

MAY 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
Lorie Arrington
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



Love Letter from Your Pastor: "Renewal"

On the sixth day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. --Genesis 2:2

I want to share something meaningful that's coming up in the life of our community. After 11 years of serving Mt. Hope, I will be honoring my covenant with the church and will be stepping into a sabbatical — a special season set aside for deep rest, renewal, and spiritual refreshment. This isn't a vacation but a purposeful pause, one I receive with deep gratitude and humility. Many churches honor the work creating and pastoring by offering an intentional time of Sabbath rest every 5-7 years. I have been in ministry for 22 years and this will be my first Sabbatical. Some of the sabbatical will be planned events but I promise to use all the of the time to slow down, breathe, and let God restore what constant ministry naturally pours out, returning with renewed joy, clarity, and strength for the work ahead. This rhythm of rest reflects God's own design and honors the long-term health of both the pastor and the church. Pastors cannot be effective in ministry if they are not centered, grounded and steeped in daily spiritual practices. Churches cannot be, either.

This sabbatical is also a gift to a congregation. It gives you the church, the opportunity to lean into shared leadership, discover new strengths within our church family, and trust that God is the One who ultimately sustains God's people. I value this community of faith so very much and I believe that this time will be a blessing for us all. I am confident that God will continue to work beautifully among us during this season. As you support me in stepping back, you will also step forward together — praying, serving, and growing in the rhythms of grace that Scripture invites all of us to practice. We trust that God will use this time not to refresh us all and deepen and strengthen our entire church family.

The theme for the sabbatical is "Remember, Release, Reimagine." As the sabbatical approaches, the plans for how we will practice this shared ministry will come to life. Details about coverage, timing, and ways you can help will be shared. Thank you for being a community that values rest, health, and the long-term well-being of those who serve. We look forward to walking through this season together with hope and anticipation for all God will continue to do in and through our church.

Remind us, O God that even you don't work all of the time. Thank you for modeling the idea of resting even as our creation was being formed. May we follow in your ways and value ourselves, created in your image and rest in between our work. Remind us, that rest and renewal is important and essential work.

Courage and strength for your journey to wholeness and rest,

Pastor Kristin



ATTENTION



Marking Stations

Please mark anything that you need to leave at the church for an upcoming program or project including items in the freezer, refrigerator, kitchens and other common spaces. You will find "marking stations" in prominent places around the church to help you mark your items.



WISE Moment

You Belong!



We are so excited to announce that we have been awarded a \$5,000.00 grant to launch “Hope Connection: You Belong” This is a meaningful step forward in our Covenant to support the mental, emotional, and spiritual well-being of our community especially those who may feel isolated or unable to stay connected. This ministry is not just a program – it is an opportunity for our entire congregation to come together and be the hands and feet of Christ. Whether through volunteering, offering hospitality, driving a bus, delivering food, making phone calls or simply showing up with a welcoming smile and spirit, everyone has a role to play in creating a space where people feel they truly belong. We trust that God has opened this door, and we believe He will continue to provide the resources, the people, and the compassion needed to carry this work forward. Together, we can make a lasting difference – one connection, one act of kindness, one life at a time. Thank you all so much for your prayers and support!

A new command I give you; Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples. John 13:34-35





FRIENDS & NEIGHBORS



Friends and Neighbors group will be going to the Sandy Ridge Farmers Market on May 19th. Leaving the church at 10:30am. Room in the bus for people and purchases. Afterwards, lunch will be at Olympic Family Restaurant at 8900 West Market St. All are welcome.

Women's Fellowship - May 12th @ 11 am in OFH



Connie is going to present more about the grant she secured and tell us how we fit in. This is an exciting adventure for us. Along with this bring your thinking caps. We are going to play a game that will offer us laughs and fun...good fellowship.

