



The Olive Branch



Mt. Olivet United Methodist Church

Worshiping God, Loving and Serving Others, Sharing the Good News

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April 2015

Grazing on Grace



*Easter people raise your voices
Sounds of heaven in earth should ring
Christ has brought us Heaven's choices
Heavenly music let it ring
Alleluia alleluia
Easter people let us sing**



What song have you been singing lately?

I love music – all kinds of music. If you were to listen to my play list you will find everyone from The Glen Miller Band to CeeLo Green. What I listen to depends on the mood I am in. If I’m feeling nostalgic for my childhood it will be country: Willie Nelson, Don Williams, Patsy Cline. If I am nostalgic for my college days it will be classic rock: Doobie Brothers, Eagles, Jefferson Airplane. If I’m feeling calm and having a good day I might want jazz but if the sun is shining and I’m in the car then you might find me bumping along to rap or pop. I love it all.

You are probably wondering what any of this has to do with the hymn “Easter People Raise Your Voices.” Well, it relates because of my first question, “What song have you been singing lately? The songs we sing often depend on our moods and our current circumstances. In times of trouble we are tempted to sing songs of regret and pain. In times of suffering we choose the songs of lost love and broken promises. Yet, this hymn reminds us that we are Easter People and we have but one song we are supposed to sing – no matter our mood or our situation. We are supposed to raise our voices to testify that no matter how bad life gets, no matter what trouble we find, no matter what suffering comes our way...we are not a people of the grave – hopelessness and death have no place in our songbook. We are an Easter people and our songs reflect our hope and assurance that life will be renewed and restored. We may not know when this will happen but we believe it will.

I don’t know where you are in life right now; maybe you are comfortable with where you are, maybe you are struggling, maybe you are filled with regret and pain. Wherever you are know that Jesus understands and he came to love you through it. His death came so that you would not have that additional worry hanging over you. He didn’t die so that we would never suffer again – he died and was resurrected so that we would know that when suffering comes it will only be for a season.

In God’s time, Easter will come. New life will bloom inside of you and all things will be made new.

So raise your voices Easter People – Christ lives – and so will you!

~Pastor Karen

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Our Sympathy

We extend our love and sincere sympathy to

- the family of Tiffany Furches in the death of her father, Cleveland Townsend;
- Colleen Booth and her family following the death of her mother, Evelyn Austin., in Hawaii; and
- the family of Shirley Blakely in the death of her brother Charles Clayton Caudill.

Contact Information:

Michael and Melodie Salley have a new address and phone number: 1895 Dutch Creek Rd., Banner Elk, NC 28604; phone (828) 963-5730. Michael's cell phone number has also changed to 828-964-5737.

Millard Faulkner's present address is Silas Creek Rehabilitation, 3350 Silas Creek Pkwy #115, Winston-Salem, NC 27103.

"Many Christians ... are unable to stand against the temptations of the world, or of their old nature. They strive to do their best to fight against sin, and to serve God, but they have no strength. They have never really grasped the secret: The Lord Jesus will every day from heaven continue His work in me. But on one condition—the soul must give Him time each day to impart His love and his grace. Time alone with the Lord Jesus each day is the indispensable condition of growth and power."

- Andrew Murray

Confirmation

Pastor Karen described Easter Sunday as "...a glorious day we had confirming 7 amazing young people, baptizing 2 of them, and then baptizing and welcoming one adult into official membership. The kids did a fantastic job serving communion. All that amazing worship and celebration took place among approximately 270 folks!!! A day that I feel completely glorified God and the risen Christ. I'm so grateful for the blessing of sharing in such a great day of love."

Our confirmands were Caitlyn Bauer, Sydney Bumgarner, Emma Frye, Marrisa Furches, Olivia Mabe, Brady Weisner, and Olivia West. Mrs. Jennifer Bumgarner was also baptized and welcomed as an official member of our church family.

April Missions

Thank you so much, Mount Olivet friends, for the magnitude of product donations for our homeless friends in Davidson County. Your kindness is greatly appreciated by so many!

Our Nurture Missions Collection for April goes to the American Children's Home in Lexington. They are in need of sketch pads, colored pencils, art and craft supplies, crochet hooks and yarn, knitting needles, material and thread, basketballs, footballs and soccer balls, board games and puzzles. School will soon be out for the summer so let's show lots of love and encourage these children! Please place items neatly in the bins under the stairs in the fire tower. Thank you,

Thanks

Many thanks for your thoughts, prayers, visits, telephone calls and get-well cards over the past month. I feel blessed to be a part of a LOVING and CARING church family.

