

OLYMPUS COVE CONNECTIONS

From the editor...

I appreciated the excellent discussion led by Brother Jeff Simmons last week about ways to adjust to the new schedule for lessons. I also am grateful to hear that the bishopric is aware of the importance of our need to have time to fellowship and minister to each other in the time between classes. I always feel a need for more fellowship and ministry. I realize that it is not easy to come to our lesson meetings willing to be vulnerable. It can be hard to trust that people will have understanding when someone is sharing personal thoughts about seeking or wrestling with questions or issues. Sometimes it takes time, and patience, and forgiveness, and mercy to build that relationship in a ward family. I appreciate the moments of grace and trust I have seen and experienced here. As several others have expressed, Mike and I came here hoping for a “soft place to land.” We have experienced that,

and are grateful. We hope to continue to find ways to be a part of that with the new schedule, even if we let our connections continue beyond the shorter classes, as we move through the foyer and beyond.

A few weeks ago, a good sister in Relief Society expressed appreciation for the good people in our ward, and a desire to know more about our individual stories. I feel that as well. I do not want anyone to feel obligated, or the need to feel uncomfortable. And, I have greatly appreciated getting to know more about the diverse experiences and people in our ward family.

Thank you to all who helped with this issue. Please send me information for the ward newsletter. My phone is 303-902-7062 and my email is hansen_home@comcast.net. Thank you for your help!- Jody Hansen



Inspirational Thought for September - by Travis Moss

As our family transitions from Summer back to Fall with a return to the routines of school and sports, we've had the opportunity to reflect on where our family was last year when we underwent an abrupt move from our prior home in Colorado Springs. Just 12 months ago, for many weeks, we were without a home address and faced uncertainty about where our kids might be able to attend school, whether they could join soccer teams, and how we would adapt to a new neighborhood and new ward. We felt challenged individually and collectively and learned to graciously accept the kindness and generosity of family, friends, new neighbors, new teachers, new coaches, and new ward members. While it was a season of upheaval, it was also a season of miracles as we witnessed tender mercies time and time again that reassured us that God had a plan for us beyond our understanding. Thank you all for your patience and kindness and love! We love being a part of the Olympus Cove Ward and hope that we can someday bless your lives in ways that so many of you have blessed ours. We, like many of you, face new transitions this year that also feel daunting! As we struggle and strive and endure, I've tried to liken our experiences to those we learn from the scriptures and church history (1 Nephi 19:23).

As President Oaks reminds us, “Time after time, the pioneers . . . left their homes, loaded their wagons, and moved to new hardships at the direction of their prophet” (Modern Pioneers, October 1989). Indeed there are many among us that can sometimes feel like we are “those of the last wagon” on the plains,



September Birthdays

Happy Birthday!

September 6 - Phil Johnson,
Jacob Morris
9 - Todd Johnson
10 - Ann Benton
12 - Tate Cannon, Jeremy Grant
13 - Chloe Morris
14 - Brock Gardner
15 - Abby Sunderland, Halle
Sunderland
16 - Rebecca Cannon, Rick
Rendt
17 - Jan Murdock
18 - Xander Van Cornaby, Aiden
Smith, Natalie Winward
19 - Lindsey Randle, Marie Rets
20 - Ryan White
21 - Stuart Peterson
26 - Bruce Decker, Bennett
Moffit
27 - Laura Johnsen, Barbara
Slaymaker
28 - Taylor Garrett
29 - Heather Daybell, Dennis
Farrar
30 - William Moss
October 1 - Danielle Nielson,
Ann Tempest
2 - Aiden Lowe
3 - David Bird
4 - Megan Moss
5 - Cynthia Grant

Please notify me of any preferred nicknames or proper names for the birthday list. I will try to update the official birthday list to honor that.

“whose fidelity to duty and devotion to righteousness go unnoticed by anyone except the One whose notice really matters”.

How do we resist the fear of missing out on that party in the great and spacious building? How do we resist the temptation to feel entitled to the gold, silver, or our precious time that we’ve been asked to sacrifice in order to more fully follow Christ and care for those around us? How do we stop murmuring about the injustices we encounter or when our plans take a detour from what we had anticipated?

