

APRIL 2026

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
Cell 336-402-2897
Email: mthopeuccpastor@gmail.com

Administrative Asst. & Newsletter
Lorie Arrington
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Director of Youth & Children Ministry
Kiré Mims
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Accompanist - Ekin Üstünel
Director of Digital Technology - Ekin
mthopeuccddt@gmail.com

Consistory President - Gloria Apple

Board of Christian Education
Susan Finley

Zeb Mims - Music Director
Email: mthopeuccmusic@gmail.com



Sunday for Worship
at 10:00 am



God will make a way when there seems to be no way
God works in ways we cannot see, God will make a way for me
God will be my guide, hold me closely to his side,
With love and strength for each new day, God will make a way
~~Don Moen



The words of this Don Moen song were playing in the background as our youth group filed into worship at Blowing Rock Conference Center. The music itself is so very meaningful and they had an even deeper meaning to me that year. My parents were the youth leaders of my youth group (don't worry, I never minded it) yet this year, this been-scheduled-for-a-long-time retreat came on the heels of the youth leaders' son dying in a car accident. We somehow collected the broken pieces of ourselves and joined the group on the retreat. I really don't think the pieces combined from the three of us made even close to a whole person that year as we loaded the cars to make the trek up the mountain. I knew mom and dad didn't have any emotional energy left in their tank and just getting up in the morning took a courageous amount of perseverance. How in the world would they lead worship?

Maybe they saw the dark circles under the eyes of our leaders or the perseverance they were mustering with every breath, but something in the leaders of another group also retreating at BRCC that weekend compelled them to invite our group to join them in worship. God made a way, when there seemed to be no way. Ed and Janet Flowers the leaders of Pilgrim UCC that weekend became in that moment life-long friends. I think of that part of my journey, my family's journey often. And the emotion that grips me the strongest is the sheer awe of the people and moments that carried me, by the grace of God, from where I was to where I was going. When I dare to show up, even with my pile of broken pieces, God shows up, too, and somehow, conversation by conversation, step by step, caring hand after caring hand God knits me and all my pieces back together leaving God's new masterpiece just slight of her original form so I will never forget where I have been or who has led me along the way. Like the finest of rugs, that are only perfect when they have a break in the expected pattern, we, too, become more beautiful when we look back at our lives and can see the places where our natural patterns shifted.

Brian McLaren writes a book entitled, "We Make the Road By Walking." I have to say that it was the title, not the known content of the book that made my finger hit the "buy now" button on my screen. It is true, this title, isn't it? We do make our path by walking. This Easter we will see that it was while walking that Jesus found the disciples on the road to Damascus. It took the Israelites 40 years of walking and wandering in the wilderness to find God. Moses, once a shepherd (Exodus 3) came to the other side of the wilderness and found God in the burning bush. I can only guess that he walked instead of riding his battery-powered golfcart.

Walking is good for the body, mind and soul. Have a pain, walk it off. Someone makes you angry, walk away. Needing some spiritual discernment, take a walk. Spiritual practices across all religions for centuries have used walking to center themselves, to ground them when the rush of life blow through all too wildly, and to use the mindless repetitive practice of putting one foot in front of the other over and over again so their spirits can have space to wrestle with and discern the will of God.

Mt. Hope is making the road by walking. In the days and weeks to come you will notice a walking trail forming in the wooded areas behind the playground. The path will be ready to walk soon and we will have a grand community gathering for this safe place for the Mt. Hope community to walk and enjoy creation at any pace that pleases them. However, the path will become the path it will be because we walk it. We make the path by walking.

Driving up the mountain all those years ago, I had no idea how I would make it through the weekend, but God made a way that I would never have seen if I hadn't dared to make the road by walking it. Let's walk this Easter-road together and see how God shows up on this road with us. God will make a way, when there seems to be no reason to go and no way to get there.





FRIENDS & NEIGHBORS



Friends n Neighbors, April 21st @ 10am.
Going go to the Guilford Cooperative on Burlington Rd to see the ever changing garden and the community vegetable and flower gardens. Then lunch at Bayside. Everyone welcome. Bus available.

