

Olivet Presbyterian Church

159 Church Street, McConnells, South Carolina (803) 693-4040

Email: olivet_pca@bellsouth.net On the web: www.olivetpca.org

John M. "Chip" McArthur, Jr., *Pastor*

Austin R. Simpson, *Assistant Pastor*

Christopher McCartney, *Choir Director/Accompanist*

Robert B. Mendenhall, *Sunday School Superintendent*

The Session

Christopher W. Arnold

Jeffery E. Fairfax, *Emeritus*

Robert B. Mendenhall

Richard B. Summerville, Jr.

Roy G. Clinton, *Emeritus*

Daniel H. Harshaw, *Clerk*

John M. McArthur, Jr. *Moderator*

William Lee Summerville, Jr.

David R. Currence, *Emeritus*

James M. Hawley, *Emeritus*

Jason M. Petty

The Diaconate

Brian J. Carlisle, *Widows & Shut-ins*

James R. Clinton

John F. Hawley, *Chairman*

Lee K. Guempel, *Safety*

Michael A. Laws, *Secretary*

Larry M. Plyler, *Emeritus*

Brent M. Christenberry, *Buildings & Grounds, Treasurer*

Malcolm Harshaw

Don L. Johnson

The Women in the Church

Sandra Currence, *President*

Ina Ruth Johnson, *Historian*

Frankie Guempel, *Circle Chair*

Kathy Fairfax, *Nursery/Children's Church*

Marsha Plyler, *Treasurer/Pastor's Aide*

Susan Petty, *Secretary*

Lorie Hawley, *Missions*

Our Missionaries

Peter and Diane Bakelaar (MTW-Japan)

Garry and Anita Chambers (MTW-Caribbean)

Roger and Laura Dye (Family Life – U.S. Latino)

Brian Howard (RUFJ-Clemson Univ.)

Sara Driggers (Wycliffe)

Ministry Committees, 2025

Discipleship Ministries Committee

Rick Summerville, *Chairman* (2026)

Kathy Fairfax (2025)

Lee Summerville (2029)

Donna McArthur (2025)

Susan Petty (2026)

Megan Covington (2028)

Missions Committee

Jason Petty, *Chairman* (2026)

Lorie Hawley (2025)

Chris Arnold (2029)

Thomas Hardison (2025)

Dennis Krueger (2026)

Bryce Laws (2028)

Witness Committee

Austin Simpson, *Chairman* (2028)

Barbara Lawson (2026)

Bobby Mendenhall (2029)

Marsha Plyler (2025)

Scharlie Carlisle (2025)

Gwen Carlisle (2028)



Olivet Presbyterian Church

McConnells, South Carolina

A member congregation of
The Presbyterian Church in America



Olivet Presbyterian Church

The Lord’s Day, October 5, 2025

Welcome!

We extend a warm Olivet welcome to all our friends, family, former members, and guests join us today for Homecoming today as we celebrate the Lord’s faithfulness to this congregation down through the years. Please be sure to register your presence at the tables set up for that purpose. And may God bless you as your worship with us today.

Homecoming Service

Prelude	Preparation for Worship
Welcome and Announcements	Pastor Chip McArthur
*Call to Worship	

Oh sing to the LORD a new song,
for he has done marvelous things!
His right hand and his holy arm
have worked salvation for him.
The LORD has made known his salvation;
he has revealed his righteousness
in the sight of the nations.
He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness
to the house of Israel.
All the ends of the earth have seen
the salvation of our God.

(Psalm 98:1-3, ESV)

*Hymn 16	<i>Come, Let Us Sing unto the Lord</i>	All
*Invocation and the Lord’s Prayer		
*Hymn 76	<i>Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven</i>	All
Scripture Meditation	Pastor Austin Simpson	

For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.

Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.

