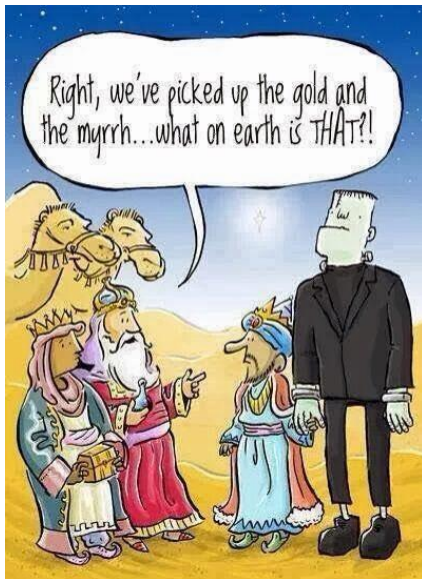


Mount Olivet United Church of Christ

410 W. South Range Rd. North Lima, Ohio 44452 330-549-2169
Pastor Michael Smith ~ cell 330-446-8188 ~ pastormichael62@outlook.com
Stacey Jarrett, Office Manager ~ office@mtolivetucc.org

The Magi brought their gifts of Gold, myrrh, and Frankincense (not Frankenstein) to the Christ child identifying who Jesus is and would do:



- 1) *Gold symbolizing kingship on earth*
- 2) *Frankincense Symbolizing deity*
- 3) *Myrrh an embalming oil symbolizing death (on a cross)*

Jesus comes not only to give us eternal life, but (w)holy life in the here & now:

"We thank you Lord that you have given us life, laughter and love. We know that you want the best for us in our relationships with you, others, and self. As Jesus would say from John 10:10 "I have come that they may have life and have it to the full." The American Standard Version says, "they may have life in abundance." This

requires more than a prayer, it requires reordering life to live for wholeness, loving God, others and taking care of self so that we can serve you Lord at our highest level. It's not about perfection, but wholeness, Spiritually dependent on God, Socially, interdependent with others and physically, inherently loving, caring for self (Mark 12:30-31). We thank you Lord that you give us the ability, understanding and blessing to grow where we're planted with your help. Amen.

Merry Christmas & Happy Wholeness
Pastor Michael



December Assignments

Altar Flowers

December 5 – available
December 12 – available
December 19 – Poinsettias
December 26 – available

- Call the office to sign up for flowers.

Liturgists

December 5 – Ayla Lippert
December 12 – Cynthia Cash
December 19 – Harriett Reed
December 26 – n/a

- See Kay Williams to be a Liturgist in January.

The **November/December** edition of the Upper Room is available in the Sanctuary or office.



December Birthdays

We don't publish birthdays in the online version of the newsletter.



CONSISTORY NEWS by Tammie Jones

Busy – busy – busy! And, boy, have we been busy here at Mt. Olivet! From activities within the community, to activities within the church, Mt. Olivet was alive and active. Thank you to all those who donated time, resources, and expertise to make it all work!

I'm pleased to announce that the new roof has been completed on the pavilion. The new phone system is ordered and may well be installed by the time you read this. John Crouse was able to find bulbs to fix the lighting in the choir loft and sanctuary--- thanks John.

The Youth Night on November 19 was a blast. First, the kids made homemade pizza for their dinner. Then we worked together to make, bake, and fill 10 pumpkin rolls. We only had a few mishaps with splattering ingredients, but a great time had by all! We all learned that working together we can accomplish a lot. Thank you to Nancy Crouse, Carol Osberg, Hannah Crouse, and Steve Lippert for all of the help in making that evening such a success. I'm also thrilled with the response from the congregation in supporting the youth by purchasing the pumpkin rolls (which were made with A LOT of love – and clean hands).

