



Neighborhood Gatherings

JUNE 2018

Newsletter of Mt. Olive and Relief United Methodist Churches



But I trust in you, O LORD; I say, "You are my God." – Psalm 31:14

Seven years ago, I received a phone call from my District Superintendent, telling me that there was an appointment available where I could serve. He gave me the profile of the two churches located in the Northern part of Frederick County. Frankly, I asked how he thought my gifts and graces could be used. I don't think he was able to respond, at least not clearly to me, but deep inside of me, I could hear a voice saying: "God is with you. Trust in the Lord." All of the sudden, I smiled and without hesitation, I responded "Here I am Lord" and accepted the appointment. As the appointment was being described to me, I heard challenges, but more than that I heard potential.

Last year, I had a similar phone call for the realignment of two churches. I heard the voice again: "God is with you. Trust in the Lord," and responded again: "Here I am Lord."

I never forget my very first Sunday worshipping at Mount Oliver UMC. After I returned home that day, I told my wife with excitement: "Mount Olive is going to grow." And yes, we have seen increased in worship attendance. Mount Olive UMC has become a vital congregation by being more and more active in ministry. We share God's love to others. Seven years ago we did not imagine what we already have accomplished together. We are partners in ministry. We are a Church family, and most importantly, we allow the Holy Spirit to guide us. We trust in the Lord!

I never forget my very first Sunday worshipping at Relief UMC. After I returned home that day, I told my wife of the potential they have as a church and I knew there would be challenges, but I also saw the love and the passion of the parishioners. I was impressed that a few weeks earlier, several came to Mount Olive and worshipped, and I met my new brothers and sisters in Christ and partners in ministry.

I know that several folks felt that one year was not enough as we began to move forward in becoming a vital congregation. But, we began the process and now you shall continue, despite the antagonism you may encounter, and keep in mind that as a church we must and utmost follow God. You have seen the potential. You have seen the Promised Land.

My beloved, whether it was seven years or one year, I believe God is in control. I believe your new pastor will partner with you all, and will love you all, and will take the ministry of both churches to the next level. Embrace her and nurture her as you did to me.

Yes, you will have challenges ahead, but now you have a bigger potential as you continue to grow as a Church and to grow the vitality of the Congregation. Whether it was one year or seven years, now you know what you are capable of as the Body of Christ.

A few months ago, I received another call, but this time to meet our Bishop face to face. I always pray that God will allow me to be in a place long enough to make a difference and most important to be God's instrument. When the Bishop invited me to serve God in the cabinet, that voice spoke to me, once again: "God is with you. Trust in the Lord." I know that God is with me. I know that the Holy Spirit is present. I know that Jesus is watching over my shoulder. All of the sudden, I smiled and without hesitation, I responded "Here I am Lord" and accepted the appointment.

I take pride that Mount Olive and Relief can now say that one of their Pastors went straight to serve God in the Cabinet, as you all embraced me and nurtured me. So as we enter into a new phase in ministry, I invite you to put all your trust in God in everything you do. May God bless you all!

*Yours in Christ,
Pastor Victor*



Pastor Victor's installation service as the Harrisonburg District Superintendent is on Sunday, July 15 beginning at 2:00 pm at Dayton UMC, in Dayton, VA with a reception to follow.



Pastor Victor's last sermon for the Mt. Olive and Relief Charge will be on Sunday, June 10th. This will be a joint worship service at Relief UMC at 10:00 am with a blended worship experience and Stage Left will lead the music. After worship, all are invited to have cake at the shelter where you can say your farewells to the Gómez family.



LECTIONARY FOR JUNE

June 3 1 Samuel 3:1–20;
2 Corinthians and 4:5–12, Mark 2:23–3:6

June 10 1 Samuel 8:4–20-;
2 Corinthians 4:13–5:1, Mark 3:20–35

June 17 1 Samuel 15:34–16:13, 2
Corinthians 5:6–10, 14–17, Mark 4:26–34

June 24 1 Samuel 17:32–49,
2 Corinthians 6:1–13, Mark 4:35–41

July 1 2 Samuel 1:1, 17–27,
2 Corinthians 8:7–15, Mark 5:21–43

THOUGHT: *Feeling gratitude and not expressing it is like wrapping a present and not giving it.*

—William Arthur Ward

The cure for boredom is curiosity. There is no cure for curiosity.

