

JULY 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
Cell 336-402-2897

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Email: mthopeuccmusic@gmail.com

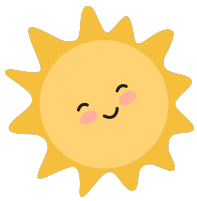
Accompanist - Ekin Üstünel

Consistory President - Gloria Apple

Board of Christian Education
Susan Finley



Sunday for Worship
at 10:00 am



Pastor's Note



Pastor's Love Letter: "How Are Your Houseplants?"

I have vivid memories of watering the houseplants when I was growing up. I don't remember the particulars like the water vessel we used to take water from the sink to the plant dependent on us to connect the two. I don't remember the kinds of plants, I just remembered that we gave them attention. We watered them and we pulled off the dead leaves and blooms that had already had their day in the sun. And somewhere between my house and Mamaw's house, I learned the wisdom of this saying, "You can tell the health of your spirit by looking at your house plants." It was one of those sayings that I heard but wouldn't remember it or understand it until decades later when I began to have houseplants in my own place. When my houseplant began to droop and I wondered why it wasn't doing very well, this old saying flooded my memory again. "You can tell the health of your spirit by looking at your house plants." From the look of my houseplant, my spirit was weary, droopy and was lacking a lot of what it needed.

I still have the houseplant I was looking at when I remembered that saying. The plant is 30 years old. It is a hearty plant, a Thanksgiving Cactus, yet it has been through some seasons. It has thrived and bloomed; it has gone years without the sunlight it needed and thus didn't bloom for nearly a decade before I noticed. It has wilted until its leaves were thin and withered. It has come back from severed malnutrition. My spiritual companion has most recently experienced root rot and lost all but a tiny green sprig of its life, yet where there is green there is hope. Today, you can stop by the office anytime and see that the plant is making its way back into a full recovery and is growing full and green. The church window has magical properties for houseplants.

This summer as we enter into the liturgical time of the year of growth marked by the green vestments in the service, I will ask you, "How are your houseplants?" Are you paying them any of your attention? Are they getting the right amount of water? Do they need more or less sunlight? And if your houseplants are any indication of your own spirit, I would ask you, "How is your spirit?" What do you need to grow this season? Do you need more meaningful work to do? Do you need to rest? Are you getting what you need to grow? Are you paying attention to your own needs so that you might thrive as whole beings ready to serve when God calls?

How are your houseplants? Really, I am serious, go look at them.

**Courage for this our journey of growth,
Pastor Kristin**





Garden club will meet again in August for the planning session. Enjoy your summer and gardens! See you Tuesday, August 5th.



BCE will not have an individual meeting this month. You are encouraged to attend the VBS Volunteer Meeting on the 13th @ 12 pm in the Old Fellowship Hall.



Women's Fellowship No meeting in July!

Women's Fellowship has been extremely busy this month with beets! They have worked hard to prepare and sell 425 quarts and 133 pints! They use the funds to do projects here at the church and other things. If you are in the old fellowship hall you will see the pads placed on the columns for protection.



Beginning July 7th, summer office hours will be Monday and Friday 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. As always, for pastoral care emergencies call Pastor Kristin.



Congratulation to
Ben Greeson!

Ben graduated from Southeast Guilford High School on June 12th and will be attending Appalachian in the fall.

Parents: Steve & Heather Greeson
Brother: Luke Greeson

youth

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!



UPCOMING YOUTH EVENTS

JUNE

8

VBS VOLUNTEER MEETING

12pm in OFH

JULY

21-25

VBS

9am-12pm each day

JULY

13

FINAL VBS VOLUNTEER MEETING

12pm in OFH

JULY

25

VBS FINAL PROGRAM

6:30pm in the NFH.

JULY

19

CAR WASH

Meet at 8am under the portico. Will run from 9am-12pm.



Be on the lookout for texts from Julianna for additional meetings depending on everyone's availability!

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



Please join us for
the VBS Program
on
July 25th
@ 6:30 pm in
the New
Fellowship Hall.



