

JUNE 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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Email:
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Administrative Assistant &
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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



I can hear the choir singing these words from a familiar anthem that very well could be our church's theme song, "Feed the hungry, cloth the poor, give the weary rest. And we will do it all in Jesus' name and he will be our guest." I can hear Jesus telling the disciples, "You give them something to eat." The crowds had pressed in on Jesus and he had felt compassion for them for they were like sheep with no shepherd. So Jesus spent the day teaching them. The disciples noticed that the people were growing weary as they needed food and they encouraged Jesus to dismiss them so they could go to the surrounding towns and find something to eat for themselves. Jesus wasn't having any of it. He said don't dismiss them to find food when they are hungry, you feed them. And they did. They fed them with what little they had and it was more than enough for everyone. Jesus' mandate still moves our feet to action today.

Mt. Hope is currently assessing our calling to feed the hungry. Recently, spending cuts on the federal level have cut, by more than half the funding that supports food banks and pantries in our nation. This, happening at a time when the cost of food is rising, is a grave concern for families and individuals in our community.

A Food Pantry Taskforce is meeting monthly to discern the future of our church's food ministry and the needs that surround us in the community. However, we need your help as this is the work of the entire church and the surrounding community. Recently, the food pantry served 5 families who were in need of staple items after a fire destroyed their apartment building. The food pantry also has served a host of families in our community in need of a hand up. And now, the food pantry shelves are bare at a critical time of the year when children are out of school and not receiving the free and reduced breakfast and lunch items normally received during the school day.

We need your help in 3 ways:

1. Donate food. Below you will find a list of items needed for the pantry. Donations can be dropped off in a number of ways. Whether on Sunday or during the week you can drop off food at the church anytime. Collection sites are at each door and don't forget about the pass through collection bin at the fellowship hall entrance open 24/7. *No glass vessels, please.

June 1-7: dried beans, canned limas, green beans, peas, corn, and greens

June 8-15: mixed fruit, peaches, pears, mango, applesauce, oatmeal, grits, and boxes of cereal

June 16-22: canned tuna, salmon deviled ham, chicken, corned beef, Vienna sausages, Spam, and PEANUT BUTTER

June 23-29: pasta (1 lb boxes), parmesan cheese, rice, canned soups and tomatoes

2. Attend the Taskforce presentation, Sunday, August 24th at Church By the Lake.

The Taskforce will be offering up their findings concerning food scarcity in our community and the vision for the Mt. Hope Food Pantry. It is important that you be informed, bring your questions and an open heart for service.

3. Pray. One of the Taskforce members stated at the first meeting that he was serving on the Taskforce, not because he knew what it was to be hungry, but because he didn't know what it was to be hungry. "I have been blessed and because of that I have a strong desire to help others who are hungry. I just want to do my part." What is your part? What are you being called to do? Ask God in your prayers to guide you as you consider your involvement.

Courage and strength for our journey-
Pastor Kristin





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



The next meeting will be June 8th at noon as a combined meeting for BCE and VBS volunteers. It will be held in the old fellowship hall, and a snack lunch will be served.

Susan



Women's Fellowship June 10th @ 10 am in the New Fellowship Hall

Women's Fellowship will be taking a trip to The English Rose Bake Shop in Pleasant Garden. Over drinks and baked good, Marcia will lead a simple discussion and we will listen to the owner tell us about her business. We will meet at the church at 10:15 am and ride together on the bus. If a member wishes to drive separately, let Marcia know. Come join us on this outing.

*Congratulations,
Graduate*



Jonathan Michael Vaughn



**Southeast High School
June 12, 2025**

2025

- Parents: Kristin and Mike Vaughn
- Siblings: Emma and Kathryn Vaughn
- Grandparents: Bennie and Judy Gerner; Mike and Barbara Vaughn
- Achievements, Awards, etc.:
 - CTE in Animal Science
 - Service Learning Diploma
- Plans after graduation:
 - Enlisting in the Army in the fall

**Constance "Connie" Hughes Kotis
Received a Doctor of Letters honorary
degree from UNCG on May 8th**



-Earned a Bachelor of Music degree in 1965
-The first person to receive a Master of Music degree in applied music-piano accompanying in 1977
-Teacher of the year in 2016 by North Carolina Music Teachers Association
-Established the Kotis Music Fund in Piano, which provides scholarships for exceptional piano majors who aspire to a career in pedagogy

Register NOW & Share with everyone!
The 13th Annual the Andy Open Golf Tournament
In Memory of Glenda and Dean Andrews



Saturday, June 21st - (Rain date 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:

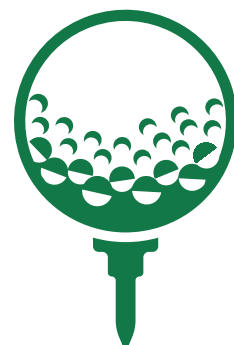
Closest to Pin – Longest Drive Men –

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!