God Bless You All,
Barbara Berrier

I wanted to thank everyone from the church who has sent me cards while I have been away at school in Nashville. It is nice to hear from people from home. I also want to thank you for the Subway gift card I received on Valentines Day - I really appreciated that and enjoyed my meal!

Thanks so much,
Holly Templeton

Funds Will Go to Crisis Ministry

Our special Advent Offering of \$2,500 was earmarked for Greater Things Outreach Center in Welcome and a Social Services fund to provide heat for the elderly. Treasurer Charles Craver reported to the Council on Ministries that Social Services no longer has such a fund. After hearing that giving to the Crisis Ministry drops significantly after Christmas, the Council voted to redirect the \$1,250 designated for Social Services to them.

Stress makes you believe that everything has to happen right now. Faith assures you that everything will happen in God's timing.

- thedailyquotes

Record of Our Faithfulness in 2014

"I will be loyal to the United Methodist Church and support the ministries of Mt. Olivet United Methodist Church by my prayers, my presence, my gifts my service, and my witness."

By Our Presence

	8:35	SS	11:00
Mar 1	47	74	57
Mar 8	69	112	68
Mar 15	61	103	71
Mar 22	68	95	44
Mar 29	80	89	116

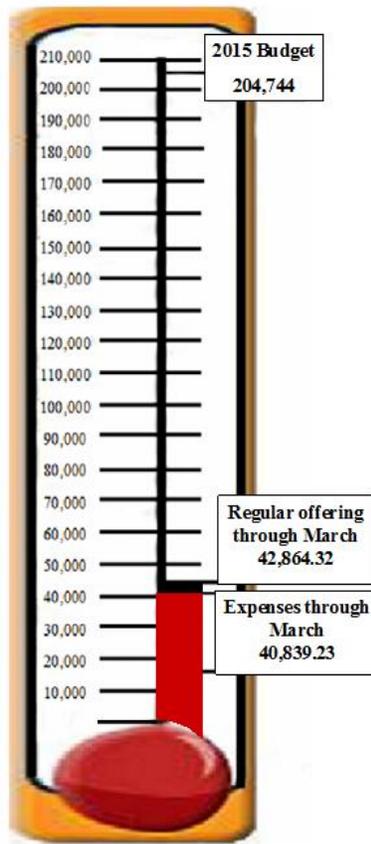
In March we averaged 95 in Sunday School and 136 in Sunday worship service.

By Our Gifts

Regular Offering	\$16,342.57
CCC	6,377.00
Scholarship fund	230.00
Undesignated Honor	
Kitty Craver	20.00
Undesignated Memorial	
Nancy Woosley	120.00
Cookbook Fund	120.00
Bereavement fund	100.00

Monthly total \$23,309.57

Regular offerings of \$16,342.57 in March were up substantially from our February offerings of \$12,460.95; but we had better weather and five Sundays in March. Our expenses of \$15,611.41 were also high in March partially based on a fuel bill for heating of over \$2000; but



we still had a surplus of \$731.16 for the month. Some adjustments were made for February due to a lost check to Cokesbury, which was replaced in March. After the adjustment, our total expenses through March 31 total \$40,839.23; and with offerings for the same period of \$42,864.32, we have a year-to-date surplus of \$2,025.09. We give praise to God for His faithfulness, and we thank all who have given so generously for the support of God's Church. We are off to a good start for the year.

Charles Craver

Coming Soon!!

Mt. Olivet UMC T-shirts, sweat-shirts, and polo shirts - The Heart Circle will be taking orders starting the Sunday after Easter. We will be in the fellowship hall after the early service to take orders for several weeks. (Money will be collected when the shirts are ordered.) We will have screen printed and embroidered options for a very good price.

Come by the fellowship hall and see the options or contact Cheryl Vaughan or Sheila Templeton to order.

Fellowship Meal



We're looking forward to the April fellowship meal hosted by the Reid Craver family! The menu is pinto beans and cornbread. The cost is only for \$4 for adults and \$1.50 for children with no family paying more than \$12. See you there!

55 and Holding

Tuesday, Apr 28

Hoyt's

9 AM

...though we may think we are at the end of the rope, we are never at the end of hope...*God never abandons us.* Because Christ won the victory over death, we have eternal life. All our risks, humiliations, and trials are opportunities for Christ to demonstrate His power and presence in and through us.

Life Application Study Bible notes on 2 Corinthians 4:8-12

What's Up(stairs)?

