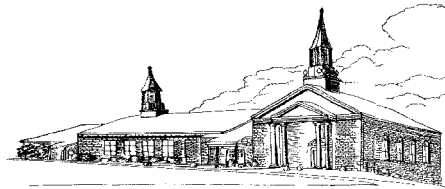


The Olivet Observer



July 2026



"The little church with a big heart"

Olivet Presbyterian Church
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The 163rd Letter of Lee to the Olivet Church

Happy July! Have you ever heard of Christmas in July? I have actually heard of Christian celebrations with a "Christmas in July" theme. Some congregations read the Christmas story, collect and distribute gifts for those in need, and even decorate in the spirit of Christmas. While I think that's an interesting and commendable project, I'd like to propose a Thanksgiving in July for us at Olivet- not so that we can eat all the food (although that wouldn't be a terrible idea) but so that we focus on gratitude. 1 Thessalonians commands that we *give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus*.

In this oppressive heat wave this July, I am grateful for the gift of air conditioning. I'm grateful for this great nation in which we live and celebrate during this month. I'm grateful that God hears our prayers and knows what we need before we even ask. I'm grateful for the wonderful people God has placed in my path by calling me to this church and for my family on earth and in heaven. There are so many things we all have to be thankful for. So, let's have Thanksgiving in July, August, September, October, then again in November and all year long.

Have a great month this month.

Grace and Peace,