

JUNE 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  
Barbara Honey  
Email: mthopeuccoffice@gmail.com

Director of Youth & Children Ministry  
Kiré Mims  
Email: mthopeuccyouth@gmail.com

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**



## Pastor's Note



### A Love Letter from Your Pastor: "Remember, Release, Reimagine"

In 2005 I fumbled into a church near the town where I would soon be living in Atlanta, GA only to learn during the announcements that they were hiring a youth minister. Row down the river a bit and the rapids of this life led me to receive the call to become the youth minister of the church. The church was wonderful. The youth, children and their parents were exceptional. The senior pastor was brilliant and a positive model of female ministry for me. Mike and I brought our first child into the world in that church. It remains a special place of love and God's radical hospitality. It was at Pilgrimage that Allen came to be a dear friend.

When the church was in need of a Minister of Music, Allen, was hired to fill the role. As Allen began to join us for staff meetings, I knew Allen was something special. His kindness and genuine concern for any human around him was moving. Allen is someone others strive to be like; to have the same kind of compassion, to show the same level of kindness and to share in the same radical acceptance of others.

It has been a long time since Allen and I have seen each other, but knowing Allen is in the world makes the world a better place. Several years ago, I learned that Allen's sister had died suddenly, I sent him a quick text of my condolences and prayers for his comfort and strength. He texted back a sentiment of his gratitude accompanied by a couple of emojis: a big, red heart and a pair of praying hands, signifying that he was sending his love and prayers my way, too. I didn't think too much of the response until it began to happen day after day. One day I texted Allen, asking if he would pray for me. Every morning for months I received a heart emoji and a set of praying hands. I didn't think much about the first or the second set of emojis. But my life was forever changed by the simple, devoted gesture of a praying friend who lived into a promise to remember me in prayer.

The Letter of James says in 5:13-15a, "Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up.

Allen's precious gestures of prayer and love, served up with a heaping dose of courage reminds me that we all have something to give. No matter how big or how small, when the gift is given with love God will transform the simplest gestures of kindness into extraordinary life-changing moments never to be forgotten. James goes on to say, "The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up."

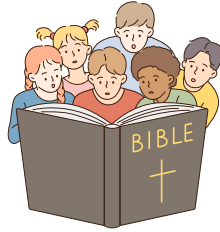
As we remember our past, release those things we no longer need to hold on to so we can make room to reimagine the necessary, life-changing work of the church, let us remember that God needs more people like Allen to spread the good news of Christ's healing love to all the world. Do what you can, when you can for all the people you can...and God will do the rest. After all, God brought healing and comfort to one in need through an overused heart and praying hands emoji. I wonder what God is calling you to share? Who needs your gifts right now?

Love,  
Pastor Kristin

# VBS Volunteer Meeting during Gather Learn Grow June 14 and June 28

VBS July 6-10 Be the Light! Sign up here:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeNgHN-YHqP7-IWAKHIS-B7vunrrcYxbttR6Cdb8LDJMOD5TQ/viewform?usp=header>



WISE Moment



HELP WANTED

Hope Connection: You Belong is a simple way we can show God's Love to people who may feel lonely or forgotten because they are homebound. The Hope Boxes will be provided by the grant and may contain puzzles, devotionals, cards and encouragement, but the greatest gift is the caring heart that brings them. A simple monthly visit or a few moments of conversation can remind someone who feels lonely that they are deeply loved by God and by this church family. Sometimes ministry is not about doing something big, it is simply being willing to show up and be present. We believe God places people in our path to work for the good, and what may feel like a small act of kindness to you could become a powerful source of hope and healing for someone else. We are still in need of people who can visit a homebound person only once per month, If you can possibly help one person, please call Connie Blakesley at 336-314-4068 or Melinda Kozak at 336-412-1990.

**THANK YOU!!**

Thank you, Lorie. You will always be remembered for the love, care and support that you shared with everyone who stopped by, called or emailed the office. Lorie has taken a full-time job and will be resigning from her position here at Mt. Hope effective May 31st. She will be sorely missed, and yet we wish her the best in all her endeavors. Lorie, you have kept us on track, made us laugh, cared for those who needed assistance when they stopped by the church and so much more. You have made a difference in our lives. Lorie is resigning from her staff position, but she is still one of us, a member of the church and will be around. She will still be worshipping with us, but she won't be hounding us for our newsletter articles anymore! We love you, Lorie. Thank you for the last 4 years and 3 months.





