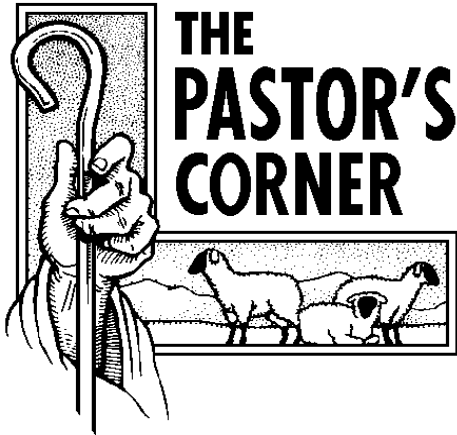




Neighborhood Gatherings OCTOBER 2017

Newsletter of Mt. Olive and Relief United Methodist Churches



“Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life? ... Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

—Matthew 6:25–27, 34 (NIV)

As I am writing, my heart breaks, as I have seen the devastation that recent natural disasters have brought to different parts of the world, especially the United States, which is now my home; Mexico, which saw me grow up; and the Caribbean islands to which I have traveled many times and have friends. What all these places have in common for me is that I have family, friends and brothers and sisters who I do not know. I am

grateful that those who I know are fine, but my heart still breaks, especially for those who lost a loved one, and lost all they had, even their homes.

I recently came across an article by Abraham Mares in Spanish, which I will paraphrase with my own words in English. You all know that if you leave a piece of bread out, eventually it will get hard and difficult to eat. Sometimes, we leave that piece of bread after dinner, and next morning it is already hard and we say “the bread is hard.” What I want to tell you today is that the bread is not hard... what is really hard is not to have bread. But our human nature, as we often take things for granted, we complain or point out that the bread is hard, but do not realize that what is really hard is not having bread. This means that the jobs we have are not hard, what is hard is not to have a job. That having a car with mechanical problems is not hard, what is hard is not being able to walk. That eating just rice with sardines is not hard, what is hard is not having food on the table. That losing the house due to a family dispute is not hard, what is hard is losing a family member for such dispute. Saying “I love you” looking at the person’s eyes is not hard, what is hard is saying it in front of the tombstone. Complaining is not hard, what is hard is being thankful.

Today is a good day to give thanks to God for what we have. Today is a good day not to allow that our happiness depends on something or someone. We must allow God!

As we allow God, please join me in praying for brothers and sisters in many parts of the world, including Mexico, the Caribbean and The United States. Praying is not hard, what is hard is losing our relationship with God for not praying.

*Yours in Christ,
—Pastor Victor*



Scrapbooking started up again at Relief UMC in September. 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.

2017 Dates

October 13th

November 17th

No Scrapbooking in December

Time: 6:00 – 11:00 pm

Dinner at 7:00 pm

Please call so we can make a plan for our dinners.

*—Debbie Fauble
(540) 869-4005*



Save the date: Mt. Olive is offering AED, CPR and First Aid training, Saturday, October 21st, starting at 10:00 am until 2:00 pm. Lunch will be provided. The sign-up sheet is in the Narthex.

Bring Your Three Gifts to Jesus

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 is 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 on earth, frankincense (an incense) as a symbol of deity, and myrrh (embalming oil) as a symbol of death or sacrifice.

On Sunday, November 5th we will present the gold in the form of our pledges to Jesus and bring it to the altar. On Sunday, November 12th we will bring the frankincense in the form of prayers and bring them to the altar. On November 19th we will bring the myrrh, which is explained below and bring them to the altar.

For the myrrh, each week we will give you an item to add to your groceries or you can purchase all of them together. You are invited to share your Thanksgiving with a family. Here is the list of items for the Thanksgiving meal if you want to purchase them all at once, and all non-perishables. Just remember to keep them home and bring them **all** on November 19th.