Next month June 9 we will go on an adventure to the Weatherspoon Art Museum in Greensboro. We'll go via bus unless you want to drive yourself. We will have an escorted tour of an exhibit titled, "Of Salt and Spirit: Black Quilters in the American South." The Museum is free. If we go to lunch after you'll need to buy lunch. Go to Weatherspoon Museum of Art to read more about the exhibit. They offer help for any of us who need physical help. Peace and Joy, Marcia



OUT OF THE GARDEN HOSTED VOLUNTEERS AND ORGANIZATIONS WHO SUPPORT THEM THROUGHOUT THE YEAR. YOU CAN TELL FROM THE PICTURES THAT WE HAVE AS MUCH FUN CELEBRATING AS WE DO AT OUR MONTHLY FOOD SHARING SATURDAYS. COME JOIN US THE FIRST SATURDAY OF THE MONTH.

PICTURED: (LEFT TO RIGHT) DORA MOORE, TAMMY HOLT, BENNIE AND JUDY GERNER





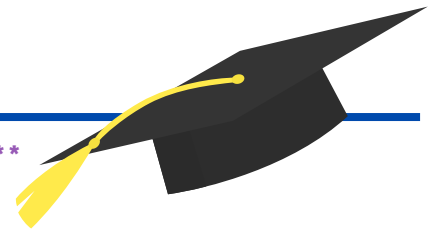
Our Youth group consists of ages 6th - 12th grade and they meet on Sundays at 12 pm if you know of someone that would like to join! All are welcome!

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



- May 3rd - Hot dog lunch after Gather Learn Grow to celebrate opening the new walking trail.
- May 10th - No Youth Meeting - **Happy Mother's Day!!!**
- May 17th - Mental Health Sunday - Youth Meeting at 5 pm
- May 24th - No Youth Meeting - Happy Memorial Day!
- May 31st - Youth Meeting at 5:00 pm
- June 6th - Car Wash
- June 7th - Graduation Sunday

****GRADUATE INFORMATION REQUEST****



If you have a student graduating this year, please complete the Graduate Information Form & submit it to Kiré or bring it to the office by "May 24". Thank you for helping us celebrate our Graduates & their accomplishments.

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 MAY 18TH FOR FELLOWSHIP, FUN, AND MORE!



Join us as we celebrate the grand opening of our new walking trail!

Right after *Gather • Learn • Grow*, we'll head over to officially open the trail and spend some time together enjoying the space.

Walk the trail as we mark a new beginning together.

 Hot dogs will be served, and all are invited and welcome

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

RSVP



Out of the Garden

In April, The Mt. Hope Out of the Garden Mobile Food Market served 90 families 6579 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 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

Mt Hope United Church of Christ - Consistory Minutes – March 12, 2026

Members Present: Gloria Apple (President), Dave Blakesley (Vice President), Dallas Belvin, Tracy Buff (Asst Secretary), Dona Branson, Simon Clark (Treasurer), Tammy Holt (Asst Treasurer), Don Kirkman, Dora Moore (Asst Treasurer), Lisa Sinclair (Secretary), Cheryl Royal, Pastor Kristin Gerner Vaughn, and special guest Tom Honey

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

Prayer & Devotion

- Lighting of the Christ Candle by Gloria Apple.
- A devotional was provided by Dora Moore: The Lord is My Shepard; God is in every valley - God is everywhere. God is not waiting to dwell with us after we die, he is with us right now.

We Celebrate our Past

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made by Dora Moore and seconded by Cheryl Royal to approve the minutes from the February 2025 consistory meeting. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report:

The February 2025 Consolidated Fund Activity Report showed a starting balance of \$198,568.84 an ending balance of \$209,703.09 with total receipts of \$38,067.37 and total disbursements of \$26,933.12 reported. The General Fund with a starting balance of \$23,497.68, end balance was \$33,922.58 with receipts of \$35,299.02 and disbursements of \$24,874.12. A motion was made by Tracy Bluff and seconded by Dallas Belvin to approve the report. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report

