



# Neighborhood Gatherings JANUARY 2019

Newsletter of Mt. Olive and Relief United Methodist Churches



*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.*

Good bye 2018! Welcome 2019! Some people might say their life in 2018 was good, and it went just fine as they planned. Other people might say that their life definitely did not go the way they expected. But since we don't know how God will work in our life, we can be still hopeful. There Chinese folk tale that can serve as an example. An old Chinese man had one of the best horses in his village. But, one day, his favorite horse ran away. His neighbors came and tried to comfort him saying, "So sorry for your loss." Suddenly the old man said, "Who know today's loss can be tomorrow's gain?" A few months later, his favorite horse came back with another healthy and beautiful horse. His neighbor came to him for a celebration. But without any feeling of joy, he said, "Who knows today's gain can be tomorrow's loss?" Soon, when his son rode the horse, he fell down and broke his legs. His neighbors came to offer their condolences. Again, he did not look sad at all and said, "Who knows? Today's loss can be a blessing in disguise?" After one year later, his village was attacked by Mongolians and many young men had to



go to war and were injured or killed. But, because his son was lame, he could not go to war. His Son stayed alive. Like this, in our lives, many blessings come to us in disguise.

With this faith and hope that God can turn around bad to good, I set up a New Year's resolution plan for my body. I plan to do exercises at least three days a week because the doctor diagnosed me with pre-diabetes.

Since I have planned my new resolution for my body, I began to ask myself if I have any new resolution for my soul and spirit 2019. What is your resolution for your soul? Many of us may forget about the importance of our spiritual gifts. Many of us do not even recognize what kinds of spiritual gifts we have from God.

God clearly says to us: "you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed. (1 Corinthians 1: 8)

I would like to invite you to set up a New Year's spiritual resolution. Since I came to our churches, I have clearly witnessed our churches' spiritual gifts. Gracefully, Mt. Olive and Relief churches have special gifts from God. Mt. Olive has been open to many different ethnic groups so three different ethnic groups have met together for vital worship services with Stage Left. With these assets, our council leaders met together and discussed our New Year's resolution. It is to fill the church with young adult believers. In order to do that, we may need a plan to support young adult's parenting. We also need a plan to embrace those from different cultures like providing an English class for Hispanic members and a Spanish Class for people who want to learn another language.

For Relief, the church has people who love God and the church, the body of Christ. So, we began to discuss how we can apply

God's words in our lives. We began to see the assets that God has given to us like our church parking lot and areas of mission we can approach. So, our council set up plans to reach our community to fill our church with God's disciples. To do this, we plan to make our parking lot a "Pit Stop" so many people can feel welcomed to our church. We also plan to have a community meal and support young students at Shenandoah University.

Yes, God gives us passion for our spiritual and missional growth this coming year. We all know that our New Year's resolution requires our patience. Being patience puts rings around our hearts. It is like a tree enduring wind and storms gets a ring in the wood. While we overcome many challenges and continue to accomplish our New Year's resolution with God, we will get the rings around our heart as a sign of God's presence and a sign of our inner strength.

Mt. Olive and Relief churches, you did a good job of getting rings around your hearts. With our belief that God can turn around bad to good, let's start our spiritual and missional resolution in God. We will feel proud of getting more spiritual rings around our hearts. Amen.

—*Seung Hae*

## LECTIONARY FOR JANUARY

**First Sunday after Christmas Day**  
**December 30<sup>th</sup>** 1 Samuel 2:18–20, 26,  
 Psalm 148, Colossians 3:12–17 and Luke  
 2:41–52.

**Epiphany of the Lord**  
**January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2019** Isaiah 60:1–6, Psalm  
 72:1-7, 10–14, Ephesians 3:1–12 and  
 Matthew 2:1–12.

**First Sunday after the Epiphany**  
**January 13<sup>th</sup>** Isaiah 43:1–7, Psalm 29,  
 Acts 8:14–17 and Luke 3:15–17, 21–22.