1 can of green beans, 1 box of stuffing mix for turkey, 1 can of cranberry sauce, 1 packet of Idahoan mashed potatoes (they only need water), 1 box of pie crust mix (9 oz.), 1 can of easy pumpkin pie mix, 1 small can of evaporated milk (5 oz.), 1 can of turkey gravy. 1 gift certificate for \$15 that will pay for 1 turkey and ½ dozen eggs. You are also welcome to pair up with another family or individual.

—Pastor Victor

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> |
|------|----------------|-----------------|
| 9/03 | 54 | \$1,718 |
| 9/10 | 49 | \$ 775 |
| 9/17 | 62 | \$ 785 |
| 9/24 | <u>56</u> | <u>\$1,248</u> |
| Avg. | 21 | \$1,131 |



OCTOBER COMMUNION

Brenda Newpher
Allie & Maria

DONUT DAY

Donna Fix
Betty Walther

GREETER

Brenda Smith

OLIVE OYLS

Bonnie Anderson
Brenda McDonald

SCRIPTURE READER

Cleo Manspile

happy birthday

10/06 Katie Hottle
10/06 Elsie Stickley
10/08 Alexis Salvati
10/12 Shirley Davis
10/20 Bonnie Anderson
10/20 Betty Walther
10/22 Chris Catlett
10/22 Cristobal Valentin
10/25 Kristi Riggelman
10/27 Pedro Linares



10/06 Joe & Alexa Stanley
10/11 Charlie & Bonnie Anderson
10/13 John & Tina Evans



THE "OLIVE BRANCHES"

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

The Olive Branches met for our monthly youth group meeting on September 14th, 2017. We met at the retirement community on Lutheran Blvd. with quite a few of the adult members from the church. What a wonderful time of fellowship we had. It was a real treat to get the older and younger generations together, especially to do an activity outside of our church walls and in the community. There were lots of smiles and it was

an opportunity that many were looking forward to in the elderly community.

The youth held their Malt Shop on Saturday, August 26th. What an extremely awesome turnout we had especially with so many other outside activities going on in the surrounding area. We served 88 meals not counting the youth and raised \$791.00. As you know, our youth try to be self-supporting in all the things they participate in. They put forth tons of hard work to be able to help out in the community and surrounding areas in need of help. With all of the missions they have been blessed to participate in, they have worked to send themselves and also to pay for any supplies needed to complete their missions. I would like to thank everyone in our church family along with the surrounding community that ALWAYS support our youth in everything they do. We love our youth and are VERY PROUD of the way they represent themselves, the church and the Lord! This would not be so if it wasn't for all the support we get from everyone! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Our youth group sent a team of adults to participate in the Hunter Crane Foundation Trap Shoot which was held on Saturday, September 16th at the Winchester Gun Club in Stephenson, VA. This was a great opportunity for some of our church members to show off their shooting skills, well, some of them! Hahaha!! The monies raised from this event will be raising money and awareness for Leukemia. Yet another different opportunity to get outside their walls and into the community to spread the good word! Thank you to those who participated and put themselves out there for a good time and maybe a good laugh. ☺ God is good!

We are teaming up with the Mt. Olive Missions Team on October 7th, 2017 for gleaning. All those interested, please see the sign-

up sheet or one of the Missions Team members. The youth will be hosting a bowling event afterwards in the evening. This is an annual youth get together to reward them for all their hard work they do during the year. If you would like to join us, please contact Brenda Newpher at b_newpher21@live.com OR 540-931-1785.

Please join us on October 1st, 2017 for our annual YOUTH SUNDAY. Our youth invites you to gather with them for Sunday service. This year we will have the privilege of having Nick Jones give the "Message" during service. As some know, our youth give the congregation a break on this day and each stepping up during the service so the adults can sit back and enjoy. The youth look forward to this each year. Please join us for another awesome Sunday with the youth!

As ALWAYS — A Special THANK YOU to all the parents, grandparents and church family who volunteer and work together to help build and mold our youth! It takes a lot of hard work and dedication not only our children but to the church to make these things happen. The youth is the future of our church — without them there would be no future!

