



# Neighborhood Gatherings

## JANUARY 2018

Newsletter of Mt. Olive and Relief United Methodist Churches



*He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" Then he said, "write this down, for this words are trustworthy and true."*

— Revelation 21:5 (NIV)

It seems like yesterday we were in the beginning of 2017 and now, 2018 is here! As I look back and reflect, it has been a year with challenges and difficulties, but at the same time, it has been a year of blessings.

Whenever we receive a new year, we create resolutions. It is a way to see the New Year as an opportunity to improve and enhance our lifestyle. We look back at the things that get in our way and with the New Year's resolutions we try to change them. According to Time magazine, the top ten resolutions are:

1. Lose weight/exercise more.
2. Quit smoking.
3. Eat healthy.
4. Learn something new.

5. Spend less/Save more.
6. Drink less alcohol.
7. Travel.
8. Give back to the community.
9. Spend more time with loved ones.
10. Relax.

The irony is that they also are the top ten most broken resolutions. Why is it that we create these resolutions and then break them? We see the New Year as an opportunity to change, to enhance and to make things new.

These are great resolutions and worthy of consideration and following through. And although, in most cases they are broken, there are folks that follow through their resolutions and look back at the end of the year with a sense of accomplishment.

God promises us in making everything new and that these words are trustworthy and true. So, what if instead we make a list and create spiritual resolutions. Perhaps, if we do so, the ones listed above will come automatically to us and even accomplished. What if we make the following resolutions:

1. Daily Prayer.
2. Bible reading.
3. Weekly worship.
4. Share God's love to ALL.
5. Make disciples of Jesus Christ.
6. Earn all you can.
7. Save all you can.
8. Give all you can

9. Tithing.

10. Fasting.

These are just a few spiritual resolutions and you may come up with your own. I believe that one of the reasons we break our resolutions is because we try to do them alone. In other words, we walk by ourselves in this journey. Last year, I reminded you that God is with us. As we look back, we can indeed affirm that God has been with us, that God is with us, and that God will be with us.

We do not need to walk alone and if we follow our spiritual resolutions walking side by side with our Lord, God will make everything new as these words are trustworthy and true. We will be able to look back at the end of the year and see how much we have accomplished... for the kingdom of God!

Have a blessed 2018!

*In God's amazing grace,  
Pastor Victor*

## **BE UPLIFTED**

I have a friend who loves to take long walks with me. We talk and laugh and enjoy each other's company as we stroll along. The exercise is beneficial, and so is the conversation.

The Lord is a lot like my friend. He enjoys walking with us as our companion on life's pathway. And he brings blessing into our lives when we walk closely with him.

—*Footprints, Scripture with Reflections  
Inspired by the Best-loved Poems  
By Margaret Fishback Powers*

*If we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.*

—1John 1:7



**January 7**     **Isaiah 60:1–6, Ephesians 3:1–12 and Matthew 2:1–12**

**January 14**    **Genesis 1:1–5, Acts 19:1–7 and Mark 1:4–11**

**January 21**    **Jonah 3:1–5, 10, 1 Corinthians 7:29–31 and Mark 1:14–20**

**January 28**    **Deuteronomy 18:15–20, 1 Corinthians 8:1–13 and Mark 1:21–28**



## **STAGE LEFT BAND**

- Saturday, January 6<sup>th</sup> 4:00 pm  
Fundraiser for the Redland Daycare/Preschool. There will be other groups performing that day also.
- Sunday, January 21<sup>st</sup>  
Worship at Mt. Olive UMC
- 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

# MT. OLIVE UMC NEWS

*"Where We GOT FAITH!  
And so can you!"*  
327 Mount Olive Road  
Winchester, VA 22602