Women's Fellowship - March 14th @ 11 am in OFH

1. What about Spring has surprised you?
2. Continue with the people of God on a long journey. From memory do you remember some of their challenges? What were some of their complaints? If you use You Tube enjoy one of the cartoon videos of the Exodus Story. I'll be showing one at our gathering.
3. Come and enjoy discussion and fellowship.
4. Thanks for the card and continuing prayers as I walk through this blip in the road. Marcia



Dear Church Family,

A special thank you to each of you who prayed for my recovery and visited me after getting hurt. I have come a long way with God's help, family, and friends. I am still in outpatient therapy. God bless you all. Thank you!

Sara Shue

MISSION BE THE CHURCH

WE WANT TO REACH OUT TO SINGLE YOUNG ADULTS WITH TIES TO OUR CONGREGATION, LETTING THEM KNOW WE'RE THINKING ABOUT THEM, AND WOULD LIKE YOUR HELP. PICK UP AN EASTER EGG CONTAINING THE NAME OF ONE OF OUR YOUNG ADULTS TO WHOM YOU CAN WRITE A THOUGHTFUL NOTE ON EASTER SUNDAY, 4/5. NOTES NEED TO BE RETURNED TO US ON SUNDAY, 4/12, AND PLACED IN THE ENVELOPES PROVIDED (OR YOUR OWN, IF YOU CHOOSE.) WE WILL ALSO BE SENDING A SMALL CARE PACKAGE GIFT TO EACH PERSON. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HELP WITH THAT PART OF OUR MISSION BE THE CHURCH, YOU MAY GIVE DONATIONS TO SUSAN FINLEY. AS I WAS TOLD ON MY FIRST SUNDAY AT MT. HOPE (AFTER HAVING ATTENDED BINGO ON FRIDAY NIGHT), "YOU'RE HERE A SECOND TIME. YOU'RE ONE OF US NOW," WE WANT TO REMIND OUR YOUNG ADULTS THAT THEY ARE STILL ONE OF US.

SUSAN FINLEY

Women's Fellowship

\$10 Contact Dee or anyone from Women's Fellowship



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!

youth



April Youth Schedule

April 5: Happy Easter! No youth tonight.

April 12: Greensboro Gargoyles game @ 3:00. Meet at the church at 2:00 for carpooling to the game! The Mt Hope Youth receive \$5.00 from every ticket sold from this link. Help us reach our goal of 50 tickets by sharing this link with friends:<https://www.gofevo.com/event/Mthope7>

April 19: Youth Meeting @ 5 in youth room

April 26: No Youth in the evening. Join us for board games and fellowship after worship during gather learn grow.

Men of Valor



Join us on the third Monday of each month at 6:30 pm in the old fellowship hall.

This month it will be April 20th for fellowship, fun, and more!

SAVE THE DATE
VBS - JULY 6-10 WITH
PROGRAM DURING
WORSHIP JULY 12



GRADUATION SUNDAY, JUNE 7



WISE Moment



Plate & Petal: Creating Beauty for Self and Soul

Join us on April 24 at 1:00 PM for a peaceful afternoon of creativity, fellowship and renewal. Plate and Petal is more than a craft—it's a time to slow down, connect and care for our hearts, minds and souls as we create unique yard flowers from colorful glass plates. A joyful reminder that even broken or simple pieces can come together to make something bright and beautiful. Just like us.

Come for the craft. Stay for the fellowship. Leave with something that blooms – in your yard and in your heart. April showers are bringing May flowers!

“He has made everything beautiful in its time.” Ecclesiastes 3:11



Mt Hope United Church of Christ

Consistory Minutes – February 12, 2026

Members Present: Gloria Apple (President), Dallas Belvin, Tracy Buff (Asst Secretary), Dona Branson, Tammy Holt (Asst Treasurer), Cindy McGee, Dora Moore (Treasurer), Cheryl Royal, Lisa Sinclair (Secretary), Pastor Kristin Gerner Vaughn

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

Prayer & Devotion

- A devotion was provided by Tammy Holt about community.