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

Southern Conference - Calling All Middle and High School Students - Let's Talk!

by Rev. Belinda Sledge

Beginning April 13th, as a youth initiative originating at Union Chapel United Church of Christ and as a start to events leading up to the youth event for 2026, the Southern Conference invites all middle and high school students to join us via Zoom for an unconventional Bible study experience from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. on the second and fourth Sundays of each month. The 2nd Sunday is devoted to studying a book from the Bible, and the 4th Sunday features a pre-planned topic of choice that impacts your daily life, with either a participant leading the discussion or an outside guest. If you are a young adult in the 20s age group, we also welcome you to participate on both Sundays to share the wisdom you have obtained during your younger years. The time together will be facilitated by Rev. Belinda Sledge, Coordinator for the Southern Conference 2024 Youth Event.

You will use the same Zoom link each Sunday:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82852871663?pwd=iu6pSdNCsViKKiRFT7HTz052eVj54E.1>

Meeting ID: 828 5287 1663

Passcode: 506260



Wise Moment

As we reflect on May which was Mental Health Awareness month, we understand the importance of mental wellness on our faith journey. We appreciate each and every member of the WISE team who took part in a very spirit-filled Mental Health Sunday worship service. Sharing stories can give other people courage and hope.. Recovery is possible and takes time. God can heal us if we ask him for his help because he knows exactly what we are going through. Reach out to your brother and sister, it starts by being kind to your mind and then love, love, love one another as Christ loved us.

Love one another, As I have loved you, so you must love one another.

John 13:34

Thank you to Connie and the entire WISE Team for all the hard work and blessings they provided for Mental Health Month in May & Mental Health Sunday. We appreciate what you are doing here at Mt. Hope UCC all the time.



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

Lake Mackintosh
at the picnic shelter.

Mark your calendar,
more details to come.



Friends & Neighbors made a visit to the Burlington Arboretum in May. They will meet again in the fall.

Mt Hope United Church of Christ
Consistory Minutes April 10, 2025

Members Present: Gloria Apple, Dave Blakesley, Tammy Holt, Sharon Mims, Tracy Buff, Cindy McGee, Don Kirkman, Cheryl Royal

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 Tammy Holt reminding us that love is a verb and verbs are action words. We are called by God to action.

We Celebrate our Past

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made by Tracy Buff and seconded by Cheryl Royal to approve the minutes from the March 2025 consistory meeting. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report:

March 2025 Consolidated Fund Activity Report showed a balance of \$181,418.04 with receipts of \$19,870.33 and disbursements of \$20,224.11 reported. A motion was made by Don Kirkman and seconded by Cindy McGee to approve the report. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report

Pastor's report for this month highlighted Holy Week activities, including Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday in the Sanctuary at 6:30pm, Good Friday at 7:30pm, Easter Sunrise Service at 6:25am with Breakfast at 7:00am and Worship at 10:00am. No Gather Learn Grow planned for Easter Sunday.

Pastor Kristin also conveyed plans for her family's traditional meal to be shared with those who might be hungry on Tuesday 4/15/25 5:00-6:30 pm. This meal is provided during the week schools are closed to reach those who do not have access to school meals. This year's meal will be in the Mt. Hope parking lot and church members are invited to be present and interact with community residents who come.

Pastor Kristin also reported she will be attending a Catawba College board meeting during the upcoming month and there is a Benefit planned for Brianna Chapman on 4/26/25 at the church. Memorial Day/Homecoming will be Sunday September 21st and a Quilt Show/Craft Fair will be held on Saturday, September 20th. Youth will hold a hot dog sale as part of the Craft Fair. Anyone with quilts to display are encouraged to participate.

Committee Reports

Board of Christian Education

Maintenance and Trustees - Balcony repair to be done after Easter

Stewardship

Historical

Mission & Outreach

Task Force for Food Ministry continues to work, Men of Valor collecting mattress on Sat. 4/12 to distribute to recent immigrants in need

Music & Worship - Planning for multiple Easter services underway

Social Concerns

Communications - Quote to upgrade computers provided.

WISE Team - Planning for Mental Health Sunday on 5/18/25

Fellowship Committee

Personnel

Prayer of Intercession

Prayers were offered for those in the church and beyond with illnesses, upcoming cancer treatments, hospitalizations, those traveling and undergoing loss of loved ones, as well as those seeking assurances and support for major life transitions.

