



The Olive Branch

Mt. Olivet United Methodist Church

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



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Grazing on Grace

When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight.

They said to each other, Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?" Luke 24:30-32

Nervously, I looked down at my two-year-old daughter and wondered if I was doing the right thing. She was kneeling beside me at the altar and looking expectantly at the minister. Having grown up in a church tradition that rarely practiced Communion and even more rarely included small children in any act of worship, I was uncertain if I should even allow my daughter to take Communion. Would the minister scold me? What would the church members think? Our minister made the first step easy – He stopped, bent over and gently smiled as he placed a piece of bread in her little hand. She gobbled it down quickly and turned her big eyes toward the tray of juice. After receiving my bread and juice I looked over and saw my little girl: head thrown back, tongue stuck inside the communion cup, turning this way and that trying to get every last drop of juice. At that moment I knew I had absolutely done the right thing because my daughter had just taught me something very important about receiving Communion – to yearn desperately for every bite and every sip of the body and blood of Jesus.

Scripture tells us that Jesus was known for the breaking of bread and sharing of cup...he took, he gave thanks, he shared. The breaking of bread was such a trademark that after his resurrection, Jesus was recognized only after he broke bread along the road to Emmaus. When the church gathers to break bread we are doing much more than “remembering” what Christ once did. We break the bread because we know in that glorious act we once again come face to face with Jesus. The very presence of Jesus is with us at the table in a way that we can touch and taste. It is there that we recognize him.

I am often asked why we celebrate communion “so often.” Honestly, if I had my preference it would be a once a week meal. John Wesley intended the weekly meal to be our standard but a shortage of ordained clergy in America meant only quarterly Communion.

Some say, “It loses its special meaning if we do it too often.” My response is, not if you are “doing it” with the right attitude. Maybe there is a reason Jesus encouraged us to have a child-like faith....perhaps he knew we would need reminding that we should be so eager to experience Christ’s presence that we couldn’t wait to gobble down the broken bread of grace and eagerly seek out the very last drop of his sacrificial love.

If this holy meal is so special, why do I take up time preaching instead of simply communing? I do so because in our faith tradition Word and Table are vitally linked together. To find your way to Christ’s table without the proclamation of God’s word is like trying to go to a party to which someone mailed you an invitation but forgot to include the details. How will you know what kind of party it is? What is the purpose? How should you respond?

I preach because we are proclaiming that there is meaning to this sacred meal...and in that meaning we find our invitation to come to the table and feast with Jesus....hungry for His presence, thirsty for His love.

In Christ, Pastor Karen



Our Carolina Cross Connection campers are hosting the fellowship meal on **Wednesday, August 20, 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.



August 30
Worship together
Feast together
Play together

Worship: 10 AM
 under the picnic shelter

Feast: Covered dish lunch will around noon

Play: After lunch we will enjoy an afternoon of old fashion games and good times

- Golf carts will be available to help those with walking difficulties get from the parking lot to the picnic shelter

- Remember it may be warm so dress comfortably

- Paper products and drinks will be provided

- Some seating will be provided under the picnic shelter but you are also invited to bring your camp/lounge chairs and canopy tents to set up in the field beside.

- There will be no Sunday School this day as we gather in one worship service to spend time as a family of God.

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

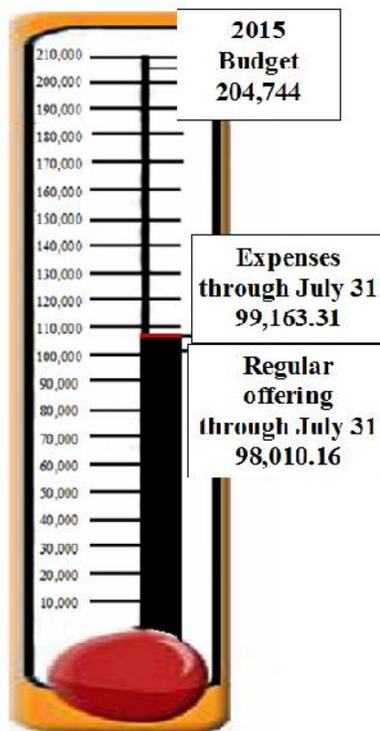
| | 8:35 | SS | 11:00 |
|---------|------|----|-------|
| July 5 | 50 | 86 | 40 |
| July 12 | 60 | 75 | 59 |
| July 19 | 65 | 74 | 48 |
| July 26 | 61 | 77 | 58 |

We averaged 78 in Sunday School and 110 in worship service.

