



Neighborhood Gatherings

APRIL 2018

Newsletter of Mt. Olive and Relief United Methodist Churches



“But when they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had been rolled away.”

– Mark 16:4 (NIV)

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

In my trip to the Holy Land, two years ago, I visited the Garden Tomb, right outside the walls of Old Jerusalem. It is of course, one site that claims to have the tomb where Jesus' body was laid after he died. It is also the place the women came and discovered that the tomb was empty and it was announced that Jesus is risen.

When I was in this holy place, I sat down on a bench and began to reflect on this very passage, right in front of the tomb. *“But when they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had been rolled away.”*

– Mark 16:4 (NIV). A wooden door has been placed at the entrance of the tomb with a sign in English that reads: HE IS NOT HERE, FOR HE IS RISEN. These are very powerful words, especially because right before a person enters the tomb, these very words give us the assurance of the resurrection. Indeed, the tomb is empty and I as entered it, I was able to reflect further and imagine the women being the first ones to experience the resurrection of our Lord. What a sublime experience for the women, and especially for being the first ones to share the Good News, the Gospel of the resurrection.

Just a few steps from the tomb, we celebrated Holy Communion, and I had the privilege to officiate the Lord's Supper. As I was pronouncing the words of institution, as I am raising the chalice and the paten, I felt a strange warmth in my heart, the pouring out of the Holy Spirit as we gathered outside the tomb and celebrating the Lord's Table. As I reflect this moment, it is because of the empty tomb that I believe in the resurrection and in the Lord's Supper, I am reminded that Christ died, that Christ is risen, but especially

that Christ will come again. In the meantime, I am charged to share the Gospel of the resurrection.

These women were sure that they found the body of our Lord inside the tomb. They were still living on Good Friday in the death of our Lord, but what a wonderful way to wake up in the morning of the third day and be on Easter Sunday. We are Easter People. We live the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ for HE IS NOT HERE, FOR HE IS RISEN!

—Pastor Victor



LECTIONARY FOR APRIL

April 1 Acts 10:34–43, 1 Corinthians 15:1–11 and John 20:1–18 or Mark 16:1–8

April 8 Acts 4:32–35, 1 John 1:1–2:2, and John 20:19–31

April 15 Acts 3:12–19, 1 John 3:1–7 and Luke 24:36b–48

April 22 Acts 4:5–12, 1 John 3:16–24 and John 10:11–18

April 29 Acts 8:26–40, 1 John 4:7–21 and John 15:1–8

May 6 Acts 10:44–48, 1 John 5:1–6 and John 15:9–17

MT. OLIVE UMC NEWS

*“Where We GOT FAITH!
And so can you!”*

327 Mount Olive Road
Winchester, VA 22602

SUNDAY SERVICES AT MT. OLIVE

Worship Service: 9:30 am
Sunday School: 10:45 am

Give
THANKS
to the Lord

	<u>Worship</u>	<u>Offering</u>
2/25	59	\$ 1,147
3/04	64	\$ 1,914
3/11	50	\$ 642
3/18	<u>64</u>	<u>\$ 1,157</u>
Avg.	50	\$ 1,215

APRIL

Greeters

Alex & Debbie Beeman

*Know the
SCRIPTURES
are crucial*

Elsie Stickley



Bonnie Anderson

**IT'S
DONUT
DAY!**

April 29

Braudelio & Cecilia



4/02 Charlie Anderson
 4/04 Steve Cuccio
 4/05 Lillian Strosnider
 4/06 Scott Lewis
 4/08 Chris Newlin
 4/14 Amanda Einstein
 4/14 Michael Strosnider
 4/19 Jayden Nolasco
 4/19 David Hernandez
 4/20 Cecilia Hernandez
 4/21 Anthony Salvati
 4/23 Joey Dunlap
 4/24 Sharon Kelly
 4/25 Aimee Hoffman
 4/25 Jennifer Newlin
 4/25 Penny Angel
 4/26 Rhonda Lingo
 5/02 Jane Ramey
 5/04 Terri Hudson
 5/04 Yajaira Linares
 5/05 Jerry Stickley



4/03 Steve & Angie Cuccio



THE "OLIVE BRANCHES"

The Church is the soil and the children are the crop . . . Thanks for helping them grow!

