

FEBRUARY 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

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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

Pastor's Love Letter:

Traction, Webster tells us, is the action of drawing or pulling something over a surface. Traction seems an important concept for the sake of getting somewhere. Traveling in the snow? Tires with good traction help us get where we want to go. On the other hand, not getting good traction, sets the stage for a less guided and predictable journey through time and space. Who wants traction when sledding down a snowy hill? Or might I just say that traction is the last thing you want on the smooth, slick surface of the roller skating rink!

Traction is hard to come by, sometimes. As this year began, I found myself praying for a little traction the same way I prayed for it when I had three children under 4 years old. Being a mom is one of my favorite things to do, but entire days on end consisted of responding to a need: this diaper needs to be changed, and this one is hungry RIGHT NOW and this one just fell and her skinned knee needs attention. Those reactionary days led me to feel as if I had no traction on the path of life. A friend of mine said it best this week on his Facebook post, "My desire to be well informed is currently at odds with my desire to remain sane." Do you need those clear answers, the big booming voice of God to square up directly in front of us and deliver the news that cannot be misunderstood? News, worthy of gaining traction rarely happens that way. It is more like a still small whisper, a puff of wind in the middle of a blizzard, a still small sense of peace in the middle of chaos, butterflies in the pit of your stomach that prevent a full night's sleep. If traction is the action of drawing or pulling something over a surface, we are gaining a bit of traction.

If I open my heart to the places God is gaining traction in our community of faith, I can see tire marks in the snow. I see God taking root in the hearts of many; I see God healing the addictions of beloved members of our community; I feel God tugging at our hearts to be informed neighbors able to offer love to our brothers and sisters. I hear God's call on our church to share the good news with the poor, to release the captives, to give freedom to those who are pressed down.

5 years ago, the youngest member of the church sponsored refugee family took my hand and led me down the hall of her home. They take their shoes off by the front door so we were traveling sock-footed. In her playful spirit, she took off running. With me fixed in her right hand, I had no choice but to follow at her speed. I wondered where we were going and then she let go of my hand and use the lack of traction between her socks and the hardwood floor to take the stance of a surfer and slide across the floor. The smile on her face reminded me that too much traction can often keep us from moving with the spirit. My sock-feet unpredictably sliding across the floor spoke to the traction that God gains when we dare to take our shoes off, stand witness to the presence of the Holy in our lives and slide in unpredictable ways into the future of God's amazing grace.

Prayer: God thank you for opening our eyes to see where you are at work in our world. God, give us the continued courage to join you in that work, to gain traction, for the sake of the Gospel jubilee, however it may come, even in these unpredictable times! Amen.

Courage for this journey,

Pastor Kristin





The Garden Club will be meeting February the 4th at 7 pm in the NFH. We will be putting together Valentine bags for a nursing home.



### Our 2025 Consistory Members are:

Gloria Apple, president  
Dave Blakesley, vice-president  
Simon Clark, treasurer  
Dora Moore, assistant treasurer  
Tammy Holt, assistant treasurer  
Sharon Mims, secretary  
Tracy Buff, assistant secretary  
Don Kirkman  
Sylvia Belvin  
Cheryl Royal  
Lisa Sinclair  
Cindy McGee.

We would like to thank Joe Hughes, Steve Greeson, and Bob Hamlett for their service in 2024.

### Our 2025 trustees are:

Stan Buff, Cole Levens, and Phillip Strouth



**Women's Fellowship**  
**February 11th**  
**\*Note the time change.**

### Womens Fellowship. An Important Time Change.

Meetings will still be on the Second Tuesday of the month but at a different **TIME..10:00 AM.**

And we will begin the study of a new book, *Velvet Elvis*. If you don't have a copy of the book and the study guide, contact Marcia Cham

On February 11th at 10 am, Dee will be leading a discussion of the *Welcome to My Velvet Elvis* section of the book, *Velvet Elvis*. Please consider the two questions on the Reading and Discussion Guide by the author Rob Bell. Be ready to share your thoughts and questions.

With this new time, we hope that more women will be able to come and join the present group of women for this faith stretching and building friendships on the second Tuesday at 10:00 am.

