

Mt. Hope United Church of Christ

2400 Mt. Hope Church Rd.
Whitsett, NC 27377

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Church Pastor

Rev. Kristin Gerner Vaughn
(336) 402-2897 (cell)
Email: mthopeuccpastor@gmail.com

Accompanist

Ekin Ustunel
Email: mthopeuccoutreach@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
Email: mthopeuccoutreach@gmail.com

Mt. Hope Messenger



2022

Pastor's Love Letter: "Prepared for the Good News"

Well, just like that, Christmas is over, the meal you spent hours preparing is devoured, the wrapping lays a heap in the middle of the floor, the children's laughter is in the distance and life is back to normal. What happens to all that hope, peace, joy and love we unpacked and decorated our homes and hearts with during the Advent season? Does it get backed away with the tinsel and stockings? Every year I leave at least one little Christmas decoration out and forget to pack it up. Last year it was the kitchen angel nightlight. The year before that, the snowman soap dispenser in the hallway.

I used to feel exasperated at myself for not being able to remember everything. Slowly, though I began to enjoy the little Christmas surprises long after the decorations were put away and life of a different sort of pace had resumed. The lone decoration became a cherished find, a reminder that I play a role in the longevity of Christmas.

How do you remember the gifts of Christmas? Do you pack hope and joy away with the tree? How do you tell the good news of Christ being born? A new era unfolding where the lion will sleep with the lamb and swords will be shaped into plowshares?

During one of the daily drives in the car, a little boy asked his mom, "Do you want me to throw the confetti in my pocket?" To which she responded, "No, not in the car! And why do you have confetti in your pocket? "

“It’s my emergency confetti,” he said. “I carry it everywhere in case there is good news.”

In the month of January we celebrate Epiphany, the season of light that follows Advent. The wise travelers follow the star to find Jesus. “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage. “We read this story a few weeks after Jesus’ birth in our liturgical year, but in reality it took the travelers a few years to find Jesus! Maybe it takes getting on the other side of Christmas to really be able to understand its meaning and power in our lives. Christmas has the power to last that long in our lives too, if we are willing to be a people of hope and walk around with a pocket-full of confetti ready to celebrate the Good News of joy.

Christ is Born! We are going to celebrate this good news with confetti during worship on January 2nd and a service of baptism and re-dedication on January 9th. Come ready to tell the Good News and to BE the Good News.

Go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!!

Love,
Pastor Kristin



From the Covid Taskforce

Mask and social distancing while inside the church will remain in place through January 2022, to protect all those around us while together.

With the Covid numbers on an uptick, we will re- evaluate at the end of January.



Mt. Hope United Church of Christ Consistory Meeting 11-14-21

October 31, 2021

Dallas Belvin announced we will have a Congregational meeting on November 14th to vote for officers for Consistory and Trustees for 2022 and also approve the 2022 budget. The floor was opened to nominees.

November 7, 2021

Bob Hamlett nominated Sharon Mims and Dave Blakesley nominated Cindy Hyle for consistory to replace their seats. Dallas Belvin, Simon Clark, Janet Ellis and Cole Levens have all agreed to run for another term. Dean Greeson agreed to run again and Linda Shue nominated Harden Phipps for the open trustee position.

Marcia Cham made a motion to close the nominations and Donnie Ellis seconded. Motion carried.

November 14, 2021

A quorum was established and the meeting was called to order at 11:28am.

Dallas Belvin welcomed all and opened in prayer.

Election of Church Officers

Bob Hamlett and Dave Blakesley have completed their two terms. We thank Bob and Dave for their dedication to the church. The four that have agreed to run for another term are Dallas Belvin, Simon Clark, Janet Ellis, and Cole Levens. Sharon Mims and Cindy Hyle have been nominated for their first term. Brenda Currie made a motion to accept the slate of new officers for Consistory for 2022 and Lorie Arrington seconded.

Motion carried.

Bob Hamlett and Dave Blakesley handed out ballots to vote on the open trustee position and will count the votes.