The Olive Branches had their first ever dance! What an awesome turnout and I do believe EVERYONE had a great time. The music was enjoyed by the whole group and our youth really have some moves. We had a few line dances, another dance led by Victor and Jessenia (we had no idea what we were doing but joined in and I think we caught on ok) and also new moves to the song "Fishin' in the Dark" which one of the young men from Round Hill UMC taught us. We had tons of food (Methodists love to eat) which was brought by everyone who attended. It went from light refreshments to a down right smorgasbord! Who would have ever thought! Ha-ha-ha-ha! Thank you all for everything and helping to make this a great gathering of all ages and A HUGE thank you to Steve Cuccio for being an awesome DJ!

The annual youth Spaghetti Dinner was another success thanks to all! We started out Sunday morning after services gathering in the shelter. Our master decorators did a wonderful job getting the dining area ready which is always a time consuming job and takes a great eye to make it look and feel inviting to the patrons. Sometimes we overlook things like this, so please except a HUGE thank you for that! The rest of us were busy in the kitchen preparing the sauce, taking on

the clean-up task and taking inventory on any needed supplies. Many, Many Thanks and Blessings to the hands that worked together to do all of these tasks. With the help of everyone, we were able to do all of this by 12:30 and spend the rest of the day with our families! If your feet were sore and your backs tired that is because we served a whopping crowd of 190 people! Our dinner started at 4:00 pm and we had people sitting at the tables eating right off the bat. Our children (and adults) did a fantastic job keeping up with demand even when we ran out of metal forks — our group held it together and made up the void with plastic! I heard many great compliments on how our children had great manners and people were very pleased at seeing so many of them. They loved to see the involvement of the children, the smiles they had on their faces and the way they worked together. The children are the future of our church and I believe the church family continues on for many more generations to come! Thank you all for setting a good example and being good leaders in our community. We also were complimented on our prices and how it was really great that bigger families could actually afford to be able to attend, which is something they would normally not go too because they just cannot afford it — AMEN! Our total raised that evening plus proceeds from selling the leftover sauce was about \$2,200. WE ARE TRULY BLESSED!!!! We still have a few quarts of meat sauce \$6.00 each and plain \$4.00 each for sale. We would also like to thank KOHL's for joining us again. Their help is always appreciated and the ladies they send are always a pleasure to work with. They will also be granting us a donation of \$500.00. What a great bunch and a wonderful business to join us. If you happen to go to Kohl's please say Thank You and let

them know what a great job and service they provide to us. AGAIN — we would like to thank **EVERYONE** for your support. It takes teamwork from every end of the spectrum — whether you made a donation, hung flyers, told friends/family, decorated, had spaghetti or even said a prayer for us. You made this possible! We are truly blessed to have our church families and members in the community!

Our next Youth Group meeting will be April 11th at 6:30 pm in the shelter. We will be making signs and gathering supplies needed for the carwash. Also, we will be discussing our mission trip to Tangier Island. If you are planning or thinking about ongoing or your child/children, PLEASE attend this informational meeting. Depending on our group, we may be doing something other than painting this year 😊

Our next mission fundraiser will be a Carwash on April 21st, 2018 from 1:00-3:00 pm at the First Bank located on 1835 Valley Ave. **Cost: \$Donation**. If anyone is interested in helping out, please contact Brenda Newpher, Youth Group Leader at Mt. Olive. This is a great time of fellowship and just a fun time for everyone! As you know, these events take quite a bit of hands to make them successful so please come out and lend a hand even if it's for thirty minutes. Please help spread the word as the fundraisers help pay for the upcoming youth missions so there is no cost to the families! If you would like to make a monetary donation, it would greatly be appreciated. Please contact Brenda Newpher, Mt. Olive Youth Group Leader.

