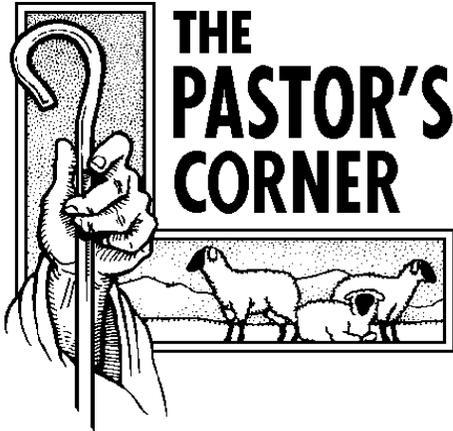




# Neighborhood Gatherings

## JULY 2017

Newsletter of Mt. Olive and Relief United Methodist Churches



*“For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it.”*

— Mark 8:35 (NIV)

Dear Brethren, a new “thing” has begun. What an opportunity we have before us as Relief and Mount Olive United Methodist Churches become a new charge. As your Pastor, I am very excited and I am looking forward to embrace ministry together. I have been praying for the last few months, asking God to manifest through the Holy Spirit in each of our lives. I have particularly been praying for the new Charge, asking God to use us as we embrace God’s call in extending God’s kingdom.

I believe we are blessed because we allow the Holy Spirit to use us and we

open our arms as wide as we can to embrace our brothers and sisters in so many places.

During the Virginia Annual Conference a new vision was shared by Bishop Sharma Lewis. I am so excited to serve two churches that seek to serve God. I am excited to serve two churches that know that it is about the kingdom of God. I am excited to serve two churches that know that ministry is not within the four walls of the building, but out in the community. The vision states that a Disciple of Jesus Christ is a lifelong learner who influences others to serve. I believe Relief and Mount Olive have Disciples of Jesus Christ where lifelong learners are seeking to influence others to serve. We begin with each one of us. We begin by our steadfast desire to learn. We begin by influencing those who cross our paths in our daily life. We begin by serving God and others.

So I exhort you today, my brethren, as we begin doing ministry together, to be lifelong learners, to influence others and to serve God and others.

*In Christ,  
Rev. Dr. Victor Gómez*

## 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

Sunday Worship Service: 9:30 am



	<u>Worship</u>	<u>Offering</u>
6/04	49	\$ 1,850
6/11	46	\$ 995
6/18	42	\$ 553
6/25	<u>80</u>	<u>\$ 934</u>
Avg.	54	\$ 1,083

### JULY COMMUNION

Carol Place

### DONUT DAY

Angie Cuccio, Carol Place,  
Ann Pugh and Tina Evans

### GREETER

Carol Place

### SCRIPTURE READER

Brenda Newpher



7/4 Eric & Belinda Heflin

7/19 Jay & Donna Fix, Sr.



7/1 Gavin Rowe

7/4 James Saville

7/6 Cy Stanley

7/7 Jessie Smith

7/12 Karolyne Ganoë

7/12 Sean McKinley

7/13 Kenny Ganoë

7/14 Carol Place

7/15 Vanessa Maquez

7/17 Pastor Victor

7/19 Bob Sigler

7/22 Allison Lafferty

7/24 Joe Lizer

7/26 Richard Angell

7/27 Marie Lizer

7/28 Alexa Stanley

7/30 Bill Dun lap

7/31 Cheryl Knight



### OVER and OUT!

The Mount Olive Mission Committee has been busy this year. We have organized church support to provide assistance to many organizations that assist people going through a crisis. We know that the Holy Spirit can transform these donations into life changing gifts through these organizations

and ministries. We finished off the school year helping Indian Hollow school students with meal-ready foods for the weekend. On Sundays we collected our change in baby bottles to support the Laurel Center. Donna used those funds to purchase items on its wish list including new pillows and diapers for the families living there. We used our bake-sale proceeds to support the Wings of Caring medical transport ministry in the Democratic Republic of Congo. And we continue to support food banks and local families through the donations of nonperishable items we collect each week. The confirmation class got in on the action too. It made cookies for the graduating students at Timber Ridge. Wow! That's a lot of giving.

This quarter we want to follow the example of our youth who always are on the go. We want to offer more opportunities for the "church" to leave the building and go into the community. They are as follows:

- In July and August we will be collecting and delivering blankets for Healthy Families — a program of Frederick County Schools.
- In September we will assemble flood buckets for UMCOR for families affected by floods or other natural disasters.
- In October we will be gleaning apples (AM) before our youth outing at the pool.

