

APRIL 2025

MT HOPE MESSENGER

MT. HOPE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

OFFICE HOURS: M, W, & F (8AM - 3PM)



2400 Mt. Hope Church Road
Whitsett, NC 27377

Pastor - Rev. Kristin Gerner Vaughn
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Administrative Assistant &
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Julianna Pierdomenico
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Accompanist - Ekin Üstünel

Consistory President - Gloria Apple

Board of Christian Education
Susan Finley



Sunday for Worship
at 10:00 am

Pastor's Note

= Holy Week =

What is Easter without Holy Week?

The month of April will be a journey, a journey from Lent, into Holy Week and then Easter, on April 20th. Easter is one of the most highly attended services of the entire year, a pretty close second to Christmas Eve. Christmas, the birth of Jesus and Easter, the resurrection of Jesus are indeed very important to the life of a person of faith. But...what is Easter without Holy Week? Might I suggest that there would be nothing to celebrate at Easter if it weren't for Jesus' death?

I invite you to celebrate the fullness of Easter by coming to the Holy Week services. Wave the palm branches to welcome Jesus into town on Palm Sunday. Know the vulnerability of love as Judas, Jesus' friend, takes a bribe to betray Jesus. Experience Jesus the compassionate servant as he cares for the disciples at the Passover meal...spoiler alert, he even cares for those he knew would betray him.

We know the week ends in the death of Jesus. Good Friday isn't very good at all. We can hear the cries of the angry mob. I think the thing that gets me the most about the outcries is that most of them never met Jesus. They didn't know him. How can we kill something we don't know? Are we that uncomfortable with being uncomfortable?

We are an Easter people. We know the end of the story. We know that Good Friday has an anecdote. We know that God shows up. We know that those in power do not win in the end. We know that love conquers all. Resurrection and redemption are the songs we sing because He Lives.

I invite you to experience the entire story this year. Arrive at Easter by way of Holy Week...and you will taste the sweetness on your tongue when we sing, "God's redeeming work is done, Alleluia!"

Holy Week Schedule:

Sunday, April 13th: Palm Sunday, 10 am (sanctuary)

Thursday, April 17th: Maundy Thursday Service with Holy Communion, 6:30 pm (sanctuary)

Friday, April 18th: Good Friday Service, 7:30 pm (sanctuary)

Sunday, April 20th: Sunrise Service, 6:25 am (outside under the covered entrance, portico).

Bring a fresh flower or branch from a tree to decorate the cross.

Sunrise Breakfast will be served at 7:00 am in the New Fellowship Hall

Sunday, April 20th: Easter Service, 10 am (sanctuary)

I close with a prayer from Joyce Rupp for Holy Thursday:

Dedicated Servant,
There are certain times when I am called
To perform menial tasks that I dislike.
Wipe away any superiority or self-importance
That clings to my resistance in serving others.
I want to approach work in the way you did. Amen.





Garden club will meet at 7pm on April 1st. A beekeeper will give a presentation. All are welcome.

Cindy Hyle



BCE Meeting - Sunday 3/2 at noon in the Conference Room - Unable to attend our "Show the Love" Safe Church training event? It's not too late! Please contact Cindy McGee to get the Background Check form and the information for the 45-minute computer training. It is important that we have as many adults as possible who have been through the training.



Mt. Hope Wishing Well Mission

WE DID IT! We have enough for the 2nd well!

Thank you all so much that have participated!

Now we are on our way to the 3rd well!

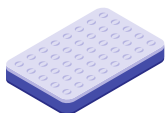
The picture to the left is our wishing well, inside there is a bucket that everyone brings and drops in their pocket change or bills each Sunday when attending worship. This money is counted and saved until we get a total of \$3,000, which is how much is needed to build a well.

So the next time you are passing by our little well, please drop in your pocket change and help us provide clean drinking water to other well deserving people!