Please help support the life of our churches and the wonderful youth that will keep the future continue moving forward. They are the next generation of the church! Spread the word to all your friends, family,

neighbors and colleagues. If you would like a flyer, contact Brenda Newpher at 540-931-175 or b_newpher21@live.com

— Brenda Newpher & the Olive Branches



April

- 4/01 Joint Sunrise Service 6:30 am
and Breakfast 7:00 am (Relief)
Joint Easter Worship Celebration
10:00 am (MO)
Easter Egg Hunt after Worship (MO)
- 4/11 Youth Group 6:30 pm (MO)
- 4/21 Car Wash at First Bank on
Valley Ave. 1:00–3:00 pm

May

- 5/09 Youth Group 6:30 pm
Malt Shop, Discussion (MO)
- 5/12 Youth Yard Mulching
(Meet at Mt. Olive
UMC Parking lot) 8:30 am

June

- 6/09 Ministry Celebration at Lake
Holiday — Bring food!
- 6/13 Youth Group at 6:30 pm (MO)
- 6/23 Car Wash @ First Bank on
Valley Ave. 1:00–3:00 pm
- June Isaiah 58 Project — Golf
Tournament (More info to follow)

July

- 7/06-7 Disciples on Deck in lieu of VBS
(2 days, one night)
- 7/23-27 Tangier Island Trip



STAGE LEFT BAND

- 4/01 10:00 am — Sunday
Combined Worship Mt. Olive
- 4/14 6:30 pm — Saturday
Open Door Baptist Church
- 4/22 8:30 am & 11:00 am
— Sunday
Burnt Factory UMC
- 4/28 5:00–7:00 pm — Sat.
Welltown UMC
Praise and Potluck
- 4/29 11:00 am — Sunday
Old Bethel UMC

But now in a single victorious stroke of Life, all three — sin, guilt, death — are gone, the gift of our Master, Jesus Christ. Thank God!

1 Corinthians 15:57 MSG

On the first Easter morning . . . the smothering silence that insulates the domain of the dead from the world of the living was suddenly shattered.

*Taken from Max Lucado's,
"He Chose the Nails"
Written by Gilbert Bilezikian*

RELIEF UMC NEWS

"In Sharing, We Know Christ."
 5275 Middle Road (Rt. 628)
 Six miles SW of Valley Avenue

Sunday Services at Relief:
Sunday School, 10:00 am
Worship, 11:00 am



	<u>S.S.</u>	<u>Worship</u>	<u>Offering</u>
2/25	14	42	\$ 1,447
3/04	10	50	\$ 1,558
2/11	15	41	\$ 2,191
2/18	<u>13</u>	<u>52</u>	<u>\$ 1,385</u>
Avg.	13	46	\$ 1,645

Also received:

C-CAP	\$ 42
Shelter/Fellowship Hall	\$ 350
UMCOR	\$ 10
Witness	\$ 410



Treasurer Report

TREASURER'S REPORTS are available on the table in the back of the Sanctuary after each Administrative Board Meeting. Please feel free to pick up one. If there are none when you go to get one, please let me know.

—Elwanda Luttrell,
 Treasurer

(540) 869-7198, elwand@verizon.net



- 4/02 Elwanda Luttrell
- 4/03 Hannah Milhon
- 4/06 Uta Alger
- 4/07 Phyllis Snider
- 4/09 Nancy Pence
- 4/11 Ruth Snapp
- 4/14 Earl Luttrell
- 4/16 Charles Boyd
- 4/19 Carroll Messick
- 4/22 Lynn Painter
- 4/22 Joanna Smith
- 4/22 Emily Swing
- 4/24 Nick Campbell
- 4/26 Lisa Milhon



- 4/11 Adrian & Joan Anderson
- 4/20 Jim & Kim Huffman
- 4/20 John & Robin Sweet
- 4/20 Barnaby & Dale Watten
- 4/24 Dave & Kathy Holliday

SCRIPTURE READER

Linda Michael



APRIL SPOTLIGHT

First, let me thank all who filled Easter Baskets for C-CAP. A total of thirty-six baskets were delivered to them for distribution. I am sure there are going to be a lot of thrilled children when they receive one of our baskets.

