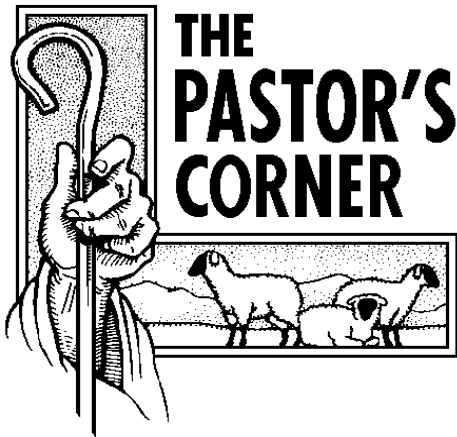




Neighborhood Gatherings NOVEMBER 2017

Newsletter of Mt. Olive and Relief United Methodist Churches



“Churches that become passionate about people outside their walls will be far more effective than churches that are passionate only keeping the few people they have inside their walls”.

— Carey Nieuwhof

I am very excited to introduce “Bring Your Gifts to Jesus.” When it was presented to both churches at administrative council, everyone seemed excited. It shows that both churches seek to serve God and God’s people and be passionate about the people around our churches.

The Wise Men presented Gold, Myrrh and Frankincense to Jesus. The Gospel of Matthew mentions the Magi, states that they came “from the east” to worship the Christ, “born King of the Jews.” All three gifts are ordinary offerings and gifts given to a king. Myrrh being commonly used as anointing oil, frankincense as a perfume, and gold as a valuable.

The three gifts had a spiritual meaning: gold as a symbol of kingship of earth, frankincense (an incense) as a symbol of deity, and myrrh (embalming oil) as a symbol of death or sacrifice.

On November 5th we will bring the gift of Gold to Jesus. Begin thinking about your financial pledge and commitment to God for 2018. You will receive a card to bring forth to the altar. In that card only write your financial contribution for 2018, no names, just the amount as the commitment is between you and God and God knows your commitment.

Then, on November 12th we will present the gift of frankincense to Jesus. This year we will make a commitment of prayer. I know that many already pray every day, while others still struggle to pray more. I know that all of us want to pray more. You will receive a card for you to sign and bring it to the altar.

And last, on November 19nd we will present the gift of myrrh to Jesus. We will bring to the altar all the non-perishable food items that we have been collecting each week in our homes, which will feed one family of four with a traditional Thanksgiving meal.

Families and individuals in our area have been identified as recipients and also if you know anyone who will benefit with a Thanksgiving meal, please contact our Mission Team. We will share Thanksgiving, and I invite you to have a seat open as a symbol of inviting Jesus to our table as we share this special meal with someone else.

What a wonderful way to begin the holiday season! By bringing to the altar your gifts to Jesus. May God bless you abundantly and may we continue to be passionate about those in our community and expand as far as we can.

*In God's amazing grace,
Pastor Victor*



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

There will be a Thanksgiving Luncheon after worship at Relief on Sunday, November 19th.

Then on December 10th there will be a Joint Christmas Dinner after Relief worship with Mount Olive. Chicken, drinks and rolls will be provided for that dinner.



There will only be one more Scrapbooking this year and it is November 17th from 6:00 – 11:00 pm with dinner at 7:00 pm.

We can get you started if you have never done this before! It's time we got our memories in order!

Everyone is welcome to attend.

—*Debbie Fauble*
(540) 869-4005



VETERANS DAY

We honor you, who fought for us,
for country's sake of freedom's plight.
You kept the greatest country great,
by sacrifice of you who served.

Honor to military, soldiers served.
there seems no risk in peace to serve.
When war breaks the silent peace,
no peace when security cease.

Sacrifice of civilian life,
careers succumb to enlist, or draft.
Families wait in fear, in prayer,
for loved ones return alive, not dead.

Returned Heroes and those deceased,
we honor, thank, though insufficient.
Parades, programs, our pride convey,
we honor you on Veterans Day.

—*Roger W Hancock*
www.PoetPatriot.co

“But the hour is coming, and is now here,
when the true worshipers will worship the Father
in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking
such people to worship him. God is spirit,
and those who worship him must worship
in spirit and truth.”