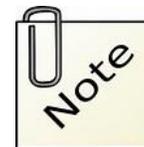
## SUNDAY SERVICES AT MT. OLIVE

**Adult Sunday School: 8:30 am**  
**Worship Service: 9:30 am**

Give  
**THANKS**  
to the Lord

	<u>Worship</u>	<u>Offering</u>
11/26	43	\$ 466
12/03	67	\$ 1,554
12/10	60	\$ 1,080
12/17	<u>92</u>	<u>\$ 1,466</u>
	65	\$ 1,141

- 1/05 Sue Dusing
- 1/10 Linda Gano
- 1/14 Isaac Stanley
- 1/18 Jeff Riggleman
- 1/18 Brittany Streit
- 1/20 Debbie Beeman
- 1/24 Edwin Valentin
- 1/25 Braudelio Rojas
- 1/31 Jay Fix, Sr.
- 2/02 Josh Massie



## JANUARY



Jane Ramey



Steve Cuccio



Jane Ramey

The Mt. Olive Prayer Group will be meeting on Wednesday, January 10<sup>th</sup> and January 24<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 am. We will be meeting at Angie's house.



Missions: We need supplies for our food pantry. Here is a list of items needed: rice, Dinty Moore dinners, mashed potatoes, tuna (cans or bags), noodles, soup, jelly, fruit (cans or cups), peanut butter, cereal, oatmeal and canned vegetables.

—Angie Cuccio



Perhaps the best Yuletide decoration is each of us being wreathed in smiles.

— Unknown



## **THE “OLIVE BRANCHES”**

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

The Olive Branches were extremely busy during the holiday season. On December 13<sup>th</sup> we went to the Village at Orchard Woods on Lutheran Blvd. to do a Christmas hymn sing for the residents. What an awesome performance by EVERYONE that participated. We had a handful of youth and bucketful of adults that made perfect music together! What a great time we had. It was such an awesome site to see the faces of the residents lit with bright smiles and to our delight, they sang along with us. Good times and many great memories. Afterwards, we met back at the Mt. Olive shelter and had a wonderful meal catered by Brenda McDonald and her husband Hank who assisted her. We cannot thank them enough for having a hot meal ready for us. We all shared a lot of laughs along with the good food and company!

On December 17<sup>th</sup> our youth participated in a church talent show. We all know that we have talented children but who knew we had SO many. The youth had a month to decide what they would be doing for their talent, submit it and then practice all on their own at home. We were truly WOWED by each and every one of them! We had many beautiful singers which brought many to tears, a few original poems written and read (which will

be included in this newsletter), a hilarious comedy skit by the Beeman family, a laugh out loud rendition of the Twelve Days of Christmas by the Gomez family, the smallest comedian we've ever met along with our beloved David who came to see us and played his oboe to close out the show. We are very proud of our youth and so excited to see them each shine in their own ways.

We cannot wait to see what they bring next year. Thank you to ALL of those who shared your excellent talents with us!

Our next youth group meeting will be held January 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm in the shelter at Mt. Olive UMC. We will be discussing what we hope to accomplish in the upcoming year including our youth missions. Please join us and bring a friend.

We are also in DIRE need of teachers for Youth Sunday School. As most of you know we now have three rooms of children. There are the tiny tots, the 5-12 and 13-18 year-olds. You do NOT need to know the bible inside out (I have learned a lot right along with the youth) or even be crafty! Materials are provided and it is normally twenty or twenty-five minutes for the lessons. All of the youth are pretty interactive and participate in discussion which is awesome as they feel comfortable to do so.

Hope you all enjoyed your Christmas with your family celebrating the birth of Jesus. Many blessings on a happy, healthy and safe New Year!

