



Neighborhood Gatherings MARCH 2018

Newsletter of Mt. Olive and Relief United Methodist Churches



“Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.”
— 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 (NIV)

The grace and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you and the communion of the Holy Spirit may be part of your life.

We are now in the midst of the season of Lent. Lent is the Christian season of preparation before Easter. In Western Christianity, Ash Wednesday marks the first day, or the start of the season of Lent, which begins 40 days prior to Easter (Sundays are not included in the count).

Lent is a time when many Christians prepare for Easter by observing a period of fasting, repentance, moderation and spiritual discipline. The purpose is to set aside time for reflection on Jesus Christ; his suffering and his sacrifice, his life, death, burial and resurrection. Traditionally, many give up a food item or an action that is part of

daily life, such as chocolate, being the most common.

As we continue to be in the season of Lent, I invite you to take into consideration giving up one hour each day for self-reflection. It can be in the morning, midday, evening or night or it can be a combination. It is up to you. Find one hour of self-reflection. This is a time of preparation as we approach Easter and celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

When you have this hour, ask for the presence of the Holy Spirit. Ask God to take away any distractions you may have at the moment. Read the Bible, read a devotional, sing your favorite hymn and pray. Make it a solemn hour.

Give up one hour each day and give it up to God.

—Pastor Victor



March 30	1:00–3:00 pm	Easter Children’s Activities — Relief
	7:00 pm	Tenebrae Joint Service — Mt. Olive
April 1	7:00 am	Joint Sunrise Service & Breakfast — Relief
	7:30 am	Joint Easter Worship Celebration — MO
	10:00 am	Easter Egg Hunt — MO
	After Worship	Easter Egg Hunt — MO



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

March 11 Numbers 21:4–9,
Ephesians 2:1–10 and John 3:14–21

March 18 Jeremiah 31:31–34, Hebrews
5:5–10 and John 12:20–33

March 25 Hebrews 5:7–9, Philippians
2:5–11 and Mark 11:1–11

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



Don't forget the first Book Sale of the year will be held March 20th through March 24th 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!

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.
—Romans 6:23 NIV

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>
2/04	45	\$ 1,189
2/11	53	\$ 1,215
2/18	<u>53</u>	<u>\$ 887</u>
	50	\$ 1,097

MARCH

Greeters

Jim & Charlotte Lewis

I know the
SCRIPTURES
are true

Debbie Beeman



Brenda Smith

"See My hands and My feet, that it is I
Myself; touch Me and see, for a spirit does
not have flesh and bones as you see that I
have."

—Luke 24:39



3/02 Linda Ramey
 3/12 Carl Streit
 3/14 Johnathan Einstein
 3/16 Marty Racey
 3/17 Tessa Morell
 3c/17 Michael Rojas
 3/17 Kendall Streit
 3/24 Madison Fishel
 3/25 Mike Saville
 3/29 Kailyn White
 3/30 Donna Fix
 3/31 Connie Gilmore



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

Stage Left Band will be at Mt. Olive UMC Worship on Sunday, March 18th.



THE “OLIVE BRANCHES”

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

As you know, the Olive Branches are always into something great! We are just getting the year kicked off and heading into our busy season. Just want to thank you all for the love and support you show the youth in all we do. THANK YOU TO ALL!

Remember, all the youth events are open to everyone of ALL ages. Feel free to join us . . . That is what discipleship is about 😊 Our first youth gathering was February 4th at Northside lanes. We had a group of 34 . . . We continue to do Gods work as we picked up a few extra youth while we were there. What a wonderful time was had by all!

On February 25th, the youth group again went outside the church walls. We teamed up with Round Hill UMC and went to Sky Zone in Manassas. What an awesome time of fellowship between all the youth and adults. There were huge smile and tons of laughter. Definitely good times and great memories were made along with new friendships. I would like to praise Jacob Goldsmith who went out on a limb and joined us, with only meeting us for the first time on Shrove Tuesday. This outstanding young man also invited a friend to go with us all. Just awesome to see the work of God work through us all on his time. 😊

The youth will be hosting their first dance. Please join us March 3rd from 6:00–9:00 pm. We are encouraging the youth and also members of both churches to invite their families and friends. There will be light snacks and refreshments served throughout. This will be a great time to be able to cut loose and have fun! The cost is a non-perishable food item which will be donated to the food pantry. Dress is casual.

Our Annual Youth Spaghetti Dinner will be March 12th, 2018 from 4:00–7:00 pm. We will gather after church services on March 11th to make the sauce and set up the shelter. The sign-up sheet for donation is full except for desserts. All donated food items (besides desserts) need to be in the shelter before church services on Sunday so that everything is there to start. As you know the youth will be in school March 12th (the day of dinner), if we could get volunteers to help that morning make the salads and cut desserts so they are ready to serve, we would greatly appreciate it. We will meet at the Mt. Olive UMC shelter at 9:00 am. In the past years, due to our wonderful volunteers, we have gotten these tasks finished by 11:00 am. Then everyone is free to go home & rest. If anyone would like to donate desserts, please be sure to have them there by 9:00 am on March 12th. Monetary donations are welcome. This is our biggest fundraiser which helps pay for ALL the youth missions and activities. Everything we have accomplished has been paid for by their fundraising efforts and we have been very blessed to not have parents trying to come up with funds for their children to participate. Each youth is able to enjoy every activity at no stress of costs to their parents. 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!