By Our Gifts

| | |
|---------------------------|--------------------|
| Regular Offerings . . . | \$12,738.64 |
| Stop Hunger Now | 75.00 |
| VBS | 100.00 |
| Cookbooks | 105.00 |
| Carolina Cross | 385.00 |
| Miscellaneous | 51.35 |
| Total | \$13,454.93 |

Our regular offerings for July were \$12,738.64. This was up \$600 from June; but, with expenses of \$13,923.45, we still had a deficit of \$1,184.81. We did pay our \$1,000 pledge to the Crisis Ministry of Davidson County this month, so our deficit would have been smaller without this expense,



but we still would have had a deficit. For the year ended July 31, 2015, our total offerings were \$98,010.16, and our total expenses were \$99,163.31, for a loss of (\$1,153.15). Hopefully our offerings will continue to improve in the coming months, and we will eliminate our current deficit. May we be as faithful to God as He is to us! Thanks to all who give so generously for the support of God's church here at Mt. Olivet.

- Charles Craver, Treasurer



Playing on the radio at this very moment is the well-known gospel song, “Just a Closer Walk with Thee”. I know I’ll be hum-

ming that song all day with the precious lyrics and music as a constant heavenly nudge, a reminder of His love.

Mt. Olivet has such a plethora of talent where the singers, young and old, bless us with “Songs of grace and mercy” Sunday after Sunday to give us heavenly nudges. We hear those reminders from the beautiful voices of faith, whether from the pulpit, the mission field, the Sunday School Class, the kitchen, the fellowship hall, the choral room, and out in the community.

So, with that said, we say thank-you to all for your tune-filled reminders, never taken for granted. Meghan Cumming, one of the kiddos in our children’s choir, honored us with her lovely call to worship hymn last month.

The door is always open for the youth to join in with our worship hours. There will be cd’s available for pick up in the choir room for all the children’s groups on August 31. After several weeks of listening to their cd’s, each Legend team will get a call or email concerning a meeting time.

In October we’ll begin Christmas rehearsals and, yes, Missy and I will testify that the holiday preparations are just around the corner.

Keep Praising and
Singing for Him,
kknox

Hello to All the Beautiful Christian Women of Mt. Olivet Methodist Church.

Fall is here and school is around the corner. We always look forward to our monthly meetings to just be ourselves and in the midst of it all, accomplish so many church mission goals. If you are already a member then you know the joy that comes with being a sister in this circle of friends.

Come and see what we are all about; just once a month you join with this team of sisters to find fun and faith and fellowship and purpose in all that we, as a spirit filled group, experience.

There’re so many needs in our community and abroad and somehow, even though the task looks un-attainable, we find, through God’s support, the way is clear.

Besides, we like to laugh and communicate as only a close knit unit of loving sisters do.

Our next meeting is August 17 at 6:30 PM at the Knox home located at 188 Ed-Lo Drive, Lexington. Come hungry, please, and see what we are all about and be blessed, too.

See you there, we pray.

In Faith,

Kknox and Heart Cr. Sisters of M.O.M.Church



Greater Things Outreach Center has expanded it’s distribution hours to include Tuesdays from 6-8 PM, Wednesdays from 10 AM—noon, and Thursdays from 6-8 PM. By opening on Wednesday mornings, they intended to reduce

the numbers at night as well as help those clients who were uncomfortable driving at night. However, it has also increased the total number of people receiving food.

As a result, our volunteers report that **the shelves are getting bare. They can use any extra garden produce that you have. In addition they especially need canned goods— soup, tomatoes, fruit, vegetables, etc.** However, they are well stocked with green beans, green peas, and corn.

Please leave your donations under the steps in the bottom of the fire tower. We will deliver them to Greater Things.

AUGUST—SEPTEMBER 2014

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|--|--|---|-----------------------|--|--|
| 9 Ryan Zimmerman Jake Henderson | 10  Cindy Zimmerman Ted Schaeffer | 11 | 12 Grayson Frye | 13 Hubert Hege | 14 Kaytlyn Hester Jeff Jones Trish Hutchins | 15 Wendy Beck |
| 16 Jaxon Brinkley | 17  | 18 Shannon Beck | 19  | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| 23  Blessing of the Backpacks Lynn B Everhart | 24 <i>Kick Start</i>  | 25 Julie A. Davis Todd Furches | 26 | 27 Kaleb Brown | 28 Ian Stokes | 29 |
| 30  | 31 | 1 Jay Augsburg | 2 Anna Wishon | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 6   | 7  COM | 8 Bruce Salley | 9 Meredith Scism Megan Craver | 10 Ella Koontz | 11 Ned Craver | 12 Hubie Craver Benton Lewis |

Tuesdays, PM—Early service choir practice; Wednesdays, 7:30 PM—11 o'clock choir; Sundays, 8:00AM—Early service choir practice, choir room;