

Mt. Hope United Church of Christ

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Church Pastor

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Accompanist

Ekin Ustunel

Email: mthopecoutreach@gmail.com

Interim Music Director

Susan Finley

Church Secretary

Stacey Martin

Office hours:

Monday – Friday

9 am – 1 pm

Consistory President

Dallas Belvin

Board of Christian Education

Susan Finley, Director

Outreach & Digital Technology Director

Ekin Ustunel

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Mt. Hope Messenger June 2021

Love Letter from Your Pastor: The Wind's Song

The wind was annoying. For the first part of my life, I didn't much care for the wind. The wind messed up my hair; as an asthmatic child with seasonal allergies, the wind stirred up too much pollen and often hemmed me up inside while the wind was outside dancing a fine jig through the trees. It made me mad. Until one day, while living 3000 miles away from home in a place where only a few people knew my first name, the wind ushered in the holy.

The coffee shop where I worked was a mile and half from my home. I know you hear old stories about walking up hills both ways to school, but I promise you the Berkeley hills made those stories pale in comparison. It was hilly and on this day when I was walking to work at 5:45 am to open up the shop, it was windy. There was yet no sun popping up on the horizon for the day was too young, but the wind blowing off the Pacific was in full force.

I was glad to be on my way to work at such an hour. It was my brother's birthday and this day had been sad for me since his death. I was thankful for the distraction of work and the company that the barista and all the customers would offer me while at work. Prepared to be angry at the wind for messing up my hair or blowing allergens up my nose, or, I don't know I probably was even subconsciously blaming the wind for my grief, I trudged up the hill with my belongings for the day strapped to my back. Much to my surprise, I didn't get angry, I laughed. At that time of the morning, the neighbors, had they seen me, might have assumed I was coming down off of a very interesting night. I was not chuckling or smiling a crooked grin, I was laughing the kind of laughter that invited your whole body to

participate, even the parts that needed to heal and the broken parts that needed to be made whole.

The wind blew and I didn't get angry, I laughed. The day of Pentecost is described as the day when a rush of wind blew through the streets. I wonder if it was like the wind that nearly knocked me off my feet that day on my way to work, not because of its forceful gales, but because of its power. The power of the Holy Spirit that can transform anger into pure joy.

During Pentecost (which is the longest season of the church year, running from 50 days after Easter to the last Sunday in November) we will be singing a new song during worship called, The Wind Song written by Swee Hong Lim and Shirley Erena Murray. You may have already heard Ray Mims sing it for us during Communion on Pentecost. The words are most beautiful highlighting the mysterious and glorious Advocate sent to us by God through Jesus. The Advocate, the Spirit is the tie that binds us with cords that cannot be broken. The spirit is the wind that can change our mourning into dancing.

Come, Holy Spirit, Come! Blow in, among, around and through us.

Love,
Pastor Kristin

The Wind Song

As the wind song through the trees,
As the stirring of the breeze,
So it is with the Spirit of God;
As the heart made strangely warm,
As the voice within the storm,
So it is with the Spirit of God.
Never seen, ever known
Where this wind has blown,
Bringing life, bringing pow'r to the world,
As the rising of the yeast,
As the wine at the feast,
So it is with the Spirit of God.

A message from the Covid Team

We are all excited to be returning to meeting and sharing worship together as a

group. It is also with thankful hearts that we welcome the decreasing rate of COVID-19 infections in our state. While many of us have taken advantage of the protection offered by the available vaccines, our children ages 12 and older have only recently been able to receive this protection. In order to give time for our children to be fully vaccinated, we ask those attending Mt. Hope UCC worship services to continue wearing face masks and sitting safe distances from others not in your group while inside. We will continue practicing these precautions through Sunday, June 20th and look forward to additional changes afterward.

Mt. Hope United Church of Christ Consistory Zoom Meeting 4-15-21

Members Present: Gloria Apple, Dallas Belvin, Noral Belvin, David Blakesley, Simon Clark (zoom), Bill Craft, Janet Ellis, Cathy Gossett, Bob Hamlett (zoom), and Cole Levens.

Pastor Present: Pastor Kristin
The meeting was called to order at 7:04p.m. A quorum was established and Dallas welcomed all and opened with prayer.