The assignment for March 11th is to read *Movement One* and consider the questions.

Marcia



Just a friendly reminder that everyone is always welcome to attend any event. You do not have to be a member. Join us and bring a friend or neighbor.



youth



## UPCOMING YOUTH EVENTS

### FEB 2 YOUTH MEETING

Meet at 12pm in the youth room.

### FEB 9 NO MEETING

Enjoy your Sunday!

### FEB 16 NO YOUTH MEETING

Enjoy the long weekend!

### FEB 23 YOUTH MEETING

Meet at 12pm in the youth room to prep for bingo.

### FEB 28 BINGO

Youth will host our annual bingo night. More details to come.

\*Please note that there will be no Valentine's Dinner this year.



### Way to Go Mt. Hope!

Our Mustard Seed Community Health Medicine Bottle Project brought in 70 bottles, for a total of \$1,108! Thank you for your generosity.



## Thank You

Thank you for the support, cards, and prayers during Jimmy's illness and passing. It is appreciated and will always be remembered.

Pam Greeson & family

The family of William "Bill" Welker would like to express the sincere appreciation of the love and support of Mt. Hope Church family. All the cards, food, visits, and calls were greatly appreciated.

Please note that **Linda Kirkman** no longer has a home land line. She may be reached at her cell phone, 336-509-1942.

Thank you!

## Mt Hope BBQ

We have Mt Hope BBQ for sell! Cost is \$10 per 1 lb. container of frozen BBQ.

Call Dee Greeson to place your order at 336-207-3079.





# Wise Moment



Happy Valentines WISE friends! This month makes us think about our amazing hearts. Did you know?

- A healthy heart beats 100,000 times per day.
- Your heart pumps 1.5 gallons of blood every minute, over 2000 gallons per day.
- Your heart is a strong muscle and works twice as hard as the leg muscles of a sprinter.
- Laughing is good for your heart!



We are excited to share this picture, it was taken about a year ago. Melinda was sitting in the garden and thinking about the changing leaves, when she looked down and saw this small frog on a leaf under her. It made her think of the seemingly unexpected messages we see in everyday life. A perfect heart shape on his back, reminding us of how we are loved. And as we have heard and hopefully feel, beloved.

Thank you all for being a WISE church. During February, we are asking you to complete a WISE survey. Your needs are important and we are trying to determine what activities, Puddle Clubs, programs and education you would like to see 2025 and participate in. Thank You!

Our next Wise meeting is Feb 18th at 5:30 pm in the Gathering Room.

Let's Celebrate! Our very own Mary Welker was elected president of NAMI Guilford!

## WISE in the WORLD...Creative Junk Journaling

WISE is continuing to support NAMI Guilford to bring joy to the world. What do we do with those favorite paper pieces like tickets, photographs, stickers, cards and napkins? A Junk Journal is a handmade book to capture your favorite memories, favorite scriptures, quotes and ideas. It helps us reflect on our emotions and feelings. Please come on Feb 20th from 4-6PM and see why everyone loves Reconsidered Goods at 4118 Spring Garden, Greensboro NC 27407, it is a crafters paradise! Join us for a FREE class, even the supplies are provided by a NAMI grant, and find your inner beauty!





## **Bingo is Back!**

Come join us for Bingo, dinner and fellowship on Friday, February 28th at 6:00 p.m. We are also collecting Bingo prizes—new & gently used items. Collection bins are located at each of the doors on the main floor. Donated items need to be brought to the church no later than Sunday, February 23rd, please. Don't miss out on the fun!

### **MISSION: BE THE CHURCH**

**Sunday, February 23rd**

#### **Show the Love!**



We need everyone's help. Mt. Hope needs to jumpstart our Safe Church program. It stalled for obvious reasons during COVID, and we now need get it back up and fully functioning. We are asking everyone at Mt. Hope who is at least 18 years old to help—parents, grandparents, senior adults, and young adults. On Sunday, February 23rd, immediately following worship, we will be having our fellowship time, Safe Church training and lunch in the New Fellowship Hall. There will also be a special fun time for the children.