Nephi taught, we murmur because “[we know] not the dealings of that God who . . . created [us]” (1 Nephi 2:12). Sometimes it feels easier to choose to see what we lack or how we’re unappreciated rather than choosing to open our eyes to the hand of God guiding and blessing us in our journey. Bart Warner recently shared with me a June 2024 talk by Bradley P. Owens who teaches business ethics at BYU. Brother Owens recounts the remarkable story of a 61-year-old farmer who against all odds ran and won a 544-mile ultramarathon and beat the previous record by two days. He accomplished this phenomenal feat despite what seemed like a series of catastrophic failures the first day: he lost his way, his crew fell asleep and he missed a good dinner, he only slept for two hours before his crew accidentally awoke him too early, thinking they had slept past the alarm. Brother Owens crystalizes how we can “run with patience the mortal **RACE** that is set before us”:

“Repent and Realign Regularly: Frequent course corrections are needed because life can be a distracting, misdirecting, and detour-enticing experience.” President Russell M. Nelson similarly emphasized that “nothing is more liberating, more ennobling, or more crucial to our individual progression than is a regular, daily focus on repentance . . . It is the key to happiness and peace of mind” (We Can Do Better and Be Better, May 2019).

“Anticipate and Acept Adversity”. Due to the veil of forgetfulness, we are prone to forget that we signed up for this mess here in mortality. We keep wondering why we, like the pioneers, keep moving from one hardship to another. What if we reacted differently? My wife’s father had a saying that I think aptly helps us reframe our mindset: “Learn to Love a Challenge”. Rather than meet adversity with debilitating disappointment, let’s convert stumbling blocks into stepping stones as we let adversity teach us patience and as we choose faith, hope, and charity.

“Cleave unto Christ and Covenants”. Covenants connect us to Christ. When we are yoked with Christ our burdens feel lighter and though we must continue to bear them, we are strengthened to do so and can find the rest and peace and confidence that only come through our covenant connection to Christ.

“Endure to the End”. If we “think celestial” our perspective changes and we can find assurance in what our ultimate objective and outcome will be. We can find joy in the journey and our daily work.

We live in a remarkable time when the Lord is hastening his work in ways previously unimaginable. I witness that God is our father with a perfectly personalized plan for each of us and that Jesus is the Christ who “reaches [our] reaching”. I need him “every hour” for “temptations lose their power, when [He] is nigh”. May we courageously and patiently run our RACE and “cheerfully do all things that lie in our power”, trusting the rest to the Lord. - by Travis Moss

Relief Society Temple Trip at the Jordan River Temple - Thank you, Susan Smith for this information.

Please make an online reservation for the September 24, 9:30 am endowment session the Jordan River Temple. Please make an appointment online.

All are welcome to meet at the church at 8:30 to carpool. Thank you, sisters, for the love you feel for service in the temple. All are enthusiastically welcomed!

Relief Society Service Activity

Please come on September 10 at 6 pm and enjoy a light supper, and help us assemble General Kits for The Refugee Connection. These are much needed items for those who are trying to start a new life here in our beautiful state, especially at this time when so much funding has been canceled.

Ways to donate:

1. Sign up on the list passed around at church.
2. Respond on the GroupMe app.
3. Venmo Lisa Monson (@Lisa-Monson) and she will pick up the supplies needed.

Community Service opportunities -

Please contact Kath Peterson if you are interested in serving on September 11, either at 9-10 a at the Mount Olympus Presbyterian Church, making sandwiches for a meal offering that evening.

Or 4:30-6 pm at the St. Vincent de Paul Dining Hall on 200 South, one or two people needed to help with washing dishes and serving. Thank you!

Stake Relief Society Event -

October 7 at 7:00 pm at the Stake Center. Shima Baughman will speak to us, followed by refreshments.

Stake Activity -

Join us for Stake Patriots Day Family Home Evening BBQ and Games. Monday, September 14 at 6 pm at the Stake Recreation Property.

Worship through Sacred Music -

Hymns for this month.

