



# The Olive Branch



Mt. Olivet United Methodist Church

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

VOLUME 33 NO 8

[http://mtolivetumc.net./](http://mtolivetumc.net/)

August 2016



Never has it been more true than today that the apostolic church is struggling to find the “truth” regarding the controversial issue of sexual morality. I have been asked on several occasions my thoughts regarding this issue, as well as how the church is responding. I understand the controversies surrounding one’s own interpretation of the scriptures; we all struggle with our faith at times. Dr. Bill Bouknight, author of *The UMC Struggles for Her Faith* writes, “Two books dominate the UMC. The first is the Bible and the second is the Book of Discipline. As long as that second book is kept subservient and faithful to the first book, the UMC will be on solid ground”

Recently the Western Jurisdiction of the UMC made a decision that goes against the provisions of the Book of Discipline. In response to questions and conversations surrounding this decision I have included a letter from the Bishop and Cabinet to the

Western N.C. Conference which we are an active member of:

**An Open Letter  
From the Bishop and the Cabinet  
To the people of the Western North Carolina Conference**

*Like many others we, the Bishop and the Superintendents of the Western North Carolina Conference, recognize the crossroads at which we stand in The United Methodist Church. Many across our Conference are deeply concerned and have expressed frustration and regret about the meetings and decisions of some Annual Conferences and Jurisdictional Conferences over the past two months not to follow provisions of the Book of Discipline regarding marriage and ordination standards which they believe are discriminatory. Most recently in the Western Jurisdiction, the election to the office of bishop of Rev. Karen Oliveto who has been described as “an openly lesbian clergyperson,” has ignited concerns for our denomination as well as questions about our polity and our unity. Others across our area, however, believe these actions are signs of a new day and a different future for The United Methodist Church.*

*Concurring with the pastoral letter [<http://www.sejumc.org/clientimages/59478/sej%20college%20of%20bishops%20letter-2016.pdf>] from the College of Bishops of the Southeastern Jurisdiction, we “view the acts of nonconformity as a violation of our covenant....” We remain hopeful that the collaborative efforts of the commission that was approved at General Conference will provide a way forward. While that work continues, we are committed to maintaining our covenant to uphold The Book of Discipline.*

*How shall we move forward in the light of these actions in other parts of our connection? First, we urge the clergy and laity across the conference to be patient. Bishop Bruce Ough, President of the Council of Bishops, wrote: “Our Book of Discipline has clearly delineated processes in place for resolving issues even as complex and unprecedented as this election (of Rev. Oliveto).” Those processes take time and require us to be patient as they work their way through the system.*

*Second, we urge everyone to join us in fervent prayer for our church and for our witness in the world in the name of Jesus. We believe that there is no substitute for the on-going prayers of God’s people, humbly asking and seeking God’s Spirit to intervene and reveal a way forward. To that end, we have committed to a weekly time of fasting for the sake of the unity of our church. As has been true in every age and for every situation which the church has confronted since the Day of Pentecost, we must be open and responsive to the leading of God’s Spirit and not our own. As the Apostle Paul wrote to the church in Rome: “rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer” (Romans 12:12).*

*Finally, we urge all of our churches to stay the course and to remain focused on the mission. We rejoice in the many ways that God is working through the churches of the Western North Carolina Conference and the manner in which you are all remaining committed to the mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of lives, communities, and the world. We will continue to lead and to live faithfully into the covenant we have made*

Continued on page 6



## *With Sympathy*

We extend our love and sincere sympathy to the families of

- Irene Berrier in the loss of her brother Paul Dunn on July 23;
- Angie Brinkley, whose sister Kim Parker died on July 26; and
- Betty Becker in the death of her husband and our fellow church member, Joe, on July 30.

## *Kick Start your week!*

All middle school and high school students are invited to come to Mt. Olivet on **Monday, August 29, at 6:45 AM** for our first KickStart breakfast of the school year. A short devotion and prayer will follow. They will be finished by 7:30, in time to head on to their first day of school.

*Parents:* If your child wishes to attend but needs a ride, please let us know and we will try to arrange a carpool. If you want your child to ride to school with someone other than yourself, you must let us know that as well. If you are willing to drive a carload of kids to either the middle or high school, that would be great!

Please contact Pastor Sandra at 336-813-2886 if you have questions or can volunteer with a carpool. Contact Lisa Furches (336-301-4727) if you will help cook or serve breakfast for approximately 15 youth.

