

SEPTEMBER 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

Email:
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Administrative Assistant
Lorie Arrington
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Director of Youth & Children Ministry
& Music Director
Julianna Pierdomenico
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Accompanist - Ekin Üstünel
Director of Digital Technology - Ekin
mthopeuccddt@gmail.com

Consistory President - Gloria Apple

Board of Christian Education
Susan Finley



Sunday for Worship
at 10:00 am



Pastor's Note

Homecoming Celebration

This month we will celebrate Homecoming here at Mt. Hope. On September 21st we will gather here, young and old, to celebrate the historical engagement of Mt. Hope's story with God's story. Celebrating who we are cannot be done well apart from celebrating who God is. Here at Mt. Hope we are a church who believes in the power of prayer, the power of the scripture, our sacred story, and the power of the incarnation of God, through Jesus; Emmanuel, God with us! I hear your amazing stories so often, the stories of how God intervenes, how God comes to us and shares our common lot, how we have the courage to see God at work and then to join God in that work. I wanted you to hear one of Mt. Hope's daughters as she tells a story of God's healing power manifested when one dared to dream dreams. I heard Ashley's story and couldn't wait for her to tell you, too.

Ashley Phipps writes:

Proverbs 17:22 reminds us, "A cheerful heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones." When I was twelve years old, I was dealing with what was then undiagnosed anxiety and depression. My mother, Harriett, saw that there was a "Laverne & Shirley" marathon on TV and insisted I watch it. She told me I needed to laugh, and to this day, she will tell anyone who will listen that it was the first time in a long time that she had heard me laugh. That show and that cast quite literally saved my life. Laughter truly is the best medicine. Fast forward twenty-seven years later, and it suddenly occurred to me – no doubt through divine intervention – that no one had ever written a book about the history of the show. I decided to take it upon myself to write it. The experience has been nothing short of extraordinary. It has led to a publishing deal, interviews with the living cast members, a trip out to Los Angeles, and a tour of Paramount Studios. It has also given me the opportunity to forge incredible friendships with the cast's children, who have so graciously agreed to write the foreword to the book, scheduled for a 2026 release to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the show. They say, "The Lord works in mysterious ways." There is no reason outside of an act of God that this should all happen to a little girl from Julian, North Carolina. If only that little twelve-year-old girl knew what the Lord had in store for her, she would never have believed it! So, to anyone who may be navigating their own struggles, hold on to hope and laughter. Faith can and will take you to places beyond your wildest dreams.

I wonder as we prepare to celebrate Homecoming, how God will use our traditions and our passions to help us follow our dreams. What would you do if you knew you couldn't fail? What would the church do if we knew we couldn't fail? We can do all things through Christ who strengthens us!

See you on September 21st (come on the 20th and enjoy our market day, too. Lots of local artist vendors, and your chance to buy some pickled beets and Mt. Hope chicken pie),

Courage and strength for our journey--
Pastor Kristin
Ashley Phipps





Final Reminder that the Garden Club has dissolved and will no longer meet. Please join us at Friends and Neighbors when meeting.



Next BCE meeting will be September 14th @ 12pm in the conference room.

Women's Fellowship

Women's Fellowship September 9th at 10 AM



We've had a busy summer with beets and chicken pies. For me it is always great time for fellowship along with getting our tasks completed. Be sure to thank Dee and Judy and Benny for the extra time and effect they contributed to each project.

Now it is time to dust off Velvet Elvis and read and underline what caught you in Movement Three. Come ready to join Connie Blakesley for a discussion of your simple and extraordinary experiences with God, where have you found holy ground, the troublesome aspects of using Christian as an adjective, and who have been your 'tour guides and when have you been a 'tour guide' for others and any other insights or questions you have after reading Movement Three.

Connie asks that you bring an item that speaks of your relationship with God.
Blessings and Love, Marcia

Homecoming/Memorial Day is September 21, 2025

10:00 am Memorial Service at the Memorial Garden to remember the saints

10:45 am preservice music in the sanctuary

11:00 am Worship in the sanctuary

Please come and join us for the Saturday Homecoming festivities featuring many of Mt. Hope's finest:

Saturday market will be on Saturday featuring local artists, farmers, a blacksmith demonstration

Mt. Hope's famous chicken pie and pickled beets will be for sale.

The youth will be serving hot dogs for lunch from 11am - 2 pm.

The quilt show will be on display in the New Fellowship Hall feature quilts of all sizes and decades. Many of which have been made by the hands of the saints in the c

Worship at Lake Mackintosh - August 24th



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

Please note whether it is a Saturday or Sunday!