The next Youth Night is scheduled for December 10. We'll be working on a special something to include with the gifts distributed during the Christmas caroling, as well as enjoying some holiday activities! Feel free to join us. Seeing the excitement and joy in the children's faces is so rewarding! And it's contagious – you can't help but leave there feeling good! 😊

The Sunday School kids are working on a project for the Rescue Mission- filling some backpacks to donate. We hope to team up with the Adult Sunday School class for a tour of the Rescue Mission's new facility and deliver the items.

Thank you to Niki Dispenza for an absolutely amazing Thanksgiving breakfast. She set up as a Coffee Hour, but it was truly a feast!

While I'm excited about all of the activities, I am also aware that several members of the congregation are dealing with illness. I pray that each one recovers quickly---and know that your church family is here for you!

Again, I will ask you to pray for the leadership of Mt. Olivet. Please think about getting involved--- it's the best way to make a difference!

As we celebrate Thanksgiving, let us take a minute from the busy-busy-busy to truly thank God for all of His many blessings. And to remember that He is always with us even through the difficult times. You are loved! I am very grateful for Mt. Olivet and my church family. Wishing each of you a very Happy Thanksgiving! Keep sharing God's love! 😊



A Word From Our Treasurer...

by Linda Eisenbraun

October

Beginning Balance	\$ 3,164.62
Income	\$ 8,224.00
Expense	\$(17,352.87)
Ending Balance	\$ (5,964.25)

This is the first month that we have not been in the black.
With the fourth quarter in progress the income has historically been high.

We are still waiting for confirmation that Huntington has received the funds
from the SBA and it is officially paid in full.

Thank you to all for your continued support of Mt. Olivet's mission to serve God, serve others.



Mt. Olivet Grief Support Group

Next meeting on Saturday, December 18th at 9am

We are working on using journaling to help express our feelings of grief.

We welcome everyone to come join in at any time!



Mt. Olivet Women's Guild News

By Phyllis Manning & Millie Stratton

To start, we want to thank you all for your generosity of food and cash donations to the Guild's Harvest Home mission. Vaughn loaded up the food and took it to Protestant Family service. A special thanks to him for his kindness for doing this each year. We were also able to write them a check for \$515.00, which included a \$200 donation from Women's Guild. Thank you once again for your donations.

Then, we move on to the results from Rummage Sale. It was AWESOME! Thank you all! Without the help of our church family, this would not have been possible. Many of us were tired by Saturday, but the results were worth it. We collected \$9,006.62, minus our expenses of \$882.68, with a total profit of \$8,123.94. Many, many items were collected to mark and sort, and we thank all those who helped during the collection.

Donations were made by many for supplies, food and miscellaneous. Thank you, thank you! On Day 1, so many came out to help the shoppers. What a wonderful three days of fun & teamwork, and sharing with the community, as they bought items for Christmas presents or just for the great deals. Thank you again for such a wonderful sale with Mt. Olivet 'friends' and 'members' after such a long absence.

Thankoffering was held this past Sunday. If you have a little Red Box that you have been feeding coins into, please bring it and place it in the white basket at the back of the Sanctuary. My red box has many coins inside, won't you add yours to mine? Offering will go to the Mahoning-RSVP Mahoning Valley, volunteers for seniors of the Mahoning Valley. Thank you! See Donna Bruno if you have additional questions on the organization.

While we were looking forward to the Christmas Brunch on December 4th, we have, unfortunately, decided to postpone for now. Perhaps we will be able to do a brunch in the springtime.



Niki's Favorites

Heavenly recipes tested by Mt. Olivet's official FOODIE

Baked Cranberry Chicken with Rosemary

I made this dish for Hurd Christmas a few years ago and it is one that I have often wanted to come back to. It was very representative of the seasonal Christmas meal (which is probably why I don't cook it on just any meal). But it deserves to be eaten more often. I hope you enjoy this Baked Cranberry Chicken recipe!