Our next Youth Group meeting will be October 11th, 2017. We will be meeting at the Mt. Olive UMC shelter at 6:30 pm. We will be discussing our Halloween activities which will be held on October 28th which will be open to everyone. This will include a hayride, trunk-or-treat, campfire and a movie to follow. We only have two wagons available and seating will be limited so we will have a sign-up sheet for those interested. All other activities will be unlimited guests. We will be collecting bags of candy for the trunk-or-treat through the end of October.

— Brenda Newpher

**WHEN AUTUMN LEAVES
BEGIN TO FALL**

When autumn leaves begin to fall
I think of Him most of all
Colors bursting with the sun
Rays shine down on everyone.

There is a leafy autumn smell
I walk on softness where they fell
Floating gently to the ground
Touching down without a sound.

Animals are scurrying to and fro
Instinctively the creatures know
The leaves scattered everywhere
Beautifies a place once bare.

Rising up to the bluest sky
A tree looks down, creaks a sigh
Nestled in her hollowed place
Life will wait through winter's race.

When the trees at last have shed
Sturdy branches thought not dead
Beneath the earth roots hold tight
Tall and stately through the night.

When autumn leaves begin to fall
The Father orchestrates it all
Blooms in waiting seem to say
He is coming back someday.

Again dressed in a formal gown
Branches filled and hanging down
See the miracle of God once more
Birds leap from her branch to soar.

Here I stand in wonder of this
A soft wind blows to me a kiss
My spirit tells my mind to hush
Peace abounds in Christ for us.

The seasons change, come and go
But this is what I truly know
When autumn leaves begin to fall
I think of Him most of all.

—Kathleen Higham

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> |
|------|-------------|----------------|-----------------|
| 8/27 | 13 | 45 | \$ 1,901 |
| 9/03 | 13 | 38 | \$ 1,555 |
| 9/10 | 13 | 51 | \$ 1,759 |
| 9/17 | 13 | 62 | \$ 1,699 |
| 9/24 | <u>13</u> | <u>53</u> | <u>\$ 1,560</u> |
| Avg. | 13 | 50 | \$ 1,695 |

Also received:

| | |
|-----------------------------|--------|
| C-CAP | \$ 68 |
| Memorial Fund | \$ 50 |
| Operation Christmas | \$ 20 |
| Outreach | \$ 50 |
| Senior Luncheon | \$ 20 |
| Shelter/Fellowship Hall Use | \$ 375 |
| UMCOR | \$ 50 |
| Witness | \$ 210 |
| Women's Retreat | \$ 20 |

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

Contact information on page 6

OCTOBER LAYREADERS

James Douglas & Elwanda Luttrell



10/02 Sharon Boyd
 10/02 Matthew Gentry
 10/02 Brittany Ginn
 10/02 Jennifer Roy
 10/06 Robert E. Snapp
 10/09 Eunice Musser
 10/10 Bruce Luttrell
 10/10 Kim McDonald
 10/12 Sammy Orndorff
 10/13 Eddie Sours
 10/15 Mary Lowery
 10/18 Ivan Snapp
 10/18 Jonathan Sweet
 10/18 Jonathan Watten
 10/21 Margaret Douglas
 10/21 Dale Watten
 10/22 Matt Anderson
 10/24 Kyle Moffett
 10/25 Karen Luttrell
 10/25 Rebecca Miller
 10/27 Donna Wisecarver
 10/28 Frank Brumback
 10/30 Bambi Beringer
 10/30 Bonnie Chumley
 10/31 Savana Boyd
 10/31 Terry Boyd



10/12 Herb & Ruth Earnshaw
 10/17 Kenny & Teena Boyd
 10/22 Mark & Phyllis Snider



Don't forget the Harvest Party on the 21st of October at 5:00 pm. Hot dogs, sloppy joes and chili will be provided. Just bring a main dish or dessert to go with them. The Harvest Party will probably be in the Fellowship Hall this year rather than the shelter.