2022 Budget

Dora Moore presented the proposed 2022 budget for \$282,980.00, which included only two changes from 2021. Ken Cham made a motion to accept the proposed budget and Cindy Hyle seconded. Motion carried.

Proposed Constitutional Change

Bennie Gerner made a motion to rename the Evangelism Committee to Mission & Outreach Committee and Cole Levens seconded. Motion carried.

2022 Trustee Position

Bob Hamlett and Dave Blakesley counted the votes for the trustee position and Dean Greeson was re-elected. Thank you to Harden Phipps for offering to serve.

Steeple Repair

The Consistory has acted in good faith to get Congregational Support to repair the steeple.

The Consistory wants a goal of \$50,000 to be met by 3/1/22.

Susan Finley made a motion for the church to accept donations and raise the funds needed to fix the steeple.

Ken Cham seconded. Motion carried.

Committee Chairs

We will have the chairs of the committees speaking during the worship service to inform the congregation on the work their committee is doing.

Cole Levens made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Dora Moore seconded. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 12:06 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gloria Apple

Secretary

Mt. Hope United Church of Christ Consistory Meeting 11-4-21

Members Present: Gloria Apple, Lorie Arrington, Dallas Belvin, Simon Clark, Bob Hamlett, Joe Hughes, Cole Levens, Dora Moore, and Jim Turner

Pastor Present: Pastor Kristin

The meeting was called to order at 6:07pm. 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: Dora Moore made a motion to accept the minutes as presented and Lorie Arrington seconded. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Dora Moore presented a report on October. The beginning balance for October was \$159,395.63 and the monthly income was \$23,202.87. Expenses were \$24,618.67 which resulted in an ending balance of \$157,979.83. Cole Levens made a motion to accept the treasurer's report as presented and Jim Turner seconded. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Kristin reported the search Committee has been actively meeting and we will hear more about that later. There are lots of prayer concerns in our congregation. Remember to be kind. November 28th is the beginning of advent. Monday November 22nd at 6pm we will be decorating the church for Christmas. December 12th will be our Christmas Pageant. November 21st the youth will be baking items to be delivered to Alamance Plaza. Andrew Beach is leading his youth, YMA to play at Alamance for the residents.

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Words of Assurance

We present our offerings

Committee Reports:

BOCE – Simon Clark reported they met on October 17th.

The Dr. Seuss breakfast on October 3rd was a success. Cathy Gossett, Katelyn Gossett, and Becky Stafford provided the green eggs and ham. Communion was delivered to several of our shut-ins. Be the Church for November 21st will be based on Dr. Seuss' "The Zax". Be the church for December 5th we will be making placemats to send to Alamance Plaza with their Thanksgiving meals. Be the church for December 5th will be based on Dr. Seuss' "How the Grinch Stole Christmas". We will be making clay star ornaments for the residents at Alamance Plaza and our shut-ins.

The Christmas Pageant will be incorporated as a part of the worship on December 12. The children and youth at will receive treat bags following the Christmas Pageant. The children's Christmas Pageant rehearsals are under way each Sunday immediately following worship. Board members were asked to be thinking about possibilities for new board members as we have lost several members. If you are interested in being on the Board of Christian Education please contact Susan Finley. The next meeting of the BOCE will be on Sunday November 14th at 1:30p.m.

Maintenance – The clearing at the picnic shelter has been completed.

Stewardship- Gloria Apple reported the church cleanup is still a work in progress due to complying with our social distancing Covid policy. Most of the areas are nearing Completion and we

are on the schedule for the flooring to be done in Hope's Pantry in 4-5 weeks.

Evangelism – They are assisting with Mobile Meals and WISE team. The motion has been made to change the name of Evangelism Committee to the “Mission & Outreach Committee”. This requires a revision to the Church Constitution and this will be presented to the congregation on November 14th as it requires a congregational vote to be approved. This will be presented to the congregational vote on November

Music & Worship – Kristin Levens will be preaching this Sunday.

Meals4kids – No report

Mobile Meals – No report.