— Brenda Newpher

## I SEE AMERICA'S COLORS

By: Nicole Davis

I see America's colors;  
 Not just red, white, and blue  
 Nurses helping people with their cancer  
 recovery,  
 pinned with rainbow colored ribbons.  
 Doctors trying everyday to save  
 people's lives in stark white coats.  
 Farmers working their tails off  
 in the green fields.  
 Firefighters running through the blazing  
 orange to put out the dancing flames.  
 Cops risking their lives with the crazy  
 people out in this world, seeing black skies.  
 Military people staring at tan tent walls,  
 going to sleep wondering if they're going to  
 see home one day.  
 Athletes out there beating the turf  
 like drums with their black shoes.  
 Factory workers seeing silver all day, mak-  
 ing America run as smooth as a machine.  
 Roofers seeing brown against the clear blue  
 sky, hoping they don't fall,  
 cutting their lives short.  
 Teachers dealing with whining kids,  
 wishing for the days of shiny red apples.  
 Students sitting in class listening to  
 teachers Blah, Blah, Blah,  
 a sea of maroon and white.  
 I see America's colors;  
 Not just red, white, and blue.



## A CHRISTMAS PRESENT

By: Brenda Newpher

A long time ago in a barn far away  
 A mother and a father settled to stay.  
 With straw in a manger and animals at bay  
 They awaited a gift God  
 was sending their way.

A multitude of angels  
 came from heaven above  
 Singing a song to shepherds  
 of God's great love.

The shepherds feared  
 as they heard them sing,  
 "Good Tidings to you  
 and the world we bring."

From heaven above a bright star did shine  
 On a heavenly King for the Magi to find.  
 A King in a manger all swaddled they say,  
 Was born to us all  
 on that first Christmas Day.

These chosen few came to praise His birth  
 And celebrate the arrival  
 of a Savior to earth.  
 The babe was  
 by whom they were led.

He was born as a child to be our Savior  
 and King,  
 And deliver peace the angels  
 said He would bring.  
 He was born to become a father to all  
 Who would love, obey, and follow his call.

So what present will you  
 give to Jesus this year  
 For cleansing your soul  
 and removing all fear?  
 If you're saved and forgiven, please shout it  
 with pride  
 And share with others that for them He  
 died.

## 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>
11/26	12	42	\$ 1,426
12/03	10	42	\$ 1,471
12/10	14	??	\$ 1,487
12/17	<u>9</u>	<u>44</u>	<u>\$ 2,068</u>
Avg.	11	43	\$ 1,613

Also received:

C-CAP	\$ 41
Laurel Center	\$ 40
Memorial Fund	\$ 250
Outreach	\$ 20
Scholarship	\$ 5
Shelter/Fellowship Hall Use	\$ 375
Shoebboxes	\$ 9
Society of St. Andrew	\$ 20
VA Family Services	\$ 49
Witness	\$ 460

**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)



1/01 Scott Boyd  
1/01 Doris Hardy  
1/05 Susan Chagrin  
1/07 Neal Painter  
1/08 Robin Sweet  
1/12 Megan C. Williams  
1/14 Scott Wilfong  
1/15 Dennis Manuel, Jr.  
1/17 Lauren Campbell  
1/19 Nicole King  
1/21 Denver Luttrell  
1/22 Logan Douglas Arnold  
1/23 Ashley Alger  
1/28 Scott Palmer  
1/31 Ellen Parker  
1/31 Sharon Sweet



1/27 Neil & Molly Thorne

## **JANUARY LAYREADER**

*James Douglas*

Love the Lord your God with all you heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.

—Deuteronomy 6:5–7



## **JANUARY SPOTLIGHT**

A special thanks for all the outreach/mission support for 2017. A complete breakdown will be in next month's newsletter.

I was able to take twenty-six shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child and \$234 for postage which was delivered to the local pickup location. We had a total of fifty-three blankets. Ten were taken to C-CAP, twenty were delivered to Red Cross and twenty-three to the Salvation Army.

This month's spotlight for January is again on the area C-CAP Program. C-CAP is the Congregational Community Action Project and is a cooperative ministry of forty-five area churches and one synagogue serving Winchester and Frederick County that have joined together to provide financial, material and supportive assistance to people in need.