Corporate Confession of Sin	Unison Reading
-----------------------------	----------------

Almighty God, rich in mercy to all who call upon You; hear us as we come to You humbly confessing our sins and transgressions. We come needing Your mercy and forgiveness. We have broken Your holy laws by our deeds and by our words, and by the sinful affections of our hearts. Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; and forgive us through the redeeming work of your Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon	
If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.	(1 John 1:9, ESV)
Pastoral Prayer	

Special Ministry Report – *Reformed University Fellowship (RUF) at Winthrop University*

His Tithes & Our Offerings	
*Doxology	
*Prayer of Thanksgiving	
Choral Offering	<i>Great God, How Infinite Thou Are</i> Choir
Children’s Message	Pastor Simpson
(Children aged 3 to 5 years dismissed to Children’s Church Program)	

Sermon	The Rev. Mark Ashbaugh
*Hymn 254	<i>Alas! and Did My Savior Bleed</i> All
Confession of Faith	The Apostles Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper	
*Hymn 469	<i>How Sweet and Awesome is the Place</i> All
*Benediction	
*Offering of Praise 735	<i>The Gloria Patri</i> All

*Postlude

*Those who are able, please stand.

Our Guest Preacher

Our guest preacher for the worship service this morning is the Rev. Mark Ashbaugh who is in his 12th year as the campus minister for *Reformed University Fellowship (RUF)* at Winthrop University. Originally from Columbus, Ohio, his adult years have been spent steadily moving south. The first stop was Virginia Tech. After graduation, Mark resided two years in China with *Young Life International*, teaching English and sharing the Gospel. Back in the states and still heading south, Mark moved to Charlotte where he received a *Master of Divinity* from *Reformed Theological Seminary* in May 2013. Soon after, Mark accepted a call as Assistant Pastor at Bethel PCA in Clover, SC and was ordained in November 2013.

Mark met his wife, Katherine, in college. Katherine has also been working her way south, growing up in Harrisburg, PA. She served as an MTW intern in Dublin, Ireland. She holds a *Master in Biblical Studies* from RTS Charlotte and serves on the staff with *RUF* at Winthrop.

The Ashbaughs have three children, Julia (16), and John (13), and Emmett (10).

Today’s Schedule

8:50 am	Early Prayer (Pastor’s Study)
9:00 am	Sunday School
10:00 am	Annual Meeting of Olivet Cemetery Association
10:30 am	Morning Worship Service
12:00 pm	Dinner on the Grounds – Please join us! (Picnic Shelter)
4:00 pm	Session Meeting

In Memoriam

Faye Roberts Parsons
Died December 4, 2024

Rebecca Burris “Beck” Howell
Died March 1, 2025

Clara Nell Branning
Died April 13, 2025

Flowers

The flowers are placed in the sanctuary today in honor and thanksgiving to Rev. Chip McArthur and his wife, Donna for their dedication and service to the congregation of Olivet for 33 years.

This Week at Olivet

Tuesday	Officer Training, 7 pm (Conference Room)
Wednesday	Youth Group Meets, 6 pm Prayer Meeting, 7 pm (Conference Room)

Looking Ahead (Please Mark Your Calendars!)

October 14	Ladies Circle Meeting, 7 pm (Conference Room)
October 23	Men of the Covenant Supper at Bethel PCA, Clover (see note below)
October 26	Congregational Meeting (See other insert) following Morning Worship Service.
November 14	Olivet hosts Winthrop’s RUF group for annual Barn Dance (Picnic Shelter-
November 23	Annual Thanksgiving Service, 6 pm - At Olivet

Attention Men!

Bethel Presbyterian Church, 2445 Hwy. 557, Clover, SC will host a Fellowship Presbytery Men of the Covenant Meeting at 6:30 pm on Thursday, October 23rd. They’ll need to know by October 9th how many men from each church plan to attend in order to set up our Family Life Center and order enough food for everyone.

The guest speaker will be Dr. Dean Faulkner, Lead Pastor at South Charlotte Presbyterian Church and the Director of RTS Charlotte’s Center for Church Planting. A BBQ supper is planned. The cost per person is \$15.00. Please let Brian Carlisle or Chip McArthur know by October 9 if you plan to attend.