Mt Hope BBQ

We have Mt Hope BBQ for sell! Cost is \$10 per 1 lb. container of frozen BBQ. Tell your friends and neighbors! It would be a shame to not share! Call Dee Greeson to place your order at 336-207-3079.



Men of Valor are sponsoring a "Spring Forward Mattress

Collection" on Saturday, April 12 to benefit resettled families through ASC in our county in need of a place to sleep. All new and gently used mattresses & box springs and bedframes (no larger than a queen size) can be brought to the Old Julian Rd. parking lot on April 12th from 9:30-12:00 pm. Mattresses will be inspected upon delivery and no soiled mattresses will be accepted.



Next BCE meeting Sunday April 27th at noon in the conference room

Susan

Dear Members of Mt. Hope UCC,

thank you



I want to thank all of you who blessed my kids and I after our loss. We are forever grateful for your love, support, generosity, and prayers.

Jordan, Chris, Jonathan, Tempe & Leo

Proverbs 11:25



(Fire Victims)



Women's Fellowship

***Remember the time change.**



Women's Fellowship April 8 at 10 am in the New Fellowship Hall.

Pondering. I hope you will ponder the following questions as you prepare for your discussion of Movement 1. The attached photo may help you ponder or maybe you have a favorite place where you ponder. Your pondering will prepare you for our discussion and activity on April 8.

In the book Velvet Elvis, Rob Bell says "when it comes to faith, everybody has it even atheists." Faith in what? Belief in what? What is in it? What have we put our faith in? Where did it come from? Did it originate from a mix of people and things and experiences? From grandparents? From nature? From someone placing their trust in you?

Are there bricks in your faith that cannot be moved? What questions have you asked? What questions do you continue to ask? Have you had 'aha' experiences that have deepened your faith? Where do your decisions about faith come from?

Were you surprised that Bell named the Trinity as a spring? Have you ever examined it, probed it, questioned it? Does it flex and stretch? The springs are huge-they hold up the mat-but they are not God. They are not Jesus.

Does that give you permission to ask questions? To recognize the paradoxes and the mysteries? Where is your faith living? In your heart? In your actions? Or stagnant on a shelf? Oh, we have so much to discuss, don't we? Your fearless leader, Marcia

Mark your Calendar The date is set for the - 13 th Andy Open Golf Tournament In Memory of Glenda and Dean Andrews

**Saturday, June 21 st - (Raindate June 28)
Brookwood Golf Course**

Help us make this our best tournament ever - We need Players and Sponsors

PLAYERS

Player Registration \$ 50 Per Golfer \$220 Per Team

Deadline to register: June 16th

Registration fee includes: Green Fee and Cart Fee

Breakfast Biscuit and Lunch Including - Homemade Desserts
Water and Soft Drinks

Optional Fees: Gimmick Hole and Mulligans

SPONSORS

All sponsors will have a sponsor sign on the course

Hole Sponsor \$50 Memorial Sign \$25 Cooler Sponsor \$50

Captains Choice Format – 9:00 a.m. Shotgun Start

Registration begins at 8:00 a.m.

Prizes Include:

Closest to Pin – Longest Drive Men – Longest Drive Ladies – Longest Drive Seniors (65+)

Cash Prizes for First, Second and Third Place Teams

All proceeds to benefit Mt. Hope UCC Special Projects

For More Information Call:

Dallas Belvin 336-601-1982





Our Youth group consists of ages 6th - 12th grade
and they meet on Sundays at 12 pm if you know
of someone that would like to join! All are welcome!



