



# Neighborhood Gatherings

## FEBRUARY 2018

Newsletter of Mt. Olive and Relief United Methodist Churches



*“Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”*

— *Philippians 4:6-7*

Dear Church Family:

One of the most difficult ministry challenges of all is saying goodbye to a Church family you have loved and been loved by. Words seem utterly inadequate to express the feelings Heather, Jessenia and I hold for you. I pray the Holy Spirit who lives in each of us may somehow carry the depths of our love from our hearts to yours.

As you all know, I have been appointed by Bishop Sharma Lewis, effective July 1<sup>st</sup> to serve as the District Superintendent for the

Harrisonburg District. In response to what I have fully come to embrace as God's will, I have accepted.

I have always prayed that God would allow me to be in ministry with Mount Olive and Relief long enough to make a difference. I believe God has allowed us to make a difference together in ministry for which I am so grateful and blessed.

As I reflect on the first reactions, I saw tears of joy for the opportunity this represents sadness and let me just say... disappointment. I certainly understand the disappointment as I try to wear those shoes. Many of you felt disappointment as we were together moving forward in making disciples of Jesus Christ, and becoming a congregation that matters to the community. Some of you felt cheated by the institutional church because pastoral continuation may seem pivotal in the success of ministry. But remember that God is in control. Remember that as a church you have a great potential and it is up to you to realize the potential, the other choice is go back to declining. Remember to put the vision first, put your entire trust in God and do not let your fears take control. Allow the Holy Spirit to be in control.

I will depart Mount Olive and Relief with the confidence of the following:

First, you both are an awesome Church and God has great plans for you. Your obedience to our Lord during this time together has brought you to a place of abundant fruitfulness. I believe your impact for God's Kingdom can be even stronger in the days to come than in the days gone by.

Second, the path ahead is clear. Even though you will face a transition of senior pastor leadership, there is in no way a leadership void present in these great two Churches. Your lay leadership is prepared to pursue and fulfill the vision of making disciples of Jesus Christ, which God has put in the heart of these two congregations and in you individually. You have a vision; you have physical plans, ministry plans, financial plans and spiritual plans. Follow them in God's power and "watch and see" what God will yet accomplish!

Finally, more than anything, I am confident of the love you have for our Lord and for one another. And I am even more confident of the love God has for you. My prayer is that, if there is any legacy from my tenure of service at Mount Olive and Relief, it will be a deep and abiding awareness of the power of love to change our lives and to change the world.

You will always remain in my heart and in my prayers. Now remain in Christ, knowing that He will remain in you, and allow the Holy Spirit to overcome any fears you may encounter and always remember that God is in control.

*You are loved,  
Pastor Victor*

**THOUGHT:** Prayer is when you talk to God.  
Meditation is when you listen to God.  
—Unknown



**February 4** Isaiah 40:21–31,  
1 Corinthians 9:16–23 and Mark 1:29–39

**February 11** 2 Kings 2:1–12,  
2 Corinthians 4:3–6 and Mark 9:2–9

**February 14** Joel 2:1–2, 12–17,  
2 Corinthians 5:20b–6:10 and Mathew  
6:1–6, 16–21

**February 18** Genesis 9:8–17, 1 Peter  
3:18–22 and Mark 1:9–15

**February 25** Genesis 17:1–7, 15–16,  
Romans 4:13–25 and Mark 8:31–38

**March 4** Exodus 20:1–17, 1 Corinthians  
1:18–25 and John 2:13–22

### STAGE LEFT BAND

- Saturday, February 17<sup>th</sup>  
WATTS at Bethel Lutheran  
Church
- Sunday, February 18<sup>th</sup>  
Worship at Mt. Olive UMC
- Sunday, March 18<sup>th</sup>  
Worship at Mt. Olive UMC



The first Book Sale of the year will be held March 20<sup>th</sup> through March 24<sup>th</sup> at the Bowman Library in Stephens City. Donations of DVD's, LP's and music are needed. (No VHS or cassettes please). Donna Sheets from Mt. Olive will gladly pick up any donations you might have from your home or Relief after your Worship service. Please call Donna at 540-877-2010. Thank you!

## MT. OLIVE UMC NEWS

*"Where We GOT FAITH!  
And so can you!"*

327 Mount Olive Road  
Winchester, VA 22602

### SUNDAY SERVICES AT MT. OLIVE

**Adult Sunday School: 8:30 am**

**Worship Service: 9:30 am**



	<u>Worship</u>	<u>Offering</u>
12/24	83	\$ 2,090
12/31	46	\$ 1,272
1/07	54	\$ 1,074
1/14	53	\$ 713
1/21	64	\$ 1,657
1/28	<u>58</u>	<u>\$ 621</u>
	59	\$ 1,237

## FEBRUARY



Bonnie Anderson



Joe Lizer



Jay Fix



- 2/02 Josh Massie
- 2/09 Connie Cummings
- 2/09 Brenda McDonald
- 2/15 Eric Heflin
- 2/15 Kevin Holliday
- 2/19 Stacey roy
- 2/20 Moran Wood
- 2/22 Kaitlyn Einstein
- 2/23 Orin Thomas
- 2/25 Tom Massie
- 2/26 Karl Williams
- 2/28 Emily Hoff
- 2/29 Hunter Kelly



- 2/25 Kevin & Angel Holliday
- 2/26 David & Stephanie Rowe



**Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner at Mt.Olive,** Tuesday, February 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm. Everything is furnished. Pancakes, biscuits, sausage & sausage gravy, spiced apples and drinks. We just need to know about how many. Relief has a sign up sheet in the Narthex if you are attending and how many people. Everyone is welcome to attend!!

