



Neighborhood Gatherings September 2016

Newsletter of Relief and Hites Chapel United Methodist Churches



THE PASTOR'S CORNER

New beginnings occur for each of you. A new year for students and teachers has taken place. Some of you have retired which was

a new beginning in your life. The birth of a child, graduating from high school or a new job are new beginnings. Those can be exciting times as well as some fear. You might be excited about a new start. The fear come in because the new experience has so much that is unknown. People might tell you what to expect, but you have to live it yourself. You try to prepare yourself as best you can. The unexpected occurs and you realize there is much to learn along the way.

You are offered a new spiritual beginning through Jesus. Paul describes it, "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!" (2 Corinthians 5:17). What Paul described is to be lived out. Some persons might want their names on the church roll or to make sure that they have a place in heaven. You might join a small support group to help you live out those ways of Jesus. Others of you experience through worship the help that is needed to live out the new beginning.

A child is to mature. You want the child to learn more and grow. For the child to remain a child over time you would know

something is not right. Parents realize the child will not always do what the parent wants and yet the parents know the child will need to make decisions. Some Christians remain infants or children. There is no maturing. To only want the name on the church roll or a place in heaven is to miss the maturing which can occur during this lifetime. You are responding to the love God has for you, allowing the Spirit to guide and strengthen you. God has blessed your life. You can live out those blessings daily. You and I can continue onward spiritually. This living out will impact what you do with the blessings you received, whether this is with financial blessings or time. You may want to be of help more in service projects or give more to certain causes.

The first disciples of Jesus became changed persons through their relationship with Jesus. Each person begins that relationship at some point and that relationship can continue to mature. My prayer is the maturing is occurring for each one of you. To remain the same is to miss out as to what could be.

*In Christ Jesus
Pastor Richard*

Winchester District Conference and Training Day at Braddock St., UMC on October 29, 2016. See bulletin board for details.

HITES CHAPEL NEWS

"The Church in the Corner of the Woods"
 150 Chapel Road (Rt. 627)
 4-1/2 miles west of Middletown
 Sunday Worship: 9:30 am.



Hites Chapel Chicken Barbeque meal will be held Saturday, September 10th from 4:00 pm onward. The cost for ½ chicken with vegetables, drink and dessert is \$12.00. The cost for a child under age 10 is \$6.00 which is for a ¼ chicken. You are invited to join us for this great food and wonderful time of fellowship.



9/01 Jennifer Haley

9/03 Connie Pangle

9/10 Yvonne McDowell

9/17 Andy Keeler

10/01 Shalyn Keeler



	<u>Worship</u>	<u>Offering</u>
6/26	18	\$332.00
7/03	16	\$412.00
7/10	19	\$334.00
7/17	18	\$231.00
7/24	19	\$291.00
7/31	16	\$244.00
8/07	19	\$483.00
8/14	18	\$268.00
8/21	<u>20</u>	<u>\$346.00</u>
Avg.	18	\$326.00



Our Hites Women's Group meets on Tuesday, September 6th at 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall. All are welcome to attend our meetings!

THOUGHTS: All labor that uplifts humanity has dignity and importance and should be undertaken with painstaking excellence.

—Martin Luther King, Jr.

Aim at heaven and you will get earth thrown in. Aim at earth, and you will get neither.

—C.S. Lewis

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>
6/26	23	51	\$1,920
7/03	18	43	\$1,967
7/10	13	40	\$1,608
7/17	No S.S.	38	\$1,183
7/24	11	48	\$1,821
7/31	17	59	\$2,443
8/07	25	37	\$1,579
8/14	13	41	\$1,774
8/21	9	36	\$1,296
8/28	<u>9</u>	<u>60</u>	<u>\$2,513</u>
Avg.	15	45	\$1,810

Also received:

Audio Visual	\$570
Building Fund	\$100
C-CAP	\$204
Church/Shelter Use	\$775
Conf. Kits	\$4
Conf. Offering	\$20
General Fund	\$60
VBS	\$236

Happy Birthday!