Don't think you can volunteer because you can't lift or are a bit unsteady on your feet? No problem. You can specify "no lifting," and we will make sure you are paired with someone without restrictions, but your presence will greatly assist us in making sure there are 2 trained adults from different households serving each time, and that no one person has to serve too often.

Unable to join us for lunch and training on February 23rd? No problem! We can now offer you a short online training which can be completed at your convenience. If everyone will take the brief training and be a volunteer, we can fix it so that no one has to volunteer too frequently. If you have previously been through the Safe Church training, we still need your participation, as our Safe Church Policy says that everyone should repeat training every 3 years to stay current.

We recently amended our Safe Church Policy to make it more flexible, and easier to implement and maintain. And, since it is church policy, it is absolutely essential that we follow those guidelines for every event that includes minors. This is everyone's opportunity to participate in Mission: Be the Church, providing care and support to all of the children and youth (and their families) currently in our congregation, and those who are to come.

PLEASE come join us for this vital training.

Thank you for your consideration,  
The Board of Christian Education

# FEBRUARY

- 2nd - Worship @ 10 am - Gather Learn Grow @ 11:15 - Youth @ 12 pm
- 4th - Garden Club @ 7 pm
- 5th - Choir Practice @ 7 pm
- 9th - Worship @ 10 am - Gather Learn Grow @ 11:15 - No Youth
- 11th - Women's Fellowship @ 10:00 am
- 12th - Choir practice @ 7 pm
- 13th - Consistory @ 6:00 pm
- 16th - Worship @ 10 am - Gather Learn Grow at 11:15 am - No Youth
- 17th - Men of Valor @ 6:30 pm OFH
- 18th - Friends & Neighbors @ 10:30 am - NFH
- 18th - WISE Meeting @ 5:30 pm in Gathering Room
- 19th - Choir Practice @ 7 pm
- 23rd - Worship @ 10 am - 11:15 am - Mission Be The Church- Youth @ 12 pm
- 23rd - Mission Be the Church: Show the Love - Safe Church Training & Lunch
- 26th - Choir Practice @ 7 pm
- 28th - BINGO - Dinner @ 6 pm Join US!



\*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!



Vacation Bible School  
July 21st - 25th  
9am - Noon



2nd Becky Stafford  
Kire' Mims  
4th Tony Staley  
5th Corbin Craft  
13th Lizzie Honey  
14th Kayleigh McArn  
18th Lloyd Gilliam  
Ekin Üstünnel  
20th Sunny Staley  
Virginia Barker  
21st Pamela Minor  
Tammy Martin

22nd Barbara Honey  
Joan May  
24th Inez Thornburg  
Greg Moser  
26th Dora Faye Moore  
28th Bob Hamlett



# Prayer Concerns

## Health Care Center

Alamance House - R. Denny Ingold (#305)  
Clapp's Nursing Center - Robert Ingold (#801)  
Clapp's Nursing Center - John Maurice Greeson (#208)  
Blumenthal Health & Rehab Center - Harold Reece, Jr.



## Mt. Hope Military Connections

Michael Terraforte

Solomon Price, Jr.

Kyle Gerner

Scott Amick

Wade Greeson

## Members, Friends, & Relatives

Joan May

Steve Burns

Woody & Peggy Levens

Noral & Cindy Belvin

Bob & Cindy Hamlett

Ray Neese, Jr.

Libby Lowdermilk

Brian Smith

Peggy Greeson

Cathy Turner

Shirley Kime

Israel and Gaza

Jayne Brown

Martha & Bug Whitesell

Linda Neese

Amanda Levens

Clifton Greeson

Betty Kime

Maurice Greeson

Nell Saxton

Robert Roth

Tom Payne

Christina Oliver

Debra Prater

Western NC

Jean Covington Causey

Angela Burke

Roger Smith

Ava Straughn

Morty Mortenson

Baby Otto

Lyndy Welker

Marilyn Consaul

David Neal

Sheila Foster

Kathy Harrison

Janet Cannon

Jake & Brittany Nielsen

Robert Miller

Rena Swaim

Lisa Moser

William Coble & Father

Tammy Eckley

Rod Moore

Ray Apple

Tony Owens

Calvin Greeson

Owen Friddle

Danny Neese

Jay Puckett