## Parsonage Office Hours

**Pastor Sandra:**

- Mondays and Wednesdays:  
9:30 AM—1 PM

*If you need to see her at a  
different time, you can call 336  
-813-2886 to make those  
arrangements.*

**Amanda**

- Mondays and Wednesdays  
2—4 PM



**Our 2017 Carolina Cross  
Connection campers are hosting  
the fellowship meal on  
Wednesday, August 17,**

**beginning at 6 PM.** They will  
serve traditional CCC taco salad.

The cost is only \$4 for adults and \$1.50 for children with no family paying over \$12. You can let them know you plan to attend by filling out a reservation slip in the Sunday bulletin or contacting Lisa Furches (336-301-4727).

## Looking Ahead

**September 4 —  
Promotion Sunday**

**October 30—  
Joint Service**

**10 AM—preaching**

**11 AM—Sunday School**

**Saturday, Dec 17—  
Children's Program**

## Thank You

Mrs. Irene Berrier and family express their appreciation for the love of Christ shown by the congregation through calls, cards and prayers at the loss of her brother.

**Join Pastor Sandra at the parsonage  
2—4 PM each Sunday in August  
for**

*Porch Talks*

**—an opportunity for all to visit  
and get to know each other better**

**while  
enjoying  
lemonade  
and  
cookies!**

# 55

AND  
HOLDING

Tuesday,  
August 23

9 AM

Hoyt's

## Youth Snack

Please contact Amanda (919-389-6387 / youthminister@mtolivetumc.net ) or sign up on the sheet in the downstairs hall if you will provide snacks (not a meal) for our youth on one of the following nights: August 14 or 21 or September 4, 18, or 25.



## Blessing of the Backpacks

8:45 and 11 AM  
Sunday, August 28

Students, teachers, and other school personnel are invited to bring their backpacks or lunch packs to the altar where we will ask God's blessing upon them at the beginning of a new school year.

## Record of Our Faithfulness

*"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 and my service."*

### By Our Presence

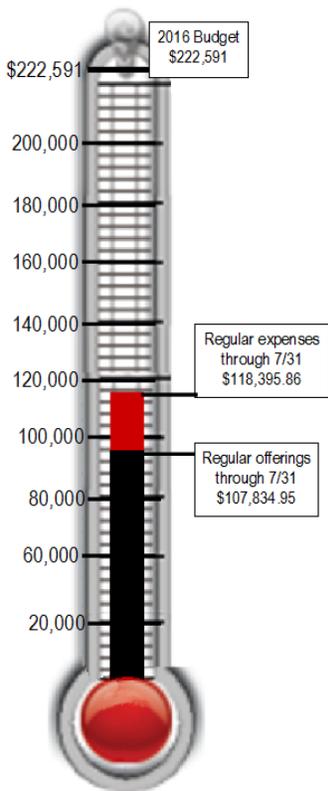
	8:35	SS	11:00
July 3	50	76	35
July 10	77	106	83
July 17	57	90	74
July 24	70	100	79
July 31	66	92	105

We averaged 93 in Sunday School and 139 in worship service.

### By Our Gifts

Regular Offering . . .	\$17,197.58
CCC . . . . .	150.00
Spiritus . . . . .	660.00
Youth Fund . . . . .	1,000.00
Cemetery Fund . . . . .	350.00
CD Interest . . . . .	658.20
<b>Total Offering . . . . .</b>	<b>\$20,015.78</b>

Our total regular offerings for July were \$17,197.58, which is our best this year. With relatively low expenses of \$14,477.44; we had a surplus of \$2,720.14. This is wonderful after having five straight monthly deficits before July! For the year our total offerings are \$107,834.95 and our total expenses are \$118,395.86; for a total deficit of (\$10,560.91). Remember that



\$7,280 of the deficit is based on the expense of a new heat pump in the parsonage, so without that our deficit would be (\$3,281). If we have another surplus in August similar to July, we can almost eliminate our regular deficit. We have had a wonderful month in regards to our offerings. Thank you all for your generosity, and May God bless you richly!

*Charles Craver*

## Indy's Address

RCT Furches, Indiana L. A.  
2nd RTBN G CO PLT 2072  
PO Box 16245  
Parris Island, SC 29905-6245

Methodist Men's  
Chicken  
Barbecue

Sat, Sept 10  
11 AM — 7 PM  
\$9 plate



Children's choral practices begin in the Church Choir Room on August 25 from 5:45 through 6:15 PM in the choir room for the "Son-Stuff Prayers" group, from 4 years old through fifth grades. Just to tenderly clarify in reference to the younger aged kiddos: there are many 3 three year old youngsters who are not ready for the choral participation and the parents are the best determiners of that. So, those 3 year olds who are ready, send them to these rehearsals, please.