SEP
7

YOUTH COUNCIL MEETING

Upcoming events,
organizing, goals

Meet at 12pm in the youth
room

SEP
20

HOT DOG FUNDRAISER

We will be selling hot
dogs at the quilt/craft
show from 11-1pm.

SEP
14

YOUTH MEETING

Southern Conference
Zoom
Join the zoom link below
from 7-8pm!

SEP
28

CORN MAZE

Details TBA.

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

Dial In:

• +1 305 224 1968 US

**GET YOUR
BEETS!
\$10 PER QUART**



**CALL TO ORDER:
DEE @ 336-207-3079
CHURCH 336-697-1561**



**Our 178th Annual
Homecoming & Memorial Day**

Please join us on Sunday,
September 21st
Service in the cemetery begins at
10 am with worship in
the sanctuary at 11 am.



This will be followed by a meal in the
New Fellowship Hall
by the Disciples Class.
Lunch will be chicken, potato salad,
green beans, roll, tea and water.
Please bring a dessert
if you are able.

Donations are appreciated.



Men of Valor

October 11th @ 8:00
am in the New
Fellowship Hall

Will be having a breakfast for all the
men of the church
and bring your male friends!



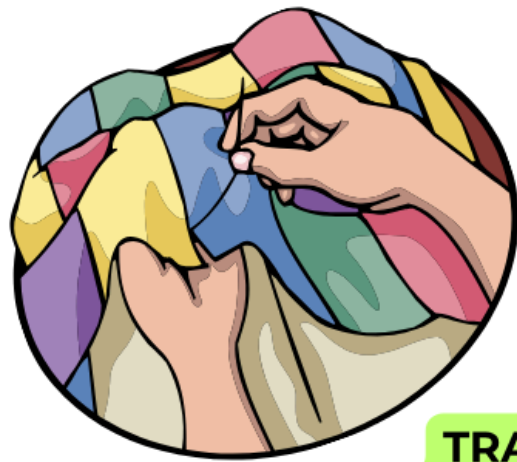
Alamance Presbyterian Church is hosting its
Annual Kirby Ward Missions Golf Tournament to
support their food pantry. The tournament is
Thursday, September 25th at 1:00 pm. Call the
Alamance Presbyterian Church Office for more
information at 336.697.0488.



Blessing of the students
and teachers preparing
to head back for the
school year at Lake
Mackintosh.



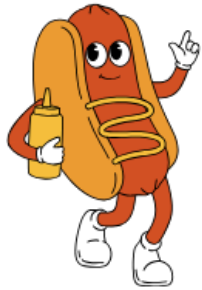
"THE THREADS THAT CONNECT US"
QUILT & CRAFT SHOW



MT. HOPE UCC
2400 MT. HOPE CHURCH RD.
WHITSETT, NC 27377
SEPTEMBER 20, 2025
9 AM - 2PM

TRADITIONAL HANDMADE CRAFTS FOR SALE
Pottery, Crochet items, honey, woodworking, paper
new and old quilts

Women's Group of Mt. Hope
Selling: Chicken Pies, Canned Beets, & Pickles



Hot Dog & drink Lunch 11-1
Served by
Mt. Hope Youth

FREE ADMISSION
DONATION OF CANNED
GOODS APPRECIATED
FOR CHURCH PANTRY



VINTAGE LOCAL QUILTS
ON DISPLAY

We have made our small chicken
pies! They will be for sale at the
quilt show at church on Saturday,
September 20th. Stop by to
purchase a chicken pie, picked
beets, BBQ or pickles at the
Women's Fellowship table!



There will also be
a blacksmith
demonstration
outside!





WISE Moment

What is a Godbox Ministry?



The WISE team is back after a summer of rest and prayer. We have been praying about how we can make our meetings come alive...introducing The Godbox Ministry- a simple yet powerful way to draw closer to God and support one another in faith, prayer and purpose.

A Godbox is a physical and symbolic container where we place our worries, prayers, hopes and burdens—entrusting them fully to God. It is rooted in scripture: “Cast all anxiety on Him because He cares for you.” 1 Peter 5:7

When we write down our concerns, prayer requests or praises and place them in the Godbox, we’re making a conscious choice to surrender our need for control and trust that God is at work within our community.

Each month the WISE team will pray over your concerns. This will encourage consistent prayer and create a rhythm of faith and trust within our WISE group and the Mt. Hope community. This will build a sense of spiritual unity and mutual support.