Lighting of the Christ Candle

We celebrate our past:

Approval of the Minutes: Janet Ellis made a motion to accept the minutes as presented and Cole Levens seconded. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Bill Craft presented a report on March. The beginning balance for March was \$164,895.71 and the monthly income was \$21,228.00. Expenses were \$23,330.18 which resulted in an ending balance of \$162,793.53. Cathy Gossett made a motion to accept the treasurer's report as presented for January and Janet Ellis seconded. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Kristin reported one death in our community, Jeffrey

Lawson Welker on April 4th. Worship will be covered under Task Force update. If you find an Easter Egg in your yard, post a picture to Facebook and email it to the church, then pass it on. Be sure and check out the new website since Ekin has renovated it.

Call to Confession

Confession of Faith

Words of Assurance

We present our offerings

Committee Reports:

BOCE – Susan Finley requested funds to purchase the curriculum for the children for Sunday School.

Gloria Apple made a motion for the Board of Christian Education to purchase the *Seasons of the Spirit* curriculum for \$650 out of the youth & children budget and Cole Levens seconded. Motion carried. Bill Craft will get with Stacey to investigate the funds for Board of Christian Education Fund, Mt. Hope Youth Fund and youth budget.

Maintenance – Third floor air handler still work in progress. Mulch and the church grounds have been upgraded by volunteers.

Stewardship - Bill Craft reported they did not meet but discussing meeting soon.

Evangelism – They are assisting with the Mobile Meals Ministry, Shepherding Program and WISE Team meeting monthly.

Mobile Meals Ministry – They are investigating how Mt. Hope can develop a program to keep the ministry going. We have had a \$1,000.00 donation made and a pledge to match up to \$4,000.00 for all donations made to the ministry.

Music & Worship – They met today and helping to sustain worship service outside.

Meals4kids – No report at this time

Greensboro Urban Ministry – Delivery made this month.

Blessing Bag Ministry – No report at this time

Social Concerns – No report at this time. The wishing well will be placed outside during outdoor worship services.

Ellis/Phippis Scholarship – Now accepting applications from high school seniors. Applications must be submitted to Dallas by June 1st.

We offer our concerns for the future (New Business)

Outdoor Ministry – Dallas confirmed grading at picnic shelter has been put on the contractor's schedule and it should be done in 4-5 weeks or sometime in June.

Task Force – Janet Ellis reported they met March 16th. Church worship will continue on Facebook and outside of the church. They are taking steps to slowly moving worship inside. We have been safe during this past year and want to continue to be safe as we reopen the church. Next meeting is April 20th.

Wise Church – Meeting every 3rd Sunday of the month. They have come up with a mission statement.

Stained Glass Windows from old sanctuary-Still work in progress.

Pedestrian Crossing – Dallas Belvin and Bill Craft to get with the state about the pedestrian crossing and crosswalk signs.

Memorial Association – Memorial Association requested to change the date of homecoming to September 19th this year. This will give us more time to have all the families here at the church safely. Consistory approved by general consensus.

Property Lines – Dallas will get with Michael Creech about property line boundaries.

Communication Committee- They are meeting on Monday. All the staff have new emails.

mthopeuccpastor@gmail.com Pastor Kristin
mthopeuccmusic@gmail.com Joan Hedrick
mthopeuccoutreach@gmail.com Ekin Cemre Ustunel

mthopeuccyouth@gmail.com Youth director(pending)

mthopeuccgarden@gmail.com Cindy Hyle
mthopeuccoffice@gmail.com Stacey Martin

Intercessory Prayer

Charge & Benediction

Kristin closed in prayer.

Meeting adjourned at 8:58 p.m.

Next Consistory Meeting on May 13th at 7pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Gloria Apple, Secretary

June 6 @ 6pm- youth meeting under the shelter



The Women's Fellowship met on Tuesday, May 11. This is the second time we have been able to meet live after Covid restrictions. How wonderful to be together again!

We are happy to welcome Cindy Hyle who will be joining our group.

Marcia announced our next study will be on the book *Annie Freeman's Fabulous Traveling Funeral* which we will read over the summer.

Cindy Hyle presented information on growing and harvesting lavender and loofah gourds. Both have been planted in our church garden. She had picked and dried lavender and Cynthia Morris had fabric and ribbon for each lady to make their own sachet.

Linda Miller reported that beets have been planted for us to harvest and can. Thank you Linda, for weeding the beet rows. The beet sells were very successful last year.

Our ladies will be busy, so be ready to purchase lavender sachets, loofah sponges and canned beets this fall! Proceeds from our fundraiser/bazaar sells help with church projects, donations to outreach programs and assistance to needy families.