We hope to see our folks at Mt. Olive step up and step out — because we know that helping others builds character and it builds relationships. It is the "secret sauce" of a vital church. Plus it's a great opportunity to invite friends and neighbors to help us help out. Let's get going!!! God is waiting for us!!!

—Heather Gomez



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

The Olive Branches had a wonderful time at our meeting on June 14<sup>th</sup>. We had six children in attendance, this was down compared to our usual but considering all the sport activities and vacations going on, this was great! We did really miss those who could not attend but know your heart and spirit was with us! We have quite a bit going on the next few weeks so during our meeting we discussed our car wash which was on June 24<sup>th</sup> and our week long mission trip to the Tangier Island which was June 26<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup>. The youth made posters for the car wash and put supplies together while the parents had a question/answer meeting for Tangier. Lots of laughter, fun and great memories!

By the time you read this, our youth will have completed another successful mission for this year. We left for Tangier Island on June 26<sup>th</sup> to help some of the people there and returned June 30<sup>th</sup>. It is always a great pleasure to be able to help those in need and spend time with everyone! We will update you on our trip in the next newsletter.

This year in lieu of VBS, Mt. Olive United Methodist Church will be hosting Disciples on Deck. This is a 2-day event that will include missions right here in the local area. We have four homes that we will be visiting.

We will start off the first day, July 7<sup>th</sup>, with registration starting at 2:00 pm, followed by a short welcome and then off to a retirement community on Lutheran Blvd. for a hymn sing. As of right now, we have enough to divide into three groups which is such a blessing! Then we will meet back at Mt. Olive for supper followed by a mission at the church led by the Men's Group. Afterwards will be a movie & campfire . . . then lights out! Day two will consist of the four mission sites in the area led by our youth group "The Olive Branches." Please join us at any time if you like. The cost is minimal and the discipleship is priceless! For more information, you can contact Brenda Newpher 540-931-1785.

Each month our youth group meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month in our church shelter at 6:30 pm. Like all Methodists, we EAT, have a great lesson and have a great time! These are very important times to our youth and we are glad we can be part of the great memories they continue to make. Please stay tuned for further events our youth will be partaking in! We hope you can join us during these special times to help our youth in becoming the best disciples they can be.

A Special THANK YOU to all the parents, grandparents and church family who volunteer and work together to help build and mold our youth! It takes a lot of hard work and dedication not only to our children but to the church to make these things happen. The youth is the future of our church . . . without them there would be no future church!

—Brenda Newpher

Staff Parish Relations Committee of the Charge met in June. James Douglas will be the chair. Also Mount Olive is inviting all to a time of fellowship and getting to know each other to a covered dish. Mount Olive will provide the meat. All are welcome on Sunday,

August 6<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm at the Shelter of Mount Olive.



The Olive Branches (youth/children) served our brothers and sisters in its second annual mission trip to Tangier, VA. What a blessing as they will be the hands and feet of Jesus.



Mount Olive received new members into our church family. Jessenia Gómez, Tabitha Davis, Tessa Morell, Allison Lafferty and Natalie Heath. Blessings on your Confirmation. And we thank Heather Gómez for leading confirmation this year.

—Pastor Victor



Mt. Olive UMC will be having a blanket drive during the month of July.

Also, starting August 1<sup>st</sup> through September, we will be collecting school supplies. The following school items needed are: #2 pencils, notebooks, 1 inch binders, scissors, loose leaf paper, glue sticks, tissues, colored pencils, and crayons. Thanks.

Blessings in Christ,  
—Angie Cuccio

**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>
5/28	12	44	\$ 1,722
6/04	11	46	\$ 1,814
6/11	13	46	\$ 1,908
6/18	<u>11</u>	<u>40</u>	\$ <u>1,291</u>
Avg.	12	44	\$ 1,684

Also received:

Brethren Woods Retreat	\$ 135
C-CAP	\$ 69
Conference Kits	\$ 63
Conference Offering	\$ 63
Maintenance	\$ 100
Memorial Fund	\$ 150
Shelter/Fellowship Hall Use	\$ 300
Women's Retreat	\$ 410

**JULY LAYREADER**

*Elwanda Luttrell*

We need Layreaders for the rest of the year. Please sign-up in the Narthex.



