



# Neighborhood Gatherings DECEMBER 2018

Newsletter of Mt. Olive and Relief United Methodist Churches



*Silent night, holy night  
All is calm, all is bright  
Round yon Virgin Mother and Child  
Holy Infant so tender and mild  
Sleep in heavenly peace  
Sleep in heavenly peace*

My sisters and brothers, Christmas, the best season of the year, is coming!! A comfortable and cozy sofa with a cup of hot cocoa or apple cider is waiting for you. Your favorite carol has been playing on the radio. Yes, hot cocoa and carols makes our hearts and spirits warm and lifted. Oh! If you feel bored listening to carols, you can turn on the Hallmark channel and watch Christmas movies. Christmas may be about coziness, warmth, relaxing, joy, and delicious food.

Actually, I did not like Christmas carols when I came to America. I did not like the Holiday Season because I could not feel the real spirit of Christmas—Love, Joy, Hope, Peace, and Comfort. I was so lonely because I could not be with my family who lives far away from me. I did not like the Holidays because I was so stressed writing my final

papers for school. Even eating was a problem on Christmas day since all the restaurants were closed.

Fortunately, I learned the real spirit of Christmas-love, warmth, and joy--from one of my friends. One of my friends took pity on me and invited me to a Christmas lunch with her family. Her invitation made my blue and cold Christmas a bright and warm Christmas. I still remember every moment of that Christmas meal with my friend's family. Someone from my previous church also taught me the real spirit of Christmas. She was a single mom and had to take care of her daughter after she divorced her husband. Unfortunately, her relationship failed because her husband was not a responsible and trustworthy guy. During this challenging moment, Christmas season came. She could not afford to buy gifts for her family and friends. She felt depressed. One day, one scripture taught her that "Love never fails (1Corinthians 13; 8)," and Christmas is all about love. So she bought clothespins and made a cross for me. This was one of the best gifts that I received.

Her story reminds me that Jesus' light came into our darkness: "In him was life, and

that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. ...The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world.” (John 1:4. 5)

The light of God gets into our darkness and our vulnerability so through our vulnerability people can see the light of God’s grace.

We may be in the darkness of physical sickness and emotional despair. We may be in the darkness of loneliness and depression. But, truly God’s light gets into our darkness and our vulnerability. Through the cracks of our vulnerability, God’s light is shining. God’s light passes through the smallest crack and shine to the darkness. Christmas is all about God’s loving, redeeming light shining through our vulnerability and our darkness.



*Silent night, holy night  
Son of God, love's pure light  
Radiant beams from Thy holy face  
With the dawn of redeeming grace  
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth  
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth*

— Seung Hae

## LECTIONARY FOR DECEMBER



**December 2** Jeremiah 33:14–16, Psalm 25:1–10, 1 Thessalonians 3:9–13 and Luke 21:25–36

**December 9** Malachi 3:1–4, Luke 1: 68 –79, Philippians 1:3–11 and Luke 3:1–6

**December 16** Zephaniah 3:14–20, Isaiah 12:2–6, Philippians 4:4–7 and Luke 3:7–18

**December 23** Micah 5:2–5a, Luke 1:47–55, Hebrews 10:5–10 and Luke 1:39–45

**December 30** 1 Samuel 2:18–20, 26, Psalm 148, Colossians 3:12–17 and Luke 2:41–52



## 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**



	<u>Worship</u>	<u>Offering</u>
10/28	57	\$ 779
11/04	50	\$ 1,378
11/11	45	\$ 507
11/18	<u>53</u>	<u>\$ 877</u>
Avg.	51	\$ 885

- 12/02 Ethan Lafferty
- 12/03 Calan Bell
- 12/04 Rick Knight
- 12/05 Kara Canoles
- 12/06 Gary Hudson
- 12/13 Heather Gomez
- 12/14 Jenna Morell
- 12/16 Angie Cuccio
- 12/19 Debbie Rotz
- 12/20 Hank McDonald
- 12/20 Randi Strosnider
- 12/22 Ginger Strosnider
- 12/25 Jesus
- 12/25 Susan Lewis
- 12/26 Ana Mendoza
- 12/31 Natalie Heath

### DECEMBER



Debbie Rotz



Angie Cuccio



Betty & Teresa Walther



- 12/14 Rodger & Jane Ramey
- 12/19 Tracy & Amanda Einstein
- 12/27 Mark & Aimee Hoffman
- 12/24 Mark & Stacey Roy
- 12/31 Jerry & Elsie Stickely



**STAGE LEFT BAND** will lead our music for the Service.



## OLIVE OYL'S

For December's Olive Oyl Meeting we will have a Cookie Exchange in case anyone from Relief would like to attend. Everyone brings five dozen cookies (preferably all the same) on a plate, basket, etc., and then also one dozen of cookies in a zip bag or other small container which we send to the Timber Ridge School. Each attendee brings one finger food. We have a great time, eating, planning a game or too, and then we exchange cookies. We have a great time and we would love to have Relief attend. Again, please if you would just let us know ahead so we can get a head count.