The youth and four adults traveled to Johns River Valley Camp on March 15th. We got up early, and loaded the church bus at 6:30am to head to the mountains. Once we started driving down the last road before the turn to the camp, we could start seeing the devastation from Hurricane Helene. The riverbed had gotten so high during the storm and moved so much of the riverbed, trees, and huge boulders. Gary Owens, a longtime counselor at the camp stated on our way that he had never seen the camp like this. Once we got to the camp, we were introduced to the dining hall where we got a brief snack before getting right to work. We were stationed around the camp and our various jobs included splitting wood, stacking wood, loading wood into a trailer, and throwing wood into a natural pit made by the storm. In no time, we started seeing the efforts of our hard work pay off as the fire got bigger and the piles of debris cleared away. We stopped for lunch where we were treated to delicious pulled pork, and got to sit with Executive Director Kevin. We got to learn more about camp in the summer, and also about all the work that has happened and will continue to be happening as they get ready for summer camp. On our way back, we stopped at the Humane Society of Catawba County to unload over 450 pounds of cat food, dog food, cat litter, toys, and other animal supplies that you all helped us to collect. The folks at the shelter were immensely grateful, and we got to visit with the cats and dogs and learn more about their stories.

On behalf of those that went, we are so grateful for the church's support of our pet supply drive and of our trip. It was an impactful trip in many ways. I told the youth that not many kids would choose to go on a work trip on their weekend and what may only be their only free day of the week. On the way home, Pastor Kristin led us in a short reflection where we all shared one thing we would hold with us for the weeks to come from this trip. Hearing all of the different impacts from the youth and adults alike will be something I will continue to hold with me. We have truly awesome youth, and I encourage the congregation to ask them about our trip.

If you are interested in how you may be able to continue to help Johns River Valley Camp, please reach out to Julianna and she will get you connected with the right people.

Thanks be to God for an inspirational day!"

UPCOMING YOUTH EVENTS

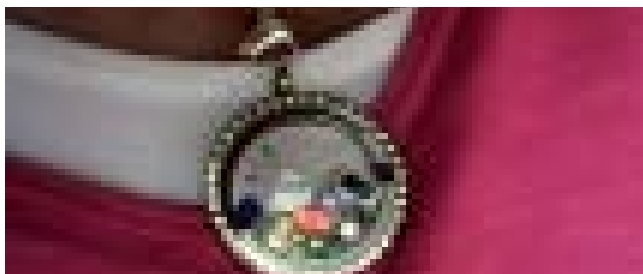
APRIL 6	YOUTH COUNCIL Meeting at 12pm in the conference room for parents and youth.	APRIL 20	HAPPY EASTER! No meeting.
APRIL 13	PALM SUNDAY No meeting. Enjoy your spring break!	APRIL 27	YOUTH MEETING Meet at 12pm in the youth room.

Save the Date
If interested in John's River Valley Summer Camps:
Weeks for rising 6-8th graders are June 29th-July 5th and July 13th-19th
Weeks for rising 9-12 graders are July 6th-12th and July 13th-19th
More info can be found at jvrc.org/summer-camps





Wise Moment



Did You Know... that studies show that wearing something you love - whether it's a family ring, your favorite pair of earrings or a beautiful necklace can improve your self-image? It can bring emotion, symbolism and energy to our lives. This positive effect on our self-esteem can also have an effect on our overall mental wellness. We will be creating an Origami Owl locket which is customized with charms to tell a personal story. Please come join us on Friday, April 11 at 4:30 P.M. in the Gathering Room to build a necklace for yourself or as a gift to spread love and kindness. Just in time for Mothers Day!
Please register by the coffee serving table.

Spring reminds us of God's creation...We are in awe of the beautiful flowers which are blooming all around us. We will be partnering with NAMI, NC Cooperative Extension, Guilford County Parks and Home Depot at 3309 Burlington Rd to make your very own Healing Herb Container Garden. Join us from 10 to 12 on Monday, April 7, we will begin with a cup of tea and after a short program about herbs, you can select your favorite three herbs and plant them in a planter to take home with you. And the best part, it is free! Taking care of plants and seeing them grow can remind us of our own self care. Anyone interested can meet at the church at 9:20 a.m. and the church bus will promptly leave at 9:30 a.m. Come grow with us! Please register by the coffee serving table.



