

FEBRUARY 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
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Accompanist - Ekin Üstünel
Director of Digital Technology - Ekin
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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



Pastor's Note

"Listen to the Toilet"



"That's it! I'm going to get a new one. I am tired of messing with this old one." he said as he threw the chain down, exasperated. Despite his best efforts, Mike couldn't get the leaking toilet to stop leaking. "What can I help you do," I found myself responding. I really didn't want him to replace the toilet. Yes, it is expensive to replace the whole thing, but the expense wasn't my motivation for wanting to keep the old one. Yes, the old one is indeed, well, old and it is smaller than the new toilets today and if you have to know, it is low enough to the ground that my feet rest comfortably on the ground when needed. Yet, it wasn't the size of the toilet that motivated my desire to keep it. Mike kept working and I kept helping in hopes that we could fix the old one He did. Until it leaks again.

It still leaks, from time to time, that old toilet, but I don't mind it. There's something comforting about keeping something that doesn't work, something that isn't...perfect. That's why I want to keep it. Not because it is expensive or it is the right size, but because it reminds me that being perfect is overrated. Not just overrated, it is impossible. But yet, we try for perfection all the time, just to fall short and beat ourselves up for not getting it right.

This old toilet has taught me patience. It has taught me to be attentive and to pay attention. It reminds me to slow down and listen and tune my ear to its ever-swirling waters.

But we are supposed to be perfect. Isn't that what we are working for? Perfection? "Be ye perfect as your Father in Heaven is perfect?" A scripture that is often taken out of context will lead us astray. Matthew includes this scripture (Chapter 5) as he tells the good news about loving our enemies. But what he says is, "anyone can hate their enemies, even people who don't follow in the ways of Jesus, but be WHOLE, COMPLETE like God and pray for them. Be so complete in your knowledge and understanding of God's love for you that you can love even your enemies."

This old toilet is a good reminder in the Lenten season that as we move ever closer to the cross in our desire to connect more deeply with God, that we are also loved by God for being exactly who we are right now in this point in history. I am happy to have this old toilet in our house. It reminds me that God cares for me, too, even when I am less than who I want to be. Even when the waters of life (and my brain) are ever-swirling. This old toilet reminds me that we are in this together. As I hear the endless-swirl of the water from a tank that doesn't have the capacity to fill itself up, I believe I hear it calling me, "Hey, you, can you help me?" I have chosen to say, "Yes." And as I jiggle the handle until it has what it needs to survive yet another day at the Vaughn house, I am reminded that God says, "Yes!" to me and you, too.

Do you have a loose part of your faith? Is there someone you would like to have completely out of your life because they are like a thorn in your side? What makes you angry enough to abolish it, to get rid of it, completely? Before you decide to throw it out, take a moment and ask, "What could this inconvenience, this thorn in my side, this person that makes me angry, teach me about myself and about God's love? You might just decide to keep it if you pay attention to it long enough.

**Give us courage, O God, to grow our table ever wider and longer—
Pastor Kristin**

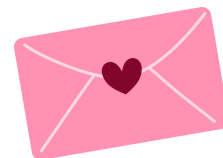


FRIENDS & NEIGHBORS

Friends and Neighbors will meet 2/17 @ 10:30. We will create a Valentine craft then go to Ciao's for lunch. Old Fellowship hall.

Cindy Hyle

*Friends
Are
Second
Family*



Women's Fellowship

**Women's Fellowship Tuesday February 10 at 11am
New Fellowship Hall
Roads and Valentine's
Join us for discussion and fun!!!**



**Women's
Fellowship**

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



Annual Bingo Night will be here soon!

**We look forward to seeing everyone on
Friday, February 13 at 6 p.m. for a baked
potato dinner, and a night of fun, fellowship,
laughter, and prizes. Prize donation may be
left in the bins at all main floor entrances.
Come, and bring your friends!**



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



February Youth Schedule

Feb. 1st - Youth meeting 5-6pm

Feb. 8th - Superbowl kickoff party 5-6pm

Feb. 13th - Bingo

Feb. 15th - No Youth Meeting

Feb. 22nd - Youth Meeting 5-6pm

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 February 16th for fellowship, fun, and more!