C-CAP hours of operation are: 8:30 am to 2:30 pm, Monday thru Thursday and 8:30 am to noon on Friday.

C-CAP maintains a complete food pantry, operates a clothing room of all sizes and offers assistance in other areas such as rent, utilities and prescription drugs.

C-CAP always needs volunteers. There are many areas in which you could choose a volunteer position. Please visit C-CAP any workday for a tour.

### **Clothing:**

Clothing is located in a house beside the main C-CAP building where clients are free to stop and select clothing that meets their family's needs. Each day generous donors

bring us bags and boxes full or very good condition used clothing, linens, blankets and curtains. Clients can obtain clothing items once a month. If there is a special circumstance, this limit can be increased to twice a month.

### **Pantry:**

C-CAP has a walk-in freezer and two large coolers. They regularly store and distribute canned and boxed foods, cereal, fresh sandwiches, frozen soups, and meats (chicken, hot dogs, hamburger, and venison), deli foods, breads and cakes. Clients may obtain food items once a month and homeless every day. Emergency situations will be considered. Food comes from many sources: grocery stores, gleaning, super centers, churches and private donations. Food is the most asked for type of aid.

### **Financial Assistance:**

Financial assistance is provided less often, depending on the client's current level of need, his/her current financial situation and the client's C-CAP history. On the day financial assistance is requested an interviewer will meet with the requesting client to determine the extent of financial assistance which can and should be provided.

### **Other Services:**

We also provide additional services depending on the availability of resources. Bus passes may be offered for trips across town, used bicycles may be provided for transport to work, emergency living supplies may be offered to homeless clients. We make every attempt, within the limits of our resources, to assist every client who comes to us for assistance.

During 2017, many food items were donated from Relief UMC, as well as laundry packets and utensil packets. The communion offerings for the year were

\$827.25, plus \$5,000 from the Lupton Fund which went to C-CAP.

We will be serving the WATTS program on Monday, March 12<sup>th</sup> at Macedonia UMC. During the Homecoming activities thirty bath kits were assembled and given to the WATTS program. These were delivered to Macedonia UMC as WATTS doesn't have any storage area.

Members of the Outreach Committee continue to provide monthly crafts for the OUR FAMILY Mental Health Peer Support Group that meets four days a week at Bethel Lutheran Church. During December, the group made a snowman out of the creamer bottles that were collected. See a picture of the Snowmen on the bulletin board. On a second craft session in December, the made a candy cane holder/votive light candle holder out of ribbon and soups cans, as well as ornaments.

The collection for the Virginia Family Services was \$150. Earlier in the year a check from the Lupton Fund was sent for \$1,000.

Don't forget there is a box in the back office, where you can put used hearing aids and glasses for the Lion's Club.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me.

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

Thanks!  
 for your  
 Support!!



Hi Folks,

The Scrapbooking group is looking forward to January when we start up again. Please contact me, Debbie Fauble, at 869-4005 for information.

January 19	June (no)
February 9	July (no)
March 16	August (no)
April 20	September 21
May 11	October 12

The time is 6:00 pm to 11:00 pm.

Dinner is at 7:00 pm. Hope to see you there!

You are  
 MY   
 Sunshine

The Sunshine card Ministry will be continued in Ruth Earnshaw's Memory.

The Sunshine cards will be available on each third Sunday of each month. Please let me know if there is someone who needs a card. I also need their name and address. Please contact me at 869-4005 if you have any questions.





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 February 2018 Neighborhood Gatherings Newsletter is Friday, January 26<sup>th</sup>. The February Newsletter will be available Sunday, February 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  
Winchester, VA 22602-2788  
Relief UMC: (540) 869-5775  
Website: [Reliefumc.com](http://Reliefumc.com)  
Email: [VictorGomez@vaumc.org](mailto:VictorGomez@vaumc.org)

**Rev. Dr. Victor Gómez**  
**Cell Phone: 1-202-285-5767**