Mt Hope United Church of Christ
Consistory Minutes February 13, 2025

Members Present: Gloria Apple, Dave Blakesley, Tammy Holt, Dora Moore, Sharon Mims, Lisa Sinclair, Cindy McGee, Don Kirkman, Cheryl Royal

Trustee visitors: Phillip Strouth, Stan Buff

The meeting was called to order by Gloria Apple, a quorum was established, and all were welcomed.

Lighting of the Christ Candle

A devotional was provided by Dora Moore focusing on our calling to be imitators of Christ and to walk in love as he did, especially during this month of love.

We Celebrate our Past

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made by Dora Moore and seconded by Lisa Sinclair to approve the minutes from the January 2025 consistory meeting with one revision regarding a seconded motion. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report:

January 2025 Consolidated Fund Activity Report showed a balance of \$178,016.63 with receipts of \$16,726.33 and Disbursements of \$25,809.36 reported. A motion was made by Don Kirkman and seconded by Cheryl Royal to approve the report. Motion carried. Discussion was held to review if the expenses for the recent youth trip were paid from the Youth Fund or the Youth Account in the General Fund Budget. Should have been from the Youth Fund. Also discussed possibility of tracking money collected for use of space/facilities by non-church members.

Pastor's Report

Pastor Kristin reported the funerals of two Mt. Hope members, William Welker on January 4, 2025 and Gerry Clapp on February 1, 2025. The church also had one baptism, Dona Branson, during the past month. Three individuals are seeking to join as members of Mt. Hope: Andrew Beach, Chris Caviness and Lisa Johnson. Tammy Holt made the motion to offer membership and Lisa Sinclair seconded. Motion passed.

Pastor Kristin also invited consistory members to participate in the second new member class to be held on March 9th as they discuss our local church as a part of the denomination. Kristin shared that plans for her sabbatical are still in process even though the grant application from last year was not granted.

There continue to be many people in need of prayers in our church community.

Committee Reports

Board of Christian Education	Safe Church training scheduled for February 23rd during Gather Learn Grow time. Consistory members need to complete the training, in person or on-line.
Maintenance and Trustees	Phillip Strouth and Stan Buff met with consistory to review and discuss facility needs. It was decided to establish steady temperatures for the sanctuary and education building to help with humidity issues and piano maintenance concerns. Winter base temperature was to be 67 degrees with increases for the sanctuary during services. Heaters in the hallway are in need of cleaning and repair. Discussion was held on unpleasant odors in the Old Fellowship Hall, as well as sulfur smell coming from water. It was decided to check with the well company and to get the water tested. Stan Buff will follow up on this matter. Discussion was also held on the need for repair to the columns in front of the church. Phillip Strouth will follow up with this issue. It was also decided to establish a way to identify one Trustee per month who would be designated as the person to contact when needs arise at the church and to check on facility needs related to events at the church.

Stewardship	
Historical	
Mission & Outreach	Work started on Pantry Task Force
Music & Worship	
Social Concerns	
Communications	
WISE Team	Surveys are being collected regarding needs and interests of church
Fellowship Committee	
Personnel	

Prayer of Intercession

Prayers were offered for those undergoing treatments for illness, those experiencing pain and loss of loved ones, and those preparing for final days. Also for guidance as our church tries to meet the needs of those around us in the community as well as those who are part of our church community.

Old Business

New Business

-Balcony Repair: \$5000 from the Steeple Fund will be used to pay for repair. Work to begin in a month.

-Safe Church Training: All Consistory members are asked to attend training to be offered on Feb 23rd.. Lunch will be provided.

-Pantry Task Force: First meeting held on February 12th. Will investigate needs in community and review resources available as well as additional resources needed to address hunger in our community.

-March meeting date may need to be changed. Additional information provided later.