7/11 Jimmy and Sue Boyd  
 7/13 Allen and Judy Boyd  
 7/15 Clyde and Rebecca Miller  
 7/17 Terry and Teresa Boyd



7/01 Lisa Turk  
 7/01 Janet Unger  
 7/03 Jim Huffman  
 7/04 Sheryl Campbell  
 7/05 Jason Hawse  
 7/05 Erin Peterson  
 7/06 Bruce Luttrell, Jr.  
 7/10 John Simpson  
 7/16 Neil Thorne  
 7/18 Allen Boyd  
 7/19 Jeanie Painter  
 7/21 Andy Anderson  
 7/26 Charlotte Messick  
 7/27 Lucille Hughes

**THOUGHTS:** You might as well try to see without eyes, hear without ears, or breathe without lungs, as to try to live the Christian life without the Holy Spirit.

—D.L. Moody

When the world says, "Give up," Hope whispers, "Try it one more time."

—Author Unknown



## **JULY OUTREACH SPOTLIGHT**

First, thanks to all who donated toward the conference kits or the conference offering. We sent thirty health kits and thirty school kits to conference, as well as canned food, and a check for \$200 was sent to the conference treasurer for the conference offering. The emphasis this month is on two different missions: Our Family and the Red Bird Mission.

The Our Family Mental Health Peer Support Group, is a program of Northwestern Community Services, which is an organization that has been in the area for thirty years offering services for emotional/behavioral disorders, mental illness, substance use, and intellectual disabilities, and developmental disabilities for children and adults. All members are adults who have been diagnosed with mental illness and some with intellectual disability or addiction use in addition to mental illness.

Members of Our Family meet Monday through Thursday, from 9:30 to 1:00 pm at the Bethel Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall. They have programs centering about crafts, financial help, music therapy, exercise programs, gardening and each day a hot lunch is furnished.

Relief Mission/Outreach has been providing a monthly craft, coloring sheets and word searches for several years. This past month, members made bird feeders out of two liter drink bottles for Father's Day.

Red Bird Mission: Red Bird Mission, Inc. and Red Bird Clinic, Inc. have been providing ministries in this region of the Appalachian Mountains since 1921. Today, the need remains critical in this isolated, rural distressed area. Chronic poverty, lack of jobs, poor housing and rugged mountainous terrain provide obstacles to a fuller life for the residents of this area. Red Bird Mission and Clinic strives to meet these needs through ministry in five areas: Education, Health and Wellness, Community Outreach, Economic Opportunity and Community Housing Improvement.

The Education ministries are carried out through a Pre K–12 school. These education ministries provide the opportunity for the children and youth of the community to get a quality education in a loving Christian environment empowering these young people with tools that will help them escape the cycle of poverty in which they are exposed to and live in daily.

Health and Wellness ministries are provided through medical and dental clinics providing quality health and dental care in an area that is chronically under served. In addition to in-Clinic visits, providers travel to the homes of patients to provide care to those who are home-bound.

The other three areas of ministries provide a wide variety of services to the residents of the area. Volunteers in mission service come and help with the refurbishment of homes. Low-cost clothing and furniture is provided through the community store and local crafters' wares are marketed to a wide area through the craft marketing ministry. A wide variety of ministries to families, older adults, women and children, and youth make their lives fuller and help them receive the assistance they need to make their lives a bit more livable.

Support for these ministries come from churches and individuals across the nation. Over the years the Mission has enjoyed wide support in The United Methodist Church as well as from other denominations. In recent years it has seen a decline in the support it is receiving. It is currently facing a financial crisis that is making it difficult to continue all the areas of ministries it provides. Without more funding today, it will have to reduce the level of ministry provided to the community. Your donations to Red Bird Mission and Clinic will help it continue these vital ministries in that distressed region of Appalachia.

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



A special thanks to all who donated items to the yard sale. It was truly a great success. Also, many thanks to all those who came and helped in any way.

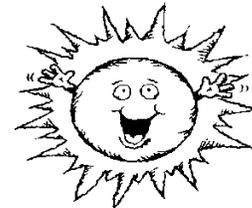
The proceeds from the sale will be applied to the Medical Compassion fund. To date the yard sale net is \$1446.71. Food sales were \$329.50 and yard sale items \$1117.21. Items that were not sold were donated to the following:

- Blue Ridge Hospice
- C-Cap
- Goodwill Industries
- Grace United Methodist Thrift Shop
- Grafton School Adapt Program
- Habitat for Humanity

Heavenly Paws — all the leftover plastic bags  
Our Family Bingo Prizes  
Stuffed Animal Project

Again many thanks.