—Joanna Smith



OCTOBER OUTREACH SPOTLIGHT

During the month of October, shoeboxes are available or you can purchase your own to be filled for the **Christmas Shoebox Ministry** through Samaritan's Purse. Shoeboxes are available in the back of the Sanctuary, starting Sunday, October 1st through October 29th. **Shoeboxes are due back no later than Sunday, November 5th.** When returning these boxes, please just place them on one of the back pews. The shipping cost this year has increased to \$9.00 per shoebox, so if you would like to donate anything to cover the cost of shipping, or toward filling a shoebox, you can either give the cash to me or make a check to Relief

UMC and note in the Memo: Shoebox. Suggested items for the shoeboxes are: **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.—No war-related items, or military toys. **School Supplies:** pens, pencils and sharpeners, crayons, markers, notebooks, paper, solar calculators, coloring and picture books, etc. **Other Items:** Clothing items, dolls, games, musical instruments, etc. **Non-liquid Hygiene Items: accepted items are:** toothbrushes, bar soap, combs, washcloths, etc. **Accessories:** T-shirts, socks, hats, sunglasses, hair clips, jewelry, watches, flashlights (with extra batteries), etc. **This year, no toothpaste, or any type of candy, fruit snacks, aerosol items, no chewing gum, nothing that is liquid, etc., will be accepted.**

➤ Thanks to all for the Christmas cards for our Military. To date, we have 237 cards. **I will still accept cards through October**, if anyone still wants to participate in this mission opportunity. **The Blanket Drive will be in November and December — new blankets, pillows, or sleeping bags.**

➤ Members of the Outreach Committee—Pastor Victor, Debbie Fauble, Eunice Musser, and Elwanda Luttrell continue to provide crafts, etc. to the Our Family Mental Health Peer Support Group. In the last couple of months, the group has decorated eclipse cookies, worked on scrapbook 2018 calendars, painting tote bags, as well as word search puzzles, and adult coloring pages. In the month of October they will be making gift bags to the VA Outpatient Center in Kernstown, for distribution during the week of Veterans Day.

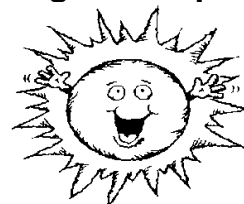
➤ A special thanks to all for your continued support. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me.

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

Reminder

Earl Luttrell asks us to please, when we leave the elevator, to make sure both the gate inside the door and the door (test them) are completely closed!

The only way it can be summoned empty from one level to the other is if both gate and door are closed as required to ride with someone in it. Thank you for honoring this request.



SUNSHINE CARD SIGNING SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15TH

Many thanks to you who supported our card ministry by signing the cards on September 17th. Signatures were: Joanie Anderson, Herb Earnshaw, Donald Graff, Lucille Hughes, Earl and Elwanda Luttrell, Eunice Musser, Jeanie Painter, Ruth Snapp, 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.

A total of 37 cards were sent: 36 thinking of you, and 1 sympathy. There were no missionary birthdays that date.

In October, we'll be sending mostly thinking of you cards. Special ones will be sent as necessary.

We're happy to add Alexis Swing's dad, Herbert Fuller (Bucky), to our Sunshine Card list.

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

Nat Painter: On the front of a DaySpring card received September 13, a saying by Billy Graham, across a beautiful scene of wildflowers with snowcapped mountains in the background: "God doesn't owe us anything—yet in His grace, He still gives us good things." Inside left: "I the Lord will be their God...there shall be showers of blessing." — Ezekiel 34:24 and 26 KIV; verse, right side: Praying the Lord will shower you with His goodness today. And printed by Nat: "Dear Church Family and Friends, Hopefully the apple harvest has begun and is proving to be equal to the efforts of hard work. Mrs. Willemima, who is no longer physically with us, used to tell me about seeing the school buses when fall school started and hearing the apple trucks on the move. I've seen these very events and experienced both. It is like a mile marker to life. I pray all is well with each of you as it is with me. Thank you for being there and God Bless. Love, Nat"

I really apologize for the big delay in sharing Mary's special DaySpring card with you. It was sent July 8th! It just surfaced after being buried in one of my "piles."