Greensboro Urban Ministry – A delivery will be made soon

Blessing Bag Ministry –Reviewing ministry

Social Concerns – No report

Communications Team – Lorie Arrington reported they are meeting tomorrow on Zoom to discuss the new device for Ekin.

Everyone needs to go to our church's website as often as possible. The more hits we get on our website increases our presence on the Google search engine.

We offer our concerns for the future (New Business)

Steeple Leak -A deposit has been made for the work to begin on the steeple in April. Jim Turner made a motion to present to the congregation at the meeting to set \$50,000 goal to raise funds for the steeple repair and Cole Levens seconded. Motion carried.

Dallas Belvin will encourage everyone at the meeting to contribute to the Steeple Fund above their normal tithes, so that we can still meet our proposed budget.

Outdoor Ministry – Dallas Belvin gave Gloria Apple approval to put us on the list to have the playground equipment installed. He is running 4-5 weeks out at this time.

Task Force – Janet reported they are allowing small groups to meet in the NFH and have food at their meetings. Everyone needs to continue to wear their mask at church.

This will be in effect until January 2022.

Stained Glass Windows – Dora Moore made a motion to proceed with the remaining windows John Kozak, Bill Craft and Dave Blakesley have been working on. Joe Hughes seconded. Motion carried.

Congregational Meeting – We will have our annual congregational meeting on November 14th. Consistory - Bob Hamlett and Dave Blakesley have completed their terms so we will need to elect 2 new members. Janet Ellis, Dallas Belvin, Cole Levens, and Simon Clark have all agreed to run for their second term. Trustees- Dean Greeson is up for reelection for a second term and has agreed to run.

Consistory Dinner – Dallas will check on Dec 2nd or Dec 3rd at Kimbers, Ciao or possibility of having it at the church. We will elect church officers that night.

Consistory Meeting Time- General consensus is to move the Consistory meetings back to 7pm.

Prayers of Intercession Kristin closed in prayer
Charge and Benediction

Meeting adjourned 8:28pm

Next meeting at the Christmas Dinner TBD

Respectfully Submitted,
Gloria Apple, Secretary

Steeple Fund Contributions

\$33,925.00 has been contributed as of December 20, 2021.

Thank you for your contributions and remember this fund raiser is open until 3/1/2022.

Mt. Hope UCC Consistory

2022 Consistory Officers

President

Gloria Apple

Vice President

Janet Ellis

Treasurer

Dora Moore

Assistant Treasurer

Joe Hughes

Assistant Treasurer

Simon Clark

Secretary

Lorie Arrington

Assistant Secretary

Sharon Mims

W.I.S.E Moment



We need your help in taking down the Christmas decorations! Please join us on Thursday, January 6th at 6:00 p.m. to "undecorate" the church. This is usually a faster project than decorating, but we need as many helpers as we can get! Thank you in advance for your help!

The Journey of Dementia

On Wednesdays in January (6:00 PM in the New Fellowship Hall) the Mt. Hope WISE Team will be hosting education and conversation about dementia. The first session will begin on Wednesday, January 12th. These educational events will feature the teaching of Teepa Snow and is for anyone interested in learning about dementia. The sessions will last 1 hour plus time for questions and answers. You can learn more about Teepa Snow's positive approach to care at www.teepasnow.com.

Learn to:

- Make the most of doctor's visits
- Get proper screenings to determine the stage of the disease and the best level-appropriate care
- Look for vital legal and financial documents that need to be prepared before the disease progresses
- Give the best possible support during emergencies
- Determine when and if facility placement is the best choice
- Find the best end of life care choices

All of these FREE sessions are valuable, however you do not need to attend all of the sessions to benefit from one of them.

To register for this event please email Carolyn Simpson, Carolyn.r.simpson7@gmail.com or you may call 336-697-0450 and leave a message to register.

Thank you, Susan Finley! You have rhythmically moved us through Advent inviting us each week to unite our voices together in worship and song. We especially appreciate your leadership in this year's Christmas play. It was perfect. Thanks for helping us all tell the story and thank you for helping the children and youth lead us.