We Celebrate our Past

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made by Dora and seconded by Tammy Holt to approve the minutes from the January 2026 consistory meeting. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report:

January 2025 **Consolidated Fund Activity Report** showed an ending balance of \$198,616.26 with total receipts of \$11,101.67 and total disbursements of \$40,987.77 reported. The **General Fund** beginning balance was \$45,471.84 and end balance was \$25,545.10 with receipts of \$10,219.32 and disbursements of \$30,146.06. A motion was made by Tracy Buff and seconded by Cheryl Royal to approve the report. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report

There has been high and low attendance thus far this year. Pastor Kristin shared an article about measuring the success of the church which highlighted success was much more than a headcount – it's about impact and reach in the community. For us, Out of the Garden is a great example of reach. In February we served 72 families. Ash Wednesday is coming up soon with a service at 6:30. The theme is belonging. We need to be vigilant in helping to foster this new season. This year from 7:15-8:15am on Ash Wednesday morning, we will offer drive through for ashes to accommodate those who may not be able to join the evening service.

Committee Reports

Committee	Report
Maintenance and Trustees	Oil and gas prices have increased with the weather. A new alarm was installed on the freezer.
Food Ministry	No update
Historical	No update
Mission & Outreach	No update
Music & Worship	No update
Social Concerns	Wishing well is going well.

Mt Hope United Church of Christ

Consistory Minutes – February 12, 2026

Committee	Report
Communications	No update
WISE Team	Movie night and Change of Purse-spective on Friday, February 27, 2026 at 6pm. They will be exchanging purses or backpacks with a message and special goodies. They are also focused on building community and belonging with seniors in the neighbors.
Fellowship Committee	No update
Personnel	No update
Board of Christian Education	Bingo Friday night Palm Sunday is March 29, 2026 VBS July 6-10, 2026 (9-12am) VBS Sunday July 12, 2026

Old Business

- Chris Caviness and Kristin are still working on paperwork for grants for the church. We need some support searching for grants that are fit.
- Heating and Air: Cole Levens and Mike Johnson are going to get trained on how to program the heating and air. The temperature will be set to 62 when the building is not in use and 67 when it is.

New Business

- A new sensor was installed on the big freezer to alert us if the temperature falls below a certain temperature. Consistory approved by email.
- Lisa Sinclair will call the Greensboro Women's shelter about taking hygiene items like lotion, toilet paper, mouthwash, medicines, and depends from the pantry shelves.

Charge and Benediction

The meeting was adjourned.

Next Meeting – March 12, 2026

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Sinclair



MOUNT HOPE
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



MOBILE FOOD MARKET

Fresh food. Community support.
All are welcome.



Scan for:

- Volunteer sign up
- Mt. Hope UCC Fresh Mobile Market Dates
- More information



**Out of the
Garden Project**

**First Saturday of
Every Month @10:30am**

**Mt. Hope UCC
Parking Lot**

2400 Mt. Hope Church Rd.

FOR MORE INFORMATION : WWW.MTHOPEUCC.COM



GROUP OUTINGS WITH THE GARGOYLES

Mt Hope United Church of Christ

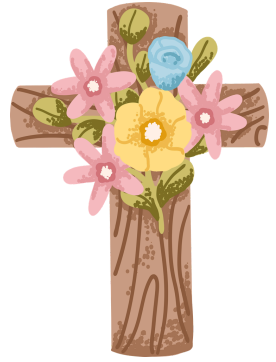
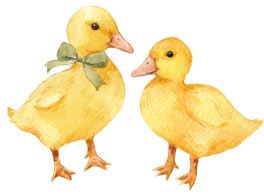
Cheer on the Greensboro Gargoyles on April 12th at 3pm and help fundraise for your church!