**Our Youth will be having their Spaghetti Dinner** on Monday, March 12<sup>th</sup> from 4:00–7:00 pm. Bring a friend and come out and support our Youth!!



## THE “OLIVE BRANCHES”

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

The Olive Branches met on January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2018. We were extremely blessed to have a few of our friends from Relief join us. During the meeting, we discussed upcoming events and set the youth missions calendar through July. Both churches did a great job working around each other's schedule of events so that we could support each other at each one. Please see below and we hope to see everyone there. THANK YOU ALL!

Remember, all the youth events are open to everyone of ALL ages. Feel free to join us — that is what discipleship is about 😊  
 February 4<sup>th</sup> — Bowling at Northside Lanes 4:00 pm — This is paid for by the youth fund in which they have worked so hard for — Families & friends welcome. Please contact Brenda Newpher (call, text or email) if you will be coming and how many in your group so I can make accommodations for enough lanes. Last minute is fine too 😊

The youth will be hosting their first dance. Please join us March 3<sup>rd</sup> from 6:00 – 9:00 pm. We are encouraging the youth and also members of both churches to invite their families and friends. This will be a great time to be able to cut loose and have fun! The cost is free and dress is casual.

— Brenda Newpher



February 14<sup>th</sup> — NO Youth Group

### March

March 3<sup>rd</sup> — Youth Dance 6:00–9:00 pm  
 (Steve Cuccio—DJ, light snacks, drinks)  
 March 11<sup>th</sup> — Setup shelter & make sauce after services  
 March 12<sup>th</sup> — Spaghetti Dinner (sponsored by the Youth) 4:00–7:00 pm  
 March 14<sup>th</sup> — NO Youth Group  
 March 30<sup>th</sup> — Good Friday  
 Easter Activities 1:00–3:00 pm (Relief)

### April

April 1<sup>st</sup> — Easter Sunday  
 Easter Egg Hunt  
 April 11<sup>th</sup> — Youth Group at 6:30 pm

### May

May 9<sup>th</sup> — Youth Group at 6:30 pm  
 Malt Shop — Discussion  
 May 12<sup>th</sup> — Yard Mulching — Meet at Mt. Olive UMC Parking Lot 8:30 am

### June

June 2<sup>nd</sup> Gomez Picnic at Lake Holliday  
 Bring food  
 June 13<sup>th</sup> — Youth Group at 6:30 pm  
 June 16<sup>th</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> — Car Wash  
 1:00–3:00 pm  
 June Isaiah 58 Project — Golf Tournament

### July

July 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> — Disciples on Deck in lieu of VBS (2 days, one night)  
 July 23–27 — Tangier Island Trip



**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>
12/24	—	98	\$ 2,202
12/31	—	39	\$ 1,360
1/07	17	43	\$ 815
1/14	13	51	\$ 1,631
1/22	<u>14</u>	<u>54</u>	<u>\$ 1,232</u>
Avg.	15	57	\$ 1,448

Also received:

Building	\$ 200
C-CAP	\$ 38
Memorial Fund	\$ 200
Outreach	\$ 20
Shelter/Fellowship Hall Use	\$ 325
Society of St. Andrew	\$ 39
Witness	\$ 920



**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](mailto:elwand@verizon.net)

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**



- 2/02 Michael Olechnicki
- 2/05 Jimmy Pence
- 2/08 Cameron Douglas Whitmoyer
- 2/16 Debbie Fauble
- 2/20 Steve Ginn
- 2/20 Mildred Omps
- 2/22 James B. Douglas
- 2/22 J. Rhodes Marston
- 2/24 Bobby Luttrell
- 2/25 Jennifer Goldsmith
- 2/27 Mary Richard
- 2/28 Brittany Huffman
- 3/04 Danielle Snapp



- 2/06 Scott and Sallie Wilfong
- 2/07 Bruce and Karen Luttrell
- 2/08 John and Phyllis Snapp
- 2/15 John and Mildred Omps
- 2/18 Stuart and Susan Chagrin
- 2/18 Doug and Karon Hughes
- 2/19 John and Jody Hawse

**FEBRUARY LAYREADER**

Kim McDonald

**THOUGHT:** To love God is to obey God.



## **FEBRUARY SPOTLIGHT**

The year 2017 was a very important year in the life of our Church in the ministry of Mission/Outreach with many hours spent on various projects and special donations. I had hoped to have a full report this month, but that just hasn't been possible, so I will try hard to have it for the March report.