Mt. Hope Youth Car Wash

When: July 19th 9 am - 12 pm

Where: Under the portico

By Donation - Anything appreciated





Wise Moment

Rest in His Presence



In a world buzzing with distractions, deadlines and demands, it's no wonder our minds often feel overwhelmed. Mental health challenges like anxiety, depression and burnout are on the rise. As believers, we know that peace is not just a concept but a Person. Amid the chaos, God offers us the gift of His presence. Mindfulness, when rooted in faith, can become a powerful tool to care for our mental health and deepen our relationship with Him. Let us rest in His presence.

Psalm 46:10 says, "Be still and know that I am God." This isn't just poetic advice, it's a divine invitation. Stillness, awareness and presence open the door to knowing God more deeply. God is with us now and this moment is sacred. Whether we're doing the dishes, driving to work, or sitting in silence as we start our day, we can encounter God here and now. Now is the hour!

Mindfulness becomes transformative when it leads us to rest in God's presence. This isn't about clearing our minds for the sake of silence but centering them on the One who brings true peace. Take a few minutes each morning to breathe deeply and thank God for the day. Together, let's realign our hearts with the truth, we are not alone and we are not in control-but God is. In a world that encourages constant striving, mindfulness helps us shift from doing to being. And in God's presence, being is enough. Lord, help me to be present. Quiet my racing thoughts. Settle my anxious heart. Let me rest in the truth that You are here, now.
Teach me to sit at Your feet and find peace in Your presence.

Amen,

**Worship at the Lake. Coming soon.....
August 26th we will be
worshiping at ...**

**Lake Mackintosh at the picnic shelter.
1345 NC Hwy 61, Whitsett, NC 27377**

Mark your calendar, more details to come.



Mt Hope United Church of Christ
Consistory Minutes May 8, 2025

Members Present: Gloria Apple, Simon Clark, Tammy Holt, Dora Moore, Sharon Mims, Tracy Buff, Lisa Sinclair, Cindy McGee

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 Lisa Sinclair reminding us of the importance of staying open to the Spirit.

We Celebrate our Past

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made by Tammy Holt and seconded by Tracy Buff to approve the minutes from the April 2025 consistory meeting. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report:

April 2025 Consolidated Fund Activity Report showed an ending balance of \$177,124.72 with total receipts of \$20,565.96 and total disbursements of \$25,141.36 reported. The General Fund end balance was \$6,643.58 with receipts of \$17,961.21 and disbursements of \$24,491.29. A motion was made by Lisa Sinclair and seconded by Cindy McGee to approve the report. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report

Pastor Kristin has begun a few weeks of time away during the month of May as she makes plans for needed sabbatical and renewal. Gloria Apple highlighted the need for prayers of many of our church community, including illness, injury and medical treatments.

Committee Reports

Board of Christian Education - Plans are underway for VBS July 21-25

Maintenance and Trustees - Balcony repair work is complete

Stewardship

Historical - Work on having historical resources available on a computer is being explored

Mission & Outreach - Food Ministry Task Force did not meet this past month

Music & Worship

Social Concerns - Working on a 3rd well.

Communications - New computers to be installed next week

WISE Team - May 12th 6:00pm "A Beautiful Mind" will be shown on Gathering Room, Menta Health

Sunday is May 18th, May 19th cooking class at Ag Extension office 11:00-12:30pm

Fellowship Committee

Personnel

Prayer of Intercession: Tracy Buff offered prayers for those in need in the church and the surrounding community including those receiving treatments and dealing with illnesses and injuries.

Old Business

- Water issue has been addressed by changing the rod in the water tank.
- Trustees continue to seek someone to complete repairs on columns at front of church.
- Basement area in need of repair behind the stage is awaiting a 2nd quote.

New Business

-Discussion was held on the need to highlight giving to the General Fund. Giving to designated funds has increased, while giving to the General Fund has decreased. This can create difficulties in covering regular monthly expenses. We will also include in our minutes the beginning and ending balance of the general fund in each newsletter for more transparency.

Lisa Sinclair will write a statement from the consistory to share and Simon Clark will present it to the congregation.

-Concern has been raised regarding the frequency of mowing. This issue will be addressed.

