

# Olivet Presbyterian Church

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John M. "Chip" McArthur, Pastor  
Austin R. Simpson, Assistant Pastor  
Christopher McCartney, Choir Director/Accompanist  
Robert B. Mendenhall, Sunday School Superintendent

## The Session

Christopher W. Arnold  
David R. Currence, *Emeritus*  
Daniel H. Harshaw, *Clerk*  
Robert B. Mendenhall  
William Lee Summerville, Jr.

Brian J. Carlisle  
Jeffery E. Fairfax, *Emeritus*  
James M. Hawley, *Emeritus*  
Jason M. Petty  
Richard B. Summerville, *Emeritus*

Roy G. Clinton, *Emeritus*  
Lee K. Guempel  
John M. McArthur, *Moderator*

## The Diaconate

James R. Clinton  
Don L. Johnson  
Richard B. Sikes

Malcolm H. Harshaw  
Peter G. Lawson  
Larry B. Plyler, *Emeritus*  
Brent R. Christenberry, *Treasurer, Building and Grounds*

John F. Hawley, *Chairman*  
Michael A. Laws, *Secretary*

## The Women in the Church

Sandra Currence, *President*  
Marsha Plyler, *Treasurer/Pastor's Aide*  
Susan Petty, *Secretary*

Kathy Fairfax, *Nursery/Children's Church*  
Lorie Hawley, *Missions*  
Frankie Guempel, *Circle Chair*

Ina Ruth Johnson, *Historian*

## Our Missionaries

Peter and Diane Bakelaar (*MTW-Japan*)  
Garry and Anita Chambers (*MTW-Caribbean Region*)  
Roger and Laura Dye (*Family Life – U.S. Latino*)

Brian Howard (*RUF1-Clemson University*)  
Sara Driggers (*Wycliffe*)

## Ministry Committees, 2026

### *Discipleship Ministries Committee*

Lee Summerville, *Chairman* (2026)  
Megan Covington (2027)  
Lee Guempel (2028)

Susan Petty (2026)  
Pete Lawson (2028)  
Lorie Hawley (2028)

### *Missions Committee*

Jason Petty, *Chairman* (2026)  
Bryce Laws (2027)  
Chris Arnold (2028)

Dennis Krueger (2026)  
Abby Sikes (2028)

### *Witness Committee*

Austin Simpson, *Chairman* (2026)  
Gwen Carlisle (2027)  
Bobby Mendenhall (2028)

Barbara Lawson (2026)  
Michael Laws (2027)  
Jimmy Hawley (2028)



# Olivet Presbyterian Church

McConnells, South Carolina

A member congregation of  
*The Presbyterian Church in America (PCA)*



# Olivet Presbyterian Church

The Lord's Day, March 8, 2026

Prelude Preparation for Worship

Welcome and Announcements

\*Call to Worship Pastor Austin Simpson

**T**he LORD is gracious and merciful,  
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. \The  
LORD is good to all,  
and his mercy is over all that he has made.  
All your works shall give thanks to you, O LORD,  
and all your saints shall bless you!  
They shall speak of the glory of your kingdom  
and tell of your power,  
to make known to the children of man your mighty deeds,  
and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.  
Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,  
and your dominion endures throughout all generations.  
(Psalm 145:8-13, ESV)

\*Hymn 4 *All Praise to God, Who Reigns Above* Congregation

\*Invocation and the Lord's Prayer

\*Hymn 457 *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing* Congregation

The Sacrament of Baptism Walter Jack Horton  
*Infant son of Logan and Gracie Horton*

Scripture Meditation Pastor Chip McArthur

Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for  
when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life,  
which God has promised to those who love him. Let no one  
say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God," for  
God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no  
one. But each person is tempted when he is lured and  
enticed by his own desire. Then desire when it has  
conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown  
brings forth death.  
(James 1:12-15, ESV)

Corporate Confession of Sin Unison Reading

**Gracious God, our sins are too heavy to carry, too real  
to hide, and too deep to undo. Forgive what our lips  
tremble to name, what our hearts can no longer bear,  
and what has become for us a consuming fire of  
judgment. Set us free from a past we cannot change;  
open to us a future in which we can be changed; and  
grant us grace to grow more and more in your likeness**

**and image, through Jesus Christ, the Light of the  
World. Amen.**

Assurance of Pardoning Grace

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are  
in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life has set you  
free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death.  
(Romans 8:1-2, ESV)

Pastoral Prayer

The Collection His Tithes & Our Offerings

Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples,  
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength!  
Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name;  
bring an offering and come before him!

(1 Chronicles 16:28-29, ESV)

\*Doxology

\*Prayer of Thanksgiving

\*Hymn 558 *That Man Is Blest Who, Fearing God (Psalm 1)* Congregation

Children's Message Pastor Simpson  
(Children aged 3 to 5 years dismissed to Children's Church Program)

Scripture Reading Isaiah 55:1-13

Sermon *God's Great Invitation* Pastor McArthur

\*Hymn 55 *To God Be the Glory* Congregation

\*Benediction

\*Offering of Praise 735 *The Gloria Patri* Congregation

\*Postlude

\*Those who are able, please stand.

