to the full." The full life that Jesus wants for us, consists of more than just surviving from day to day.

Since the beginning of lent we have been exploring what it looks like to do more than just survive, what it looks like to thrive in our personal lives, as a church, and in our communities. I would like to invite you to join us on a journey this lent of Music for the Soul. Parson Randy, Brenda Jones, and I are writing daily devotions based on scripture and worship songs that help us understand what it means to truly Thrive. The songs featured each week are some of my all-time favorite worship songs, and the short devotionals for each day are calling each of us to live into that full life that Jesus calls us to. If you are not already following along you can catch up on the website or on Facebook!

This past year has been difficult for everyone, and God knows that, but it is time to stop being controlled by our circumstances and start really living, even though things aren't perfect. If we wait for everything to perfect to live, we will always be waiting. God does not promise us a perfect life free from pain and sorrow, instead He promises to be with us, no matter what. In Johns Gospel He says, I have told you all this so that you may have peace in me. Here on earth, you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world." Christ has already come and overcome everything that we will face, so even while we still live in this broken world, we can have hope in Christ. God wants a personal relationship with each of us. He wants to be apart of your everyday life. The transformation from surviving to thriving comes when we begin to let God work in our every day lives. When we let God lead in our lives.

Choosing to thrive despite our circumstances is never easy. If you have been at Olive Crest for a while you will have undoubtedly heard about Simon's story, and many of you walked with my family through that journey. When Simon was diagnosed with cancer and faced treatment after treatment, he could have easily said I am just going to survive this, and no one would have blamed him for a second. But that wasn't his response. Instead, he chose to continue living the way God had called him to and to give back. He knew that he had a choice in how he responded, so he decided to let God use him and his circumstances so that good could come from something horrible. We all have this same choice before us every day. How are we going to respond to what the world puts before us? Will we let it control us or will we let God work within us?

In Northern Ireland we have been in lockdown due to rising COVID-19 numbers since late December and it has now been extended until Easter. All the shops are closed besides food stores, we aren't supposed to go more than ten miles from our homes, we can't visit people, and masks are always required in public spaces. The Surf Project where I work is closed, and everyone is working reduced hours. I have been working on lots of long-term projects and planning for events we hope to run in the summer months and late spring as restrictions lift. It is really tempting to just curl up in isolation and just survive, but that is not what God has called me to do. Even though my experience in Northern Ireland has not been what I was expecting, that isn't a reason to not let God bring good out of my time here. The challenge to thrive and let God work in my life is very real for me as well. No matter where you are, we are called to be in relationship with God, and He created you with the ability to thrive. My prayer for each of you is that you will continue discovering the amazing full life that God is offering to you and that through you, others will know God's love.

Love and blessings, Lily Jones

CALENDAR

Fridge Friendly INFO

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 and Olive Crest Church App

***Karen Baptist Church** at 1:00 pm

***'Music for the Soul' Daily Lenten Devotional available now through Easter online at olivecrestomaha.org/blog**

***Trustees:** 3/2 at 6:00pm

***Life Line Screening** 3/3 from 9-5

***Grand Reopening of God's Closet** Fifteen Cent Sale 3/3 from 9-5

***Leadership Team:** 3/11 at 1:00 pm

***God's Closet:** 3/13 from 9-12

***Simon Says Mission @ Ronald McDonald House 2/23** at 5:30 pm

***God's Closet:** 3/27 from 9-12

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

Contact Information:

Olive Crest United Methodist Church

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***Parson Randy Dilts: 531-200-3051**

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402-740-6550

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Check the church calendar on the Olive Crest Church app or visit olivecrestomaha.org/calendar for up to date events!

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

MARCH MISSION



Seats and Feet Drive

**We will be collecting new underwear and
tube socks for men and women
experiencing homelessness.**

**All sizes are welcome but XL and
larger are most needed.**

Check out [https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/18MH2YGFL76CO?
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THE SHARE PAGE

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GET IT ON THE App Store GET IT ON GooglePlay

Text olivecrestumc to 1-(888) 364-4483 to download

CUB SCOUT DEN MEETING



Simon Says: "Live a Better Life" Mission along with Olive Crest UMC, provides Birthday Celebrations and High School Scholarships for children experiencing hardships and provides meaningful volunteer opportunities to individuals who wish to help the less fortunate.



Go to:
[olivecrestomaha.org
/missions](http://olivecrestomaha.org/missions)
for more information

Serving the boys and girls of the Ponca, Pinewood and Springville Elementary communities.
Meetings held Mondays @ 7pm
Olive Crest UMC
Email: pack395cubscouts@gmail.com
with inquiries

Check out all the great business located at Olive Crest UMC

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WANTED!
-Low cost booth
-Rent facility with perks
*Barber services coming soon!

WANTED!

-Low cost booth
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BRAIDING



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MARCH 1st

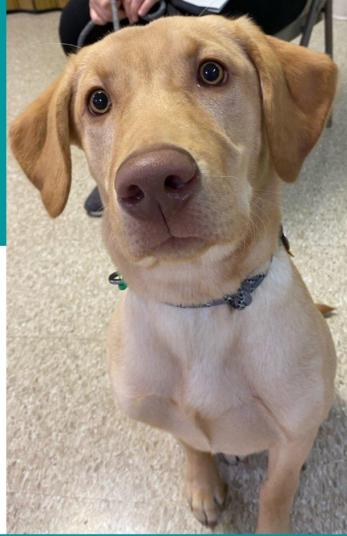


Inside Olive Crest Church
7180 N. 60th St,
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Please check out my website natevanfleet.com for more information and to check out recordings/videos of my playing, then email me when you are ready to schedule your first lesson at ntvanfleet@gmail.com

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