—Dorothy Parker

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>
5/06	40	\$ 1,285
5/13	55	\$ 686
5/20	75	\$ 1,433
5/27	<u>58</u>	<u>\$ 999</u>
Avg.	57	\$ 1,075

JUNE



Shirley Davis



Brenda Smith



Linda Ramey

THOUGHT: My father gave me the greatest gift anyone could give another person. He believed in me. — Jim Valvano



- 6/01 Eric Hottle
- 6/01 Becky Saunders
- 6/03 Jen Morell
- 6/04 Jeff During
- 6/04 Karen Jeter
- 6/08 Jay Fix, Jr.
- 6/08 Paige Williams
- 6/09 Tanner George
- 6/09 Jacob Stevens
- 6/09 Teresa Walther
- 6/10 Mary Merriner
- 6/13 Rodger Ramey
- 6/16 Gail Racey
- 6/17 Thomas Rojas
- 6/19 Robert Walther
- 6/22 Belinda Heflin
- 6/23 Angel Holliday
- 6/25 Stephanie Rowe
- 6/30 David Rowe
- 7/01 Gavin Rowe



- 6/08 Jim & Christine Anderson
- 6/13 Jeff & Kristi Riggelman
- 6/14 Steve & Joan Schmidt
- 6/25 Bill & Betty Walther
- 6/26 Rick & Cheryl Knight
- 6/29 Danny & Rhonda Lingo

Verse to Remember

"As a father has compassion on his children, so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him."
—Psalm 103:13 (NIV)

THE “OLIVE BRANCHES”

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

The Olive Branches met again for our monthly meeting on May 9th and discussed the upcoming baby shower for Ceclia Hernandez. The attendance was small due to all the end of year school activities. The meeting started off with group prayer and a lasagna supper.

The following items were discussed:

Baby shower: The youth will be selling “pull tickets” at \$2.00 each. Two (2) prizes were awarded to the winners (announced in the next newsletter) which was four tickets and a large popcorn at the Alamo Draft-house. The monies raised will go to Ceclia Hernandez and family as a baby shower gift to purchase item(s) needed for their new baby boy on the way 😊

All those on the list for mulching will be done as one of the missions during Disciples on Deck on July 7th, 2018. If you have other plans, such as having it done before then, please let Brenda Newpher know so that we can plan ahead.

Things to Keep in Mind:

Disciples on Deck July 6th and 7th — We will be including the churches, who will be attending, take part in some of the planned activities (other than missions itself). Round Hill UMC will be taking on the “Opening” – What is Mission? beginning at 3:00 pm. Relief UMC will honor us in the task of a “Hands on Activity” later in the evening from 5:45–6:45 pm. Hopefully we will have a few more churches represented and we can work them in to helping also. Please help spread the word as it is discipleship in the making.

Tangier Island July 23rd–27th — we went over the schedule and activities for our trip.

My projections are for those who will be attending, we will have about twenty-three attending. Our list is showing eleven adults and twelve youth. If you know any youth that would like to participate, please contact Brenda Newpher for more information. We have about four more spaces for the “Youth”. We have decided this year, we will be doing a building activity, yard clean up and if time/people permit a bit of painting. This mission and all others are funded by the youth fund so please don’t let the thought of “Cost” deter your decision to participate.

Carwash — June 23rd, 2018 from 1:00–3:00 pm at First Bank. We were REALLY, REALLY shorthanded last time so youth along with adults, please try to put aside these two hours to help. These fundraisers are very important to help fund our missions for the year. As you all know the monies raised help pay for the cost of our missions so that there is no cost to the church or parents.

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 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!

— *Brenda Newpher*





Please join us for our Summer Prayer Group at Mt. Olive in the Shelter. It will be at 11:00 am on the listed dates. Everyone is welcome to come and participate.