Our next meeting will be on June 8 at 6:30 p.m. in the new fellowship hall.

Blessings, Dee Greeson

Youth Calendar for June

June 6 @ 6pm- youth meeting under the shelter

June 13 @ 6pm- youth meeting under the shelter

June 20 - no youth – Father's Day

Logan Ellis
6777 NE Vinings Way
Apt. 1321
Hillsboro, Oregon 97124-7819



Ages 8-13

June 7-11, 2021 8am – 12pm
Mt. Hope UCC
Fellowship Hall

Register @ mthopeucc.com

Contact:

mthopeuccoutreach@gmail.com

again, immediately following worship each Sunday, from 11:15 a.m. until noon. The Samaritan & Gleaners will be meeting together in the Gleaners room so that social distancing may be maintained, and the Disciples will meet in their 3rd floor room. New members welcome! Interested in more traditional teacher-led Bible study? Try the Samaritan & Gleaners class. Prefer facilitator-led Bible study with lots of group discussion and debate? Check out the Disciples class. Come gather, learn, and grow together!

Homecoming and Memorial Day

Since 1924, Homecoming and Memorial Day have been a special day at Mt. Hope. May is the month we normally hold this celebration but unfortunately, we were not able to do so last year. It seems that this May would not be the best time to celebrate as the pandemic is still affecting our lives. We will postpone and combine the 2020 and 2021 Homecoming and Memorial Day until **Sunday, September 19, 2021**. It is our hope that on this day we can safely welcome back family and friends to a homecoming and remember and honor loved ones we have lost in the last two years.
Memorial Association



Choir Rehearsal – Wednesdays, June 2, 9, 16 and 23. No choir rehearsal June 30.

Mark Your Calendar – Worship, Fellowship & Lunch at the Lake
Sunday, June 27 Mt. Hope UCC will be celebrating being back together as a church! We will worship beside the beauty of Mackintosh Lake and have lunch together afterwards at the nearby shelter (located off Highway 61 in Whitsett.) Watch for more details!

No Board of Christian Education meeting in June.

Gather. Learn. Grow

Beginning Sunday, June 6, the adult Samaritan, Gleaners & Disciples classes will begin meeting



After 15 long months of celebrating worship on the computer from different locations, and a few weeks outside the church building, we were finally able to worship in the sanctuary together this past Sunday! It was wonderful to see everyone, and to hear the visiting that made things seem more normal. And, for those of you who were unable to join us in the building, but were able to participate in worship on Facebook, we are so glad that something we learned how to do during COVID-19 can be a permanent

part of our worship, allowing us to include more people!

During our time apart, we want to thank all of you who have participated in weekly worship, Bible Study, committee meetings and other Facebook and ZOOM events. We also need to thank those who helped us continue existing ministries & start new ministries i.e., food deliveries and a community garden, a Little Library to share with us all, and an updated, more welcoming church website to help us know what is going on at Mt. Hope, both outside the building, as well as inside the building.

Sunday, May 23rd was Pentecost Sunday! We were able to celebrate Pentecost and our graduates in person. Thank you to everyone who helped to make Sunday worshipful and joyful. Thank you to all the graduates and families who provided us with their information to share with the church, and especially to Addison Harris for worshipping with us in person.

Thank you to the COVID Team for their dedication throughout the entire process of helping us stay safe for all these months, and for their preparations to help get us back to worshipping together in continuing safety as we did this past Sunday. Thank you to the WISE Team who has been planning how we move forward as a more inclusive church, reaching out to and embracing those closest to us, and those in our community, who live every day with mental illness.

Thank you to those who prepared our portable, individually wrapped communion elements on Sunday, allowing us to safely eat the bread and drink the cup together again. And, thank you to Ray Mims for singing as we gathered to collect our communion elements. A big thank you to the Rock Creek Ramblers for helping us begin our worship together outside with hymns of our faith and hearts. We also offer our appreciation to the Vaughn and Gerner families, Ekin Ustunel, Andrew Beach, and previously John Kozak and Joan Hedrick, for continuing to provide worship support in both seen and unseen ways, whether with music, sound systems, cameras or computers, or other ways of helping to lead and enhance worship. Thanks also go to the choir members, who have been faithful and flexible in continuing to lead our worship through their music during unusual times.

Most especially, thanks go to our very special Pastor, Kristin Gerner Vaughn, who has worked tirelessly to help us stay connected as a church, while challenging us to learn new ways of being church during these unprecedented times. The pure joy on her face Sunday morning at being together was a sight to behold.