The sixth graders through high-schoolers, the Soul Quest Choristers, will meet directly following the Son-Stuff boys and girls from 6:30 to 7 PM. Our wonderful and amazing VBS journey is successfully completed and of course, we move on to fall and winter season events and the need to change our direction of music to honor those holy services.

There will be Christmas CDs available in September for both adult and children's choir teams. Please mark calendars and try to work with us if the Thursdays for the children just does not fit into your weekday agendas. There will be scheduling accommodations made to allow all the children a chance to participate.

Children's voices during worship services and beyond are such an important instrument of God's peace and love.

Chancel Choir Rehearsals for both early and late services will remain the same. See Missy Frye or myself for any further clarification.

Keep Singing His Praises,  
*kknox*

## SonGames

### VBS 2016

All ages learned from the book of Acts and the life of Paul how to go the distance, give it our best shot, and take a giant leap of faith. We remembered Paul's words, "Thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

We enrolled 156 students and 38 staff, not including all those who served meals, for a total of 194. Our average attendance was 156 and we had 83 guests.

Students brought 434 food items (452 pounds) and \$118.64 for Greater Things Outreach Center in Welcome.

You can relive the moments that went down in SonGames history at our Shutterfly website: <https://photos.shutterfly.com/folder/10057581639>. More will be added and we also have videos to share.



Our next meeting is scheduled for August 15 at 6:30 PM at the home of Kathy Craver, 178 Sunset Road,

Chillicothe, Missouri. Kathy said we are having lasagna and salad and of course, yummy desserts. Please put this on your calendar and plan to attend. We promise that you will find sunshine and joy from your church sisters as we gather every third Monday of each month. Come!

*CVaughan*

## What's Up(stairs)?

### Shalom

*Blessed are the peacemakers,  
for they will be called  
the children of God.  
Matthew 5:9*

Shalom is "peace be with you" in Hebrew. WoRM will spend August on Abigail (1 Samuel 25:1-42) and the fruit of the spirit of peace.

What we need to learn:

- We should use kindness, even when others are angry.
- God takes care of his people, sending believers to give advice and encouragement as needed.
- God can be trusted to take vengeance for us: our duty is to overcome evil with good, not to punish those who mistreat us.
- God does work everything for good in the life of a believer, even if it's hard to see.

Students will use drama and dress up, story booklets, games, coloring and crafts to learn these lessons. We will study the story in various translations of the Bible.

*How can you be a peacemaker,  
a child of God?*

Peace is the desire of humankind. Not just the absence of war: peace is harmony; peace is the calm and quiet that fills the soul when we have opened our hearts to the work of the Holy Spirit. Think about that the next time you are the target of anger. Show restraint and grace, that another's heart may be turned to the Holy Spirit.

Shalom.  
*lmashburn*



The end of Summer break is almost upon us! The youth have a few more trips, missions, and meetings planned to round out August before our youth kick-off for the 2016-2017 year on September 11!

Thank you to everyone who helped support the youth cookout in July. We had some wonderful brainstorming ideas from the youth and hope to incorporate many of them this upcoming 2016-2017 youth year.

And lastly, many thanks to the Frye's for hosting the youth at High Rock Lake following a wonderful week of Vacation Bible School! It was an amazing time of fellowship, relaxation, and just all-around fun!



## August Look-Ahead

### SpiritUs –

The youth arrived back home from our retreat at St. Simons Island, Georgia, on Sunday, August 7. We would love for you to ask us about our trip if you see us roaming the halls of church or out in the community!

### Greater Things –

Youth are signed up to help with the Thursday night dinner at Greater Things Outreach on August 11. Any youth interested in helping this night should contact Amanda Batten to sign-up. Additional details will be provided on the youth Facebook page: Mt. Olivet Youth Group as we get closer to Thursday.

### Silent Auction Fundraiser & Bake Sale –

The youth will be having a fundraiser to help support our missions, outreach, and events during the fall. Please mark your calendars to make your way down to the **fellowship hall from 9:45-10:00 a.m. on Sunday, August 21.** There are two fundraisers that will be going on simultaneously:

- First, the youth and youth parents will have created and baked many yummy, yummy treats for you to buy for your “end of Summer” blues!
- Secondly, there will be a table set-up in the fellowship hall for our youth silent auction. Many of our youth have decided on various ways they can help out within our community and congregation such as yard work, babysitting, or even simply coming to chat. At 10:00 a.m. on August 21, the highest bidder for each of the youth activities will be announced. That bidder will coordinate with the youth and their parent(s) on the date to redeem their winning bid.