June 6	July 11
June 20	August 1
	August 22



STAGE LEFT BAND

Sunday, June 10th — Joint Worship at Relief UMC at 10:00 am
 Sunday, June 10th — Greenwood UMC (Unger, WV) Homecoming at 2:30 pm
 Sunday, June 17th — Worship at Mt. Olive
 Sunday, June 24th — Redland UMC Worship — 10:45 am
 Sunday, July 15th — Mt. Olive UMC Worship — 9:30 am
 Sunday, August 12th — Mt. Olive UMC Worship — 9:30 am
 Sat., September 8th — Reynolds Store Fire Hall Yard Party — 2:00 pm (??)
 Sunday, September 9th — Wesley Chapel Praise and Hymn Sing — 6:00 pm
 Saturday, October 13th — Roanoke Valley Presbyterian Church, Blacksburg, VA, Concert
 Sunday, October 14th — Roanoke Valley Presbyterian, Blacksburg, VA., Worship at 11:00 am



JUNE

Wednesday, June 13th
 Youth Group at 6:30 pm (MO)
 Saturday, June 23rd
 Car Wash at First Bank on Valley Ave. 1:00–3:00 pm
 TBD Isaiah 58 Project — Golf Tournament (More info to follow)

JULY

Friday–Saturday, July 6th–7th
 Disciples on Deck in lieu of VBS (2 days, one night)
 Monday–Friday, July 23rd–27th
 Tangier Island Trip



MT. OLIVE

Johnathan Einstein & Tanner George



THANK YOU, DAD

Thank you for the laughter,
 For the good times that we share.
 Thanks for always listening
 For trying to be fair.

Thank you for your comfort,
 When things are going bad.
 Thank you for the shoulder,
 To cry on when I'm sad.

This poem's a reminder that
 All my life through,
 I'll be thanking heaven
 For a special dad like you.

—Anonymous

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>
4/22	13	49	\$ 1,661
4/29	13	44	\$ 1,468
5/06	9	40	\$ 1,300
5/13	11	57	\$ 1,915
5/20	<u>12</u>	<u>47</u>	<u>\$ 2,020</u>
Avg.	11	47	\$ 1,672

Also received:

Breakfast	\$ 398
C-CAP	\$ 30
Health Kits	\$ 14
Outreach	\$ 528
Shelter/Fellowship Hall	\$ 300



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



- 6/06 Adrian Anderson
- 6/07 Connie Gallond
- 6/12 Alexis Swing
- 6/14 Amy Coontz Ahern
- 6/15 Frances Copenhaver
- 6/15 Ruth Weisgerber
- 6/19 David Boyd
- 6/19 Sam Fauble
- 6/19 Daniel Snapp
- 6/21 Esther Brill
- 6/23 Sarah Roy
- 6/23 Marshall Snapp
- 6/23 John Sweet
- 6/24 Matthew Messick
- 6/25 Dylan Anderson
- 6/28 Seth Boyd
- 6/30 Karon Hughes
- 6/30 Christian Loy
- 7/01 Lisa Turk
- 7/01 Janet Unger



- 6/18 Charlie & Sharon Boyd
- 6/24 Charlie & Jennifer Roy
- 6/27 Guy & Bambi Beringer
- 6/20 Brad & Erin Peterson
- 6/20 Wesley & Brooke Smith

JUNE LAYREADER

"We need a volunteer"

LAYREADERS are needed for July thru December. Please sign up in the Narthex.



A special thanks to all who have/are putting together Health Kits for Conference. To date we have twenty-six health kits and twenty-four school kits to send to Conference. Also, collected so far are six items of food and fifteen tote bags to be given to the food bank in Hampton. Money for the toothpaste and shipping fees will be sent with our monthly check directly to the conference.

The emphasis this month is the conference offering which is collected at Annual Conference. We will be collecting this special offering on Sunday, June 10th. Anyone who would like to contribute to this offering, please put your offering in the offering plate and mark it CONFERENCE OFFERING. If you want to make out a check — make it to Relief UMC, but note that it is for Conference Offering. A special check will be sent to the Conference Treasurer.