**Second Sunday after the Epiphany**  
**January 20<sup>th</sup>** Isaiah 62:1-5, Psalm 36:  
 5–10, 1 Corinthians 12:1–11 and John  
 2:1–11.

**Third Sunday after the Epiphany**  
**January 27<sup>th</sup>** Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5–6, 8–10,  
 Psalm 19, 1 Corinthians 12:12–31a, Luke  
 4:14–21.

**Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany**  
**February 3<sup>rd</sup>** Jeremiah 1:4–10, Psalm  
 71:1–6, 1 Corinthians 13:1–13 and Luke  
 4:21–30.

## 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>
11/25	46	\$ 1,008
12/02	58	\$ 2,081
12/09	65	\$ 928
12/16	64	\$ 597
12/23	<u>61</u>	<u>\$ 1,174</u>
Avg.	58	\$ 1,157

## JANUARY





- 1/05 Sue Dusing  
 1/10 Linda Ganoe  
 1/14 Isaac Stanley  
 1/18 Jeff Riggleman  
 1/18 Brittany Streit  
 1/20 Debbie Beeman  
 1/24 Edwin Valentin  
 1/25 Braudelio Rojas  
 1/31 Jay Fix, Sr.  
 2/02 Josh Massie



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

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

### **OLIVE BRANCHES**

**“The Olive Branches”** were extremely busy during the holiday season. On December 12<sup>th</sup> we were scheduled to go to the Village at Orchards Woods on Lutheran Blvd. to do a Christmas hymn sing for the residents, but due to an unforeseen event, we ended up at Spring Arbor Living Center. What an awesome performance by EVERYONE that participated. We had a handful of

youth and bucketful of adults that made perfect music together! What a great time we had. It was such an awesome site to see the faces of the residents lit with bright smiles and to our delight, they sang along right with us. Although the night started out a bit crazy and confusing, God was with us and put us where needed. Good times and many great memories. Afterwards, we met back at the Mt. Olive shelter and had a wonderful meal (Chicken Alfredo, salad, bread and cupcakes for dessert) prepared by Stephanie Streit. We cannot thank her enough for having a hot meal ready for us. We all shared a lot of laughs along with the good food and company!

On December 16<sup>th</sup> our youth participated in a church talent show. We all know that we have talented children but who knew we had **SO** many. Each year the youth decide what they would do for their talent, submit it and then practice all on their own at home. We were truly WOWED by each and every one of them! To open and introduce the show we had our adorable “WELCOME, WITH A BIG KISS” . . . Miss Lilly and Little Mikey. Followed by tremendous talents from all the youth! We had many beautiful singers: Maria and Jahaira — Jingle Bell Rock; Desiree Davis — Country Roads; Maria, Jahaira, Pedro, Alex, Edwin, Manuel, Mikey and Steve Cuccio playing Santa/Guitar — Rudolph the Red nosed Reindeer; Zach and Ethan — White Christmas. There was a group of young ladies: Tabitha, Autumn and Elia who performed a dance to the song “Cut the Feeling”. We also had a beautiful song, “Oh Miss Believer” played on the piano by Tessa Morell and to close out the show we had an awesome musical skit to the “Bohemian Rhapsody as a Gospel Song” by Aleck and Debbie Beeman accompanied by Tabitha, Edwin & Manuel. We are very proud of

our youth and so excited to see them each shine in their own ways. We cannot wait to see what they bring next year. Thank you to ALL of those who shared your excellent talents with us!

With the New Year coming in like a lamb, our youth will be off and running. We will be hosting our first fundraiser for the year with a Vegetable Soup/Chili Dinner on January 28<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm in the Mt. Olive Shelter. We will need ALL hands on deck Sunday, January 27<sup>th</sup> after church to get all the ingredients together and in the pots cooking. All the ingredients for the soup will be provided by Neal Painter from Relief UMC and chili ingredients will be taken care of by the Olive Branches. We will be asking for donations of desserts to accompany the wonderful meal.