Secondly, thanks to all who helped with food and/or served the WATTS dinner on Monday, March 19th. Those who helped with this project were: Sheila Snapp, Ken and Robin Cibroski, Molly Thorne, Doris Hardy, Eunice Musser, Debbie Faule, Donna Sheetz, Judy Boyd and myself. We served meatloaf, gravy, parsley potatoes, green beans with corn, and apple dumplings. Also, appetizers of cheese, crackers, salsa, and a veggie tray were available when the guests first arrived.

The Outreach emphasis for April is the Our Family Program. May is officially Mental Health Month, but we are going to spotlight this Outreach area of our church in the month of April. One in four American adults which is 43.8 million people has a diagnosable mental illness, according to the most recent statistics. Of these only about 14.6 percent of the US population receive mental health care. Millions have serious illnesses such as schizophrenia, bi-polar disorder, PTSD (post-traumatic stress disorder, depression, or OCD (obsessive-compulsive disorder), hyperactivity, addictions, and there are many others.

Relief Church has been one of the churches that **is** making a difference in the lives of some of the people who have been

diagnosed with a mental illness in our area. Some of these folks have great disabilities, while others are able to work, but they need a little extra support. This difference is carried out by the members of the Outreach committee and others in the church who have helped with special projects. Relief Church supports and provides monetary and volunteer staff who go to Our Family, which is a mental health peer group that meets four days a week at Bethel Lutheran Church on Route 522. Some months we provide a meal for the group. Other times maybe just a special dessert. Monthly visits are anticipated by the group. During the time we are there, we work with them on crafts, provide puzzles, adult coloring sheets, search word puzzles, and such projects as the USO Christmas Cards and Veterans Days appreciation bags. Throughout the year, there are many craft opportunities, such as: January — Snowman activities ; February — Valentine projects; March — Making a Easter Basket and then it is filled with goodies; April — Spring projects and special Mother's Day and Father's Day projects are being planned.

The number in the group varies from fifteen to twenty-five, depending on the day, and the weather, as some have other health issues that prevent them from attending when the weather is bad. There are a couple who are dually diagnosed, which means that they have a mental illness, but also are developmentally challenged or have an addiction diagnosis.

Don't forget each first Sunday you have a chance to put an offering on the Communion Railing for C-CAP. Also, there is a box in the vestibule for C-CAP food donations.

There is a box in the back office for used eye glasses and hearing aids, which are donated to the local Lions Club.

Now is the time to start getting together items for the hygiene kits for Conference.

We appreciate all the support that we receive on the activities by the Outreach Committee.

Elwanda Luttrell
 Chair Mission/Outreach
 (540) 869-7198
elwand@verizon.net



Don't forget Scrapbooking!!

Contact me, Debbie Faule,
 at 869-4005 for information.

April 20
May 11
September 21
October 12

No scrapbooking in June, July or August.
 The time is 6:00 pm to 11:00 pm.
 Dinner is at 7:00 pm.
 Hope to see you there!



If you have new information on your current address, phone, email, children in college, etc. please let me know.

You may call the Relief office at 869-5775, leave a note on the desk in the office or email me at amitch@shentel.net. Thank you for helping to keep our data current!



The deadline for our May 2018 Neighborhood Gathering Newsletter is Friday, April 20th. The May Newsletter will be available Sunday, April 29th.

Please make an effort to put your church information in the newsletter. The newsletter will be on both churches Websites. If you have any suggestions, etc., please feel free to let me know.

Call the Relief Office at 869-5775, home phone (540) 465-4515 or email me at home: amitch@shentel.net

—Brenda

Mt. Olive Mailing address:

327 Mt. Olive Road
 Winchester, VA 22602-1685
 Mt. Olive Church: (540) 877-3424
 Website: www.mtoliveumc.org
 Facebook: Mount Olive UMC
 Email: VictorGomez@vaumc.org

Rev. Dr. Victor Gómez

Cell Phone: 1-202-285-5767

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