Could you not watch with Me one hour? *Matthew 26:40b*



In April, WoRM is studying Christ in the Garden of Gethsemane. Jesus knew that the hour for His crucifixion was drawing near. The disciples still didn't understand that their master would have to face a cruel death very soon. Jesus was in great agony, but even though He took Peter, James and John deeper into Gethsemane than the other disciples, they could not support Him in this hour. Certainly Jesus wished that this path could be avoided, but nevertheless prayed that God's will be done. Our focus on April 5th was "Gethsemane: The Garden". Jesus knew He needed time with the Father, and Gethsemane was a convenient place for that. It is believed that Gethsemane was private land belonging to someone Jesus and the disciples knew and had visited frequently. The word Gethsemane means "oil press" and it was near the Mount of Olives. Jesus had the disciples wait outside while He prayed, but did take Peter, James and John with him into the inner area. Jesus allowed them to see Him in a more personal way and to share His emotional state and true feelings. On the 5th, we divided our time among prayer in our "garden", a traditional craft, and studying Gethsemane as well as our text (18:1-11) from John's gospel in The Message translation of the Bible.

However, Gethsemane would also come to mean a place of sorrow (April 12), prayer (April 19) and betrayal (April 26). Gethsemane was the first phase of Christ's sufferings, both physical and spiritual. Luke says that Jesus' sweat was like blood. There is a medical condition where small capillaries in the sweat glands break so that blood and sweat mix. Thus was the depth already of Jesus' trauma. Our workshop for "Gethsemane: The Sorrow" will be Disciples' Drive In as we watch the animated video AGONY IN THE GARDEN and study our text (14:26-52) from the Gospel of Mark in the New Living Translation.

We will then move to focus on "Gethsemane: The Prayer" on April 19. Jesus left Peter, James and John with instructions to wait and watch with Him as He went further to pray. Jesus fell on His face and cried out to God, "O My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as Thou wilt. (Matthew 26:39). Jesus knew there was no way for redemption to be made available for all, but through the cross. Jesus rose and returned to find His three disciples sleeping. He had requested that they pray for Him, but they didn't have the fortitude to intercede on His behalf. Actually, the prayer would have been for the disciples' own benefit as well. Prayer gives us strength to endure life's trying circumstances. Jesus returned to His solitude and conditioning to accept the inevitable. Jesus returns to the disciples but they are still sleeping. So Jesus speaks to the Father for the last time, before waking the disciples.

Finally, on April 26, we will study "Gethsemane, The Betrayal". Jesus well knew that Judas would betray him. Yet Jesus still called him friend and even Judas' act became part of God's great purpose. We would do as well to remember that though we may be incapable of understanding the reason for a painful situation; our faith in God should allow it to move us even closer to Him.

One day every believer will face a "Gethsemane" in his own life. It is where we must be alone with the Lord and agonize before Him in prayer. It is a lonely place where no one can go with us. Have YOU been to "Gethsemane" yet? Can YOU watch with Him one hour?

- *lmashburn*



Come for fun!

Faith Mountain VBS

July 26-30 MARTIN

Be sure to save these dates
when you're making
your summer plans!

philipmartin.info



Holy Week Prayer Station



The Heart Circle met March 23 at the home of Kathy Knox. A nice meal of chili and corn chowder was prepared by Kathy and Jim, desserts were provided by Kathy, Lisa Foster, and Barbara Chesnut. The blessing was given by Cheryl.

Thanks to everyone that purchased or made goodies for the bake sale. We currently have approximately \$1,250.00 from the bake sale and will give details on where these monies will be given.

The Circle is in the process of selling T-shirts, sweatshirts, decals and car tags with the church name. These will be preorders only and will give more information at a later date.

We invite ladies in the church to our next meeting on April 20 at Hoyt's Restaurant at 6:30 PM. Please come and enjoy the fellowship.

-kcraver

Zumba Schedule

Sunday, April 19 - NO Zumba

Sunday, April 26 - 6:30-7:30 PM

Sunday, May 3 - 6:30-7:30 PM

Sunday, May 10 - NO Zumba
(Mother's Day)

Sunday, May 17 - 6:30-7:30PM

Sunday, May 24 - 6:30-7:30 PM

Sunday, May 31 - 6:30-7:30 PM

THE "SON" IS SHINING!