## FRIENDS & NEIGHBORS

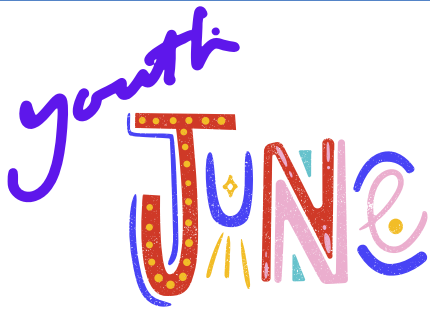


Next Friends n Neighbors will be on September 17. A Thursday. Blending with the Wise team and going to Raleigh to see the big trolls. Connie Blakely will be the contact person that month. Each month will have a different contact person.

### Women's Fellowship - May 12<sup>th</sup> @ 11 am in OFH



The Women's Fellowship will be going to the Weatherspoon Art Gallery in Greensboro. A docent will take us through an exhibit titled, "Of Salt and Spirit: Black Quilters in the American South." The quilts tell the untold stories of everyday people whose lives are as vibrant and varied as the quilts they created. Please be at the church at 10:00 am at the latest. We will be traveling via bus unless you request to drive yourself. The museum is free and disability equipped. Our tour begins at 11 am. Friends and Neighbors are invited to attend with us. The Big Deal is that I NEED A HEADCOUNT. I NEED TO KNOW THAT YOU ARE GOING. Please let me know by calling or sending a message to 828-719-9611. As soon as you read this let me know. Please. By the way I thought I'd let you know that I enjoyed playing golf with my son last month. Peace and Love, Marcia



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!

**SAVE THE DATE**  
**VBS - JULY 6-10 WITH PROGRAM DURING WORSHIP JULY 12**  
**GRADUATION SUNDAY, JUNE 7**



-June 6th - Youth Car Wash Fundraiser 4pm-6pm

-June 7th - Graduation Sunday! Come celebrate our Mt Hope graduates with a reception after worship.

-June 14th - Summer kickoff Pizza party in Youth Room 5pm-6pm

-June 21st - No Youth Meeting. Happy Father's Day!

-June 28th - No Youth Meeting - Summer Break

**YOUTH CAR WASH FUNDRAISER  
JUNE 6<sup>TH</sup> @ 4-6 PM**



## Out of the Garden

In May, The Mt. Hope Out of the Garden Mobile Food Market served 115 families 8,200 pounds of food. Thanks to everyone who came to help serve the community much needed food. You can sign up to volunteer at [mthopeucc.com](http://mthopeucc.com) and click on the Out of the Garden tab. Invite a friend, spread the word. We can accommodate 130 families each month and we are always looking to meet new volunteers.



**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](http://WWW.MTHOPEUCC.COM)

**Mt Hope United Church of Christ**  
**Consistory Minutes – April 9, 2026**

Members Present: Gloria Apple (President), Dave Blakesley (Vice President), Dallas Belvin, Cindy McGee, Dona Branson, Dora Moore (Assist. Treasurer), Tracy Brady, Pastor Kristin Gerner Vaughn

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

**Prayer and Devotion**

Lighting of the candle by Pastor Kristin.

A devotional was provided by Tracy Brady from the book Overcomer by David Jeremiah.

**We Celebrate Our Past**

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made by Dona Branson and seconded by Dave Blakesley to approve the minutes from the March 2026 Consistory Meeting.

Treasurer’s Report:

The March 2 Consolidated Fund Activity Report showed a starting balance of \$209,703.09 an ending balance of \$218,369.10 with total receipts of \$27,182.36 and total disbursements of \$18,516.35 reported. The General Fund with a starting balance of \$33,922.58, end balance was \$55,785.94 with receipts of \$38,698.01 and disbursements of \$16,834.65. A motion was made by Tracy Brady and seconded by Cindy McGee to approve the report. Motion carried.

Pastor’s Report

Holy week was well represented with Maundy Thursday, Friday night service and Sunday Sunrise and 10:00 am services. Soon there will be a new member’s class. Church had 90 participants for Out of the Garden project. Hockey game will be attended by church on Sunday April 19<sup>th</sup>. Walking trail has been cut at the playground.

**Committee Reports**

Maintenance and Trustees	n/a
Food Ministry	n/a
Historical	n/a
Mission & Outreach	n/a

Music and Worship	n/a
Social Concerns	n/a
Communications	n/a
WISE Team	Awarded grant to help with bus transportation for home bound and puddle club activities for senior citizens. April 16 meeting of wise committee and puddle club to make yard flowers out of plates April 24
Fellowship Committee	n/a
Personnel	n/a
Youth	Church going to hockey game weekend of April 19

Prayer of Intercession

**Old Business:**

Projects needing attention      Basement, Columns, Windows and Roof -quotes in process

**New Business:**

Shelter to start being used in June

Porta Potty will be delivered in April

**Charge and Benediction**

The meeting was adjourned.