9/02 Brittany Huffman
9/03 Tony Lockley
9/03 Mark Snider
9/04 Andrew Eaton
9/05 Roy Goldsmith
9/06 Karen Musser
9/06 Staci Painter
9/07 Kevin Messick
9/07 Donald Snapp
9/10 Yvonne McDowell
9/12 Ashley Moffett
9/12 Brenda Moffett
9/14 Teresa Boyd
9/14 Lauren Sipe
9/14 Logan Sipe
9/15 Joe Alger
9/20 Joan Anderson
9/20 Jeremy Boyd
9/21 Jimmy Boyd
9/21 Stephen Lobell
9/23 Dalton Boyd
9/23 Dana Russell
9/26 Laura Gentry
9/26 Sallie Wilfong
9/28 Jody Hawse
10/02 Sharon Boyd
10/02 Matthew Gentry
10/02 Brittany Ginn
10/02 Jennifer Roy

SEPTEMBER LAYREADER

Elwanda Luttrell



9/10 Sammy and Kimmy Orndorff
 9/10 Donald and Sheila Snapp
 9/17 Ivan and Danielle Snapp
 9/24 Scott and Kelly Boyd
 9/27 James and Adele McGeachy

Industrial and Commercial Ministries

Many wonderful ministries take place. One of those ministries is Industrial and Commercial Ministries. Volunteer chaplains are trained and provided to industrial settings. Those chaplains walk through the work place offering encouragement and revealing the love of Jesus through word and presence. After hours the chaplain can meet with an employee to discuss concerns about life issues which the employee has. Industrial and Commercial Ministries has a national director and administrative assistant who help with training and support of the chaplains. Also there is a volunteer national board of directors. Pastor Richard was a chaplain at one time and is currently on the national board. You are encouraged to pray for this ministry. Any financial help to support the work of Industrial and Commercial Ministries would be greatly appreciated. Contact Pastor Richard for more information.

—Pastor Richard

THOUGHT: *Don't pray when you feel like it. Have an appointment with the Lord and keep it. A man is powerful on his knees.*

—Corrie ten Boom

A Prayer for the Anniversary of 9/11

O God, our hope and refuge,
 in our distress we come quickly to You.
 Shock and horror of that tragic day have
 subsided,
 replaced now with an emptiness,
 a longing for an innocence lost.

We come remembering those
 who lost their lives
 in New York, Washington D.C., and
 Pennsylvania.

We are mindful of the sacrifice of public
 servants
 who demonstrated the greatest love of all
 by laying down their lives for friends.
 We commit their souls to Your eternal care
 and celebrate their gifts
 to a fallen humanity.

We come remembering
 and we come in hope,
 not in ourselves, but in You.

As foundations we once thought secure
 have been shaken,
 we are reminded of the illusion of security.

In commemorating this tragedy,
 we give You thanks for Your presence
 in our time of need
 and we seek to worship you in Spirit
 and in truth,
 our guide and our guardian. **Amen.**

—Rev. Jeremy Pridgeon

THOUGHT: We salute the courage and sacrifice of every man and woman in this 9/11 generation who has served to keep us safe.

—President Barack Obama



SEPTEMBER OUTREACH SPOTLIGHT

During the month of September shoeboxes are available to be filled for the **Christmas Shoebox Ministry** through **Samaritan's Purse**. Shoeboxes are available now in the office at the back of the Sanctuary and can be returned there. They need to be returned on or before, **Sunday, October 2nd**. There are some items already available for the shoeboxes, so please feel free to pick up any of these items for your shoeboxes before you purchase items. There is a shipping cost of \$ 7.00 per shoebox, so if you would like to donate anything to cover the cost of shipping, you can either give the cash to Elwanda or make out a check to Relief UMC and note in the Memo: Shoebox S&H. Shoeboxes, lids, and items for choosing are on the library shelves in the office at the back of the Sanctuary. **Suggested items** for the shoeboxes are: stuffed animals, toys (puppets, trucks, etc.), dolls (babies, Barbie, etc.), musical instruments, outfits, shoes: **Toys:** Include items that children will immediately embrace such as toy cars, yo-yos, jump ropes, balls, toys that light up and make noise (with extra batteries), etc. **School Supplies:** pens, pencils and sharpeners, crayons, markers, notebooks, paper, solar calculators, coloring and picture books, etc. **Non-liquid Hygiene Items:** toothbrushes, bar soap, combs, washcloths, etc. **Accessories:** T-shirts, socks, hats, sunglasses, hair clips, jewelry, watches, flashlights (with extra batteries), etc.

Here is a story from one of the recipients of a shoebox: "When my mother was eight months pregnant with me, our neighbors in Rwanda tried to murder us. My father, a pastor, was well-respected in the community. So, it was shocking when those who had lived down the road from them for 20 years came down that same road with the intent to kill us. My family literally ran for their lives. I was born in a refugee camp in Congo. When conflict arose there, we sought safety in Kenya. But conflict arose there, too, so we had to move again. It seemed like everywhere we went, war followed us.

"After the atrocities I'd seen, my heart was filled with hate—and not just for those who had committed those atrocities. I hated humanity because I had found little of it in people. In Togo, we finally found a place to call home. My father began serving as a pastor again.