— *John 4:23–24*
English Standard Version

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>
10/01	50	\$ 1,085
10/08	46	\$ 935
10/15	48	\$ 1,211
10/23	<u>22</u>	<u>\$ 838</u>
Avg.	48	\$ 1,017



NOVEMBER COMMUNION

Brenda McDonald

GREETER

Brenda McDonald

OLIVE OYLS

"Dinner at China Gourmet"

SCRIPTURE READER

Amanda Einstein

happy birthday

11/02 Cindy Bell Pitcock
11/03 James Anderson
11/03 Lynn Wolfe
11/07 Madison Pierce
11/07 Brenda Smith
11/09 Joan Schmidt
11/10 Maria Cuccio
11/11 Natalie Heflin
11/13 Charlotte Lewis
11/13 Jillian Stevens
11/15 Michael Stevens
11/20 Andrea Pierce
11/25 Chase Powell
11/27 Eric Heflin II
11/27 Brie Williams



11/09 Hank & Brenda McDonald
11/11 Jim & Charlotte Lewis



THE "OLIVE BRANCHES"

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

Our October youth night was filled with lots of fun and laughter! Due to school and also our youth being involved in many various activities, our group was small but it was mighty. Of course we fed them as all of you know and they are learning — Methodists

LOVE TO EAT!!! During youth group we read and did a short skit on the Pumpkin Gospel, our own Logan Holliday portrayed the gardener. We learned that just like a Gardener cleaning out his pumpkin's goo, God wants to clean out all our sin, too. So, He sent his Son Jesus to die for our sins, to take the punishment we deserved. (*Read Rom. 5:8, John 3:16, and 1 John 1:9*)

So, when we let God clean out our sin, by believing that Jesus died to pay the punishment that we deserve, He turns us into new creations that can shine for Him! And when others see our light, then they might want to learn how to have a light of their own, too! We are growing and doing our part in welcoming new disciples and helping spread God's word and following in His footsteps. We also carved pumpkins and took them home to help remind us of this. We always enjoy sharing and working with other disciples.

We also were VERY humbled this month to be able to share our youth service twice. The first was October 1st, 2017. We were blessed to have all the youth participate, each putting forth the effort needed to make things go smoothly. The sermon was given by Nick Jones. What a wonderful job he did presenting his words and sending the message of God through him to us. His message of "Forgive and you shall be forgiven" was a lesson we all need to be reminded of on a daily basis. The second service was presented at Relief UMC which welcomed us with open arms. I truly believe the Holy Spirit is with our youth daily. As you know, it is very difficult as an adult, yet alone being a child, to go somewhere strange and stand in front of not only one but a room full of unknown people and speak or sing. Our youth stepped up to the challenge, put their fears aside and gave an amazing service. The sermon was

given by Matthew Artrup. He felt he was honored to be able to speak and share his words with everyone. I truly believe the message was received by all and was needed to be said aloud and heard. God works wonders on his time and under his terms! It amazes me each time our youth stand before the church, how I see God holding and guiding them. They have grown so much and they are now at the point (which makes me extremely proud) that they no longer have to be coached along during the service. Each prayer and each word is their own. The beautiful melodies that come from their mouths was music to our ears. Our youth are so amazing, they fall right into place when asked with no complaints. I want to hold up Natalie McGeachy in particular as this outstanding young lady is a leader by far! She went outside of not only her church walls but her comfort zone and joined right in to our youth services without any practice or not knowing any of the youth from Mt. Olive but Jessenia! What an outstanding young lady! Thank you Natalie for gracing us with your presence. ☺

We are leading the youth into being great, great disciples! Thanks for being great examples of God's work! A Special THANK YOU to all the parents, grandparents and church family who volunteer and work together to help build and mold our youth! Each compliment they receive is a reflection of each & every one of you. Everyone plays a part in how our youth grow and continue to make our world a better place! It takes a lot of hard work and dedication not only by our children but to the church to make these things happen. The youth are the future of our church — without them there would be no future!

The Mt. Olive Youth hayride is full but PLEASE join us on October 28th, for a Trunk-

or Treat, a movie and campfire beginning at 6:00 pm. Come dressed in your costumes! We will have grilled hamburgers, along with hotdogs and s'mores to roast over the campfire. All you need is a chair and a jacket. It may get pretty cool so bring a blanket if you wish. If you would like to participate in the Trunk-or-Treat, please provide candy and decorations for your trunk! Prizes to top 3. ☺

— Brenda Newpher



Don't forget in the hurly-burly of the upcoming months that the pantry boxes at the front of the church need to be kept filled for those in need. Use the following list to go by in bringing in items!

Oodles of Noodles	Fruit cups
Dinty Moore dinners	Rice
Tuna in bags	Soup
Peanut butter	Ravioli
Spaghettios	Jelly
Cereal (name or store brands of Cheerios, Rice Krispies, Frosted Flakes, Chex)	
Canned vegetables (beans, corn, peas, carrots, beets)	
Boxed or bagged Mashed potatoes	

—Cleo Manspile

In this crazy world, there's an enormous distinction between good times and bad, between sorrow and joy. But in the eyes of God, they're never separated. Where there is pain, there is healing. Where there is mourning, there is dancing. Where there is poverty, there is the kingdom.