Next meeting – May 14, 2026

Respectfully submitted,

Tracy Buff, Assistant Secretary



**Mt. Hope Church Family & Friends, I wanted to thank you for my time working at Mt. Hope. As some of you know I took a full time job last July back in property management. I have been working nights at the church doing the accounting and newsletter. I gave up the digital. Now it is time for someone to take back over during the day time hours. I have loved working with you all and I will miss your smiling faces. I was truly blessed by this experience. I won't be far because I love my church and the people in it. I will always be here to help and serve. May God continue to bless you all and the church. Thank you again! Hope you enjoy my last newsletter.**

**Prayers & Hugs,  
Lorie Arrington**



- 4<sup>th</sup> - High Lonesome Strings @ 7pm OFH
- 6<sup>th</sup> - Mobile Market @ 10:30 - Old Julian Rd parking lot
- 6<sup>th</sup> - Youth Car Wash - fundraiser 4-6 pm
- 7<sup>th</sup> - Worship @ 10 am / Communion- Gather Learn Grow @ 11:15
- 7<sup>th</sup> - Graduation Sunday
- 7<sup>th</sup> - BCE Meeting at 12 pm in Conf room
- 9<sup>th</sup> - Women's Fellowship @ 10 am NFH - register w/Marcia ASAP
- 11<sup>th</sup> - Consistory Meeting @ 6pm in conf. rm.
- 14<sup>th</sup> - Inquiry Class
- 14<sup>th</sup> - Worship @ 10 am / Communion- Gather Learn Grow @ 11:15
- 14<sup>th</sup> - Youth summer kickoff pizza party - 5-6 pm youth room
- 1<sup>th</sup> - Youth @ 5pm
- 15<sup>th</sup> - Men of Valor @ 6:30 pm OFH
- 17<sup>th</sup> - Music & Worship @ 5:30 pm in conf. rm.
- 21<sup>st</sup> - Worship @ 10 am / Communion- Gather Learn Grow @ 11:15 - No Youth
- 21<sup>st</sup> - Happy Father's Day
- 28<sup>th</sup> - Worship @ 10 am / Communion- Gather Learn Grow @ 11:15
- 28<sup>th</sup> - No youth
- 30<sup>th</sup> - WISE Gathering @ 6:30 pm
- 31<sup>st</sup> - Youth Meeting @ 5 pm



\*Choir rehearsal June 3, 10, 17, & 24th @ 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!



- 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 Buff & Tracy Brady 6/14
- Dan & Lydia Sbityakov 6/15
- Bill & Connie Kotis 6/17
- Don & Janet Ellis 6/17
- David & Connie Blakesley 6/20
- Terry & Anne Clapp 6/23
- Ken & Marcia Cham 6/25
- Phil & Jane Fittante 6/27
- Homer & Doris Walsh 6/30



- 2 - Bug Whitesell
- 3 - Joseph Moser
- 4 - Terry Clapp
- 8 - Lisa Sinclair
- 11 - Robert Ingold
- 12 - Scott Sawyer
- 13 - Sadie Hughes
- 13 - Randy Underwood
- 14 - Kathryn Vaughn
- 14 - Mary Neese
- 15 - Anne Clapp
- 23 - Rachel Parsons
- 24 - Don Ellis
- 25 - Stephanie Strouth
- 28 - John Kozak
- 17 - Alex Hughes
- 18 - Cody Gorrell
- 18 - Liam Craft
- 18 - Ashlyn Chapmon
- 21 - Melinda McDade

# 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)  
Ashton Place - Gwen Hall (# )



## Mt. Hope Military Connections



Kyle Gerner	Wade Greeson
Michael Terraforte	Jonathan Vaughn

## Members, Friends, & Relatives

Helen Johnson	Amanda Levens	Woody & Peggy Levens	Cindy Belvin
Dallas Amick	Debra Prater	Peggy Greeson	John McDade
Brian Neal	Shirley Kime	Clifton Greeson	Kory Cady
Michael Hughes	Shirley Clapp	Martha Tatum	Travis White
Christine Oliver	Jo Ann Gauldin	Martha & Bug Whitesell	Abby Greeson
Jack Elston	Betty Tucker	Stephanie & Christopher Clontz	Lin Gallagher
Dean Greeson	Dean Greeson	Gary Breedlove	Darryl Welker
Virginia Barker	Elizabeth Craft		
Brenda Currie			