—Joanna Smith,  
Events Committee



### **SUNSHINE CARD SIGNING** **SUNDAY, JULY 09<sup>th</sup>**

Thank you to those who shared our card ministry by signing the cards on June 11<sup>th</sup>. Signatures were: Joanie Anderson, Herb Earnshaw, Donald Graff, Kathy Holliday, Lucille Hughes, Eunice Musser, Ruth Snapp, Sheila Snapp and yours truly. May God richly bless the signers and receivers and all those who contribute in other necessary ways!

A total of 36 cards were sent: thirty-four thinking of you, one missionary's birthday card (Betsy Jack), and a sympathy card (family of Jim Douglas).

In July we'll be sending mostly thinking of you cards. I'll have sympathy cards for the family of Emmagene Dorsey (John Omps' sister) and the family of Tony Lockley (Sussanna's husband) and maybe other special ones.

For those of you who like to sign early, I'll do my best to have the cards available in the Fellowship Hall.

Please let me know of anyone to whom you would like a card sent. Also, if you know of anyone who needs to be removed from our list. Let me know by phone at (540)

869-0220 or send me an email: [ruthearnshaw@yahoo.com](mailto:ruthearnshaw@yahoo.com)

With pictures, this letter from **Wesley and Brooke Smith** is on the bulletin board across from the restrooms. “We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who was involved in our wedding. Our day was perfect in so many aspects and we owe a lot of that to our family and friends. June 18<sup>th</sup> 2016 could not have turned out better. The weather, food, guests, the surprise gun shot, and perfectly timed swooping bald eagle made the day unforgettable. Thank you again for your help and support on our special day! As many of you know, we enjoy the outdoors and especially sharing the experience with each other. Consequently, we decided to honeymoon at Capon Springs Resort. No TV, no internet, no locks on doors, and a dinner bell was just up our alley. We hiked over 45 miles of Wild and Wonderful West Virginia. From lowland streams to mountaintop overlooks, we covered every inch of the resort. Who said a honeymoon was supposed to be relaxing? One week into marriage and TOGETHER we conquered miles of trails, mosquito bites and blisters. Moving on from the memorable wedding and the eventful honeymoon, we look forward to starting our lives together. We are enjoying our time and taking small steps toward our dreams. Starting a family and finding a home we can call ours is just the beginning of our hopes and dreams. As our one year anniversary (6-18-16 — this came too late to include in the June newsletter) is quickly approaching, we are excited to break open our Pig Piñata and relive our special day with all the notes from our family and friends!”

**Bonnie Chumley**, who was here to help with plans for Hospice for her dad, the late Jim Douglas, told me how very pleased she feels to receive the Sunshine Card each month.

She appreciates all the signatures and said it meant a lot to her to know we are thinking and praying for her. That’s our goal. We want to show these people that Jesus loves them and we care about them and love them too! Please, won’t you sign?!

— Ruth Earnshaw



Independence Day of the United States, also referred to as Fourth of July or July Fourth in the U.S., is a federal holiday commemorating the adoption of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776.

- **Significance:** The day in 1776 that the Declaration of Independence was adopted by the Continental Congress
- **Celebrations:** Fireworks, family reunions, concerts, barbecues, picnics, parades, baseball games

—wikipedia.org



**“For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.” (Jim Douglas’ favorite scripture)**

—Romans 6:23

# Reminder

**Earl Luttrell asks us to please, when we leave the elevator, to make sure both the gate inside the door and the door (test them) are completely closed!**

**The only way it can be summoned empty from one level to the other is if both gate and door are closed as required to ride with someone in it. Thank you for honoring this request.**

## FYI

### **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

### **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



If you have new information on your current address, phone or email, 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!

—Brenda

## Newsletter

The deadline for our August 2017 Neighborhood Gatherings Newsletter is Friday, July 21<sup>st</sup>. The August Newsletter will be available Sunday, July 30<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 or email me at [home amitch@shentel.net](mailto:home amitch@shentel.net)

—Brenda

*Mt. Olive and Relief Charge*  
*5275 Middle Road*  
*Winchester, VA*  
*22602-2788*