"Our community in Togo was heavily influenced by witch doctors. They taught people to never step foot into a church. These villages were dangerous—some Christians who went there never came back. The villagers wouldn't come to church and you couldn't go see them. So, how could you reach them for Christ? Through a shoebox. The village children didn't go to school because they didn't have any school supplies. So, their parents were willing to come to the church to receive free school supplies from an Operation Christmas Child shoebox distribution. The witch doctors warned the villagers to stay away from the church, but many of them went anyway. Thinking that there was no way we'd ever come in contact with these villagers again, one of our church's pastors preached an emboldened message emphasizing the

supreme love and power of the Lord Jesus Christ.

“Many of the people from the villages were shocked to learn that such a God exists. They started to come to church to hear about the all-powerful God who is also ever-loving — even one of the witch doctors. When he made a profession of faith in Jesus Christ that opened the floodgates for the villagers to follow. The people said: If this powerful man needs Jesus, so do we. Three more churches were formed as a result. As for me, my heart had been hardened by my early childhood as a refugee.

“I didn’t understand why people hated other people enough to kill them just because they were different from them. I hated people, because they were capable of such blind violence—all people, except my family. But when I received my shoebox at age 11, it changed everything.

“A stranger loves me enough to give me a gift? How can someone love me when they don’t even know me? How is that possible, when our neighbors in Rwanda had tried to kill us? I thought I had the world figured out, and the shoebox turned my world upside down. In fact, it turned my life right side up. I put my faith in Christ later that year. *“The shoebox turned my world upside down and turned my life right side up.”*

“At the shoebox distribution, I had tried to trade one of my gifts for a soccer ball. I had received a wool scarf. I lived in the tropics. I had no idea what to do with this thing. But I had been taught to save everything and waste nothing, so I stored the scarf away. Three years later, years after our initial application, my family received refugee resettlement in Buffalo, New York. It’s one of the coldest cities in the U.S. Was this a coincidence? No way. My precious scarf is still meaningful today. It is a promise

to me that Jesus knew my past, and He knows my future and what I will need. *“My precious scarf is a promise to me that Jesus knows what I will need”*

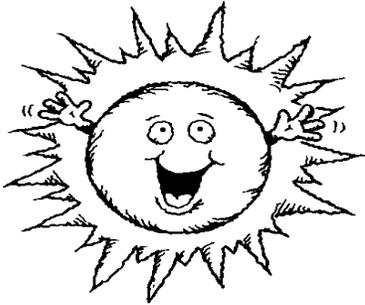
Jesus is always a step ahead, waiting at the end of the line to keep me warm like a loving father does. The scarf not only kept me warm, it warmed my heart. To those whom God used to send me this gift—thank you for keeping me warm. Not only did the scarf keep me comfortable physically in the cold Buffalo weather, but it helped to thaw out my heart. I became brave enough to take a chance on people again. *“I became brave enough to take a chance on people again”*

“I love people now. I want to help them in Jesus’ Name. In that vein, this summer I’ll be helping to dig water wells at three village churches in Togo. These churches formed as a result of the spread of the Gospel through the shoebox distribution there more than **Operation Christmas Child** delivers great joy to millions of children around the world through shoeboxes lovingly and prayerfully packed with gifts that will bring delight to a child. In the hands of local churches, every gift-filled shoebox is a powerful tool for evangelism and discipleship—transforming the lives of children and their families around the world through the Good News of Jesus Christ! After receiving shoebox gifts, boys and girls are invited to enroll in The Greatest Journey, our 12-lesson discipleship program where children learn what it means to faithfully follow Christ and share their faith with others.”

Thank you for your support of this way of reaching Christ for the World. Start making plans for the USO Christmas Cards in October and the Blanket Drive in November. I still need 1 gallon and ½ gallon bleach bottles for a craft project with the Our

Family Group. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at 540 869-7198 or e-mail at elwand@verizon.net

—*Elwanda Luttrell*
Outreach Chair



SUNSHINE CARD SIGNING

Sunday, September 18, 2016

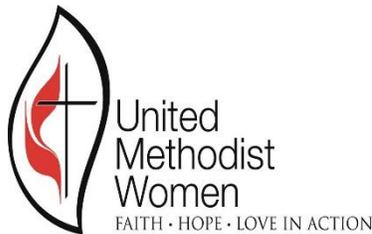
Please take the time and make the effort to sign the Sunshine cards. They bring a lot of joy to the recipients.