### ADDITIONAL DATES FOR MT. OLIVE

- |              |   |
|--------------|---|
| Sun., Dec. 9 | <b>Covered Dish Christmas Dinner at 1:00 pm.</b>                            |
| Wed. Dec 12  | Prayer Group at Angie's House at 11:00 am. Everyone is Welcome to attend.   |
|              | Youth Christmas Carol sing at Orchard Woods at 5:40 pm                      |
| Sun. Dec 16  | Youth Talent Show for Worship Service                                       |
| Sun. Dec 23  | Christmas Service 9:30 am   |
| Mon. Dec 24  | Joint Christmas Eve Service, 7:00 pm at Mt. Olive featuring Stage Left Band |



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

**THE "OLIVE BRANCHES"** The November youth night on November 14<sup>th</sup> was blessed this year with having the adults from Mt. Olive, Relief and a few more from the surrounding churches in our area. This month's youth group included a security training class given by Captain Aleck Beeman and a Korean dinner prepared by Pastor Seung Hae, Sungcha Gosselin and Puil Lawson. Everything was fantastic and enjoyed by everyone in attendance. We were very blessed that evening as we had a total of sixty-three people join together and share in gathering vital safety information, fun and great discipleship. Thank you so much to everyone for supporting all we do.

The next few months, our youth will hold a "JUST 1" mission. We will be collecting cooked meals as one of our missions to help some of the lock-ins in our area. We have a contact at the Frederick County Sheriff's Office that help out some of those in need and has graciously agreed to help deliver the meals (names/addresses are not provided and remain confidential). We are asking that as you cook your meals, if you have any leftovers, if you could package/freeze enough for at least one meal for someone. You can put the servings in a non-returnable container (I packaged each individual portion in a sandwich bag & then put the whole meal

together in 1-large gallon Ziploc bag and put in the freezer). This will provide them with an easy to re-heat meal. We will be collecting these at the church(s) on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of every month, then we will pray over these meals and send them off to be delivered. Please know that they will be joining you in spirit as they sit for their meals. If you know anyone that would be in need of a meal please contact Brenda Newpher.

The next Youth Group meeting will be on December 12<sup>th</sup> and we will be going to Orchard Woods for a Christmas Hymn Sing. We will meet at the entrance in front of Round Hill Fire on Lutheran Blvd. at 5:45 pm and then go together as a group as they have to let us in with a pass. This is about forty-five minutes to an hour from start to finish. The music will be provided by Tina Evans and Cleo Manspile. A catered supper will be provided afterwards at the shelter at Mt. Olive UMC. This is open to ANYONE who would like to participate. PLEASE open your hearts and share some of the Christmas joy and spirit with others. Just a smile and the few minute's companionship and camaraderie does so much!

The youth will again this year be having a talent show on Sunday, December 16<sup>th</sup> during services. We have some very talented youth and it is so wonderful that they are willing to share them with us! If anyone (even if you are youth in heart & mind but not body) would like to share your talent, please let Brenda Newpher know so that we can put you into the show.

I would like to share the good news with those of you who have not heard. Congratulations to the Mt. Olive UMC youth group, "Olive Branches", as they were honored on Tuesday, November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2018 by the Frederick County Sheriff's Department with the Gold Star Award. This award is given out

once a year to an individual(s) that make a difference in and around the community. It is an absolute blessing to have such wonderful youth not only in our community but also in our little church. Our outstanding youth represent the future . . . what a wonderful future Frederick County or wherever they decide to make their home in will have. Thank you to EVERYONE for helping our youth to rise and become vital role models to others!

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!

—Brenda Newpher (Little Brenda)

*Church*  *Council*

**January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2019**  
**Administrative Council**  
**meeting at the shelter at 6:30 pm**

**THOUGHTS:** Each of us is an innkeeper who decides if there is room for Jesus.

—Neal A. Maxwell

A Christmas candle is a lovely thing. It makes no noise at all, but softly gives itself away.

—Eva Logue

## O CHRISTMAS TREE

*O Christmas Tree, O Christmas Tree  
Your branches need  
Our ornaments!*

Every year we have a lovely Christmas tree. It may be decorated in blue and silver or it may be decorated in red and gold. The ornaments are pretty and festive looking. And it has lights too! But the one thing that really makes our tree different is—we have special ornaments!