Our next youth group meeting will be held January 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm in the shelter at Mt. Olive UMC. We will be discussing what we hope to accomplish in the upcoming year including our youth missions. Please join us and bring a friend.

Hope you all enjoyed your Christmas with your family celebrating the birth of Jesus. Many blessings on a happy, healthy and safe New Year!

—*Brenda Newpher (Little Brenda)*



Church  Council

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



### 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 meditation 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*

**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>
11/25	10	41	\$ 1,313
12/02	13	43	\$ 2,011
12/09	13	42	\$ 1,447
12/16	<u>11</u>	<u>46</u>	<u>\$ 1,391</u>
Avg.	12	43	\$ 1,540

Also received:

C-CAP	\$ 31
Memorials	\$ 725
Church/Shelter Use	\$ 200
Student Day	\$ 5
Witness	\$ 220

**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)

**Scrapbooking with Debbie**

Join Debbie for Scrapbooking in 2019 on Friday evenings from 6:00 to 11:00 pm. Dinner will be at 7:00 pm. For information, please contact Debbie at 869-4005.

January 18	April 12
February 15	May 17
March 15	June 14



**JANUARY**

- 1/01 Scott Boyd
- 1/01 Doris Hardy
- 1/05 Susan Chagrin
- 1/07 Neal Painter
- 1/08 Robin Sweet
- 1/12 Megan C. Williams
- 1/14 Scott Wilfong
- 1/15 Dennis Manuel, Jr.
- 1/17 Lauren Campbell
- 1/19 Nicole King
- 1/21 Denver Luttrell
- 1/22 Logan Douglas Arnold
- 1/23 Ashley Alger
- 1/28 Scott Palmer
- 1/31 Ellen Parker
- 1/31 Sharon Sweet



1/27 Neil & Molly Thorne



**JANUARY**

*"Elwanda Luttrell"*



## **JANUARY SPOTLIGHT**

A special thanks for all the outreach/mission support for 2018. A complete breakdown will be in next month's newsletter.

We had a total of eighty-one blankets: These blankets were delivered to: C-CAP, Salvation Army, Winchester Rescue Mission, The Laurel Center, and Our Family.

This month's spotlight for January is again on the area C-CAP Program. C-CAP is the Congregational Community Action Project and is a cooperative ministry of forty-five area churches and one synagogue serving Winchester and Frederick County that have joined together to provide financial, material and supportive assistance to people in need.

C-CAP is a non-profit, faith based, charitable organization that is funded by area churches, a synagogue, businesses, civic groups, bequests, and private individuals. No funds are received by local, state or federal government's agencies, nor funds by the United Way.

The organization is all-volunteer. There are no paid staff, and ninety-seven percent of every dollar donated goes right back into the community. The remaining three percent is used for postage, insurance, office administration, and telephone expenses.

C-CAP hours of operation are: 8:30 am to 2:30 pm, Monday thru Thursday and 8:30 to 11:30 am on Friday. The clothing center is 9:00 to 11:30 am — Monday thru Thursday.

C-CAP maintains a complete food pantry, operates a clothing room of all sizes, and offers assistance in other areas such as rent, utilities, and prescription drugs.

C-CAP always needs volunteers: There are many areas in which you could choose a volunteer position. Please visit C-CAP any workday for a tour.

### **Clothing**

Clothing is located in a house beside the main C-CAP building where clients are free to stop and select clothing that meets their family's needs. Each day generous donors bring bags and boxes full of very good condition used clothing, linens, blankets and curtains. Clients can obtain clothing items once a month. If there is a special circumstance, this limit can be increased to twice a month.

### **Pantry**

C-CAP has a walk-in freezer and two large coolers. They regularly store and distribute canned and boxed foods, cereal, fresh sandwiches, frozen soups, and meats (chicken, hot dogs, hamburger, and venison), deli foods, breads and cakes. Clients may obtain food items once a month and homeless every day. Emergency situations will be considered. Food comes from many sources—grocery stores, gleaning, super centers, churches, and private donations. Food is most asked for type of aid.