Charge and Benediction

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Mims



- 1st - Garden Club @ 7 pm in NFH - A Bee Keeper will be speaking!
- 2nd - Choir Practice @ 7pm
- 6th - Worship @ 10 am with Communion - Gather Learn Grow @ 11:15 - Youth @ 12 pm
- 6th - Youth Council Meeting @ 12 pm - Conference Room - Parents & Youth
- 8th - Women's Fellowship @ 10 am in NFH
- 9th - Choir Practice @ 7 pm
- 10th - Consistory @ 6:00 pm
- 11th - WISE - Making Mother's Day Necklace 4:30-6:30 in NFH
- 12th - Men of Valor - 9:30-12 Mattress, Box Spring, & frame collection
- 13th - Worship @ 10 am Palm Sunday- Gather Learn Grow at 11:15 am
- 13th - No Youth
- 15th - Friends & Neighbors @ 10:30 am - NFH
- 15th - WISE Meeting @ 5:30 pm in Gathering Room
- 16th - Music & Worship @ 5:30 pm
- 16th - Choir Practice @ 7 pm
- 17th - Maundy Thursday Service w/ Communion @ 6:30 pm
- 18th - Good Friday Service @ 7:30 pm
- 20th - Sunrise Service @ 6:25 am Breakfast following @ 7 am
- 20th - Easter Worship @ 10 am - 11:15 am - Mission Be The Church- No Youth
- 21st - Men of Valor @ 6:30 pm in OFH
- 23rd - Choir practice @ 7 pm
- 27th - Worship @ 10 am - Gather Learn Grow at 11:15 am - Youth @ 12pm
- 30th - Choir Practice @ 7 pm



*Yoga on Monday and Thursday in the NFH at 5:30 pm each week.

*Please know every is welcome to attend any event.

*We love to have you bring a friend or invite your neighbor! Share His word!



Happy Anniversary

Steve & Peg Burns 4/4
Mike & Kristin Vaughn 4/9



2nd Amanda Levens
3rd Homer Walsh
4th Peg Burns
Peggy Welker
5th Tommy Simpson
9th Tom Honey
10th Wesley Reece
11th Karen Johnson
12th Noah Greeson
13th Shirley Clapp
15th Heinz Slayton

20th Phyllis O'Daniel
Dee Greeson
21st Helen Johnson
23rd Kristin Vaughn
24th Linda Greeson
25th Jeff Amick
Clifton Greeson, Sr.
26th Judy Gerner
29th Christina Oliver

Prayer Concerns

Health Care Center

Alamance House - R. Denny Ingold (#305)

Clapp's Nursing Center - Robert Ingold (#801)

Blumenthal Health & Rehab Center - Harold Reece, Jr.

Lin Gallagher - Linden Place - (#108)



Mt. Hope Military Connections

Michael Terraforte

Solomon Price, Jr.

Kyle Gerner

Scott Amick

Wade Greeson

Members, Friends, & Relatives

Joan May
Linda Neese
Maurice Greeson
Christina Oliver
Angela Burke
Baby Otto
Jay Puckett
Beezer Levens
Kaylan Murray
Stephanie Wyrick
Lizzie Honey
Phyllis O'Daniel
Linda Breedlove

Steve Burns
Cindy Hamlett
Amanda Levens
Nell Saxton
Debra Prater
Rena Swaim
Rod Moore
Owen Friddle
Tammy Chapmon
David Clapp
Brenda Currie
Mary Greeson
Michael Hughes

Woody & Peggy Levens
Peggy Greeson
Jaynee Brown
Clifton Greeson
Robert Roth
Ava Straughn
Marilyn Consaul
Janet Cannon
Ray Apple
Jan Piazza
Brianna Chapmon
Ralph O'Farrell

Noral & Cindy Belvin
Betty Kime
Tom Payne
Morty Mortenson
William Coble & Father
Tony Owens
Joyce McCray
Geri Lyn Welker
Jimmy & Becky Dickens
Kriegsman Family
Family of Brian Smith
Dickson Family