- Niki

Ingredients

2 cups fresh cranberries
1/3 cup brown sugar
1/3 cup white wine vinegar more for later
6 pieces bone-in skin on chicken (I used 2 chicken breasts and 4 thighs)
6-8 garlic cloves minced
Salt and pepper



1 1/2 tbsp chopped fresh rosemary or 1 1/2 teaspoon dry rosemary
1 tsp sweet paprika
1/3 cup Extra virgin olive oil I used Private Reserve Greek EVOO
1 lemon juice of (do not discard used lemon halves)
1 large yellow onion chopped
3 celery stalks chopped
1/2 cup chicken broth or water
More fresh rosemary for garnish

Instructions

In a small bowl, combine the cranberries, brown sugar, and white wine vinegar. Set aside for now. Pat the chicken pieces dry. Rub the chicken with the minced garlic on both sides (make sure to apply some of the garlic underneath the chicken skins). Season well with salt and pepper. Combine the rosemary and paprika then apply to the chicken pieces on both sides and again underneath the skin.

In a large bowl or deep enough dish, mix the olive oil, lemon juice and 2 tablespoon white wine vinegar. Now add the chicken, celery, onions, and used lemon halves. Work everything together with clean hands. Set aside to marinate just for 15 minutes or so.

Preheat the oven to 425 degrees F.

Heat 1 tablespoon olive oil in a skillet. Place the chicken skin side down to brown on medium-high for 5 minutes. Turn over and brown on the other side.

Place the chicken, onions, celery, lemon halves and any liquid from the marinade in a lightly oiled baking pan. Add 1/2 cup water or chicken broth, then add the sugared cranberries.

Bake in the 425 degrees F heated-oven for 35 to 40 minutes or until the chicken is fully cooked through. Serve hot with Lebanese rice and your favorite salad.

<https://www.themediterraneandish.com/garlic-rosemary-chicken-cranberries/>

Change of Address

Please inform the office when you move, change your phone number or email address. We appreciate you helping us keep up-to-date. You can call 330-549-2169 or email changes to office@mtolivetucc.org.



Spiritual Council meeting: Thursday, December 2nd at 8pm
Consistory meeting: Thursday, December 8th at 7pm



News and other items for the [JANUARY VOICE MAGNIFIED](#) is due NO LATER than **Sunday, December 12th**! Items submitted after this date **will not** be included. Thank you for your cooperation!

Annual Reports Due Date Reminder!

Those of you that oversee composing annual reports for your committees/groups will need to have those reports to the office no later than

► **Sunday, January 9th** ◀

for distribution at the Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 30th.

Thank you for your cooperation!



**Following worship service on
Sunday,
December 15th**



The Worship/Music committee will once again be hosting the annual favorite: *Secret Family drawing*

The weekly themes will be as follows:

Nov. 28th (Good Things Come in Small Packages) – Buy something good that comes in a small package. As an added challenge, buy it from a small, local business!

Dec. 5th (Initialize It) - Choose a gift that starts with the first letter of your secret family's last name. For example, if your Secret Family is the Stewart family, you could buy them Snickers.

Dec. 12th (Homemade with Kindness) – Delight your family with a handmade treat or gift. Or, perform a random act of kindness in their honor, then make them a Christmas card telling them about what you did.

Dec. 19th (Spiritual/Religious week) - Jesus is the reason for the season and this week's gift should reflect that. Find a special gift to share this week that promotes our Christian holiday.



CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE – Friday, December 24th @ 7pm
Join us on Christmas Eve as we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior.

Mt. Olivet UCC 2022 Pledge Card

Please return your pledge card no later than **Sunday, December 12th, 2021.**

Return to the office or to the Treasurer's mailbox

For the Church's Records

Envelope # _____ (for office use)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

I plan to give beginning _____ each week month
(date and year)

For our congregation's ministries \$ _____ Annual Total \$ _____

For our congregation's wider mission \$ _____ Annual Total \$ _____

I understand that this commitment can be changed at any time by giving notice to appropriate church officer.