Dear Church, thank you for the generous Christmas gift. What a year it has been and I want to commend you for a job well done. We not only survived, we are weathering this pandemic as a thriving church. Thank you for allowing me to lead you; thank you for sharing your gifts with God through the church. I love you all and wish you and all that you love a Merry Christmas full of all the hope, peace, joy and love a heart and home can hold.

Love, Pastor Kristin

Dear Mt. Hope Church Family,

Thank you to the carolers who came by Dec. 12, 2021 to sing for me. I really enjoyed it and seeing you all.

Thank you Susan for bringing me communion.

Nancy D. Wimbish

Thank you to the Consistory and Mt. Hope for the remembering me in such a special way at Christmas. Your kindness and generosity are greatly appreciated. Susan Finley

Thank you to everyone who helped to make our annual Christmas Pageant a success! Special thanks to Cynthia Morris for all of her work making sure we had enough costumes for everyone, and to Cheryl Royal for tracking down the necessary props for our event. Thanks also to Marcia and Ken Cham for their backstage assistance. Thank you to our children and youth for leading us in the telling the Christmas story in a different way, and to all Mt. Hopers who were such willing participants! We couldn't have done it without ALL of you!



Collecting items needed to welcome the refugees from Afghanistan to Greensboro.

The Women's Fellowship held our December Meeting/Christmas Celebration on December 14th. This was a very meaningful and fun celebration. Our meeting began with a special reading, song and prayer. A collection was taken to help make Christmas a little more special for a shut-in. We shared delicious finger foods, played "Dirty Santa" gift exchange (with lots of stealing) and sang with motions to "The Twelve Days of Christmas". The evening ended "Rocking Around the Christmas Tree".

Thank you to Marcia for leading the fun and we look forward to continuing our study of her book as we travel through the Holy Land at our January 11th meeting.

Happy New Year from the Women's Fellowship of Mt. Hope!



Jaynee and Bill Rocking Around the Christmas Tree



The Good Earth Garden Club collected toys for the Mt. Hope Fire Department Toy Drive



Thank you for caring and thank you for sharing with the Afghan Refugees who are moving into Greensboro during this time.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call someone at the church to assist you. If you are willing to help someone move heavy, bulky items we would like to know that as well. Dave Blakesley, Marcia Cham, Ken Cham and Mike Vaughn, thank you, already for your delivery assistance! Pastor Kristin

Church contacts:

Pastor Kristin: 336.402.2897

Ekin Ustunel: 336.962.9201.

Church Office: 336.697.1561



Upcoming Events:

The choir will resume weekly rehearsals on Wednesday, January 12 at the new meeting time of 7:00 p.m. (There is no choir rehearsal on Wednesday, January 5.) Interested in joining the choir? Come try us out any time.

The Board of Christian Education will meet on Sunday, January 9 at 1:30 p.m. in the Conference Room.

“The Sneetches” will be informing us about the Gospel According to Dr. Seuss on Sunday, January 23. Stay tuned for our Mission: Be the Church event.

Another opportunity to help the Afghan Refugees – For the month of January, we are collecting disposable diapers for the Afghan refugee families with small children arriving and living in the Greensboro area. Let’s concentrate on collecting size 2 diapers.

Gather. Learn. Grow. for Our Children and Youth

On Sunday, January 9, we will be having a special meeting in the New Fellowship Hall for the parents of our children and teens, the children and teens, and everyone with a passion for helping us provide age-appropriate Gather. Learn. Grow events for our teens and children. We will be meeting immediately following worship. As we seek to move beyond COVID, come help us reimagine how we can best meet the needs of our young people and families as we move forward together.

Our December Mission: Be the Church was quite a success! We had a lot of fun rolling out clay, cutting out clay shapes with cookie cutters, and decorating clay Christmas ornaments for the children and youth who participated in our Christmas Pageant, our shut-ins, and the residents of Alamance Plaza. Thank you, especially, for all the behind-the-scenes work that went into the project by our beloved pastor, Kristin Gerner Vaughn.



