



Sunday Schedule

Early Service 8:45 am
Sunday School 9:45 am
Worship Service 11:00 am
Youth 5:00 p.m

Office Hours

Monday- Friday
8 am - 12 pm

Phone - 704-782-8846

Fax - 704-786-6612

Email

mtolivet@mtochurch.net

Website

www.mtchurch.com



Traditionally, March holds two of my favorite parts of the year. One of my favorite days is St Patrick's Day. My favorite season of the Christian Calendar is Lent. One is a celebration. One is anything but. Lent has always been of special importance to me because it is a time in which we are able to reflect on our lives, where we have fallen short and where and why we need the grace of God. It is in the practice of Lent, that we repent, strip ourselves down spiritually, and prepare our hearts for the grace that we receive through Easter morning.

St Patrick's Day is totally different. St Patrick was kidnapped from England as a young man, was enslaved in Ireland, escaped, and then returned to Ireland as a missionary. We have taken this day to commemorate his faithfulness and have turned it into a party. We wear our green. We eat corned beef and cabbage, our shepherd's pie and colcannon, and of course, our soda bread. We celebrate. St Patrick's Day has become a party, and it is one that we love to celebrate in our home every year.

And so it was in 2017, that St Patrick's Day and Lent collided. Catholics with Irish descent ran into a conundrum. Catholics forego meat on Fridays of Lent (which is also why several years ago, many fast food restaurants began selling fish sandwiches during the spring, for those who gave up meat), but in 2017, St Patrick's Day fell on Friday. And for Irish Catholics, there was a very real dilemma of whether to fast from meat in order to prepare for Christ, or to party and give thanks for the one who brought them Christ in the first place. The Catholic Church decreed that it was okay to eat meat for this one Friday of Lent.

I find this sad. It isn't sad that they were given permission to break the rules of Lent and celebrate St Patrick's Day. It's sad that they were so hung up on the rules in the first place. The grace of God came for the rule followers, but the grace of God also came for the rule breakers. The grace of God came for all. I am a strong believer in Lenten practices, but not so that I can say that I faithfully sacrificed something in my life for 40 days, not including Sundays. When we focus on what we have done and how we have followed the rules, we have missed the point of Lent. Lent becomes about us. Rules become about us. Rather, we should give and sacrifice because we realize that whatever it is we are giving up, as nice as it may be, is not a necessity in life. Our only necessity is Christ. And that is a reason to celebrate. Christ, while we were rule followers and rule breakers gave himself so that we could reconnect to God. As we give up that which keeps us from God, we are celebrating our reconnect to God. I take back what I wrote at the beginning. Lent is most definitely a celebration. This March, let us celebrate together as we let go of that which disconnects us from God and let us celebrate in the grace that allows us to reconnect.

Blessings,
Pastor Neal

Church Staff

Pastor - Neal Jones

Secretary - Angie Barnhardt

Treasurer - Jim Stowe

Financial Secretary

Harriet Hunter

Organist - Dana Jarrett

Choir Director - Jeremy Flock

Children's Choir Director

Donna Childers

Handbell Choir Director

Dana Jarrett

Parish Nurse

Willie Foster

Nursery Supervisors

Rennea Wilmot

Janet Crawford

Sunday School Superintendent

Diana Starkey

**Honorariums
General Budget**

In Honor of

Eddie & Linda Hathaway
Emily Pare
Bob & Ann Eudy
Ralph & Dottie Simmons

Given By

Chris & Susan Hathaway
Ron & Judy Barnhardt
Bill & Ravanelle Williams
Bill & Ravanelle Williams

**Memorials
General Budget**

In Loving Memory of

B. F. Waddell

Given By

Lee & Padgett Goodman



In case of inclement weather watch
WSOC-TV for any cancellations or closings.
ABC 9 or TV 64

**Pastor Neal's Weekly Office Hours
& Contact Information**

Mondays: 11-1

Tuesdays: 9-12

Wednesdays: 9-12

Thursdays: Sabbath

Fridays: 9-12

Email: njones2@wnccumc.net

Cell phone: 704-775-5900



Heavenly Hot Dogs

**Please come out and support our
church! Every Friday 10 a.m.-2 p.m.**

Thank you so much for letting us sell cookies on Sunday. We sold 38 boxes and received \$20.00 in donations. We are using this money to fund our trip to Alaska in June. Can't wait to see the glaciers and wildlife along with the culture and beautiful gardens and totem poles. This is going to be a trip of a lifetime for most of us. Thanks for the generosity. Dawn Hucks, Girl Scout Leader

Dear Mount Olivet Family, I am so grateful for all the love and support you have showered on me over the past two months. Things have been difficult with Mom's surgery, Linda's accident, and my surgery. Your encouragement and love have made all the difference. I am very blessed to call you family. Love, Susan McKenzie

Thanks to all who contributed plastic shopping/grocery bags to our "Sleeping Mats Project". On Monday, we delivered 3 completed sleeping mats to the Salvation Army's Center of Hope. The mats were eagerly received as they send them out with the homeless who eat there, but do not sleep there.

