

MARCH 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  
[mthopeuccddt@gmail.com](mailto:mthopeuccddt@gmail.com)

Consistory President - Gloria Apple

Board of Christian Education  
Susan Finley

Zeb Mims - Music Director  
Email: [mthopeuccmusic@gmail.com](mailto:mthopeuccmusic@gmail.com)



**Sunday for Worship**  
**at 10:00 am**



## Pastor's Note



They did it again. Those frogs that live down past the barn, down the hill that is the best around for a good time sledding on the snow, and into the valley between the two hills, dared to live through the winter, to survive the cold temperatures and the lack of food sources known to them in the summer and I can testify that they are alive. I heard them the other night in the darkness long after sunset. Walking a bag of trash from the kitchen to the outside trashcan that has been mangled by the hugging arms of the garbage truck. I took in a big deep breath and held it (just in case the can had a stench) opened the can and threw the bag in. It would be easier if the can didn't open at my eye-level and I wasn't 5 feet tall, but that is what life dealt me and I am living with it! I already had my lungs full of all the air I thought they could hold and then the lid shut and there I was alone in the dark. It was dark and chilly and my hands were empty and my lungs were full and then I heard it...reeeeeekkkkk. I wanted to gasp, but my lungs were already full of air. Thank God my hands were empty, because my arms raised up to the heavens in gratitude like the whole world had just scored the winning goal.

The best part of it all was that frog with the courage to reeeeeekkkkk out his best sound like Paul Revere's famous ride happened not to stand alone but as an invitation to all creation to come to the party. One after another, frog after frog, joined in the chorus, "The more the merrier," they seemed to croak, "There's plenty of room for everyone."

I stood still in amazement as my held breath exhaled in laughter and gratitude. I don't know if anyone else could hear it, but I said to the frog, "We did it. We made it. Praise be to God." We made it through the cold, through the dark nights of the winter solstice and the dark nights of our souls. We did it! And standing there that night alone in the dark listening to the frog's invitation to all creation to come have a seat at the table, I felt at one with creation. I felt at peace.

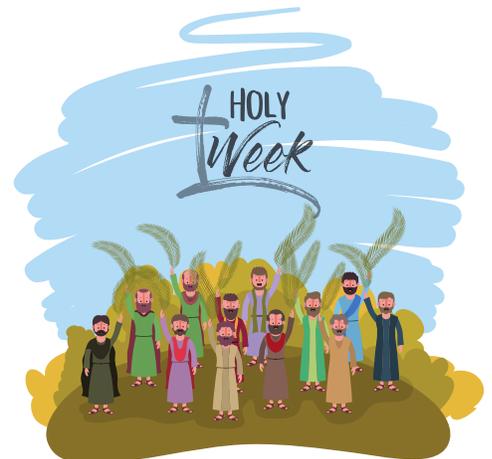
I wonder if I could have heard the invitation if my hands had been full of stuff I needed to put in the trash? This is the question of lent, "God, what can I give up so I can receive more of you? What must I put in the trash to create space to hear and receive your invitation to your table? How is what I am holding hindering me from inviting others to sit at my table?" I love trash day...more on that next time.

How are you hearing the call to be one with God?

Courage for your Lenten journey—

Pastor Kristin

P.S. Holy Week begins March 30 and Easter is April 5 th .





## FRIENDS & NEIGHBORS



**Friends n Neighbors, March 17. 10am.**

**Going to Ciener Garden in Kernersville --if bulbs are blooming. Then out to lunch in Kernersville. Bus available for those that want it.**

**Cindy Hyle**

## Women's Fellowship - March 10<sup>th</sup> @ 11 am in OFH



**1. We will continue to discuss our Roads of Life.**

**2. Please read Exodus 13:17 -15:21. Imagine the road the people of God traveled a long time ago. Meet up with Miriam, a Prophet, a sister of Moses and an ancient poet. Visualize you dancing with the women. Who knows, we may do some dancing ourselves??**

**3. Come and enjoy. Marcia**



**The Song of Joy James  
Tissot , 1896-1902 - TheJewishMuseum.org**



**Women's  
Fellowship**

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

**Congratulations to our beloved Tammy Martin  
2025 Teacher of the Year at  
Gibsonville Elementary**



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



### March Youth Schedule

- March 1 - youth meeting 5-6
- March 8 - youth movie night @ 5 in youth room watching David (we will end a little later closer to 7)
- March 15 - youth meeting 5-6
- March 22 - youth meeting (Come make pretzels with us!) 5-6
- March 29 - youth meeting 5-6

## 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 March 16th for fellowship, fun, and more!



## WISE Moment



Welcome Spring! A Season of Renewal & Belonging

As we welcome the first day of spring, we are reminded that God created us not only for growth –but for belonging. Spring shows us that nothing blooms alone. Flowers rise together. Trees bud alongside one another. Even the rain falls across the whole garden. In the same way, our mental and emotional well-being flourishes when we are connected in community.