The next New Member Class will begin on Sunday, January 16th at 11:30 in the New Fellowship Hall. The three-part class will meet for 3 subsequent Sundays. If you are interested in learning more about the church and would like to attend this class, please let Pastor Kristin know of your interest. She can be reached at mthopeccpastor@gmail.com



- 1/2 - no youth
- 1/9 - 5pm Youth Meeting
- 1/16 - 5pm Youth Meeting
- 1/23 - 5pm Youth Meeting
- 1/30 - 5pm Youth Meeting



Special on Happy Home flavorings, 2 for \$3. Only the ones on the left are on sale.

(Imitation Maple, Imitation Banana, Yellow Food Coloring, Imitation Strawberry, Imitation Black Walnut, Imitation Cinnamon, Imitation Pineapple and dried Dill Weed)



January

Saturday, January 1- New Year's Day



Sunday, January 2

10:30 am, Worship
11:30 am, Youth & Children Music
11:30 am, Gather, Learn Grow

Monday, January 3

6:00 pm, Yoga with Sonia

Wednesday, January 5

10:00 am, Bible Study -NFH
7:00 pm, Choir Practice

Thursday, January 6

8:00 am, Yoga with Sonia

Sunday, January 9

10:30 am, Worship
11:30 am, Gather, Learn Grow
11:30 am, Youth & Children Music
1:30 pm BCE Meeting
5:00 pm, Youth Meeting

Monday, January 10

6:00 pm, Yoga with Sonia

Tuesday, January 11

6:30 pm, Women's Meeting

Wednesday, January 12

10:00 am, Bible Study -NFH
7:00 pm, Choir Practice

Thursday, January 13

8:00 am, Yoga with Sonia
6 pm, Consistory Meeting

Sunday, January 16

10:30 am, Worship
11:30 am, Gather, Learn Grow
11:30 am, Youth & Children Music
5:00 pm, Youth Meeting

Monday, January 17

6:00 pm, Yoga with Sonia

Tuesday, January 18

5:30 pm WISE Meeting

Wednesday, January 19

10:00 am, Bible Study -NFH
7:00 pm, Choir Practice

Thursday, January 20

8:00 am, Yoga with Sonia
2:00 pm, Music & Worship Meeting

Sunday, January 23

10:30 am, Worship
11:30 am, Gather, Learn Grow
11:30 am, Youth & Children Music

Monday, January 24

6:00 pm, Yoga with Sonia

Wednesday, January 26

10:00 am, Bible Study -NFH
7:00 pm, Choir Practice

Thursday, January 27

8:00 am, Yoga with Sonia

Sunday, January 30

10:30 am, Worship
11:30 am, Gather, Learn Grow
11:30 am, Youth & Children Music
5:00 pm, Youth Meeting

Please have your newsletter articles in by February 21.



2nd David Prater
4th Peggy Greeson
7th Pat Branson, Roger Neese
11th Lisa Moser
12th Cathy Turner, Mary Catherine Moser
14th Kayla Oehling, Rebecca Levens
15th Ida Glover
20th Kraven Webb
22nd Jim Turner
24th Lillie Honey



20th Hardin & Harriett Phipps
23rd Jeff & Janet Welker



Health Care Center

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
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	Abigail Thompson
Michael Terraforte	Josh Ellis

Members/Friends & Relatives

Betty & Richard Kime	Cheryl Clark
Pat Levens	Robin Gerner
LuEller Ingold	Kathy Welborn Harrison
J.R. Shoffner	Linda Neese
Dean & Peggy Greeson	Carolyn Simpson
Adelita Swaim	Roger Neese Mary Jamison
Bill & Peggy Welker	Mandy Levens
Lloyd & Sylvia Gilliam	David Honey
Sharon Nance	Jessica
Wesley & Esther Clark	The family of Annie Lee Apple
Nancy Wimbish	The family of Helen Smith
Carmen Kriegsman	Burnell Hollifield
Jean Berry	Shane Swaim
Dennis McGee	Jack Nicholson
The family of Trey Hilliard	Rev. Wayne Nelson
Cole Yedlowski-healing	The family of Christina Welker
Nelson Ingram	
William Tickle	
Karen Mounce	