### **Financial Assistance**

Financial assistance is provided less often, depending on the client's current level of need, his/her current financial situation, and the client's C-CAP history. On the day financial assistance is requested an interviewer will meet with the requesting client to determine the extent of financial assistance which can and should be provided.

## Other Services

We also provide additional services depending on the availability of resources. Bus passes may be offered for trips across town, used bicycles may be provided for transport to work, emergency living supplies may be offered to homeless clients. We make every attempt, within the limits of our resources, to assist every client who comes to us for assistance.

During 2018, many food items were donated from Relief UMC, as well as laundry packets, and utensil packets. The communion offerings for the year were \$479.25.

We will be serving the WATTS program on Monday, March 18<sup>th</sup> at Macedonia UMC.

A total of eight people are needed to prepare and serve. Please notify Elwanda, if you are interested in helping with this. We can only have eight people, as the space is limited.

Members of the Outreach Committee continue to provide monthly crafts for the OUR FAMILY Mental Health Peer Support Group that meets four days a week at Bethel Lutheran Church. During December, the group made a tripod with candy canes, and colored a nativity scene that was displayed on the tripod. They had Christmas placemats to color and games to play. Members of the committee prepared the annual Christmas dinner and provided desserts for the dinner. Also, throw blankets were given to each member of the group. One member, opened the throw and wore it the whole time.

The Our Family Group will be moving in January to the Administration Office Building of Northwestern Community Services

in Front Royal. Many of the members are a little apprehensive regarding the change.

We will continue to provide crafts on a monthly basis.

A check for \$200 was sent to the conference for Virginia Family Services. These funds were in the mission budget.

Don't forget there is a box in the back office, where you can put used hearing aid, and glasses for the Lion's Club.

Thanks again for your support.

*Elwanda Luttrell,  
Outreach Chair  
(540) 869-7198*

[elwanda@verizon.net](mailto:elwanda@verizon.net)

**THOUGHT:** *Be kind whenever possible. It is always possible.*

—Tenzin Gyatso

### **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)  
Facebook: Mount Olive UMC

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

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

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

### **Relief Mailing address:**

5275 Middle Road  
Winchester, VA 22602-2788  
Relief UMC: (540) 869-5775  
Website: [Reliefumc.com](http://Reliefumc.com)

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

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

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



The deadline for our February 2019 Neighborhood Gathering Newsletter is Friday, January 25<sup>th</sup>. The February Newsletter will be available Sunday, February 3<sup>rd</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



For 2019, the Bible Challenge will be a blended style of reading; a mixture of Old Testament readings and New Testament each day. In this New Year, challenge yourself to study the Bible and strengthen your faith in the process. Each month's readings will also be printed in each *Advocate* issue.

Tips on reading the Bible daily:

- Start reading the Bible today.
- Set aside a specific time and place each day. Set your schedule and then stick to it. Mornings are great; but feel free to use any time that works consistently with your schedule.
- Get a good study Bible to help to illuminate the meaning of the original Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek text.
- Choose a translation to use during your reading.
- Say a short prayer to God before you begin, asking the Holy Spirit to give you wisdom and understanding.
- Dive in and enjoy the richness of God's Word! Apply God's Word to your life. Bible study should be practical and applicable. I assure you that these seven steps will help you begin a journey in becoming a "lifelong learner" of God's Word.