You bring ONE ornament to hang on an open space on the tree. Somewhere on the ornament you will have your name on it (or your family name). The ornament could be a brand new one that you purchased for just this year. Or, it may be one of the ornaments that you have had over the years at home. Or, it may be a very special ornament that you made!

**You bring the ornament and hang it on the tree one of the Sundays of Advent.**

The tree stays up through Epiphany Sunday, which is January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2019. This is when the Three Wise Men came and celebrated Jesus' birth and so it is when Jesus was revealed to the world.

On Christmas Sunday or one of the Sundays through Epiphany, you will come up and take one ornament off the tree. **This is the person or family that you will pray for during the next year!** It is a lovely way to honor God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit and a thoughtful and wonderful celebration of a person or family.

Please come with an ornament for the tree this year—let's fill up all the open branches on our tree! **Be a part of our Mt. Olive tradition!**

O Christmas Tree, O Christmas Tree...  
—Cleo Manspile



## RECIPE FOR A HAPPY NEW YEAR

*by Lawrence Deml*

Take twelve whole months. Clean them thoroughly of all bitterness, hate and jealousy. Make them just as fresh and clean as possible.

Now cut each month into twenty-eight, thirty or thirty-one different parts - but don't make up the whole batch at once. Prepare it one day at a time out of these ingredients.

Mix well into each day one part of faith, one part of patience, one part of courage and one part of work.

Add to each day one part of hope, faithfulness, generosity and kindness.

Blend with one part prayer, one part mediation and one good deed.

Season the whole with a dash of good spirits, a sprinkle of fun, a pinch of play and a cupful of good humor.

Pour all of this into a vessel of love. Cook thoroughly over radiant joy, garnish with a smile and serve with quietness, unselfishness and cheerfulness.

You're bound to have a Happy New Year!!!  
—Submitted by Bonnie Anderson

**Prayer:** *Lord, you have been kind to me this year. Thank you for the blessings that have befallen me in 2018. I pray for your help and presence in 2019. As you have been with me in the past, and are with me in the present, be with me in the future. In Jesus' name. Amen.*

## 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>
10/14	11	38	\$ 1,626
10/21	12	41	\$ 1,114
10/28	5	42	\$ 1,559
11/04	5	45	\$ 2,208
11/11	9	45	\$ 1,965
11/18	<u>12</u>	<u>57</u>	<u>\$ 1,443</u>
Avg.	9	45	\$ 1,653

Also received:

C-CAP	\$ 41
Church Use	\$ 50
Memorials	\$ 285
Mission	\$ 20
Shelter	\$ 250
Shoeboxes	\$ 65
Student Day	\$ 5
Witness	\$ 410

**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](mailto:elwand@verizon.net)



12/01 Ernie Campbell, II  
12/01 Marshall Golliday  
12/01 Richard Turk  
12/06 Olivia Beringer  
12/06 Michael Sipe  
12/09 Leslie Lobell  
12/11 Herb Earnshaw  
12/15 Kim Martin Watt  
12/25 Jesus  
12/27 Donald Graff  
12/29 Sue Boyd  
12/31 Barnaby Watten



12/03 Earl & Elwanda Luttrell  
12/04 Greg & Janet Unger

## **DECEMBER LAYREADER**

*"Judy Boyd"*

**There will not be Scrapbooking** in December. For information contact, Debbie Fauble, at 869-4005.



## **DECEMBER SPOTLIGHT**

Special thanks to all who filled a shoebox for Operation Christmas Child and/or give money for shipping. I delivered eighteen shoe boxes and shipping and handling for these boxes to the distribution center at Kernstown UMC. I delivered ten new blankets, food and cans of soup and other food items to C-CAP.

For the month of 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. Rescue Mission, 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 16<sup>th</sup> so they can be delivered before Christmas.

Starting the first Sunday of Advent, December 2<sup>nd</sup> — Banks will be available (one per family) and all the money in the bank will go to the Society of St. Andrew. If you would like to write a check, please make the check to Relief UMC, and then one check will be written for all the money collected. The banks will be due in on Sunday, December 30<sup>th</sup>.

Many thanks also to all those who provided a Thanksgiving Bag. We had a total of forty bags, from Relief and eight from Mt. Olive. Three bags were given to local families, and three kept back for Christmas Bags. There were ten bags that went to Middletown

Elementary School through the MAMA program; Thirteen to Orchard View Elementary School and nineteen to Sherando High School. The staff at both Orchard View and Sherando were very, very appreciative of this gesture.