Please raise your voices and sing!- from Chorister Jody Hansen

Please take a moment to look at the gospel app or church website, and listen to the new hymns. They are excellent, and we can look forward to adding a wonderful spirit to our meetings.

For now, there will not be any presentation about the new hymns during sacrament meeting. I will try to include some information in the program. But I encourage you to go to the home page of the gospel app, and click on the music link. If you select the hymn number, and scroll to the bottom of the page for that music, there will be an option that says “About this hymn.” I encourage you to take a moment and learn a bit about the hymns we are singing.

It really does make a difference in our worship when there is participation in the singing. I hope some of you will consider preparing any arrangement of the new hymns to perform for the music number.

I am very grateful for the hymns that help us appreciate the great variety of experiences in countless faith journeys that shape our communities all over the world.

I really appreciate the willingness of so many to sing new and not yet familiar hymns. It is wonderful to hear old favorites we have not sung in a while, as well as learn the new, beautiful additions.

I invite you to please take a look, and possibly play the recording of any that are unfamiliar to you. You can pull the recordings up on the Gospel App under Sacred Music/Hymns for Home and Church. I love to hear you participate when we worship through song.

September 6 - 252, 182, 165

September 13 - 1010, 176, 157

September 20 - 90, 174, 1042

September 27 - Primary program!

Ward Assignment for Church Building Cleaning - Thank you Warren Wadsworth!

The following families are scheduled to help clean the church in August. We will begin each Saturday morning at 9:00 a.m., unless the church is scheduled for another activity such as a funeral or a family gathering. The alternate time for cleaning will be 4:00 p.m. If you cannot attend on your scheduled Saturday, please arrange to have someone take your place.

Oct. 3: General Conference (no cleaning)

Oct. 10: Matt & Katie Lowe and Mitchell & Courtney McBeth

Oct. 17: Stuart & Briana Larson and Aaron & Cynthia Moffett

Oct. 24: Bennett & Bailey Moffit and Gordon & Lisa Monson

Oct. 31: John & Holly Morris and Brad & Sarah Moss

Senior Luncheons -

Thank you to Robyn and Kim Roberts, and to Marsha Smith and Susan Smith (and I apologize if I did not credit everyone) for organizing and preparing a wonderful experience for us seniors to gather and enjoy lovely food and company. This August 25th event was excellent. Please watch for future dates and join us!

And I don't know how some of



these photos ended up in silhouette! Nor do I know how to change it.



Missionary Updates -

From Sister Charlie Hillery, currently serving in France...
Please follow news from Sister Hillery

at charliecehillery.blogspot.com. My email is charliece@gmail.com. Please reach out to say "Hello" or if you have family history questions I might be able to help with.

Missionaries... We really appreciate the service of our full time missionaries. Please send any messages or news from them so I can include a few things in the newsletter.

Excerpts from Sister Josie Larson emails...

🏠 NATIVE FUN FACT 🏠

- native traditions revolve around ceremonies! When someone in the family has a ceremony then they all work together to build a cooking shack outside. Part of the ceremony is that everyone comes and brings food, and the shack is where they all gather to eat. I just think its so cool how some of their most sacred experiences are marked by sharing food with family :)

💖 MIRACLES 💖

💖 Bertha 💖

We've been teaching Bertha for a while now and we were planning on dropping her this week because everytime we go over we mop for her, and she never reads the book of mormon !!! So this week we walked in and much to our surprise she told us she read it!! The whole chapter!! It was such a miracle that she told us right then, and that we didnt give up on her

💖 prepared people 💖

Sometimes it feels like all the people we're teaching aren't really making progress, but then this week we found so many cool people who are prepared for the gospel in their lives! Its so neat to find these people and a good reminder that God really is preparing His children to recieve this message

- baked the clementine cake from secret life of Walter mitty and it wasn't terrible! I wanna make it again and change some things but for a first try it was pretty good

- a super nice lady in our ward did our laundry for us 🙏 shoutout sister Curtis

- went on a hike today and it was sooooo pretty

- miracle of the week was that we had this amazing lesson with our friend Angie, and just during the first couple minutes of our SECOND LESSON she told us she wants her and her daughter to get baptized!!! I have such a testimony that God is preparing people and guiding us to them ❤️

Spiritual thought:

Go listen to Elder Kearons most recent BYU devotional it was FIRE

He talks about slowing down and making time for the Lord and clearly thats something I need to work on because its come up multiple times in the last couple weeks. Go listen to it and let me know what stood out to you!