Mary Himelright: Mary said in her note to me "When I was at Relief for the Celebration of Life for Jim Douglas, I picked up a newsletter with June's card signing info. I graduated with Bonnie Chumley in 1973."

In Mary's note to us: "Ruth and the Sunshine Card Signers of Relief, above the message: 'You're as irreplaceable as the plan God designed for your life, and today, I hope He reveals a glimpse of the many **blessings** He has in store for you.' With heartfelt gratitude for the 'good mail' sent to Mom, Louise Duncan, for a very long time.

"Mom's card ministry was much like yours almost to the end of her life on earth. Looking forward to the grand reunion to come." —Mary and Karen" I've been sending to folks who have lost their mother, a special poem, *Since Mother Went Away*. I sent one to Mary and her sister, Karen Dove, when their special mom passed. In the card she sent to all of us, Mary enclosed a copy of it on a beautiful card. She said in a note "I put the verse you shared with Karen and me in my card program to continue passing it on!" (The author is unknown.)

Since Mother went away, it seems
 She's nearer than before –
 I cannot touch her hand and yet
 She's with me more and more.
 And the years have never lessened
 The longing in my heart
 That came the day I realized
 That we must dwell apart –
 And just as long as memory lives
 My mother cannot die,
 For in my heart she's living still
 As passing years go by.



HAPPY APPLE GLEANING OLIVE BRANCHES AND MT. OLIVE MISSIONS TEAM!

Congratulations and thank you for teaming up to glean on Saturday, October 7th. Relief used to be very active in gleaning. It helps to fill pantries and food banks with fresh produce. It goes back to biblical times, when the Jews were enjoined to leave some of the harvest uncollected in their fields, so that “the alien, the orphan and the widow” could take the food.

Betty Heishman, former Relief member, is coordinator for the local chapter and organizes gleaning in the area. She’s been doing this for many years. If you would like to be abreast of current notices, please contact Betty: rebate@visuallink.com or call her @ (540) 869-1669 and give her your email or phone number.

—*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.

Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

1 Corinthians 15:58
—*English Standard Version*



World Communion Sunday is a celebration observed by several Christian denominations, taking place on the first Sunday of every October, that promotes Christian unity and ecumenical cooperation.^[1] It focuses on an observance of the Eucharist.

The tradition was begun in 1934 by Hugh Thomson Kerr who ministered in the Shadyside Presbyterian Church. "Davitt S. Bell (the late Clerk of Session and church historian at Shadyside) recalled that Dr. Kerr first conceived the notion of World Communion Sunday during his year as moderator of the General Assembly (1930). Dr. Kerr's younger son, the Rev. Dr. Donald Craig Kerr, who is pastor emeritus of the Roland Park Presbyterian Church in Baltimore, was sixteen in 1933. He has related that World Communion Sunday grew out of the Division of Stewardship at Shadyside. It was their attempt to bring churches together in a service of Christian unity—in which everyone might receive both inspiration and information, and above all, to know how important the Church of Jesus Christ is, and how each congregation is interconnected one with another."^[2] It was then was adopted throughout the US Presbyterian Church in 1936,^[1] and subsequently spread to other denominations. In 1940, the Federal Council of Churches (now the National Council of Churches), led by Jesse Moren Bader, endorsed World Communion Sunday and began to promote it to Christian churches worldwide.^[1]

¹ [World Communion Sunday, National Council of Churches website](#), accessed 15 August 2011.

² Jump up^ John A. Dalles, [Presbyterian Origins: World Wide Communion Sunday](#) —*Wikipedia*

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 November 2017 Neighborhood Gatherings Newsletter is Friday, October 20th. The November Newsletter will be available Sunday, October 31st.

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