An Easter message to all the Chancel and Teen Choir Singers: The programs on the 29th for the Palm Sunday celebrations were just wonderful and full of passion and joy for the holy reason for the season. Each music interlude with the meaningful narratives throughout both cantatas was so special to the listeners and we want to openly shout it from the mountain tops, that we indeed became seekers of His heart, knowing we're forever blest and forgiven. A thank you goes, also, to the teens who, even though school, after school activities, and home demands were great, came to rehearsals and played a big part in the music agendas. Their voices add such a unique quality to the blend and harmonies and they deserve many kudos for their efforts. The sound engineers for both services, Michael Lewis and Keith Bumgarner deserve praise, as well. Their gifts of balancing the blends from their balcony post are much appreciated.

We'll move ahead with more youth choir participation during the spring and summer months. I'll let all the Legends groups know as far as preparing for the VBS tunes in July. Please remember that there are so many opportunities for the kids to shine for anthems and offertories during the vacation months, too, when many of the adult choristers will be traveling. The communication door is open and we'll arrange those rehearsals, making satisfactory times for all.

Keep Singing His Praises,
kknox



Kim Bauer photographed much of the fun at the Easter Egg Hunt. More pictures are available at <http://share.shutterfly.com/action/welcome?sid=8Aas2rFu4ct1ETY>. We are very, very grateful to each one who helped with it and to the Heart Circle, Jennifer Craver, Kathy Craver, and Kim Bauer for their donations.

Please Remember in Prayer

Help us keep our prayer list current by letting us know when we need to make additions or deletions. We also want to hear how these folks are doing. Please email Susan Craver: smcraver@aol.com

Dallas Anderson	Perry Craver	Paul Hege	Nancy Mercer	Trevor Staup
Danny Anderson	Ralph Craver	Gavin Hill	Hinton Meyer	Nancy Stoddard
David Anderson	Darrell	Johnny Hinkle	Jacob Myers	Laura Surratt
Steve Arnold	Peggy Dudley	Bill Huneycutt	Thurmond Midkiff	Dr. Hugo Tettamanti
Roger Basto	Nathan East	Brenna Husel	Mary Ellen Midkiff	Madison Thomason
Barbara Berrier	Lynn Edwards	Peggy Idol	Tommy Mitchell	Angel Thompson
Matthew Berry	Craig Edwards	Melissa Jessup	Mabel Molinaro	Hal Varner
Heather Brown	Mitch Edwards	Doug Kirk	Adalyn Peeler	Martha Varner
Coleman Carter	Millard Faulkner	Judith Kurtzrock	Emmett Pope	Kaye Wagner
Kelly Chesnut	Ann Foster	Ollie Kyzar	Dale Riddle	Dawn Walser
Donna Clodfelter	Lucille Garrison	Betty Ruth Mabe	Tiffany Prior	April Wilkes
Anne Craver	Trecia Gibson	Dr Ed Maddox	Donese Sink	Bonnie Williams
Betty Craver	Doug Glass	Jean Marsh	Bob Sironen	Burch Woosley
Larry Craver	Ryan Hartley	Jean Martin	Ollie Sironen	Emily Workman
Michael John Craver	Lyda Hawn	Ann McMahan	Donnie Speaks, Jr	Shirley Wyatt
Mildred Craver				Judy Younkin

Gideon Sunday — April 19, 2015

Brother Leon Koontz will deliver reports at both services on Sunday April 19th to explain what the Gideons are doing to bring all boys and girls, and men and women into a saving relationship with Jesus Christ. Internationally, the Gideons are now in 200 countries and distribute Bibles in 99 different languages. This year, we will distribute 85 million Testaments worldwide. 85% of these will be distributed in foreign countries who depend heavily on the United States for the purchase of these Scriptures. Also, 80% of the Bibles distributed in foreign countries will go to children, primarily through school distributions.

Locally, the Davidson North Camp of the Gideons International regularly places Bibles in rest homes, motels, and medical offices. We also distribute Testaments at the Davidson County Fair, the North Carolina State Fair, and the Davidson County Community College. This past year, we also distributed Testaments at the Christmas and Easter Parades. We believe that our most important distribution locally is the Fifth Grade Elementary School Distribution. We are currently completing our 2015 distribution in the 6 local elementary schools and plan to distribute 700 Bibles. Past history reveals that over 90% of all children will take a little red Testament; and we know we are placing Bibles in some households that do not attend church regularly. Not only are we placing Bibles with children at a young age; in some cases we are placing Bibles in homes that may have no other copy of God's word. Please pray with us for a successful distribution this year, and that the doors for a Distribution remain open in Davidson County.