The Godbox will be in the Gathering Room on the table by the scripture wall. Whenever you’re carrying a concern or desire to pray for something or someone, write it down and place it in the Godbox. Pray over it, then let it go. Trust that God hears you and is working on your behalf.

If you feel led, we also invite you to join the WISE Prayer Team on the last Tuesdays of the Month beginning September 30 at 5:30, and we can be a voice of hope, reminding others that they are not alone in both their burdens and praises. No special qualifications are needed, just a heart willing to trust God and lift up others in prayer. “Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.” Philippians 4:6

MT. HOPE HOMECOMING GIVING ANNOUNCEMENT

Mt. Hope will be celebrating its 178th anniversary **Sunday, September 21, 2025**. The outdoor service at the Memorial Garden will honor the loved ones that have passed since the September 15, 2024 Homecoming Service.

CEMETERY / ENDOWMENT FUND DONATIONS

Donations must be received at the church office by **Friday, September 12, 2025** to be included in the 2025 Memorial Garden bulletin. A donation can be designated in memory or in honor of a loved one, but a donation does not have to be designated for a particular person or family. Your donation can be designated for the **Endowment Fund or the Cemetery Fund**.

Tithing Envelope instructions - Write on the line that pertains to your donation, **“In Honor of”** and write the person’s name or family’s name. **“In memory of”** and write the person’s name or family’s name or **“Other Gift”** and designate which fund you want your donation to be placed. Write **Endowment Fund** or **Cemetery Fund** and put in offering plate.

OR Mail your donation to: **Mt. Hope UCC, 2400 Mt. Hope Church Road, Whitsett, NC 27377.**

Mt Hope United Church of Christ
Consistory Minutes June 12, 2025

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

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 Tracy Buff with a reminder that the Spirit of Truth is our advocate and knows our needs. This Spirit comforts and guides us and means we are never alone.

We Celebrate our Past

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made by Tracy Buff and seconded by Dora Moore to approve the minutes from the May 2025 consistory meeting. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report:

May 2025 Consolidated Fund Activity Report showed an ending balance of \$174,742.09 with total receipts of \$22,428.07 and total disbursements of \$24,810.70 reported. The General Fund end balance was \$12,738.14 with receipts of \$23,366.69 and disbursements of \$17,272.13. A motion was made by Lisa Sinclair and seconded by Don Kirkman to approve the report. Motion carried. Discussion was held regarding the remaining balance in the Steeple Fund now that the repairs are completed. This will be re-visited later with research into options of investigating needs of the church and aligning with original intentions of the consistory which included reinvesting the remaining balance. It was also suggested that information regarding the individual Funds of the church and what's paid from each be provided.

Pastor's Report

Pastor Kristin expressed appreciation for her recent time away. She has received positive feedback regarding the involvement of lay leaders in worship. She also noted the changes over time since her beginning as a pastor at Mt. Hope. She moved from half-time pastor to full time senior pastor, and the church employees have now increased to 3 people, requiring supervision by the pastor. She also reiterated that her contract includes regular vacation time as well as a periodic time for Sabbatical leave. While she uses vacation time, she has never taken Sabbatical leave. Her plans are to take a Sabbatical for the first time since her call as Mt. Hope's pastor. She is working on a time period during the late spring/early summer of 2026. A team has been selected for support and planning which will involve education for the church on this time of renewal and growth for both the pastor and the church.

A graveside service for Phyllis O'Daniel will be held on June 21 st .

VBS will be held the week of July 21-25. Friday evening, July 25 a program will be held highlighting the experiences of the children and adults involved in VBS. Attendance by consistory members is encouraged.

Committee Reports

Board of Christian Education VBS work is being done.

Maintenance and Trustees

Stewardship

Historical

Mission & Outreach Pantry Task Force is encouraging specific items be donated to help stock shelves.

Music & Worship Plans for Worship at the Lake on August 24th are underway.
Social Concerns Working on additional Wishing Well
Communications New computers to be installed 6/13
WISE Team Freedom Wreath Celebration Saturday 6/14 at 11:00am
Fellowship Committee
Personnel

Prayer of Intercession

Pastor offered prayers for those in need in the church and the surrounding community including those undergoing rehab, experiencing illnesses and those in the hospital.

