

OCTOBER 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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Lorie Arrington
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Director of Youth & Children Ministry
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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

Wonderful
Beautiful
Amazing

Love Letter from Your Pastor: The Wisdom of a Wrinkle

“You are beautifully and wonderfully made.” Psalm 139:14

Looking in the mirror I shouted, “When do you think my wisdom will catch up with my wrinkles?” to Mike in the next room. A man of few words, who knows quicksand when he sees it, decided it was best not to answer this question until he knew more of the driving force behind it. The crows feet had grown toes since I saw them last and I decided, looking in the mirror, that glasses were an asset to my face as they hid the wrinkles in the corners of my eyes. I went on about my day which invited me into conversation with people belonging to generations from their 20’s, to people in the 90’s. As I looked deeply into the eyes of each person who was sitting in front of me, something came clear to me once again, wrinkles and the signs of aging aren’t bad, they aren’t ugly or undesirable, they are a sign of life. That night when dinner was over and the dishes were drying on the mat beside the sink, the kid’s homework was finished and my bedtime routine led me back in front of the same mirror where I had shouted my first question, I faced myself again, took off my glasses and took a deep look into my own face. My face was a reflection of the day gone past. As I was washing my face, I thought of the sad moments of the day and saw my face muscles sag, when I remembered something shocking, my mouth making a perfect pursed oval shape and the beautiful parts of the day made me smile, bringing my skin from the corners of my mouth up to the nails of my crows feet. “Looky there,” I said in a quiet voice with more wisdom than I had when the day first broke open the possibilities of promise, “I wouldn’t have wrinkles if I hadn’t spent a fair amount of time, crying, laughing and ceasing to be amazed at the possibilities God lays before us day after day.” I don’t know if my wisdom will ever catch up with my wrinkles, but I am more full of the hope and promise of God having lived a life that produced them.

Prayer: God help me to not talk down to myself today, but to practice gratitude and be grateful for what you have given to me. Whatever I have may I use it to your glory. Amen.





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

Women's Fellowship



Women's Fellowship October 14th at 10 AM

Truth Or Lies I missed you in September so I hope each of you will come to Women's Fellowship on October 14 at 10 AM. I want you to share with us three facts about yourself, with one being a lie. We will have to guess which one is not true. It is fun to be invited to lie!! Marcia will do a review of the book, The Little Liar by Mitch Albom.

You had read Movement Three for September. If you have questions or comments, we will have time to listen and discuss. I don't want others to walk all over me. I want to hold my own. I don't want to be dismissed.

Good News!! All the chicken pies have been sold. Thank you for all your help.

To the Congregation and Staff,

9-19-25

My son, Blake, and I attended your worship service on September 14, 2025.

We so appreciated the warm welcome we received from many of you.

Your pastor, Kristin, is a credit to her calling. She has a tender, winsome way of teaching God's truth from the scriptures. Kudos to the choir for the lovely anthem.

May the Holy Spirit continue to work in and through you to win souls to Christ, our Savior.



In Him,
Patricia



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!

OCT
4

**VOLUNTEER @
PEACEHAVEN FARM**

9am-11am

Julianna will send a text
about rides!

OCT
19

NO MEETING

Enjoy your weekend!

OCT
12

CROP WALK

Meet at the church at
3:15pm to set up

OCT
26

YOUTH COUNCIL

Meet at 12pm in the
conference room!

NOV
1

FALL FEST

2-4pm @ Mt. Hope; Youth
help with various events



youth

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



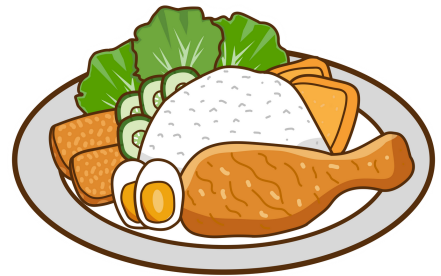
**GET YOUR
BEETS!
\$10 PER QUART**



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



Help us bless Zeb and Kiré with a Meal Train once the baby arrives! You can sign up for a date on this [SignUp Genius](#). More details will be added such as drop off time and location as we get closer.



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!
No meeting at the regular time.**



Come join us for Mt. Hope's Fall Fest on November 1st from 2-4pm! Please prepare your car for a trunk or treat, and prepare yourselves for pumpkin slingshot and a hay ride. All are welcome - invite friends and neighbors!





WISE Moment



“WE CARE” at Mt. Hope

At Mt Hope United Church of Christ, we believe that no one should walk through life’s challenges alone. As part of our WISE Mental Health Ministry you may start seeing We Care Bags – a simple but powerful way to extend love, comfort and encouragement to someone in need.