The breakdown of this year's conference offering is as follows:

Annual Conference Offering

Bishop Lewis has announced the annual conference mission offering goal of \$200,000 to focus on the following mission priority projects:

Cambodia: \$50,000 - Church Growth and Development and Community Health & Agric. Development

Brazil: \$25,000 - Shade and Fresh Water Ministry with Children

Mozambique: \$25,000 - Lay Leadership

Development

Native Americans: \$10,000 - Support for

Volunteers in Mission teams working with Native American Ministry and Tribal Youth

Cuba Recovery: \$25,000 - Hurricane Recovery for Churches in Cuba

Haiti: \$25,000 - Funds to support Volunteers in Mission teams to Haiti

Puerto Rico Recovery: \$25,000 - Hurricane Recovery support for Puerto Rican churches

Moscow Seminary: \$15,000 - Support for student scholarships

During the month of May — the craft session with Our Family was the theme of Mother's Day. The group made trays to give to someone dear or keep for themselves. The June theme will be Father's Day and making an edible arrangement. Also, the group will be treated to lunch by the Mission/Outreach Committee.

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

SCRAPBOOKING

No scrapbooking in June, July or August!!

Scrapbooking will start again on *September 21 and October 12*, The time is 6:00 pm to 11:00 pm with dinner at 7:00 pm.

Hope to see you there!

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

RELIEF UNITED METHODIST CHURCH — YARD SALE

The annual Relief Yard Sale will be held on Friday and Saturday, June 8th & 9th, 2018. The event will be held, rain or shine, from 8:00 am to 3:00 pm each day. Breakfast and lunch will be served.

The Yard Sale will be held at:
Relief United Methodist Church
5275 Middle Road
Winchester, VA 22602

Proceeds from the Yard Sale will be used to support the Maintenance Fund of Relief UMC

*****PLEASE SAVE YOUR YARD SALE
ITEMS FOR THE YARD SALE*****

Yard sale items may be delivered to the basement. The donation of used groceries bags/boxes would also be beneficial.

—Submitted by Events Committee
Relief UMC

GRANDFATHERS

**Grandfathers are fathers who are grand,
Restoring the sense that our most
precious things**

**Are those that do not change much
over time.**

**No love of childhood is more sublime,
Demanding little, giving on demand,
Far more inclined than most**

to grant the wings

Allowing us to reach enchanted lands.

**Though grandfathers must serve
as second fathers,**

**Helping out with young and restless hearts,
Each has all the patience wisdom brings,
Remembering our passions
more than others,**

Soothing us with old and well-honed arts.

—Copyright by Nicholas Gordon



Connor Andrew Boyd, son of Kenny and Teena Boyd, grandson of Allen and Judy Boyd will graduate from high school June 2nd from Arete' Christian School in Richmond, Virginia along with his twin sister, **Lyndsey Elizabeth Boyd**. Connor is considering a life of further education with the United States Marine Corp and Lyndsey is still considering her options. Please keep them both in your prayers as they look toward the future.

Dakota Samuel Luttrell graduated Cum Laude (3.5 to 3.699 grade average) from Shepherd University on Saturday May 5th, with a BS in Accounting and Business Administration. He has accepted a position of staff accountant at Trex Co., Inc. in Winchester. Dakota is the son of Bobby and Denise Luttrell of Winchester, and Jennifer and Jay Burke of Ruther Glen, Virginia. He is also the grandson of Earl and Elwanda Luttrell.

Luke Gentry is the son of Clifton Gentry and Laura Gentry Clem. His Grandparents are Mark and Phyllis Snider. He is a graduate of Sherando High School in Stephens City, VA and is going to Lord Fairfax Community College in Middletown, VA in the fall. He has aspirations of being a History Teacher.

Jackson Rhodes Marston graduated Magna Cum Laude from Olentangy Liberty High School in Powell, Ohio on May 20,

2018. Jackson was a member of the National Honor Society and received the State of Ohio Honors Diploma and the Presidential Award for Educational Excellence. In the fall he will attend The Ohio State University majoring in engineering.

He is the son of Susan Marston-Olivo and Chris Marston. He is the grandson of Shelva and Rhodes Marston and Dr. and Mrs. Efron Olivo. He is the nephew of Michele Marston and great nephew of Dolores and Billy Haynes and Sue and Jimmy Boyd.