Funding for the Gideon Ministry and the placement of Bibles comes from three sources: Church Offerings, Gideon Offerings, and the Gideon Card Program. By far the greatest amount of funds for the purchase of Scriptures comes from our churches, without whom we could not fulfill our mission. We greatly depend on our churches for your prayers, your financial support, and as a source for new members. We want to Thank You in advance for your support of this ministry in helping to distribute God's word throughout the world. If you would like to make a donation by check on April 19, please make the check payable to Gideons International. May God Bless You For Your Generosity!

Charles Craver, Davidson North Camp, Gideons International

APRIL—MAY 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
5 Jacob Hege Jeff Husel Rebecca Mabe	6 COM Eric Johnson	7 Mike Bradley	8 Alex Hege Sr Gabriel Jones	9 Mike Craver Emily Bauer Lauren Black Susan Abbott Holly Templeton	10 Charlie Chesunt Frances Clodfelter	11 Ashley Wilkes
12 Thom. Hege Jessie Holliday Jeff Mitchell Jordan Fitzgerald	13 KickStart  Carson Everhart	14 Gary Patterson Christina Thomas Sydney Bumgarner	15  Fellowship Meal	16 Jake Eades	17 Hanna Jones Megan Jones	18
19 Andrew Bauer Hannah Allen Karen Roberts Courtney Troutman	20 KickStart   Dennis Booth Norah Brown Patty Scott	21 Elijah Bateman	22 Cindy Venable	23	24	25 Myke Lewis
26 Ralph Craver	27 KickStart Jon Oakley	28  Caitlin Booth Olivia Mabe	29 Claire Craver	30 Penny Craver-Beck	1	2
3  Millard Faulkner	4 KickStart  COM	5 Randy Mercer	6 Carla Blakley Koty Furches	7 Millard Martin Heather Hege	8	9 Karen Craver

Sunday: 5:00 PM—Mid and High Youth; Mondays: 6:30-8:00 PM, Scouts; Tuesdays: 6:30—Early service choir; Wednesdays: 6:00—Children's Choir; 7:30—11 o'clock choir

Mt. Olivet United Methodist Church
1082 Community Rd, Lexington, NC 27295

www.mtolivetumc.net

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



Photo by Pastor Karen

GREETERS

- Apr 12 8:45 Mike and Becky Lewis
11:00 Mike and Lisa Foster
Apr 19 8:45 Polly Craver, Ruby Cook
11:00 Dan and Sally Hosey
Apr 26 8:45 Bonnie Hege, Phylis Augsburger
11:00 Trish and Gray Hutchens,
Grayson and Britt Sink
May 3 8:45 George and Patsy Perryman
11:00 Gary and Mary Kathryn Patterson
May 10 8:45 Ray Woosley
11:00 Christy Chesnut
May 17 8:45 Mike Bradley,
Evva Zimmerman

ACOLYTES

- Apr 12 8:45 Grayson Frye
11:00 Sydney Bumgarner
Apr 19 8:45 Hannah Mercer
11:00 Avery Garmon
Apr 26 8:45 Mia Mercer
11:00 Caitlyn Bauer
May 3 8:45 Cam Mercer
11:00 Brady Everhart
May 10 8:45 Leslie Mashburn
11:00 Madison Bumgarner



SHELTER VOLUNTEER

- April: Wilson Teal, Joe Craver
May: Pat Craver, Gary Patterson

LITURGIST

- Apr 12 8:45 Pastor Karen
11:00 Linda Mitchell
Apr 19 8:45 Alice Johnson
11:00 Jim Bumgarner
Apr 26 8:45 Susan Craver
11:00 Jim Knox
May 3 8:45 Mary K Patterson
11:00 Penny Craver-Beck
May 10 8:45 Pat Craver
11:00 Lisa Foster

FLOWERS

- Apr 12 Kaye Powers
Apr 19 Lucille Garrison, Shirley Hedrick
Apr 26 Mildred Craver, Sue Anderson
May 3 Edward and Jennifer Craver

NURSERY

- Apr 12 8:45 Lynette Wikle
11:00 Michelle Powers
Apr 19 8:45 Emily Hedrick
11:00 Linda Mitchell
Apr 26 8:45 Cindy Zimmerman
11:00 Jennifer Craver
May 3 8:45 Janis Faye Troutman
11:00 Kayce Clodfelter
May 10 8:45 Lynn Lemly
11:00 Barbara Teal

GREATER THINGS

- April 16: Believers
April 21: New Beginnings
April 30: Friends of Fellowship
May 19: Bruce Salley Class