May God bless our continuing efforts to seek & learn new ways of being church in our new normal. May God help us to show God's love in everything we say and do.

Susan Finley

The flowers placed at the alter for the month of June are in memory of Elaine Neese's birthday by her children, Billie, Jean, Carmen and Terry.



Calendar

Zoom is still an option

Wednesday, June 2

6:00 pm, Bible Study

7:30 pm, Choir Practice

Sunday, June 6

10:30 am, Worship

3:00 pm, Yoga with Sonia –

Pavilion

6:00 pm, Youth Meeting - Pavilion

Tuesday, June 8

6:30 pm. Church Women's Meeting

Wednesday, June 9



6:00 pm, Bible Study
7:30 pm, Choir Practice

Thursday, June 10

7:00 pm, Consistory Meeting

Sunday, June 13 - Communion

10:00 am, Congregational Meeting
10:30 am, Worship
3:00 pm, Yoga with Sonia - Pavilion
6:00 pm, Youth Meeting - Pavilion

Tuesday, June 15

5:30 pm, Wise Team

Wednesday, June 16

6:00 pm, Bible Study
7:30 pm, Choir Practice

Thursday, June 17

2:00 pm Music & Worship

Sunday, June 20

10:30 am, Worship –
3:00 pm, Yoga with Sonia - Pavilion

Wednesday, June 23

6:00 pm, Bible Study
7:30 pm, Choir Practice

Sunday, June 27

10:30 am, Worship – **Mackintosh Lake**
3:00 pm, Yoga with Sonia - Pavilion
6:00 pm, Youth Meeting - Pavilion

Stewart, Thomas Woodard
27th Donald Slayton
28th Peggy Everette, John Kozak
30th Carmen Cox



June Anniversaries

1st Noral & Cindy Belvin
Lloyd & Sylvia Gilliam
4th Jimmy & Pamela Greeson
7th Bennie & Judy Gerner
8th Jim & Cathy Turner
10th Dallas & Gloria Belvin
13th Byron & Kristen Greeson
17th Don & Janet Ellis
20th David & Connie Blakesley
23rd Terence & Anne Clapp
25th Ken & Marcia Cham
30th Homer & Doris Walsh



June Birthdays

3rd Joseph Moser, Greg Kim
4th Terence Clapp, Gary Whitesell
11th Paulette Mayer
12th Scott Sawyer
13th Randy Underwood
14th Mary Neese, Kathryn Vaughn
17th Alex Hughes
18th Pat Levens
20th Pattie Dix
21st Melinda McDade
22nd Clinton Moore
24th Don Ellis, Jeanette Kirkman
25th Stephanie Strouth
26th Justin Prater, Robert Rumley, Brenda



Prayer Requests

Health Care Center

Alamance Health Care Center	Grady Gerner (#86A)
Alamance Health Care Center	Teresa Oakley (#83)
Alamance House	R. Denny Ingold (#112)
Clapp's Nursing Center	Robert Ingold (#807)
Ralph Scott Homes	Betty Kim Settlemyre
Woodhaven (Albermarle)	Annie Lee Apple
Brookdale Burlington	Peggie Coble (#74)
Twin Lakes	Darlene Cherry
Clapp's Assisted Living	Jeanne Ingold (#315)
Guilford House	Blanche Greeson

Mt. Hope Military Connections

Scott Amick	Grant Harden
Kyle Gerner	Megan Moore Hughes
Michael Clapp	Josh Ellis
Michael Terraforte	
Abigail Thompson	

Members/Friends & Relatives

Betty & Richard Kime	Jacob Arrington
Pat Levens	Steve & Peg Burns
Jim & Nancy Wimbish	Dean & Peggy Greeson
LuEller Ingold	Pat Huizinga
Marianne Reynolds	Family of Clara Turner
J.R. Shoffner	Family of Richard Knowles
Laurie Baker	Goldie Sawyer
Bob & Dottie Deeter	Jayne Brown
Jim Gallagher	
Adelita & Shane Swaim	
Bill & Peggy Welker	
Cole Yedlowski	
Lloyd & Sylvia Gilliam	
Mt. Hope's Mobile Meals Ministry	
Robin Gerner	
Sharon Nance	
Darrell Harris	
Terry Staley	
Karen Mounce	
Charlie Long	
Phil Lamb	