WISE Moment



Movie and a Change of Purse-spective: A Night of Fun, Faith and Friendship!

Join us for a joy-filled evening on **Friday, February 27 at 6:00 PM** where we shift our purse-spective and discover how a small change can bring a big smile! At this gathering, we'll exchange lightly used purses or back packs, each one thoughtfully filled with a few goodies and a private encouraging message - a simple gift that can speak straight to the heart. After the exchange, relax and enjoy a feel good movie with warm popcorn, laughter, and cozy fellowship.

We can't wait to share this special night with you, because sometimes all it takes is a **new purse-pective** to see God's joy at work!

"Give and it will be given to you." Luke 6:38

Mt Hope United Church of Christ
Consistory Meeting
December 11, 2025

Consistory/Staff Dinner was held at Ciao's Restaurant, Whitsett, NC on Monday, December 11, 2025.

Minutes from November's consistory meeting and the November financial report were emailed to members and approved by email. Financial report for November 2025 showed an ending balance of \$175,464.62. November Consolidated Fund Activity receipts of \$19,852.30 and Disbursements of \$17,316.75 were reported. General fund balance for November was \$6,328.34 with receipts of \$18,021.95 and disbursements of \$15,198.06 for the month.

New 2026 consistory officer nominations were also submitted and approved by email. New officers for 2026 are:

President – Gloria Apple
Vice President – Dave Blakesley
Treasurer – Simon Clark
Assistant Treasurer – Dora Moore
Assistant Treasurer – Tammy Holt
Secretary – Lisa Sinclair
Assistant Secretary – Tracy Buff

Respectfully submitted,
Sharon Mims, Secretary

**Next BCE Meeting
March 22nd
at Noon in
Conference room.**





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



February

- 1st - Worship @ 10 am - Gather Learn Grow @ 11:15 Youth @ 5-6 pm
- 7th - Out of the Garden Mobile Market @ 10:30 am
- 8th - Worship @ 10 am - Gather Learn Grow @ 11:15
- 8th - Youth - Superbowl Kickoff party OFH & Youth Room 5 pm
- 10th - Women's Fellowship @ 11 am NFH
- 12th - Consistory Meeting @ 6pm conf. room
- 13th - Bingo 6- 8 pm NFH
- 15th - Worship @ 10 am - Gather Learn Grow @ 11:15 - No Youth
- 16th - Men of Valor @ 6:30 pm in OFH
- 17th - Friends & Neighbors @ 10:30 am Valentine Craft & lunch OFH
- 18th - Ash Wednesday Service @ 6:30 pm
- 22nd - Worship @ 10 am - Gather Learn Grow @ 11:15 Youth @ 5-6pm
- 24th - Wise Gathering @ 6:30pm Wise Gathering Room
- 27th - WISE movie & Purse-Spective Puddle Club @ 6 pm OFH



*Choir rehearsal February 4th, 11th, & 25th @ 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!



2 - Becky Stafford
2 - Kiré Stenson-Mims
4 - Tony Staley
5 - Corbin Craft
13 - Lizzie Honey
18 - Lloyd Gilliam
18 - Chris Caviness
18 - Ekin Üstünnel
20 - Virginia Barker
21 - Pam Minor
21 - Tammy Martin
22 - Barbara Honey

24 - Inez Thornburg
24 - Greg Moser
25 - Lisa Johnson
26 - Dora Faye Moore
28 - Bob Hamnlett



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)
Whitestone - Jo Ann Gauldin - (#401)



Mt. Hope Military Connections

Michael Terraforte

Solomon Price, Jr.

Kyle Gerner

Scott Amick

Wade Greeson

Jonathan Vaughn

Members, Friends, & Relatives

Joan May
Krissy Coomer
Helen Johnson
Bennie Ellington
Dallas Amick
Mildred Strader

Amanda Levens
Debra Prater
Shirley Harris
Faye Newsome
Tammy Chapmon
Shirley Kime

Woody & Peggy Levens
Peggy Greeson
Clifton Greeson
Justin Engle
Robert Proctor
Alonzo Smith
Kevin Holt

Cindy Belvin
Chris Freeman
Becky Sutphin
Terry Clapp
Rick Morgan
Family of Harold Reece
Family of Dennis Owens
Family of Betty Neese