Each We Care Bag is thoughtfully prepared with items that bring both practical help and emotional support. Whether someone is grieving a loss, spending time in the hospital, experiencing a difficult stretch with mental health, or even facing the challenges of homelessness. These bags serve as a reminder: You are seen, you are loved, and you are not forgotten.

The bags may include comfort items such as tea or journals, along with uplifting cards/notes,, devotionals or small essentials to brighten someone’s day. More than the items themselves, though, each bag carries the spirit of care and connection from our Mt. Hope family.

If you know someone who would be blessed by a We Care Bag, please put your request in the Godbox located in the WISE gathering room. Also, if you have an idea of something we could put in a We Care bag, please contact the WISE Mental Health Support Team.

Because at Mt. Hope, when one of us hurts, we all care.

Cast all your anxiety on him because he CARES for you
1 Peter 5:7



Mt. Hope Family,

I am writing to let you know that I will be resigning from both of my jobs at Mt. Hope effective November 30th. Please know that this is one of the hardest decisions I've had to make. I have absolutely loved my time working at Mt. Hope, and if I could clone myself I would continue. My private studio is growing and growing, and it is time that I start to take some steps back so that I can take steps forward in continuing to build my musical career here in Greensboro. I thank you all for giving me the opportunity to be a part of Mt. Hope, as it truly feels like a second family for Dylan and I. I am grateful for this experience, and it will continue to be a part of the fibers of my life forever. There are a lot of exciting things happening in the next two months, and I look forward to continuing to fellowship with you all.

Sincerely,

Julianna

Mt Hope United Church of Christ
Consistory Minutes August 14, 2025

Members Present: Gloria Apple, Dave Blakesley, Tammy Holt, Dora Moore, Sharon Mims, Lisa Sinclair, Cindy McGee, Don Kirkman, Cheryl Royal

The meeting was called to order by Gloria Apple, a quorum was established, and all were welcomed.
Lighting of the Christ Candle

A devotional prayer was provided by Gloria Apple to begin the meeting.

We Celebrate our Past

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made by Dora Moore and seconded by Lisa Sinclair to approve the minutes from the June 2025 consistory meeting. No meeting was held in July. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report:

July 2025 Consolidated Fund Activity Report showed an ending balance of \$172,064.50 with total receipts of \$20,227.33 and total disbursements of \$25,421.81 reported. The General Fund end balance was \$6,947.61 with receipts of \$14,981.46 and disbursements of \$21,886.72. A motion was made by Don Kirkman and seconded by Dave Blakesley to approve the report. Motion carried. Information regarding the Miscellaneous Giving Fund and past transactions within the fund was provided.

Pastor's Report

Pastor Kristin expressed appreciation for her recent vacation time. She also reported on a request for Baptism for Tatum Reece, son of Brittany Reece and grandson of Wesley Reece. Additionally, a possible second baptism request for Bellamy Brown, child of Chelsea and Josh Brown was presented. Don Kirkman made the motion to accept both requests and Tammy Holt seconded. Motion passed.

Upcoming events include chicken pie fundraiser on August 23rd , and Worship at the Lake (with a presentation by the Food Ministry Task Force) on August 24th. Crop Walk is scheduled for the 2nd Sunday in October and we are in need of a leader for this event. World Communion will be on Sunday October 5th and Pastor Kristin requested that anyone on consistory that cannot participate in serving to our homebound members, please let her know.

A couple of areas for grants to support the work of the church are in process. WNCA accepts requests for grants aimed at growing ministries within UCC churches in the conference. An application is being submitted for \$1500 to support the Food Ministry work at Mt. Hope. Additionally, quotes to determine amounts needed for church repairs and improvements are being collected. These will be used in applications for possible large grant opportunities to address maintenance issues such as roof repair, moisture problems in basement, replacement of windows, repair of columns in front of church, or improvements such as installation of an elevator. This is work to prepare for possible funding, no identified resources are known yet.

Committee Reports

Board of Christian Education

Maintenance and Trustees Possible mowing company. Trial basis being explored at present.

Stewardship

Historical

Mission & Outreach

Music & Worship Meeting next Wednesday to finalize plans for Worship at the Lake on August 24th

Social Concerns Working on additional Wishing Well.

Possibility of obtaining additional information on wells was discussed.

Communications

WISE Team Will begin meeting again in September

Fellowship Committee

Personnel Office hours at church will be Monday & Friday 9-11, through August

Tammy Holt presented a report from the 9 members of the Food Ministry Task Force. They have been working on determining the food needs in the community, including how many have been helped by the current Food Pantry. Information will be presented to the congregation at the Worship at the Lake, including the need for volunteers for any expansion of this Ministry. The intent is to gauge the interest of the congregation and willingness to participate and volunteer. The Task Force will revisit the possibilities after the congregation's input.