This month, the members of the Our Family Group made a placemat. Debbie Fauble, Robin Sweet, Eunice Musser and I prepared their annual Thanksgiving Dinner and Sandra Ramey also helped serve the meal. We provided cookies, cake, pumpkin pies and apple dumplings for dessert. The Support Group furnished all but the dessert; we did the cooking and serving. In December the group will be working on making a stand with candy canes for a picture they will be coloring. They also have a Christmas coloring game sheet, which can be made into a placemat to work on. Our group will again be preparing the Christmas dinner, serving the meal and providing desserts. This will be their annual Christmas Party.

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.

Please continue to save plastic jar lids—the ones that come on mayo, peanut butter, etc. I want to use them for a craft later next year.

- If you have any questions, feel free to contact me, Elwanda Luttrell, Outreach Chair.

An item in the Mission Budget is a donation to the United Methodist Family Services. This organization was featured in the “Advocate” in the November issue. If anyone would like to read about this young man’s journey through the system, please let me know.

As the end of the year is nearing, I just want to thank all for their generous support of all the Mission and Outreach projects that you have supported during the year. We have been able to reach many souls during the year.

Merry Christmas to All.

*Elwanda Luttrell*  
*Chair Mission/Outreach*  
*(540) 869-7198*  
*[elwand@verizon.net](mailto:elwand@verizon.net)*



**Special Notice:** Anyone that has bills to be paid, they **MUST** be turned into Elwanda, on or before December 23<sup>rd</sup> in order to be paid out of our 2018 budget.



**“We Need a Little Christmas”??....**

**Absolutely!! Pleeeze.....** Save the evening of Saturday, December 15<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm. We present to you a festival of the heart..... full of variety....beautiful decorations, delicious cuisine, sweet fellowship, delightful music, good cheer, plus special surprise guests and laughter for the soul! We need to bind our hearts together at this special time of year to enjoy and appreciate the reason for this beautiful and heart-warming season!!

## **A CHRISTMAS PRESENT**

*By: Brenda Newpher – 2017*

A long time ago in a barn far away  
 A mother and a father settled to stay.  
 With straw in a manger and animals at bay  
 They awaited a gift God was sending their way.

A multitude of angels came from heaven above  
 Singing a song to shepherds of God's great love.  
 The shepherds feared as they heard them sing,  
 “Good Tidings to you and the world we bring.”

From heaven above a bright star did shine  
 On a heavenly King for the Magi to find.  
 A King in a manger all swaddled they say,  
 Was born to us all on that first Christmas Day.

These chosen few came to praise His birth  
 And celebrate the arrival of a Savior to earth.

The babe was named Jesus as an angel had said,  
 To honor Almighty God by whom they were led.

He was born as a child to be our Savior and King,  
 And deliver peace the angels said He would bring.

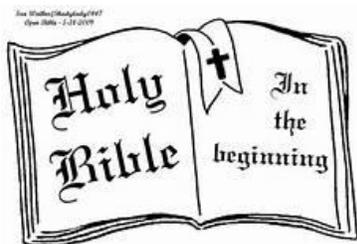
He was born to become a father to all  
 Who would love, obey, and follow his call.

So what present will you give to Jesus this year?

For cleansing your soul and removing all fear?

If you're saved and forgiven, please shout *it* with pride

And share with others that for them He died.



December 1	1 Corinthians 9-11
December 2	1 Corinthians 12-14
December 3	1 Corinthians 15-16
December 4	2 Corinthians 1-4
December 5	2 Corinthians 5-9
December 6	2 Corinthians 10-13
December 7	Acts 20:1-3, Romans 1-3
December 8	Romans 4-7
December 9	Romans 8-10
December 10	Romans 11-13
December 11	Romans 14-16
December 12	Acts 20:4-23:35
December 13	Acts 24-26
December 14	Acts 27-28
December 15	Colossians 1-4, Philemon 1
December 16	Ephesians 1-6
December 17	Philippians 1-4
December 18	1 Timothy 1-6
December 19	Titus 1-3
December 20	1 Peter 1-5
December 21	Hebrews 1-6
December 22	Hebrews 7-10
December 23	Hebrews 11-13
December 24	2 Timothy 1-4
December 25	2 Peter 1-3, Jude 1
December 26	1 John 1-5
December 27	2 John 1, 3 John 1
December 28	Revelation 1-5
December 29	Revelation 6-11
December 30	Revelation 12-18
December 31	Revelation 19-22

## CHURCH NEWS

The deadline for our January 2019 Neighborhood Gathering Newsletter is Friday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>. The January Newsletter will be available Sunday, December 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, 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](http://www.mtoliveumc.org)

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**Email:** (pastorseunghae@gmail.com)

**Rev. Dr. Seung Hae Yoo-Hess**

**Cell Phone:** Pastor Cell: 404-993-5919

### **Relief Mailing address:**

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