Charge and Benediction

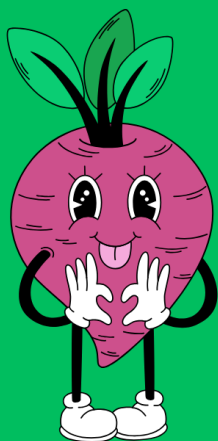
Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Sharon Mims

Thank You

Thanks to all of you for visits, food, prayers, and all the sweet support during Bobby's Dad's funeral. We appreciate the Mt. Hope's way of always being hospitable.

Love, Lorrie & Bobby Hancock and family



IT'S BEET TIME!
\$10 PER QUART
\$6 PER PINT

THANK YOU!

A very big thank you from all of us - for the breakfast we provided to the teachers at SE High School .
The card is posted on the bulletin board in the hall.

Thank you

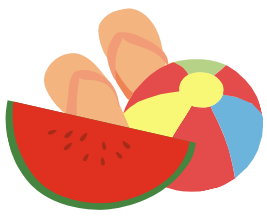
Thank you to each of you who participated in any way with the Andy Open Golf Tournament! Over \$4,000 was raised for Mt. Hope's Special Projects. This community is amazing and wonderful caring people.



CALL TO ORDER:

DEE @ 336-207-3079

CHURCH 336-697-1561



- 6th - Worship @ 10 am - Gather Learn Grow @ 11:15
- 13th - Worship @ 10 am with Communion - Gather Learn Grow @ 11:15 - No Youth
- 13th - VBS Volunteer meeting at 12 pm in OFH
- 19th - Youth Car Wash 9 am - 12 pm
- 20th - Worship @ 10 am with Communion - Gather Learn Grow @ 11:15 - No Youth
- 21st - Men of Valor @ 6:30 pm in OFH
- 21st - 25th - Vacation Bible School 9 am - 12 pm daily
- 25th - Vacation Bible School program 6:00 pm in the NFH
- 27th - Worship @ 10 am - Gather Learn Grow @ 11:15 am - No Youth



- *No Choir Practice in July & No Consistory Meeting in July
- *Yoga on Monday and Thursday in the NFH at 5:30 pm each week. **No Yoga June 30th or July 3rd**
- *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

Jeryl & Gloria Apple 7/2
John & Melinda Kozak 7/4
Tony & Terri Staley 7/6
Jeff & Beth Harris 7/20
Rick & Sonia Knowles 7/27
Tommy & Susie Simpson 7/31



1st Terri Staley
Wes Royal
3rd Cheryl Royal
4th Helen Busick
7th Darlene Greeson-
Stewart
10th Richard Freeman
11th Harriett Phipps
13th Steve Greeson
14th Cole Levens
Patti Harden
18th Stan Buff

19th Steve Burns
Nancy Bartenfield
20th Jonathan Kilby
22nd Carol Hawk
24th Gary Owens
25th Kendall McDade
26th Connie Blakesley
27th Emma Vaughn
Tracey Nelson
29th Shannon Levens
Rob Sinclair

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.
Ashton Place - Carolyn Simpson - (#304B)



Mt. Hope Military Connections

Michael Terraforte

Solomon Price, Jr.

Kyle Gerner

Scott Amick

Wade Greeson

Members, Friends, & Relatives

Joan May
Christina Oliver
Baby Otto
Kaylan Murray
Lizzie Honey
Krissy Coomer
Betty Neese
Barb Santa
Helen Johnson
Beezer Levens
Luke Sbityakov
Bennie Ellington
Dallas Amick

Steve Burns
Cindy Hamlett
Amanda Levens
Debra Prater
Michael Hughes
Emma Jean Greeson
Shirley Harris
Ralph O'Ferrell
Mary Catherine Moser
Cheryl Royal
Faye Newsome
Robert Proctor
Shane Swaim

Woody & Peggy Levens
Peggy Greeson
Clifton Greeson
Ray Apple
Daniel Piazza
Brianna Chapmon
Fara
The Linnens Family
Linda Neese
Steve & Barbara Frizzola
Family of Phil Shoffner
Family of Jaynee Brown

Noral & Cindy Belvin
Barb Santa
Orlando Stone
Marie Butler
Lori Wrenner
Joanne & Bill Uhl
Bug Whitesell
Andrew Beech's Mother
Craig - Virginia's Nephew
Caitlin Smith
Family of Lindsay Lopp
Troy Lopp