I would like to talk with someone about including the church or church-related institution in my will.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

For Your Records

DATE: _____

With others in my congregation, I commit myself to give in proportion to what I have for the ministries of the church and the proclamation of the good news of Jesus Christ.

I plan to give beginning _____
(date and year)

Each week month

For our congregation's ministries

\$ _____ Annual Total \$ _____

For our congregation's wider mission

\$ _____ Annual Total \$ _____

December 2021 CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY	DECEMBER 1	-----	
THURSDAY	DECEMBER 2	5:30PM 7PM 8PM	BELL CHOIR PRACTICE CHOIR PRACTICE SPIRITUAL COUNCIL MEETING
FRIDAY	DECEMBER 3	-----	
SATURDAY	DECEMBER 4	7PM	AA MEETING
SUNDAY	DECEMBER 5	9:15AM 10:30AM	ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL WORSHIP - COMMUNION
MONDAY	DECEMBER 6	10AM 5:45PM-8PM	AL-ANON GIRL SCOUTS BOY SCOUTS
TUESDAY	DECEMBER 7	6:30PM	BOY SCOUTS
WEDNESDAY	DECEMBER 8	7PM	CONSISTORY MEETING
THURSDAY	DECEMBER 9	5:30PM 7PM	BELL CHOIR PRACTICE CHOIR PRACTICE
FRIDAY	DECEMBER 10	5PM-7PM 6:30PM	USE OF CHURCH – SOKOLOW YOUTH NIGHT
SATURDAY	DECEMBER 11	2PM 7PM	USE OF CHURCH - SOKOLOW AA MEETING
SUNDAY	DECEMBER 12	9:15AM 10:30AM	ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL WORSHIP – VM NEWS DUE – CAROLING
MONDAY	DECEMBER 13	10AM 5:45PM-8PM 7PM	AL-ANON GIRL SCOUTS BOY SCOUTS BOY SCOUTS
TUESDAY	DECEMBER 14	6:30PM	BOY SCOUTS
WEDNESDAY	DECEMBER 15	-----	
THURSDAY	DECEMBER 16	5:45PM 7PM	BELL CHOIR PRACTICE CHOIR PRACTICE
FRIDAY	DECEMBER 17	-----	
SATURDAY	DECEMBER 18	9AM 7PM	GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP AA MEETING
SUNDAY	DECEMBER 19	9:15AM 10:30AM	ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL WORSHIP –
MONDAY	DECEMBER 20	10AM 5:45PM-8PM	AL-ANON GIRL SCOUTS BOY SCOUTS
TUESDAY	DECEMBER 21	6:30PM	BOY SCOUTS
WEDNESDAY	DECEMBER 22	-----	
THURSDAY	DECEMBER 23	-----	
FRIDAY	DECEMBER 24	7PM	CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE
SATURDAY	DECEMBER 25	ALL DAY	MERRY CHRISTMAS!
SUNDAY	DECEMBER 26	9:15AM 10:30AM	ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL HYMN SING
MONDAY	DECEMBER 27	10AM 5:45PM-8PM	AL-ANON GIRL SCOUTS BOY SCOUTS
TUESDAY	DECEMBER 28	6:30PM	BOY SCOUTS
WEDNESDAY	DECEMBER 29	-----	
THURSDAY	DECEMBER 30	-----	
FRIDAY	DECEMBER 31	-----	

MT OLIVET UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

410 W. South Range Rd.
North Lima, Ohio 44452

Address service requested

Michael Smith, Pastor

Stacey Jarrett, Office Manager

Kay Williams, Music Director

Natalie Biller, Handbell Director

Spencer Reed, Organist

Vaughn Colkitt, Phill Dispenza & Sam Flak, Audio/ Visual Coordinators

DECEMBER 2021 ~ VOICE MAGNIFIED

Loving God, Servings Others, Welcoming All