—Henri Nouwen

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>
10/01	11	52	\$ 2,295
10/08	11	61	\$ 1,446
10/15	<u>10</u>	<u>47</u>	<u>\$ 1,651</u>
Avg.	11	53	\$ 1,797

Also received:

C-CAP	\$ 82
Outreach	\$ 20
Shelter/Fellowship Hall Use	\$ 320
Shoebboxes	\$ 78
Tables and Chairs	\$ 100
Thanksgiving Dinner	\$ 20
World Communion	\$ 5

TREASUER'S REPORTS are available on the table in the back of the Sanctuary immediately 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

NOVEMBER LAYREADER

Linda Michael



11/01 Hannah Snapp
 11/06 Jacob Goldsmith
 11/08 Katie Wisecarver
 11/11 Dave Holliday
 11/13 Linda Michael
 11/14 Carter Painter
 11/17 Sydney Beringer
 11/17 Pete Patterson
 11/17 Dale Sours
 11/22 Ella Goss
 11/22 Selma Harter
 11/23 Sara Boyd Frey
 11/23 Neal Watten
 11/24 Charlie Roy
 11/26 Douglas Hughes
 11/27 Adele McGeachy
 11/30 Natalie McGeachy



11/19 James B. Douglas
 and Dana Russell
 11/23 Ken and Robin Cibroski
 11/24 Stephen and Leslie Lobell



NOVEMBER OUTREACH SPOTLIGHT

A special thanks to all who signed Christmas cards for the troops, VA Centers and Fisher House residents. To date, I have five hundred forty-five cards. These will be distributed by the Washington County Military Support Group. I have been notified that this will be their last year for doing this project.

Also, special thanks to all who are filling a shoebox for Operation Christmas Child and/or give money for shipping. I do not have a count as of this report, but they are due NO LATER than, Sunday, November 5th, as they have to be processed, delivered, and a check written for shipping, when I deliver them, on November 13th. Shipping this year has increased to \$9 per box, and this will include the cost of toothpaste, which cannot be put into the boxes.

For the month of November & December, we will be collecting blankets, pillows, and sleeping bags (all sizes). All MUST be new. These will be distributed to various community charities throughout the county and city, i.e. Salvation Army, the Red Cross, other local agencies. Please put the items in the Willing Workers Classroom, the last classroom on the left before the elevator. The due date is no later than Sunday, December 17th, so they can be delivered before Christmas.

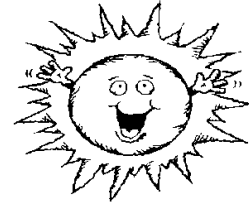
This month, the members of Our Family have finished their scrapbook calendars and taken them home. They have also taken home the adult coloring tote bags, which were distributed last month. At the October craft time, they decorated one hundred twenty-four bags for distribution to local Veterans. They also decorated cupcakes and decorated them to look like pumpkins. At the November gathering, they will be signing Christmas cards for the Troops and working on a Thanksgiving project. Members of the Outreach committee who work with the Our Family Group will be providing desserts and cooking their Thanksgiving Dinner on Monday, November 20th.

- We are still collecting used eyeglasses and hearing aids. These can be placed in the box on top of the wardrobe cabinet in the office at the back of the Sanctuary. These are given to the Local Lions Clubs.
- The December project will be a special offering received for the United Methodist Family Services. This offering will be collected, on Sunday, December 17th, at the close of worship service. Also, during Advent emphasis will be on Society of Saint Andrew.
- If you have any questions, feel free to contact me.

As the end of the year is nearing, I just want to thank for their generous support of Missions and Outreach at Relief UMC during 2017. I know many people have benefitted from continued support.

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

Thanks!
for your
Support!!



SUNSHINE CARD SIGNING SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12TH

Many thanks to you who supported our card ministry by signing the thirty-seven cards on October 15th. Signatures were: Joanie Anderson, Ernie Campbell, Sheryl Campbell, Margaret Douglas, Herb Earnshaw, Donald Graff, Joan McDonald, Kim McDonald, Eunice Musser, Jeanie Painter, Sheila Snapp and yours truly. May God richly bless the signers and receivers and all those who contribute in other important ways! On card signing Sunday, I appreciate our pastor praying for both the signers and receivers. I hope and pray the recipients will feel the love and care being sent with each card.

In November, we'll be sending mostly Thanksgiving cards. Special ones will be sent as necessary.

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

Please let me know of anyone to whom you would like a card sent. Also, if you know of anyone who wants or needs to be removed from our list. Let me know by phone at (540) 869-0220 or send me an email: ruthearnshaw@yahoo.com

—Ruth Earnshaw

LOST AND FOUND

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

FYI**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

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



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. Thank you for helping to keep our data current!

—Brenda



The deadline for our December 2017 Neighborhood Gatherings Newsletter is Friday, November 24th. The December Newsletter will be available Sunday, December 3rd.

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