- Discounted Ticket Price
 - Reserved Seating
- Shoutout on the Jumbotron
- \$5 donation for every ticket purchased



MOUNT HOPE
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

For more information, please contact Joey Huttman –
joey@zawyersports.com or (772) 919-5563



- 2nd - Maundy Thursday Service @ 6:30 pm
- 3rd - Good Friday Service @ 7:30 pm
- 4th - Mobile Market @ 10:30 am
- 5th - Sunrise Service @ 6:45 am - Breakfast to follow
- 5th - Easter Sunday Worship @ 11 am (Note time change)
- 5th - No Gather Learn Grow - *No Youth
- 9th - Consistory Meeting in Conf. Room @ 6pm
- 12th - Worship @ 10 am - Gather Learn Grow @ 11:15
- 12th - Gargoyles Hockey Game @ 3 pm (meet @ church 2 pm to carpool)
- 14th - Women's Fellowship @ 11 am in NFH
- 19th - Worship @ 10 am / Communion- Gather Learn Grow @ 11:15 - Youth @ 5pm
- 20th - Men of Valor @ 6:30 pm in OFH
- 21st - Friends & Neighbors @ 10 am Ciener Garden in Kernersville & Lunch
- 24th - WISE Puddle Club in NFH @ 1 pm
- 26th - Worship @ 10 am - Mission Be the Church at 11:15 am
- 26th - No Youth in the evening. Join us for board games and fellowship after worship during gather learn grow.
- 28th - WISE Gathering @ 6:30 pm



*Choir rehearsal April 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, & 29th @ 7 pm

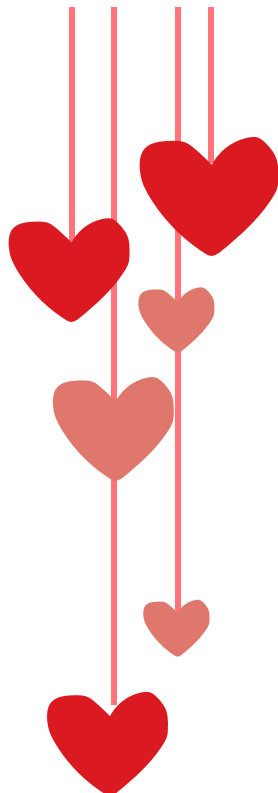
*Yoga on Monday and Thursday in the NFH at 5:30 pm each week.

*Please know every is welcome to attend any event. *We love to have you bring a friend!



**Mike & Kristin
Vaughn
4/9**

**Preston & Lindsay
Allred
04/27**



- 2 - Amanda Levens
- 3 - Homer Walsh
- 4 - Peg Burns
- 4 - Peggy Welker
- 5 - Tommy Simpson
- 8 - Joshua Greeson
- 9 - Tom Honey
- 10 - Wesley Reece
- 11 - Karen Johnson
- 12 - Noah Greeson
- 13 - Shirley Clapp
- 15 - Heinz Slayton
- 19 - Lynne Hinton

- 20 - Dee Greeson
- 21 - Helen Johnson
- 23 - Kristin Vaughn
- 24 - Linda Greeson
- 25 - Jeff Amick
- 25 - Clifton Greeson, Sr.
- 26 - Judy Gerner
- 29 - Christina Oliver



Prayer Concerns

Health Care Center

Clapp's Nursing Center - R. Denny Ingold - (#304)
Clapp's Nursing Center - Robert Ingold (#801)
Brookdale Clare Bridge - Mary Catherine Moser - (#68)



Mt. Hope Military Connections



Kyle Gerner	Wade Greeson
Michael Terraforte	Jonathan Vaughn

Members, Friends, & Relatives

Krissy Coomer	Amanda Levens	Woody & Peggy Levens	Cindy Belvin
Helen Johnson	Debra Prater	Peggy Greeson	Becky Sutphin
Dallas Amick	Shirley Kime	Clifton Greeson	Terry Clapp
Mildred Strader	Mark & Kelly Gryder	Alonzo Smith	Annie Clapp
Brian Neal	Shirley Clapp	Martha Tatum	Family of Shirley Smith
Cheryl Royal	Jo Ann Gauldin	Mary Mackey	Family of Tony Owens
Michael Hughes	Diane Thomasson	Danny Winkle	Lisa Moser
Lloyd Gilliam	Betty Tucker	Martha & Bug Whitesell	L.B. Friddle
Marcia Cham	Gwen Hall	Family of Max Shugertz	Family of Jason Logan
Connie Blakesly	April Shepherd	Mark & Kelly Gryder	John McDade
Family of Gabby Thompson			