## Save the Date

The kick-off for the 2016-2017 youth year will be on Sunday, September 11!!! All youth entering 6th grade through rising 12th grade are invited out to our kick-off. Current youth will be receiving invitations to hand out to others on August 21. Final details will be made available shortly.

### Calendar for August:

August 4 – 7 – SpiritUs in Georgia

August 7 – No youth group

August 11 – Greater Things Outreach meal

August 14 – Youth group from 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. (fellowship hall)

August 21 – Silent Auction & Bake Sale from 9:45-10:00 a.m. (fellowship hall)

August 21 – Youth group from 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. (fellowship hall)

August 28 – No youth group

*Amanda*

## Please Remember in Prayer

**Please help us keep our prayer list up to date.** Please email [smcraver@aol.com](mailto:smcraver@aol.com) with additions, deletions, corrections and updates. If you would like to start receiving prayer requests by e-mail, use that address to let us

Danny Abbott	Donna Clodfelter	Kathleen Hege	Greg Nifong	Barbara Trivette
Maxine Anderson	Ruby Cook	Lynne Hege	Bryson Patyk	Martha Varner
Steve Arnold	Brodie Curtis	Bill Huneycutt	Julia Peele	Meggi Wassiler
Matt Arnsdorf	Betty Craver	Brenna Husel	Adalyn Peeler	Debbie Weaver
Brenda Barker	Elaine Craver	Melissa Jessup	Danielle Phillips	Larry Weaver
Reid & Peggy Black	Kitty Craver	Doug Kirk	Emmett Pope	Jeanette Wilhelmi
Bob Below	Michael John Craver	Mackenzie Krumroy	Sue Rackard	Martha Wilson
Matthew Berry	Olivia Craver	Judith Kurtzrock	Penny Reid	Gerald Wimmer
Jeff Berry	Rick Craver	Ollie Kyzar	Wayne Runkle	Ray Woosley
Betty Brown	Richard Craver	Larry Lineberry	Mary Schaeffer	Shirley Wyatt
Heather Brown	Brad Everhart	Jacob Little	Patty Scott	
Norma Brown	Amy Faulkner	Ray Little	Donese Sink	
Jessica Bryan	Mary Fishel	Carolyn Long	Lannie Sink	
Joe Burlison	Melissa Flannery	Ann McMahan	Sandy Smith	
Otha Bumgarner	Marian Funderburke	Len Mashburn	Alda Stanley	
Ronnie Caudill	Indy Furches	Larry McAlpine	Brooke Stark	
Barbara Chesnut	Tritan Fuller	Hinton Meyer	Trevor Staup	
Joyce Chesnut	Trecia Gibson	Tommy Mitchell	Eugene Taylor	
Kelly Chesnut	Carol Hiers	Mabel Molinaro	Angel Thompson	
Charlotte Clodfelter	Hubert Hege	JoAnne New	Rachel Thompson	



**You're invited to a  
Baby Shower for Mary Anne Craver  
in the fellowship hall  
Sunday, August 14, from 3-5 PM**



### Open Letter from page 1

with God through our baptism, with The United Methodist Church through our ordination, and with each other through our faith in Christ Jesus.

In response to the invitation from Bishop Ough [<http://www.umc.org/news-and-media/cob-president-addresses-western-jurisdiction-episcopal-election-results>] to all United Methodists, we will daily offer our fervent prayers for the witness of The United Methodist Church, "making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace" (Ephesians 4:3). We earnestly invite all of you to join us in these offerings of prayer, fasting, and sacrifice.

As an elder in the UMC I will uphold my vow to preach and teach the Word of God and abide by the doctrines and teachings of our faith. I urge us all to be in daily prayer for one another as we continue to seek God's guidance.