Please help spread the word to all your friends, family, neighbors and colleagues. If you would like a flyer, contact Brenda Newpher at 540-931-1785 or b_newpher21@live.com

We also have two car washes scheduled, one in April & the other in June. We will have more on these in the next newsletter. Feel free to contact me if you have questions on any upcoming activities.

Have another blessed month!

— Brenda Newpher



March

- 3/11 Setup shelter and make Spaghetti Sauce after services (MO)
- 3/12 Spaghetti Dinner (Sponsored by our Youth) 4:00–7:00 pm (MO)
- 3/14 NO Youth Group (MO)
- 3/30 Good Friday
Children Easter Activities
1:00–3:00 pm (Relief)
Tenebrae Joint Service 7:00 pm (MO)

April

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

May

- 5/09 Youth Group 6:30 pm
Malt Shop, Discussion (MO)
- 5/12 Yard Mulching (Meet at Mt. Olive
UMC Parking lot 15 8:30 am)

June

- 6/02 Gomez Picnic at Lake Holliday
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



SPRINGTIME GLORY

Flowers buried beneath the snow
 Awakening again to live and grow —
 Leaves that fell to the earth to die
 Enriching the soil in which they lie —
 Lifeless-looking, stark, stripped trees
 Bursting with buds
 in the Springtime breeze
 Are just a few examples of
 The greatness of God’s power and love,
 And in this blaze of Springtime glory,
 Just who could doubt the Easter Story!

—Helen Steiner Rice
Showers of Blessings

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>
1/29	11	51	\$ 2,135
2/04	11	34	\$ 1,466
2/11	15	64	\$ 2,105
2/18	<u>14</u>	<u>49</u>	<u>\$ 1,242</u>
Avg.	13	49	\$1,737

Also received:

C-CAP	\$ 38
Memorial Fund	\$ 686
Shelter/Fellowship Hall	\$ 375
Sweet Sunday	\$ 1,158
Tables	\$ 100
Witness	\$ 430



Treasurer Report

TREASUER’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



3/04 Danielle Snapp
 3/05 Greg Unger
 3/08 Guy Beringer
 3/08 Denise Luttrell
 3/08 Phyllis Snapp
 3/11 Doug Hughes
 3/14 Heather Swing
 3/15 Kourtney Ginn
 3/17 Stuart Chagrin
 3/17 Clayton Hardy
 3/17 Marian King
 3/24 Stephen Alger
 3/28 Molly Thorne
 3/31 Kimmy Orndorff
 4/02 Elwanda Luttrell
 4/03 Hannah Milhon

SCRIPTURE READER

Elwanda Luttrell



MARCH SPOTLIGHT

The Outreach emphasis for March is the C-CAP Easter Baskets. We have Easter Baskets available for filling. These have been available for pickup since last Sunday, February 25th. These baskets can be filled with candy, school supplies, personal items, such as toothbrush, toothpaste, combs, socks, gum, etc. Also, other suggested items could be puzzles, games, coloring

books, crayons, play-doh, balls, marbles, small cars, jump ropes, books and many other items which are readily available at many stores for one dollar. Basically any item that could be put in the Samaritan Shoebox would be appropriate for the Easter Baskets, with the exception chocolate or other Easter candy that can be put in the baskets, as well as toothpaste. The Outreach Committee will wrap the baskets, so we just need to have the baskets filled and returned anytime on or before Sunday, March 18th. Please leave any filled baskets on the front pew to the right of the sanctuary.

The committee has to deliver them the first of the week of the 18th. These baskets will be distributed by C-CAP to those who have made applications on Friday, March 24th.

We have items in the Willing Workers Sunday School Room (next to the elevator) if you would like to select some of the items for your baskets from the selection there.

Thank you for your help with this outreach project. The children in our area will certainly enjoy receiving one of these baskets.

Please continue to bring used eye glasses and hearing aids for use by the Lion's Club.

The Outreach Committee will be serving dinner to the Watts guests on Monday, March 19th. This is a correction from the original announcement. I now have all eight people signed up.

Please continue to bring food and place in the box in the vestibule for C-CAP, as well as the offering placed on the altar railing during communion on the first Sunday.

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



Don't forget Scrapbooking!!

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

March 16

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 April 2018 Neighborhood Gatherings Newsletter is Friday, March 23rd. The April Newsletter will be available Sunday, April 1st.

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

Relief Mailing address:

5275 Middle Road

Winchester, VA 22602-2788

Relief UMC: (540) 869-5775

Website: Reliefumc.com

Email: VictorGomez@vaumc.org

Rev. Dr. Victor Gómez

Cell Phone: 1-202-285-5767