Nat Painter: We received two messages, A card in July: Outside: As you serve the Lord, Each gift brings us closer to the Giver... Each provision brings us closer to the Provider...Each work for the Lord brings us closer to the Lord of the work. —by Don Lessin. Inside: “Dear UMW and Church Family, ‘May the Lord continue to draw you closer to His heart as you reach out to touch the hearts of others.’ Thank you for continuing to lift my spirit through your cards and prayers. Because of you and your support I continue to do well physically and spiritually. Amen. The scripture at the bottom: “God has poured out His love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom He has given us. —Romans 5:5 Love, Nat” and a letter in August: “Dear UMW and Relief Church Family: God’s love for you has no limits. Can you imagine a love that can forgive every wrong and keep no memory of past mistakes, a love that always wants the

best for you and brings out the best in you, a love that is trustworthy, unbending and absolutely unconditional? That love is real and it’s the way God loves you. We can always hope for a better understanding of the depth of His love and how much He cares for you. Thank each of you for your love and prayers. Blessings, Nat” **Shirley Manning Knepp**, a Deaconess: “Receiving birthday cards is one of the great joys of being a connectional church. I want to thank you for the card you sent for my June 12th birthday. It means the UMW use its Prayer Calendar and is a caring, sharing, sustaining group of women. It does make a difference to know that women are praying for you and thinking about you. The Prayer Calendar is such a blessing. It keeps us informed about what great things are being done by persons serving our Lord. Deaconesses’ Motto: ‘I serve neither for gratitude nor reward, but from gratitude and love. My reward is that I may serve.’ So with gratitude I thank you for keeping us in your thoughts and prayers. It would be interesting to know how your church got the name Relief. Love, Shirley”

Alice Foley (in a note she sent me) “...I think of my friends at Relief often and hope all is well with you. I still miss our Women’s meetings. Love, Alice”

Bob Blinn: I just found his June 3rd note: “...We had Christopher and Anna and their sweet babies over Memorial Day weekend. Share the joy at vine.com. Search both ‘Kate Blinn’ and ‘Anna Blinn Cole.’ June, the youngest, turned one yesterday. Charles was two in April. Betty Heishman sent the video DVD of our moving reception at Kernstown UMC from 2002. Poignant to reflect on all who have passed on (like Gary) or just aged, like we have. Say ‘Hi’ to everyone. Love, Bob”



Susanna Lockley led our August meeting with Margaret Douglas, Nancy Pence, Ruth Snapp and Pastor Richard attending. Our UMW District President, Linda Borrer, presented a thoughtful, inspiring program. **NOTE:** we collect Box Tops for Education only now.

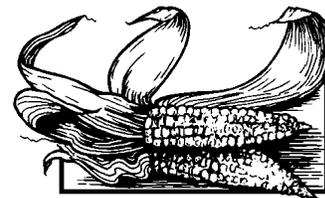
Our next meeting will be Tuesday, October 11th at 10 am in the Willing Workers Room at Relief. Please mark your calendar and come join us!

As explained in a bulletin insert Susanna Lockley prepared for Homecoming, the Candle of Mission on the altar burned in memory of Gary Earnshaw **and** in honor of the members of Relief UMC who do so much to share Christ's love in the community and around the world through mission support. The candle was lit by the Acolyte, Earl Luttrell.

EARNSHAWS SAY "THANK YOU"

It was indeed an honor to see Earl Luttrell light the candle in memory of Gary. He and Elwanda have been so very supportive of Gary and us throughout the years! Much joy was realized over the 22 years of Mt. Airy 4-H Club members' visits, many of whom were from Relief UMC. Gary loved the times the UMW met at our home. He looked forward to the Sunshine Cards and loved the cards many Relief people sent individually. To share how important seat belts are was Gary's mission and the 4-H

and his Relief UMC Family allowed him to do that. He loved to sing with his dad at Relief and appreciated the special response to it. With love and appreciation to the UMW for Gary's special mission recognition honor — may God richly bless you and yours! Herb and Ruth



SoSA

Gleaning provides nourishing food for our neighbors in need and reduces food waste. If you would like to join in the local gleaning activity, please contact Betty Heishman at 540 336 2177 or gleaningworks@gmail.com. Waiver forms are on the table in back of the Sanctuary and need to be completed each year before arrival to glean.

As you saw in the Advocate, September is designated as Hunger Action Month. The Society of St Andrew gleaning box will be on the table at the back of the sanctuary for the month of September. The amount contributed will be used for our local gleaning. So far \$83.60 has been donated. Since It takes just two cents to provide a healthy serving of food, even pennies help!

— Ruth Earnshaw



The deadline for our October Neighborhood Gatherings Newsletter is Friday, September 23rd. The October Newsletter will be available Sunday, October 2nd.

An article from your committee or group helps our congregation to know what's going on in the church. Please take the time to send an article.

Call the charge office at 869-5775 or email me at home: amitch@shentel.net

Thank you, Brenda

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