Marshall Greeson passed this month (funeral and burial at the church). Ash Wednesday service (40 in attendance, 1 came through the drive through). Leftover medical supplies were taken to Mustard Seed. Pastor Kristin has confirmed her Sabbatical date for July 13, 2026 (12 weeks). Catawba is putting together a program to help churches figure out how to weather the current financial challenges. Chris Caviness is helping us to apply for funding to replace the church roof. Thus far we have been able to secure insurance payment for half of a new roof. Cost is between \$60,000 for a three-tab 10-year shingle and \$67,000 for an architectural, 30-year shingle. Insurance has agreed to pay for roughly \$30,000, leaving us around \$30,000-\$37,000 to pay ourselves. The roof is not leaking right now, but it is only a matter of time with the hail damage that we have and the age of the roof. There are some shingles totally missing from the snowstorm in in January as well. No decisions have been made, however, it is information to consider as we think about options for our sustainability. Gloria will partner with Kristin to gather estimates, so two people have the information.

Committee Reports

Committee	Report
Maintenance and Trustees	n/a
Food Ministry	n/a
Historical	n/a
Mission & Outreach	n/a
Music & Worship	Planning for holy week.
Social Concerns	n/a
Communications	n/a
WISE Team	Applied for a grant and will find out on March 25 (prayers needed), April 24 making yard flowers out of plates.
Fellowship Committee	Board of Christian Education will have its next meeting in two weeks March 22.
Personnel	n/a
Youth	n/a

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

OLD BUSINESS

WORK IN PROGRESS FOR BIDS AND FUNDING FOR THE IMPROVEMENTS NEEDED.

NEW BUSINESS

- **RECEIVED A THANK YOU NOTE FROM FAMILY WE HELPED WITH THEIR UTILITY BILL.**
- **CHRIS CAVINESS HAS OFFERED TO CREATE A WALKING TRAIL, (5 FOOT WIDE) COST IS \$1000, THROUGH THE WOODS BEHIND THE PLAYGROUND. CHERYL OFFERED TO FUND THE PROJECT. A MOTION WAS MADE BY SIMON, SECONDED BY TAMMY, TO ACCEPT CHERYL'S OFFER AND CONSTRUCT THE WALKING TRAIL. MOTION CARRIED. THANK YOU CHERYL & CHRIS!**
- **TOM HONEY JOINED THE MEETING TO PROVIDE HIS EXPERTISE AND EXPERIENCE ON SOLAR PANELS TO HELP OFFSET THE HEATING AND AIR COSTS THE CHURCH IS EXPERIENCING. HE WALKED US THROUGH HOW SOLAR WORKS. HE RECOMMENDED TO FIRST EXPLORE HOW TO REDUCE YOUR OVERALL ENERGY CONSUMPTION (LIGHTBULBS AS AN EXAMPLE, WINTERIZING (THE ROOF) MAINLY, HEATING AND AIR SYSTEM, ETC.). ONCE YOU REDUCE THE COSTS, THEN YOU CAN BETTER EVALUATE THE INVESTMENT IN SOLAR. CONSERVING ENERGY IS EASIER THAN CREATING IT. START WITH INSULATION FIRST, WATER HEATER (FIGURE OUT WHAT YOU HAVE, HOW MUCH YOU'RE USING) – THE KEY IS ENSURING IT IS WORKING PROPERLY. KRISTIN ALSO SPOKE WITH PEOPLE AT CATAWBA COLLEGE AND THEY ARE WILLING TO SEND SOME STUDENTS DOWN TO HELP US GO OVER THE BUILDING TO IDENTIFY WEAK AREAS. GLORIA TO ATTEND THE WALK THROUGH WITH KRISTIN WHEN THEY COME. THANK YOU TOM FOR SHARING YOUR EXPERTISE WITH US!**

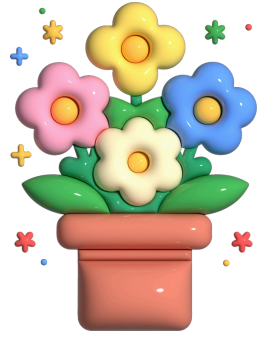
CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED.