Old Business

- Work continues to address sulfur smells in water. Changing hot water rods and flushing are next steps. Additional exploration of a similar odor in the 3rd floor bathroom needs to occur.
- Don Kirkman reported on a possible resource for concrete repair that was found.
- Additional resource for work on front columns needs to be found.
- Women's Fellowship continues to explore how to address repairs needed behind the stage in the basement. Dee Greeson and members of Trustees will meet with the company to discuss.

New Business

- Computers are in need of being upgraded for use with Windows 11 and due to age. A quote to do needed work for the amount of \$1494.50 was provided by Chris Angel. Tracy Buff made the motion and Tammy Holt seconded to accept the quote and proceed with work. Motion passed.
- Playground porta potty: A different company will be delivering and providing cleaning weekly.
- A review of electricity costs to use for comparison of keeping consistent temperatures vs turning off/on was discussed.
- Young Musicians of Alamance will be having some changes for the upcoming year. Later discussion on this will be done.

Charge and Benediction

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Mims



- 1st - Worship @ 10 am - Gather Learn Grow @ 11:15 - Graduation Sunday Celebration
- 4th - Choir Practice @ 7 pm
- 8th - Worship @ 10 am - Gather Learn Grow @ 11:15
- 8th - BCE & VBS Combined meeting @ 12 pm in the OFH w/snack lunch provided, Youth are encouraged to attend.
- 10th - Women's Fellowship @ 10 am in the New Fellowship Hall
- 11th - Choir Practice @ 7 pm
- 12th - Consistory Meeting @ 6pm - Conference Room
- 15th - Worship @ 10 am with Communion - Gather Learn Grow @ 11:15 - No Youth
- 16th - Men of Valor @ 6:30 pm in OFH
- 18th - Music & Worship meeting @ 5:30 pm
- 18th - Choir Practice @ 7 pm
- 22nd - Worship @ 10 am - Gather Learn Grow @ 11:15 am - No Youth
- 25th - Choir Practice @ 7 pm
- 29th - Worship @ 10 am - Gather Learn Grow @ 11:15 am



*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

Noral & Cindy Belvin 6/1

Bennie & Judy Gerner 6/7

Jared & Anna Lashley 6/7

Dallas & Gloria Belvin 6/10

Bug & Martha Whitesell 6/13

Byron & Kristen Greeson 6/13

Stan & Tracy Buff 6/14

Dan & Lydia Sbityakov 6/15

Connie & Bill Kotis 6/17

Don & Janet Ellis 6/17

David & Connie Blakesley 6/20

Terry & Anne Clapp 6/23

Ken & Marcia Cham 6/25

Phillip & Jane Fittante 6/27

Reed & Jennifer Kirkman 6/29

Homer & Doris Walsh 6/30



2nd "Bug" Whitesell

3rd Joseph Moser

4th Terry Clapp

8th Lisa Sinclair

11th Robert Ingold

12th Scott Sawyer

13th Sadie Hughes

Randy Underwood

14th Kathryn Vaughn

Mary Neese

15th Anne Clapp

17th Alex Hughes

Lindsay Preston

18th Liam Craft

Ashlyn Chapmon

Cody Gorrell

21st Dianne Clapp

Melinda McDade

22nd Clint Moore

24th Don Ellis

Jeanette Kirkman

25th Stephanie Strouth

28th John Kozak

Peggy Everette

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.
Linden Place - Lin Gallagher - (#108)



Mt. Hope Military Connections

Michael Terraforte
Kyle Gerner
Wade Greeson

Solomon Price, Jr.
Scott Amick

Members, Friends, & Relatives

Joan May
Christina Oliver
Baby Otto
Kaylan Murray
Lizzie Honey
Krissy Coomer
Betty Neese
Geri Lyn Welker
Barbara S. Frizzola
Barb Santa
Helen Johnson
Beezer Levens

Steve Burns
Cindy Hamlett
Amanda Levens
Debra Prater
Michael Hughes
Emma Jean Greeson
Shirley Harris
Ralph O'Ferrell
Mary Catherine Moser
Cheryl Royal
Caregivers
Caitlin Smith

Woody & Peggy Levens
Peggy Greeson
Jaynee Brown
Clifton Greeson
Ava Straughn
Ray Apple
Daniel Piazza
Brianna Chapmon
Fara
Family of George Nowacki
The Linnens Family

Noral & Cindy Belvin
Barb Santa
Orlando Stone
Marie Butler
Lori Wrenner
Adam Fronicus
Joanne & Bill Uhl
Bug Whitesell
Andrew Beech's Mother
Family of David McCollum
Craig - Virginia's Nephew
Family of Phyllis Clapp O'Daniel