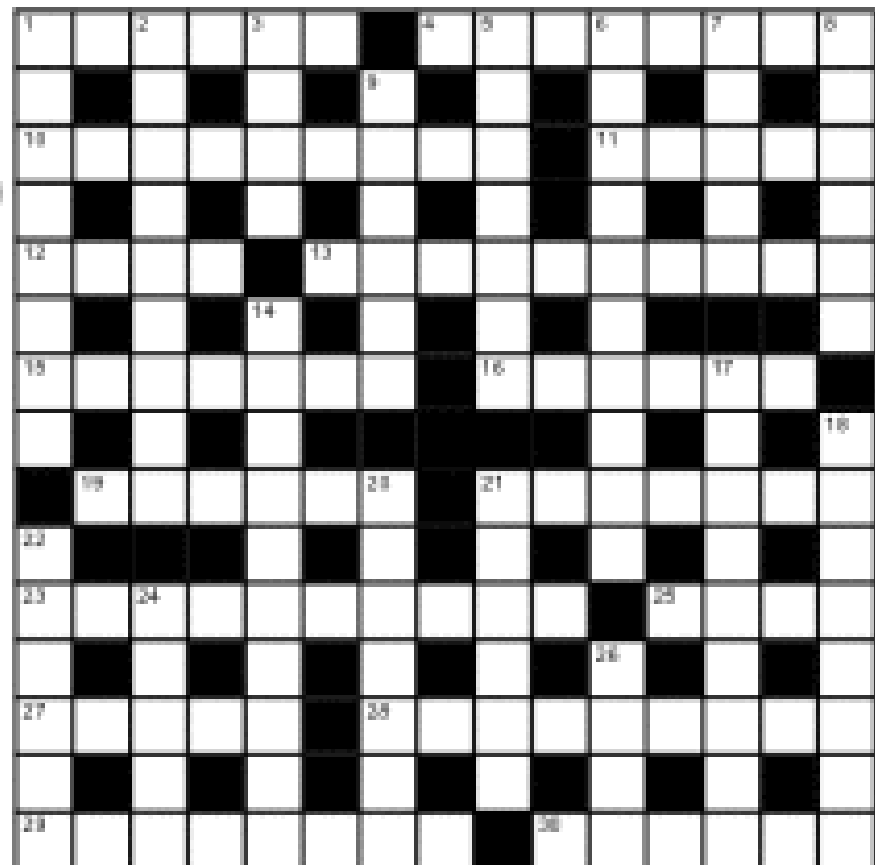
BIBLE CROSSWORD I

Across

- 1 An ancient weight (6)
 4 Seemed (8)
 10 New Testament book (9)
 11 Unit of length (5)
 12 '...it is a _____ thing
 the king requireth'
 (Dan 2:11) (4)
 13 Contemplation (10)
 15 Abigail supplied David
 with one hundred
 clusters of these (7)
 16 A son of King David (6)
 19 Concurred (6)
 21 Light sources (7)
 23 Propitiations (10)
 25 A false god (4)
 27 Gather (5)
 28 Abimelech was hit by
 this (9)
 29 Instructors (8)
 30 Hastily (6)

Down

- 1 Skilled animal
 workers (8)
 2 Inspiring (9)
 3 Compass point (4)
 5 Intense emotion (7)



by Philologus

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- 6 The words of Jeremiah
 said not to listen to
 these (10)
 7 Jewish leader (5)
 8 'He is proud, knowing
 nothing, but _____
 about questions and
 strifes of words...'
 (1 Tim 6:4) (6)
 9 Bread makers (6)
 14 In this year of King
 Nebuchadrezzar's reign,
 Nebuzaradan arrived in
 Jerusalem (10)
 17 Ancient city of Og, King
 of Bashan (9)
 18 Stringed instrument (8)
 20 Joseph, perhaps? (7)
 21 Tiny amount (6)
 22 Jesus did this with
 authority (6)
 24 Last letter of the Greek
 alphabet (5)
 26 Province of the Roman
 Empire (4)