Prayer of Intercession

Pastor Kristin offered prayers for those in need in the church and the surrounding community including those healing from injuries, illnesses and infections, those who have experienced burn injuries, death of a loved one, and those dealing with the stress associated with caregiving.

Old Business

-Projects that continue to need attention include water issues in the basement, repair of the columns, window replacement and roof repair. Work on obtaining quotes and seeking resources continues.

-A decision is in the works for a decision regarding mowing of the church grounds.

New Business

No new business this meeting.

Charge and Benediction

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Sharon Mims



- 5th - Worship @ 10 am - Gather Learn Grow @ 11:15
- 5th - BCE Meeting @ 12 pm
- 5th - World Communion
- 9th - Consistory Meeting @ 6pm in Conf. rm.
- 11th - Men of Valor Breakfast @ 8 am in the NFH
- 12th - Worship @ 10 am with Communion - Gather Learn Grow @ 11:15
- 12th - CROP Walk
- 14th - Women's Fellowship @ 10 am in NFH
- 19th - Worship @ 10 am - Gather Learn Grow @ 11:15
- 20th - NO Men of Valor
- 21st - Friends & Neighbors @ 10:30 am NFH
- 26th - Worship @ 10 am - Gather Learn Grow @ 11:15
- 28th - WISE Meeting @ 5:30 pm

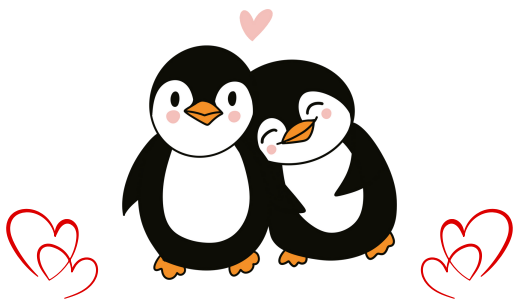


*There will be Choir practice on the 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, & 29th @ 7pm

*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!



Happy Anniversary

Jonathan & Peggy Kilby 10/14
Phillip & Stephanie Strouth 10/18
Chris & Brenda Caviness 10/22

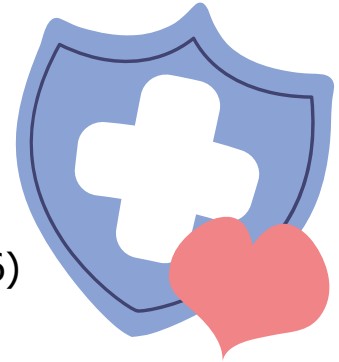


- | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| 1 - Reagan Whitman | 21 - Melissa Greeson |
| 5 - Annette Taylor | 22 - Mike Vaughn |
| 5 - Cindy McGee | 22 - William Oehling |
| 5 - Alan Levens | 22 - Sara Oehling |
| 6 - Lydia Sbityakov | 23 - Jacob Arrington |
| 6 - Devin Knowles | 23 - Cindy Hamlett |
| 7 - Melinda Kozak | 25 - Linda Kirkman |
| 8 - Linda Ayers | 27 - Betty Tucker |
| 9 - Betty Neese | 28 - Luka Sbityakov |
| 12 - Patricia Huizinga | 28 - Nikolai Sbityakov |
| 12 - Robin Gerner | 29 - Michael Hughes |
| 14 - Bill Craft | 30 - Gary Strader |
| 15 - Kristen Greeson | 30 - Martha Whitesell |
| 20 - Don Perkins | 30 - Debra Prater |
| 21 - Karla Tucker | 31 - Brittany Reece |

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

Jonathan Vaughn

Members, Friends, & Relatives

Joan May
Krissy Coomer
Betty Neese
Barb Santa
Helen Johnson
Beezer Levens
Bennie Ellington
Dallas Amick
Cindy Hughes
Mildred Strader
Bill Hughes
Kevin Holt

Steve Burns
Cindy Hamlett
Amanda Levens
Debra Prater
Emma Jean Greeson
Shirley Harris
Ralph O'Ferrell
Mary Catherine Moser
Cheryl Royal
Faye Newsome
Dennis Owens

Woody & Peggy Levens
Peggy Greeson
Clifton Greeson
Linda Neese
Justin Engle
Peggy Welker
Robert Proctor
Alonzo Smith
Salvatore Richard Holt
Callahan Ellison Gorrell
Martha Whitesell

Noral & Cindy Belvin
Marie Butler
Lori Wrenner
Joanne & Bill Uhl
Craig - Virginia's Nephew
Sue Neese
Shannon's Godson
Ronnie Slaughter
Nikki Dobson
Chris Freeman
Steve & Peg Burns