The graduation ceremony was held on the campus of The Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio. Attending from the Winchester area were Rhodes and Michele Marston and Sue and Jimmy Boyd.

Daniel Snapp graduated with honors from Virginia Tech and received 2 degrees — Marketing and Business Management. While he was at Tech he was a dedicated member of CREW (Crusaders through Christ Campus Ministry) and was their MC, led a Bible Study Group and independent discipleship. Daniel is currently employed by Edward Jones and Studying to become certified as a Financial Advisor. In August he will be moving to St. Louis, MO., for seven months of training.

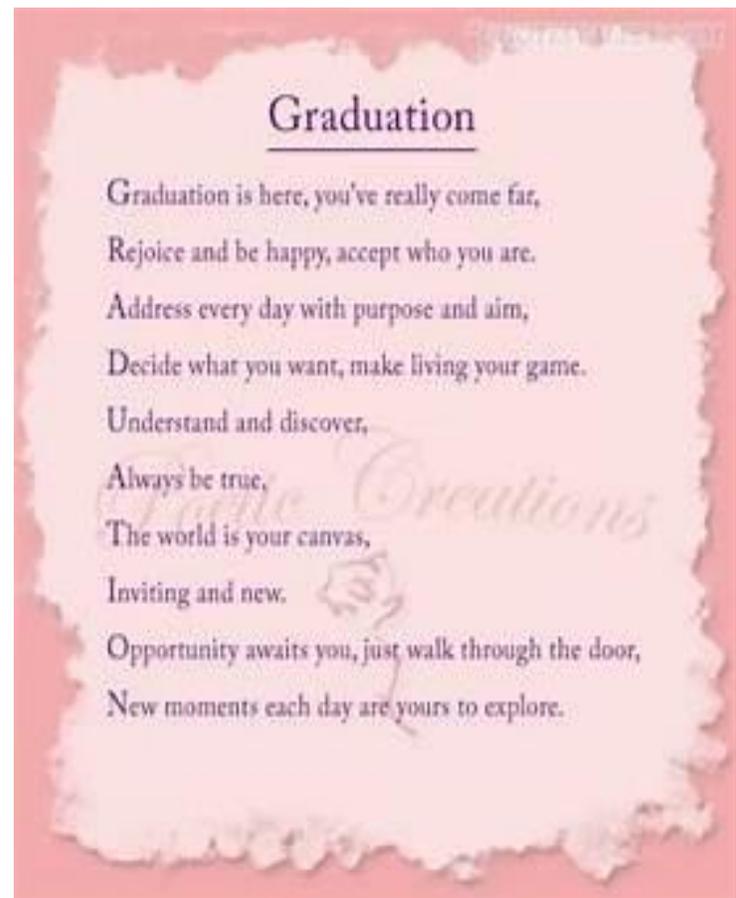
Hannah Snapp graduated from Sherando High School with Honors. She received a scholarship from DECA for her four years of dedication and competing at State and National levels. Last year she was Regional President and this year she was Virginia State Reporter. Hannah will be attending James Madison University in the fall majoring in Business.

This is an update on **Alexandra**. She completed her second year at Mercy College in New York and will be graduating next year.

In the meantime **Alex** had internship at Jack Rogers and NBC. This summer she will be interning at Morgan Stanley's Corp., office in Manhattan, NY. In the fall Alex will be studying abroad in Switzerland and Africa.

Parents and Ivan and Danielle Snapp and Grandparents are John and Phyliss Snapp.

As they go into this world we at Relief Church wish them blessings and the best of everything that could possibly happen to them!



James Givens (left) shakes the hand of VFW Post 2123 member Pat Templeton (right), who helped accept Givens' family donation of six burial plots in Shenandoah Memorial Cemetery for veterans in need of burial funds.

Jay and his wife, Sandy were members of Relief UMC until 2015 when they transferred to May Memorial Baptist Church in Powhatan, VA where they moved to their new home closer to family.



The deadline for our July 2018 Neighborhood Gathering Newsletter is Friday, June 20th. The July Newsletter will be available Sunday, June 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

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



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!