Old Business

- Columns in need of repair. One quote has been received, and Phillip Strouth is seeking additional quotes more in line with our budget.
- Basement area in need of repair behind stage continues to wait on a 2 nd quote.
- Airbnb issues with over-crowding in parking lot, trash and vandalism during large events has been an occasional issue. Signs have been hung regarding “authorized parking only” to hopefully deter problems.
- Discussion was held on the announcement during worship service regarding need for giving to the general fund in order to pay for our routine on-going needs. Announcement was written by Lisa Sinclair and delivered by Simon Clark. Information regarding the general fund amounts is to be included in minutes in the future.
- Concerns have been raised regarding the need for more frequent mowing. Discussion was held on this issue and possible solutions. There is currently no contract for regular mowers but this will be addressed as soon as possible.

New Business

- Deacon of the Month will have an additional duty of assisting with announcements during worship added.
 - Flag in honor of Mary Catherine Moser and LB Friddle will be presented on June 29 th .
 - Steeple repair is completed and all bills have been paid.
 - Sabbatical Team meeting held on 6/11
 - Young Musicians of Alamance (YMA) 25-26 School year. Tammy Holt made a motion and Lisa Sinclair seconded to continue the arrangement made during 24-25 school year for use of space at no charge. Motion carried. It was also discussed that the temperature for the summer could be increased to 78 degrees due to no classes being held until the fall.
 - Interest has been expressed in establishing a Mothers/Children Meeting at the playground once a month. More details to follow.
 - A report on the number and size of windows in the church was shared. Exploring options for window repair with the Insurance Board is needed, as well as roof repair in the future.
 - There will be no July meeting. Next meeting will be August 14 th .
- Charge and Benediction
Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Sharon Mims



September



- 7th - Worship @ 10 am - Gather Learn Grow @ 11:15
- 7th - Youth Council Meeting @ 12pm in the Youth Room
- 9th - Women's Fellowship @ 10 am in the NFH
- 10th - BCE Meeting in Conf. Room @ 12:00 pm
- 11th - Consistory Meeting @ 6pm in Conf. rm.
- 14th - Worship @ 10 am with Communion - Gather Learn Grow @ 11:15 - Youth Meeting
- 14th - BCE Meeting @ 12 pm in the conference room
- 15th - Men of Valor 6:30 pm - Old fellowship Hall
- 20th - Mt. Hope Quilt & Craft Show - Hot dog lunch & more
- 21st - Worship @ 10 am - Mt. Hope Homecoming
- 28th - Worship @ 10 am - Gather Learn Grow @ 11:15
- 28th - Youth Corn Maize - details to come

*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!



Homecoming



Happy Anniversary

James & Laurie Baker 9/8

Phillip & Tracy Nelson 9/17

Alan & Amanda Levens 9/20

Grant & Patti Harden 9/25

Michael & Kathleen Craft 9/30



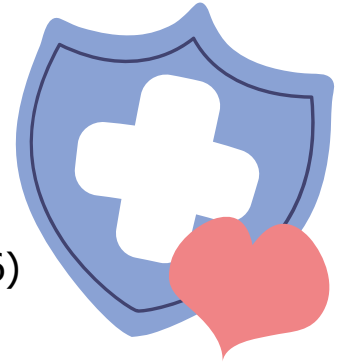
3rd Dona Branson
7th Heath Smith
9th Connie Kotis
10th Khloe Moser
Katelyn Gossett
12th Logan Ellis
Joe Hughes
13th Beth Harris
14th Skylar Whitman
20th Tyler Stewart
22nd Mary Greeson

23rd Stan Shue
Anna Lashley
25th Marcia Cham
27th Gerald Greeson
29th Shirley Kime
30th Holly Welker
Sonia Knowles
Chloe Strouth
Phillip Strouth

Prayer Concerns

Health Care Center

Clapp's Nursing Center - R. Denny Ingold - (#304)
Clapp's Nursing Center - Robert Ingold (#801)
Blumenthal Health & Rehab Center - Harold Reece, Jr.
Shannon Gray Rehab. & Recovery Ctr. - Carolyn Simpson - (#806)



Mt. Hope Military Connections

Michael Terraforte

Solomon Price, Jr.

Kyle Gerner

Scott Amick

Wade Greeson

Members, Friends, & Relatives

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

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
Peggy Welker

Woody & Peggy Levens
Peggy Greeson
Clifton Greeson
Daniel Piazza
Brianna Chapmon
Fara
The Linnens Family
Linda Neese
Steve & Barbara Frizzola
Family of Adelita Swaim
Shane Swaim
Randy Underwood
Geri Lyn Welker

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
Troy Lopp
Chris Caviness
Sue Neese