—Taken from the VAUMC Website

## JANUARY 2019

- January 1 Genesis 1-3; Romans 1 Read Now
- January 2 Genesis 4-6; Romans 2 Read Now
- January 3 Genesis 7-9; Romans 3 Read Now
- January 4 Genesis 10-12; Romans 4 Read Now
- January 5 Genesis 13-15; Romans 5 Read Now
- January 6 Genesis 16-17; Romans 6 Read Now
- January 7 Genesis 18-19; Romans 7 Read Now
- January 8 Genesis 20-22; Romans 8:1-21 Read Now
- January 9 Genesis 23-24; Romans 8:22-39 Read Now
- January 10 Genesis 25-26; Romans 9:1-15 Read Now
- January 11 Genesis 27-28; Romans 9:16-33 Read Now
- January 12 Genesis 29-30; Romans 10 Read Now
- January 13 Genesis 31-32; Romans 11:1-18 Read Now
- January 14 Genesis 33-35; Romans 11:19-36 Read Now
- January 15 Genesis 36-38; Romans 12 Read Now
- January 16 Genesis 39-40; Romans 13 Read Now
- January 17 Genesis 41-42; Romans 14 Read Now
- January 18 Genesis 43-45; Romans 15:1-13 Read Now
- January 19 Genesis 46-48; Romans 15:14-33 Read Now
- January 20 Genesis 49-50; Romans 16 Read Now
- January 21 Isaiah 1-2; Mark 1:1-22 Read Now
- January 22 Isaiah 3-4; Mark 1:23-45 Read Now
- January 23 Isaiah 5-6; Mark 2 Read Now
- January 24 Isaiah 7-8; Mark 3:1-19 Read Now
- January 25 Isaiah 9-10; Mark 3:20-35 Read Now
- January 26 Isaiah 11-13; Mark 4:1-20 Read Now
- January 27 Isaiah 14-16; Mark 4:21-41 Read Now
- January 28 Isaiah 17-19; Mark 5:1-20 Read Now
- January 29 Isaiah 20-22; Mark 5:21-43 Read Now
- January 30 Isaiah 23-25; Mark 6:1-29 Read Now
- January 31 Isaiah 26-27; Mark 6:30-56 Read Now

## **FEBRUARY 2019**

February 1 Isaiah 28-29; Mark 7:1-13 Read  
Now

February 2 Isaiah 30-31; Mark 7:14-37 Read Now

February 3 Isaiah 32-33; Mark 8 Read Now

February 4 Isaiah 34-36; Mark 9:1-29 Read Now

February 5 Isaiah 37-38; Mark 9:30-50 Read Now

February 6 Isaiah 39-40; Mark 10:1-31 Read Now

February 7 Isaiah 41-42; Mark 10:32-52 Read  
Now

February 8 Isaiah 43-44; Mark 11:1-18 Read Now

February 9 Isaiah 45-46; Mark 11:19-33 Read Now

February 10 Isaiah 47-49; Mark 12:1-27 Read Now

February 11 Isaiah 50-52; Mark 12:28-44 Read Now

February 12 Isaiah 53-55; Mark 13:1-20 Read Now

February 13 Isaiah 56-58; Mark 13:21-37 Read Now

February 14 Isaiah 59-61; Mark 14:1-26 Read Now

February 15 Isaiah 62-64; Mark 14:27-53 Read Now

February 16 Isaiah 65-66; Mark 14:54-72 Read Now

February 17 Exodus 1-3; Mark 15:1-25 Read Now

February 18 Exodus 4-6; Mark 15:26-47 Read Now

February 19 Exodus 7-8; Mark 16 Read Now

February 20 Exodus 9-11; 1 Thessalonians 1 Read  
Now

February 21 Exodus 12-13; 1 Thessalonians 2 Read  
Now

February 22 Exodus 14-15; 1 Thessalonians 3 Read  
Now

February 23 Exodus 16-18; 1 Thessalonians 4 Read  
Now

February 24 Exodus 19-20; 1 Thessalonians 5 Read  
Now

February 25 Exodus 21-22; 2 Thessalonians 1 Read  
Now

February 26 Exodus 23-24; 2 Thessalonians 2 Read  
Now

February 27 Exodus 25-26; 2 Thessalonians 3 Read  
Now

February 28 Exodus 27-28; Philemon Read Now

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