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## Today's Schedule

8:50 am Early Prayer (Pastor's Study)  
9:00 am Sunday School  
10:00 am Morning Worship Service  
**5:00 pm Communicants Class**  
5:00 pm Choir Practice  
6:00 pm Children's Groups and Adult Bible Study

## Attention Ladies

There will be a meeting of the *Women in the Church* immediately following the  
Worship Service this morning.

### *This Week at Olivet*

Tuesday	Ladies' Evening Circle Meets, 7 pm (Conference Room)
Wednesday	Youth Group Meets, 6 pm (Fellowship Hall)
	Prayer Meeting, 7 pm (Conference Room)

### *Looking Ahead (Please Mark Your Calendars!)*

Next Sunday	Missions Conference with Garry Chambers, Guest Preacher (See note)
March 22	Congregational Meeting following Morning Worship (see note below)
March 28	Marriage Conference at Filbert (Register online on Filbert's website ( <a href="https://www.filbertpca.org">https://www.filbertpca.org</a> ))
March 29	Fifth Sunday Joint Worship at Hopewell PCA, Rock Hill
April 4	Easter Egg Hunt, 10 am (Egg hunt, cookies, and The REAL Easter Story)
April 5	Easter Sunday

### *World Missions Conference*

Olivet's annual *World Missions Conference* is scheduled for next Sunday, March 15. MTW missionary Garry Chambers will be our guest preacher. Also planning to join us will be Garry's wife Anita, Sarah Driggers with *Wycliffe Bible Translators*, and Roger and Laura Dye with *Family Life*. We hope you'll make your plans to participate. Here's the schedule for the day:

9:00am	Sunday School (Children with Anita Chambers, Teens & adults with Garry Chambers)
10:00am	Morning Worship with Sara Driggers reporting and Garry Chambers preaching.
11:45am	Fellowship Luncheon (Lunch will be provided)
6:00pm	Evening Worship with Reports from the Dyes, Chambers, and Bakelaars (video), Garry Chambers preaching)

### *Congregation Meeting*

The Session has called a Congregation Meeting for Sunday, March 22, 2026 following the Morning Worship Service for the purpose of requesting the congregation designate John "Chip" McArthur as pastor emeritus pursuant to BCO 23-3 effective upon his anticipated honorable retirement.

### *Church Budget Matters*

Receipts year to date	\$ 37,638.45
Budget requirements year to date	\$ 41,543.34
Difference	- \$ 3,904.89

### *Collection Duty*

March	Malcolm Harshaw, Johnny Hawley
April	Michael Laws, Richard Sikes

### *Nursery Team*

Today (3/8)	Donna McArthur, Nora Kaye Summerville
Next Sunday (3/15)	Gracie Horton, Megan Covington

### *Children's Church Team*

Today (3/8)	Michael Laws, Jane Harshaw
Next Sunday (3/15)	Lorie Hawley, Marsha Plyler

### *Devotional Guides*

The latest editions of *Our Daily Bread* and *Tabletalk* are now available in the vestibule. Pick up your copy today.

### *Missions Prayer Requests For March*

*Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you. Jeremiah 29:2*

### **Garry & Anita Chambers (MTW-Caribbean)**

Please pray for the people of Cuba. Their situation is difficult with the recent developments in Venezuela. There is a shortage of food, medicine, and power outages. MTW has been able to assist the pastors and churches and help with limited gifts of relief food which the churches share with their communities. Ask God to use this hospitality ministry to bring many to faith and that they will be integrated into local churches.

### **Roger & Laura Dye (Family Life-U.S. Latino)**

The Dyes ask us to pray for their:

1. *Skill*: That we would have wisdom for the detailed tasks of writing, translation and production.
2. *Foundation*: That the new resources for US Latinos would land on fertile soil.
3. *Support*: That our needs would be met so we can serve without distraction
4. *Walk*: That we would joyfully abide in Christ daily, even amidst deadlines.

### **Brian Howard (RUF-I Clemson)**

Pray for the challenges RUF-I faces. 48% of Gen Z have no religious affiliation. More than half of that group leave religion behind around age 18. Only 4% of college students are reached by a campus ministry. Those who are involved during their college years are 3x more likely to stay in the Church after college. RUF is positioned to meet this extraordinary opportunity.

Please remember to pray for all of our missionaries and continue our financial support through giving.

### **Peter and Diane Bakelaar (MTW-Japan)**

### **Sara Driggers (Wycliffe)**

*Faith Promise for World Missions*

All of Olivet's financial support for international missionaries comes through the annual *Faith Promise* Commitment. Since 1999, the Lord has been pleased to provide hundreds of thousands of dollars in missionary support through the Olivet Church family and Faith Promise giving.

What is a Faith Promise? A Faith Promise is a commitment to the Lord in which a believer promises, by faith, to give an amount of money over and above his or her regular tithes and offerings, as the Lord provides, to the world missions ministry of the church.

Please prayerfully consider making a **new Faith Promise Commitment for 2026**. Commitment Cards are included in today's bulletin and may be submitted in the offering plate through the end of April.

2025 Faith Promise <i>Pledged</i> , April 30, 2025	\$ 14,460.00
2025 Faith Promise <i>Received to date</i>	\$ 15,485.00