NEXT MEETING - APRIL 9, 2026

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

LISA SINCLAIR



- 2nd - Mobile Market @ 10:30 - Old Julian Rd parking lot
- 3rd - Worship @ 10 am / Communion- Gather Learn Grow @ 11:15
- 7th - High Lonesome Strings @ 7pm
- 10th - Worship @ 10 am / Communion- Gather Learn Grow @ 11:15
- 10th - No Youth meeting - HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY !!!
- 12th - Women's Fellowship @ 11 am NFH
- 14th - Consistory Meeting @ 6pm in conf. rm.
- 17th - Worship @ 10 am / Communion- Mental Health Sunday -Gather Learn Grow @ 11:15
- 17th - Youth @ 5pm
- 18th - Men of Valor @ 6:30 pm OFH
- 19th - Friends & Neighbors @10:30 am
- 20th - Music & Worship @ 5:30 pm in conf. rm.
- 24th - Worship @ 10 am / Communion- Gather Learn Grow @ 11:15 - No Youth
- 26th - WISE Gathering @ 6:30 pm
- 31st - Worship @ 10 am / Communion- Gather Learn Grow @ 11:15
- 31st - Youth Meeting @ 5 pm



*Choir rehearsal May 6th, 13th, 20th, & 27th @ 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!



Cynthia Morris & Thomas Bowles 5/6

Simon & Brittany Clark 5/8

Blake & Dorie Whitman 5/10

Richard & Amanda Freeman 5/13

Jeremy & Sara Oehling 5/14

Cole & Shannon Levens 5/15

Mike & Lisa Johnson 5/16

Joseph & Michelle Moser 5/21

John & Melinda McDade 5/21

Darrel & Debbie Harris 5/21

Joe & Cindy Hughes 5/22

David & Debra Prater 5/25

Bill & Elizabeth Craft 5/29

Gerald & Linda Greeson 5/30



1 - Zeb Mims

3 - Kaitlyn Jones

4 - Jeff Harris

6 - Barbara Greeson

7 - Luke Greeson

8 - Tyler Strouth

9 - Jeffrey Welker

9 - Cynthia Hyle

12 - Janet Ellis

12 - Gail Prevost

13 - Lorie Arrington

14 - Peggy Barber

14 - Sylvia Belvin

14 - Haywood Levens

14 - Joshua Apple

17 - Ray Neese, Sr.

17 - Emma Earhart

18 - Austin Oliver

19 - Doris Walsh

20 - Phillip Nelson

21 - Kaitlyn Woollett

21 - Christina Greeson

23 - Brian Neal

24 - Peggy Levens

27 - Phillip Fitante

27 - John McDade

28 - Maria Sbityakov

28 - Pattie Greeson

28 - Aveleen Craft

29 - Addison Harris

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
Michael Terraforte

Wade Greeson
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	Shirley Clapp	Martha Tatum	Annie Clapp
Brian Neal	Jo Ann Gauldin	Mary Mackey	L.B. Friddle
Cheryl Royal	Betty Tucker	Martha & Bug Whitesell	John McDade
Michael Hughes	April Shepherd	Stephanie & Christopher Clontz	Kory Cady
Lloyd Gilliam	Kim Hamby	Family of Kevan Moore	Travis White
Connie Blakesly	Dean Greeson	Family of Brenda Stewart	Kit Jones
Shelby Capps	Elizabeth Craft	Family of Erchel Shue	Jim Tessier
Christine Oliver	Lin Gallagher	Gary Breedlove	Abby Greeson
Jack Elston	Stephen Clontz	Stephanie & Christopher Clontz	Leigh Loy
Dean Greeson	Darryl Welker		