Belonging is not about having everything together. It's about being welcomed as you are. This spring, may we tend not only our gardens, but also our connections – reaching out, checking in, and walking alongside one another with compassion. *Save the Date for the next Puddle Club! Plate & Petal, April 24 at 1:00 PM we will be making yard flowers from glass plates.*

See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? Isaiah 43:19

**Mt. Hope Consistory Minutes  
January 2026**

**Members Present: Gloria Apple (President), Dallas Belvin, Tracy Buff (Asst Secretary), Dona Branson, Simon Clark (Treasurer), Tammy Holt (Asst Treasurer), Don Kirkman, Cindy McGee, Dora Moore (Asst Treasurer), Lisa Sinclair (Secretary), Pastor Kristin Gerner Vaughn**

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**The meeting was called to order by Gloria Apple, a quorum was established, and all were welcomed (especially new members).**

**Prayer & Devotion**

- **Lighting of the Christ Candle by Gloria Apple.**
- **A devotional was provided by Gloria Apple sharing insights on the New Year.**

**We Celebrate our Past**

**Approval of Minutes:**

**A motion was made by Tammy Holt and seconded by Cindy to approve the minutes from the December 2025 consistory meeting. Motion carried.**

**Treasurer's Report:**

**The December 2025 Consolidated Fund Activity Report showed an ending balance of \$228,297.00 with total receipts of \$71,750.61 and total disbursements of \$18,629.47 reported. The General Fund beginning balance of \$6040.24 and ending balance was \$45,267.17 with receipts of \$56,659.29 and disbursements of \$17,432.36. A motion was made by Tracy Bluff and seconded by Dallas Belvin to approve the report. Motion carried. Simon to find out if we can move \$15,000 steeple money into our current money market account that was to be reinvested after all bills were paid.**

**Pastor's Report**

**Advent services went well. We have new people who want to join. I am currently planning the Lent Season - it starts on February 18, 2026. Imposition of Ashes service at 6:30pm. Baptism coming up for Estella "Stella" Crumby. A motion was made by Dora Moore and seconded by Tammy Holt to approve the baptism. Motion carried.**

**Committee Reports**

**Maintenance and Trustees n/a**

**Food Ministry n/a**

**Historical n/a**

**Mission & Outreach n/a**

**Music & Worship n/a**

**Social Concerns n/a**

Communications - Wix subscription for our website has increased by \$360 and it is more difficult to use. Ekin has found a new service that is significantly less expensive and is testing it down on a "test site" (much more user friendly and doesn't require as much expertise).

WISE Team Movie night on January 9, 2026

Fellowship Committee n/a

Personnel n/a

Youth - Youth are planning for a Super Bowl Party

Prayer of Intercession

Old Business

- Grant is still getting quotes help me fill this one in

New Business

- An Out of the Garden volunteer fell due to uneven concrete. The volunteer was sore and bruised but ok. The Consistory should consider if fixes are needed to a few key areas of damaged concrete which present a higher risk. Gloria will discuss with Chris Caviness.
- Our recent propane bill, servicing the sanctuary and the new fellowship hall, had a notable higher bill, likely driven by both several very cold days and an adjustment to reduce 'heat up' time when services are occurring and guests are utilizing space in the church. The current thermostat setting was discussed and members agreed to cut the heat back down 5-degree to reduce the use of propane and better manage costs.

Charge and Benediction

The meeting was adjourned.

Next Meeting - February 12, 2026

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Respectfully submitted,  
Lisa Sinclair



Next Board of  
Christian Education  
Meeting will be on  
March 22<sup>nd</sup> at  
12 pm in the  
conference room.

*thank you*

It truly does take a village. Our recent bingo night was quite the success. We were able to give away over 300 prizes donated by you. Members of the BCE, Dora Moore, Liz Kraft, Brenda Currie, Becky Stafford, and Tammy Martin, as well as the ladies of the Women's Fellowship scrubbed and wrapped the potatoes, and provided the toppings for the potatoes. Members of the BCE also cooked the potatoes, prepared the table, served dinner and cleaned up after. Others put up the tables and chairs, and helped take them down. Cole Levens made a special trip to the church on Friday afternoon to make sure the ovens were turned on. And special thanks to Zeb Mims for being our caller. It was an enjoyable evening. Thank you to everyone who made a contribution to a good time with fellowship together.

*Save the date - July 6th through July 10th - VBS, with follow-up program on Sunday July 12th.*

Susan



**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)**



# GROUP OUTINGS WITH THE GARGOYLES

## Mt Hope United Church of Christ

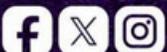
Cheer on the Greensboro Gargoyles on April 12th at 3pm and help fundraise for your church!