Our spotlight is on the Heart Haven Homes. In the Virginia Conference of the United Methodist Church, February is Heart Havens Month! Each year, a theme for Heart Havens Month is picked and then carries throughout the year. In 2018, the theme is "Life of the Party," after Luke 14:12-14. This month's Advocate is celebrating Heart Havens month. Make sure you read your copy.

On September 24<sup>th</sup>, 1995 the Virginia Commission on Disabilities conducted twenty-one public hearings across the conference of Virginia to explore the residential needs and alternatives for persons with developmental disabilities. As a result of those hearings, Heart Havens was created at the Virginia Annual Conference in 1996.

**Heart Havens** was licensed in December 1998 and opened its first home in Virginia Beach on January 25<sup>th</sup>, 1999. Heart Havens is a ministry of the United Methodist Church that provides for the residential needs of persons with disabilities through the development and management of homes which exemplify the love of Christ. This ministry is accomplished by: Establishing and

promoting a conference-wide effort to address the residential needs of persons with disabilities; Involving local churches in a significant conference ministry; Encouraging client involvement in the life of the community and it's church; Respecting the individual's uniqueness, dignity and worth; Ministering to the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of each resident; Understanding the concerns and needs of each resident's family; and, Affirming God's love and care for all of God's people.

**Vision** — Heart Havens was created as a not-for-profit agency, to provide residential alternatives for disabled persons of all faiths, backgrounds, and not just those of the United Methodist denomination. Parents need the assurance that their children will have a place to live after the parents are gone. They are searching for quality programs for their children and desire a spiritual based program and home for them. Heart Havens hopes to assist in reducing the long waiting lists for services and ease the anxiety of elderly parents caring for their developmentally challenged adult children.

There are presently twelve homes, with more being planned and developed throughout the conference. They are located in Virginia Beach; Kilmarnock; Norfolk; Stuarts Draft; Colonial Beach; Richmond (2); Winchester; Lynchburg; Goochland; Newport News; and, Ashland. These homes, as well as future homes being planned or developed, could use your on-going and generous, financial; prayerful; and thoughtful support!

**Our local Heart Havens home** in Winchester, is located at 3050 Saratoga Drive, in the Kernstown area. It accommodates the same five (5) residents who have occupied the home since its construction and occupancy in Nov 2002! They are: Charles Hale,

J L Snider, Danny Smith, John Mason and Stephen Tarrant, who — along with the Staff, provide “a home” atmosphere in a typical residential neighborhood. They love to have visitors come by to visit and tour their home! As with all God’s work and creation; you will receive a much greater blessing from your supportive efforts than you will ever provide! Make their Day! Visit them and tour “their home”! You’ll be forever, glad that you did! I would like to schedule an event with our local group, maybe our summer picnic, a game night, etc. Any suggestions would be appreciated. We have money budgeted to benefit this very special home.

We continue to provide crafts, puzzles, coloring sheets and support to the Our Family Peer Support Group. Our January visit, the group did make snowmen decorated cakes, a snowflake, and had New Year’s search words, coloring sheets, and decorated boxes for taking home their cake . Our next visit is scheduled for Wednesday, February 14<sup>th</sup> and of course, the theme will be Valentine’s Day.

We will be serving the evening meal to the WATTS program on Monday, March 12<sup>th</sup>. I need to have seven adults to help prepare and serve the meal. Please contact me if you are interested.

The card signing will continue under the leadership of Debbie Fauble and will on the third Sunday. Cards will be available before Sunday School in the Fellowship Hall and immediately after Worship in the Willing Workers Classroom.

Thanks for all your support in 2017 and I hope we can count on your support in 2018.

*Elwanda Luttrell*  
 Chair Mission/Outreach  
 (540) 869-7198  
[elwand@verizon.net](mailto:elwand@verizon.net)



### **Don't forget Scrapbooking!!**

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

February 9

May 11

March 16

September 21

April 20

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!



Sunday, February 11<sup>th</sup>

That's the date to celebrate!

It's called Sweet Sunday,

So let's make it GREAT!

Come one, Come all,

WE WILL HAVE A BALL!!!

This is a fundraiser with the proceeds going to Relief's General Fund. Bring a Sweet to the Auction after the Potluck Lunch which is after Worship on February 11<sup>th</sup> . Everyone is Welcome!!

—Debbie Fauble



## LOST AND FOUND

Relief has a pair of reading glasses, a purple earring and a silver necklace with a birthstone on it. If any are yours please, pick up from the bookshelf in the office.



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](mailto:amitch@shentel.net). Thank you for helping to keep our data current!



The deadline for our March 2018 Neighborhood Gatherings Newsletter is Friday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>. The March Newsletter will be available Sunday, March 4<sup>th</sup>.

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](mailto: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](http://www.mtoliveumc.org)  
Facebook: Mount Olive UMC  
Email: [VictorGomez@vaumc.org](mailto:VictorGomez@vaumc.org)

**Rev. Dr. Victor Gómez**

**Cell Phone: 1-202-285-5767**

### **Relief Mailing address:**

5275 Middle Road  
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