Operation Christmas Child

This fall Olivet will once again be participating in Samaritan Purse’s Operation Christmas Child. Contributions of items for the shoeboxes may be placed in the Ladies’ Sunday School room.

Faith Promise for World Missions

2025 Faith Promise Pledged, April 30, 2025	\$ 14,460.00
2025 Faith Promise Received to date	\$ 7,680.00

Church Budget Matters

Receipts to Date	\$ 169,852.63
Budget requirements to Date	\$ 175,884.66
Difference	-\$ 6,032.03

Collection Duty

October	Brent Christenberry, Jamie Clinton
November	Malcolm Harshaw, Brian Carlisle

Nursery Team

Today (10/5)	Donna McArthur, Megan Covington
Next Sunday (10/12)	Abbey Sikes, Bryce Laws

Children’s Church Team

Today (10/5) Brenda Nance, Jane Harshaw
Next Sunday (10/12) Amanda Lenker, Rick Summerville

Devotional Guides

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

Called Congregational Meeting

The Session has called a Congregational Meeting for Sunday, October 26, 2025, following the Morning Worship Service, for the purpose of electing a pulpit committee to begin the search for a new pastor. As most know, Pastor Chip has announced his intention to retire next May. Relevant rules for the process of congregational selection of a new pastor in the PCA are specified in our *Book of Church Order*, paragraphs **20-2** and **23-1(c)**:

20-2 Every church should be under the pastoral oversight of a minister, and when a church has no pastor it should seek to secure one without delay. A church shall proceed to elect a pastor in the following manner: The Session shall call a congregational meeting to elect a pulpit committee which may be composed of members from the congregation at large or the Session, as designated by the congregation (see *BCO* 25). The pulpit committee shall, after consultation and deliberation, recommend to the congregation a pastoral candidate who, in its judgment, fulfills the Constitutional requirements of that office (e.g., *BCO* 8, 13-6 and 21) and is most suited to be profitable to the spiritual interests of the congregation (cf. *BCO* 20-6). The Session shall order a congregational meeting to convene at the regular place of worship. Public notice of the time, place, and purpose of this meeting shall be given at least one week prior to the time of the meeting.

23-1(c) The associate or assistant pastors may continue to serve a congregation when the pastoral relation of the senior pastor is dissolved, but they may not normally succeed the senior pastor without an intervening term of service in a different field of labor. However a congregation by a secret ballot with four-fifths (4/5) majority vote may petition Presbytery for an exception which by a three-fourths (3/4) majority vote Presbytery may grant. Presbytery needs to determine if the dissolution of the pastoral relationship with the senior pastor was brought about in Christian love and good order on the part of the parties concerned.

Missions Prayer Requests For October

First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people... (1 Timothy 2:1)

Peter and Diane Bakelaar (MTW Japan)-The Bakelaar's ask us to join them in praying as they put forth the idea of boasting in our weakness. This holds profound significance in the Japanese society that prioritizes perfection.

Brian Howard (RUF-I Clemson)-Pray for a Muslim student who has stepped away from Islam and is sincerely exploring Christianity. Pray for a student who is a husband and father of 2. He

is concerned about what to do when their funding runs out in December. Continue to pray for Brian, Izak and Anna as they sow seeds of God's truth at Clemson.

Garry and Anita Chambers (MTW-Caribbean)-Pray for the Chambers as they attend the America's leadership Forum in Columbia, South America Oct.3-10. Pray that Anita will be able to acquire needed equipment and supplies for the medical clinic. Pray for the tensions that exist between Haiti and the Dominican Republic. These tensions make theology and leadership classes difficult for Haitian church leaders in the Dominican Republic.

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

Peter and Diane Bakelaar (MTW-Japan)

Brian Howard (RUF-I-Clemson Univ.)

Garry and Anita Chambers (MTW-Caribbean)

Sara Driggers (Wycliffe)

Roger and Laura Dye (Family Life – U.S. Latino)