*Pastor Sandra Ireson*

# AUGUST-SEPTEMBER 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
7 <b>Porch Talk</b>  <i>Jami Craver</i>	8  <b>Morning Journeys</b>  <i>Ashton Carter</i> <i>Brady Weisner</i>	9  <i>Ryan Zimmerman</i>  <i>Jake Henderson</i>	10	11	12  <i>Grayson Frye</i>	13  <i>Hubert Hege</i>
14 <b>Porch Talk</b>  <i>Kaytlyn Hester</i> <i>Trish Hutchins</i> <i>Jeff Jones</i>	15  <b>the Heart Circle</b>  <i>Wendy Beck</i> <i>Otha Bumgarner</i>	16  <i>Jaxon Brinkley</i>	17	18  <i>Shannon Beck</i> <i>Sheila Templeton</i>	19	20
21 <b>Youth Auction &amp; Bake Sale</b>  <b>Porch Talk</b>	22  <b>Morning Journeys</b>	23   <i>Lynn B Everhart</i>	24	25  <i>Julie A. Davis</i> <i>Todd Furches</i>	26	27  <i>Kaleb Brown</i>
28  <b>Blessing of the Backpacks</b>  <b>Porch Talk</b> <i>Ian Stokes</i>	29  <b>Kick Start</b>	30	31  <i>Ken Drum</i>	1  <i>Jay Augsburg</i>	2	3
4  <b>METHODIST MEN</b>   <b>Promotion Sunday</b>	COM 5  <i>Anna Wishon</i>	6  <i>Beverly P Whitt</i>	7	8  <i>Bruce Salley</i>	9  <i>Meredith Scism</i> <i>Megan Craver</i>	10  <i>Ella Koontz</i>

Tuesdays, 6:30—Early Service Choir; Wednesdays, 5:45-PM—6:15—Children's Choir; 7:30 PM—11 o'clock choir, Knox home; Sundays, 8:00AM—Early service choir, choir room;

**Mt. Olivet United Methodist Church**  
 1082 Community Road, Lexington, NC 27295  
**ADDRESS CORRECTION**  
**REQUESTED**

**US POSTAGE PAID**  
**PERMIT NO 16**  
**WELCOME, NC**  
**27374**



**2016 CCC Campers**

**GREETERS**

Aug 14 8:45 Millard &  
 Carole Martin  
 11:00 David Jackson Family  
 Aug 21 8:45 Larry & Tamara  
 Lineberry  
 11:00 Becky Bumgarner  
 Aug 28 8:45 Kaye Powers  
 11:00 Wilson Teal  
 Sept 4 8:45 Jim & Lynette Wikle  
 11:00 Charlie &  
 Barbara Chesnut  
 Sept 11 8:45 Hubert &  
 Rosemary Hege  
 11:00 Dan & Sally Hosey  
 Sept 18 8:45 Janis &  
 Courtney Troutman  
 11:00 Mike & Lisa Foster

**GREATER THINGS**

Aug 16—New Beginnings  
 Aug 18—Believers and  
 Friends of Fellowship  
 Aug 30—New Beginnings  
 Sept 15—Believers and  
 Friends of Fellowship

**LITURGIST**

Aug 14 8:45 Susan Craver  
 11:00 Jim Knox  
 Aug 21 8:45 Alice Johnson  
 11:00 Linda Mitchell  
 Aug 28 8:45 Kaye Powers  
 11:00 Wilson Teal  
 Sept 4 8:45 Mary K Patterson  
 11:00 Charles Craver  
 Sept 11 8:45 Pat Craver  
 11:00 Linda Mitchell  
 Sept 18 8:45 Danny Hedrick  
 11:00 Lisa Foster

**ACOLYTES**

Aug 14 8:45 Mia Mercer  
 11:00 Sydney Bumgarner  
 Aug 21 8:45 Cam Mercer  
 11:00 Avery Garman  
 Aug 28 8:45 Leslie Mashburn  
 11:00 Caitlyn Bauer  
 Sept 4 8:45 Emma Frye  
 11:00 Brady Everhart  
 Sept 11 8:45 Grayson Frye  
 11:00 Madison Bumgarner  
 Sept 18 8:45 Oscar Rios Sanchez  
 11:00 Olivia West

**FLOWERS**

Aug 14 Mike & Becky Lewis  
 Aug 21 Jim & Becky Bumgarner  
 Aug 28 Jo Hege  
 Sept 4 Dan & Phylis Augsburger  
 Sept 11 Jean Marsh  
 Sept 18 Carla Humphries

**NURSERY**

Aug 14 8:45 Amy Mercer  
 11:00 Barbara Teal  
 Aug 21 8:45 Emily Hedrick  
 11:00 Mary K Patterson  
 Aug 28 8:45 Cindy Zimmerman  
 11:00 Jade Essick  
 Sept 4 8:45 Janis Faye Troutman  
 11:00 Suzanne Koontz  
 Sept 11 8:45 Lynn Lemly  
 11:00 Michelle Powers  
 Sept 18 8:45 Lynette Wikle  
 11:00 Jennifer Craver

**SHELTER VOLUNTEERS - Aug 11**

Meal—  
 Mt Olivet Youth  
 Overnight—  
 Danny Hedrick and Mike Craver