These 3 mats used approximately 2100 bags -- when cut-up produces the plarn (plastic yarn) for the mats. At this time, we have an abundance of plastic bags which is enough to complete at least 3-4 more mats. Just hold your plastic bags for a month or so until we get our crocheting caught up. We will then resume this project. Mary Pletcher and Sandra McBride

Dear members of Mount Olivet, I would like to thank you so much for the cards and calls during my recent sickness. Your prayers were also felt. It really meant a lot to me. Kathy Stowe



- 1 Phyllis Lee
- 2 Gerald Jones
- 3 Jane Marlow
- 3 Sandie McLain
- 5 Kay Yates
- 6 Javin Sansing
- 8 Jo Frances Carpenter
- 8 Anna Hathcock
- 8 Marissa Goodman
- 11 Wayne Brewer
- 12 Brad Pickens
- 16 Alex Simmons
- 17 Ron Pare
- 20 Robbie Fisher
- 21 Jeanne Zentmeyer
- 22 Nancy Marlow
- 22 Mike Benton
- 23 Grace Shearon
- 26 Kristin Rodgers
- 27 Meredith Spry
- 27 Shannon Beam
- 28 Alan Ford
- 28 Kelly Jarrett
- 30 Lee Goodman
- 30 Debbie Myers
- 30 Suzanne Shearon



March 2

Gerald & Pansy Jones

March 5

Rick & Delinda Rodgers

March 28

Bob & Ann Eudy



Coming Next Month

Thursday, April 9 at 7:00 p.m.

**Holy Thursday Service & Communion
in Memorial Hall**

Sunday, April 5, at 11 a.m.

Easter Music

Friday, April 10 at 7 p.m.

Good Friday Service

Saturday, April 11 at 10:00 a.m.

Easter Egg Hunt

Sunday, April 12 at 6:53 a.m.

Sunrise Service at Carolina Memorial Park

Bring your blanket or chair!

Breakfast Following in Memorial Hall



Sunday, March 1, 2020

8:45 a.m. Early Service
 9:45 a.m. Sunday School
 10:15 - 10:30 a.m. Cherubs
 11:00 a.m. Worship Service
 5:00 p.m. UMYF

Monday, March 2, 2020

10:30 a.m. K Lee Scott Sharing Group

Tuesday, March 3, 2020

10:00 a.m. Prayers for Healing
 6:30 p.m. Piedmont Singing Men
6:30 p.m. SPR

Wednesday, March 4, 2020

7:00 p.m. Choir

Thursday, March 5, 2020

7:00 p.m. Adult Bell Choir

Friday, March 6, 2020

10 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Heavenly Hot Dogs

Sunday, March 8, 2020

**Daylight Saving Time Begins
 Beam Wedding**

8:45 a.m. Early Service
 9:45 a.m. Sunday School
 10:15 - 10:30 a.m. Cherubs
 11:00 a.m. Worship Service
 5:00 p.m. UMYF

Monday, March 9, 2020

7:00 p.m. Trustees

Tuesday, March 10, 2020

10:00 a.m. Prayers for Healing
 6:00 p.m. Piedmont Singing Men
 6:30 p.m. Zenobia Murph Circle

Wednesday, March 11, 2020

7:00 p.m. Choir

Thursday, March 12, 2020

7:00 p.m. Adult Bell Choir

Friday, March 13, 2020

10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Heavenly Hot Dogs

Sunday, March 15, 2020

Girl Scout Sunday

8:45 a.m. Early Service
 9:45 a.m. Sunday School
 10:15 - 10:30 a.m. Cherubs
 11:00 a.m. Worship Service
4:00 p.m. Administrative Council
 5:00 p.m. UMYF

**Monday, March 16, 2020**

6:30 p.m. UMM

Tuesday, March 17, 2020

8 a.m. - 2 p.m. Services for the Blind
 10:00 a.m. Prayers for Healing
 6:00 p.m. Piedmont Singing Men

Wednesday, March 18, 2020

7:00 p.m. Choir

Thursday, March 19, 2020

7:00 p.m. Adult Bell Choir

Friday, March 20, 2020

10 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Heavenly Hot Dogs

Sunday, March 22, 2020

8:45 a.m. Early Service
 9:45 a.m. Sunday School
 10:15 - 10:30 a.m. Cherubs
 11:00 a.m. Worship Service
 5:00 p.m. UMYF

Tuesday, March 23, 2020

8 a.m. - 2 p.m. Services for the Blind
 10:00 a.m. Prayers for Healing
 6:00 p.m. Piedmont Singing Men
7:00 p.m. Finance Meeting

Wednesday, March 25, 2020

7:00 p.m. Choir

Thursday, March 26, 2020

7:00 p.m. Adult Bell Choir

Friday, March 27, 2020

10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Heavenly Hot Dogs

Saturday, March 28, 2020

3:00 p.m. Jeremy's Recital

Sunday, March 29, 2020

8:45 a.m. Early Service
 9:45 a.m. Sunday School
 10:15 - 10:30 a.m. Cherubs
 11:00 a.m. Worship Service
 5:00 p.m. UMYF

Tuesday, March 31, 2020

8 a.m. - 2 p.m. Services for the Blind
 10:00 a.m. Prayers for Healing
 6:00 p.m. Piedmont Singing Men



I would like to invite you to a Piano Recital being held in the Sanctuary of Mount Olivet UMC. Two of my colleagues, Mrs. Deborah Lamm and Mr. Jason Schultz, and myself will be having a recital of our private piano students at the church. Our students are very eager to perform and would love to have an audience. Please consider joining us on March 28th at 3 p.m. in the sanctuary for some wonderful student performances! Thank you, Jeremy Flock

Mount Olivet Methodist Church of Concord, Inc.
301 Mount Olivet Road
Concord, NC 28025

To –.

Mount Olivet Purpose Statement

Your Spiritual Connection to Jesus Christ

Work-Go into the World as Disciples

Witness-Share the Love of Jesus

Worship-Gather in Praise of God

Check out these websites:

www.mtochurch.com

www.wnccumc.org

www.umc.org

Facebook "MTOchurch"



Arbor Day

March 28