- Discounted Ticket Price
  - Reserved Seating
- Shoutout on the Jumbotron
- \$5 donation for every ticket purchased



**MOUNT HOPE**  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

For more information, please contact Joey Huttman –  
[joey@zawyersports.com](mailto:joey@zawyersports.com) or (772) 919-5563

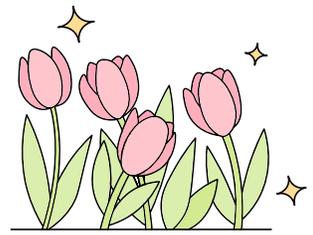


@GSOGargoyles

GargoylesHockey.com

1921 West Gate City Boulevard, Greensboro, NC

# HELLO March



- 1<sup>st</sup> - Worship @ 10 am - Gather Learn Grow @ 11:15 Youth @ 5-6 pm
- 7<sup>th</sup> - Out of the Garden Mobile Market @ 10:30 am
- 8<sup>th</sup> - Worship @ 10 am - Gather Learn Grow @ 11:15
- 8<sup>th</sup> - Youth - Superbowl Kickoff party OFH & Youth Room 5 pm
- 10<sup>th</sup> - Women's Fellowship @ 11 am NFH
- 12<sup>th</sup> - Consistory Meeting @ 6pm conf. room
- 15<sup>th</sup> - Worship @ 10 am - Gather Learn Grow @ 11:15 - No Youth
- 16<sup>th</sup> - Men of Valor @ 6:30 pm in OFH
- 17<sup>th</sup> - Friends & Neighbors @ 10 am Ciener Garden in Kernersville & Lunch
- 22<sup>nd</sup> - Worship @ 10 am / Communion- Gather Learn Grow @ 11:15
- 22<sup>nd</sup> - Youth 5-6 pm
- 22<sup>nd</sup> - Board of Christian Education Meeting @ 12 pm conference room
- 29<sup>th</sup> - Palm Sunday - Worship @ 10 am - Gather Learn Grow @ 11:15 pm
- 29<sup>th</sup> - Youth @ 5-6 pm
- 31<sup>st</sup> - WISE Gathering @ 6:30 pm



\*Choir rehearsal March 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> @ 7 pm

\*Yoga on Monday and Thursday in the NFH at 5:30 pm each week.

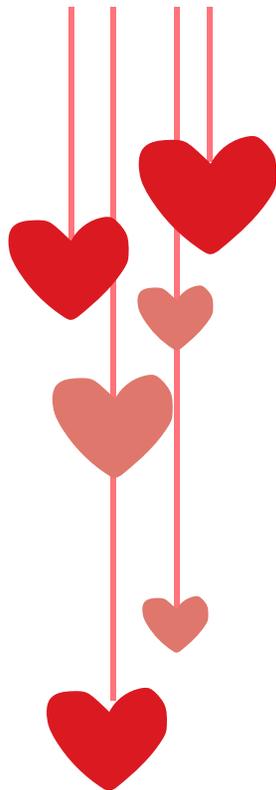
\*Please know every is welcome to attend any event. \*We love to have you bring a friend!



**Dean & Peggy Greeson**  
3/13/26

**Jim & Lin Gallagher**  
3/17/26

**Tom & Barbara Honey**  
3/24/26



- |                      |                     |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| 1 - Katelyn Neal     | 15 - James Baker    |
| 2 - Janet Welker     | 15 - Dave Blakesley |
| 6 - Gloria Belvin    | 18 - Donald Nance   |
| 7 - Mike Johnson     | 19 - Ashley Phipps  |
| 8 - Austin McDade    | 20 - Peggy Kilby    |
| 9 - Tammy Reece      | 21 - Shannon Neese  |
| 9 - Emily Crumby     | 22 - Shelby Andrews |
| 13 - Ashlynn Greeson | 22 - Ben Greeson    |
| 13 - L.B. Friddle    | 26 - Dorie Whitman  |
| 13 - Brianna Chapmon | 27 - Cindy Belvin   |
| 13 - Alan Sawyer     | 28 - Gary Apple     |
| 14 - Conner Chapmon  | 31 - Brittany Clark |
| 14 - Lin Gallagher   |                     |



# 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)



## Mt. Hope Military Connections

Kyle Gerner	Wade Greeson
Michael Terraforte	Jonathan Vaughn

## Members, Friends, & Relatives

Krissy Coomer	Amanda Levens	Woody & Peggy Levens	Cindy Belvin
Helen Johnson	Debra Prater	Peggy Greeson	Becky Sutphin
Dallas Amick	Shirley Kime	Clifton Greeson	Terry Clapp
Mildred Strader	Mark & Kelly Gryder	Justin Engle	Sara Shue
Kevin Holt	Shirley Clapp	Alonzo Smith	Family of Joan May
Brian Neal	Jo Ann Gauldin	Tommy Simpson	Family of Ralph O'Ferrell
Cheryl Royal	Tony Owens	Martha Tatum	Family of Craig Tyson
Michael Hughes	Diane Thomasson	Larry Welborn	Family of Lyn Hale
Tyler Hammonds	Betty Tucker	Mary Mackey	Family of Glenn Shaw