IM LEAVING GALLUP AND HEADING TO DURANGO!!!

Im actually heartbroken because I love it here. The people, the scenery, the ward!! Im excited for Durango but Im gonna shed a lot of tears driving away from this place.

I just wanted to share a little of what I've learned in Gallup and what I've learned from serving around the Navajo people on the reservation :)

#1 - be patient

The navajo people aren't in much of a hurry. They take their time and find the beauty in every little moment. They have such a respect for nature and they take their time to appreciate it. One of my favorite memories was sitting with this old shima (navajo grandma) and just watching a thunderstorm roll in. No talking. Just enjoying the world around us :)

#2 - trust in God's plan

Especially this week there have been a ton of disappointments in the work. Some of our most progressing people decided to not progress anymore, and it made me really sad!! But i know their time is coming and I have faith that someday they'll choose the covenant path again.

#3 - Christ is always the answer

People in this area struggle with a lot of worldly things. Alcohol, finances, drugs, etc. And it got to the point where I was exhausted because I wanted to help them all but didnt really know how! But everything shifted when I would remember that my job is not to be their savior, but to POINT them to the Savior! He's the only one who can really help people with every single problem they have!!

#4 - God is in the people around us

I feel like I really found God in Gallup. He's in the eyes of the people we teach, in the thunder that echos off the cliffs, in the wild horses that wander down the road. He is with us and around us and so present in our lives!

I've loved it here and Im excited to serve the people in Durango!! I know I'll find God in the people there, and hopefully we'll get to connect about some hobbies :) Its the cutest ski town right outside of Telluride and hopefully Ill be there for some snow!!

✨ spiritual tidbit ✨

I've been trying to finish the Book of Mormon before the transfer and this week I read all about Christ visiting the people in 3 Nephi!! Something I noticed this time around is how the very first thing Christ teaches the people is to have faith and be baptized, let go of contention, and be humble as a child. These principles are so central to Christ's teaching, but the one that stood out to me the most this time is His commandment to let go of contention. Even the prophet has been making this a focus recently, and it isn't always easy to do!! But I would invite you all to pray and let go of contention this week.

Make it a priority because clearly its a priority to Christ.

I love you all! I hope your week is full of jazz music and cozy weather. I'll write you all from Durango next week!

- Sister Larson

[Link to the livestreams for Sunday Meetings -](#)

SacramentMeeting.OlympusCoveWard.org

ReliefSociety.OlympusCoveWard.org

EldersQuorum.OlympusCoveWard.org

SundaySchool.OlympusCoveWard.org

[Temple and Family History resources -](#)

We are here to help you. Temple & Family History Leader Lynn Collins 385-272-5969. Consultants: Karen Collins 385-272-4094, Gail McComas 801-580- 5468, or Alison Wilde.

Mt. Olympus Stake Family Search Center - located at the Millstream (north) building

Family History Center 2026 Hours

HOURS

Mondays - 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Wednesdays - 10 am - 12 noon

1st and 2nd Thursday 7:00 to 9:00 pm

Dear Stake Family,

The Adult Religion class with Armand Johansen will continue on Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m. in the stake center chapel.

Brother Johansen will teach from Come Follow Me - The Old Testament 2026.

We hope you will join us in person or online! And please feel free to pass this information on to anyone else who would be interested in being uplifted and learning with us.

[Click here for the YouTube Live stream.](#)

FYI: Those who are unable to watch the class during the live broadcast can view it later at the same link as above.

-Temple Recommends - Contact a member of the Bishopric for a phone interview. The stake interview can be arranged with one of the Stake Executive Secretary's (Andrew Olson)

Stake Temple Recommend Interviews: Standing time on Sundays from 1:30 to 2:30pm (the 4th Sunday is skipped)