

Mt. Hope United Church of Christ

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Whitsett, NC 27377

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Church Pastor

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

Choir Director

Joan Hedrick

Accompanist

Ekin Ustunel

Church Secretary

Stacey Martin

Office hours:
Monday – Friday
9 am – 1 pm

Consistory President

Dallas Belvin

Board of Christian Education

Susan Finley, Director



Mt. Hope Messenger



2021

Letter from your Pastor:

Christ is risen! Christ is risen, indeed!

The words we wait to shout on Easter morning. This year I think we will shout them as if our lives depend on them. We will gather together in the cemetery for Sunrise Service (6:45 am) on Easter morning, we will cover the once dead cross with flowers bursting forth a metaphor of love and laughter and play and life! Christ is risen! Christ is risen, indeed!

Do you ever wonder how the tulip bulb knows it is time to pop up through the ground? Or how the dogwood tree knows it is time to bloom? How do they know? And how do our hearts know it is time to shout, "Hallelujah!" after the season of Lent is over? I wonder if we just cannot contain it anymore. If the joy and elation of freedom and salvation bubbles up so far in our throats that we cannot contain ourselves any longer.

When I was in elementary school, I sat with a neighbor as often as I could after school while she was going through a difficult pregnancy. I was waiting on this child to be born from her mother's womb about as much as her parents were. Each day when I would arrive at Harriett's door I would say, "Do you know if it is a boy or a girl, yet?" It was taking forever. Then the day came and I was so lucky to be there for the phone call from the doctor that shared the good news of the baby's gender. I wasn't supposed to hear, but I did. When Harriett hung up the phone my uncontrollable laughter confirmed that I now knew the gender of the baby before the father knew. I got in the car with her

under the strict instructions that we were going to find Harden and when we did I was to keep my mouth shut until Harriett could tell him the good news.

Before the car had stopped, I flung open the door of the car and screamed, "It's a girl!!!!!!!" I didn't remember the talk, I couldn't remember the rules, I misunderstood that it wasn't my job to share this news. All I knew is that I couldn't contain my excitement for a baby was about to be born. If I hadn't of said it when I did, I know my chest would have burst wide open.

New life! Resurrection! The thing we are waiting for in the very core of our being. "Without Easter, we wouldn't know Jesus. If his story had ended with his crucifixion, he most likely would have been forgotten... There would have been no abiding community to remember and give meaning to his life," writes Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan. Easter is coming! Throw open the sashes hiding the light from your windows. Easter is coming! Light is to shine in your darkness. Easter is coming! Injustices will be rooted out, the poor will be made rich, the blind will see, the deaf will hear, the oppressed will be set free, life will come from death. Easter is coming! The resurrection says, "The worst thing is never the last thing." (Frederich Buechner)

We have some news that the world needs to hear. Let's celebrate and shout together, "Easter is Coming!!

Courage and strength—
Pastor Kristin



Outdoor worship for the month of April!

As we continue moving forward in our journey toward worshiping together post-pandemic, please join us for outdoor worship services during the month of April. Bring your chairs as we celebrate God's creation and being together. Help will be available for those needing

assistance with chairs. We will continue to follow CDC guidelines to be safe, so please plan to wear a mask and maintain a safe space apart. Facebook live will continue to be available for those who prefer to join from home.

Maundy Thursday
April 1, at 6:30 pm
FB Live Taize Service & Communion

Good Friday
April 2nd
Church open for prayer 12:00 – 3:00 pm

Easter Sunday
April 4th
6:45 Sunrise Service Outdoor service beginning under the portico

10:30 In-Person and Online Worship (bring your lawn chair)



Mt. Hope United Church of Christ Consistory Zoom Meeting 2-11-21

Members Present: Gloria Apple, Dallas Belvin, Noral Belvin, David Blakesley, Simon Clark, Bill Craft, Janet Ellis, Bob Hamlett, and Dora Moore

Pastor Present: Pastor Kristin

The meeting was called to order at 7:05p.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: Noral Belvin made a motion to accept the revised minutes as presented and Dora Moore seconded. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Dora Moore presented a report on January. The beginning balance for January was \$162,236.39 and the monthly income was \$14,272.50. Expenses were \$18,634.07, which resulted in an ending balance of \$157,874.82.

Janet Ellis made a motion to accept the treasurer's report as presented for January and Bob Hamlett seconded. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Kristin reported the passing of Wayne Greeson on Tuesday. The WISE team has met and will meet again on February 21st. Their first meeting was orientation and the group will come up with a goal and mission for the team.

Lent season is being planned. February 17, Ash Wednesday, will be floating. Members are to park at the parking lot at the portico and wait to be ushered in the Sanctuary. Everyone will go down a designated isle and path going out to keep everyone safe.

Call to Confession

Words of Assurance

We present our offerings

Committee Reports:

BOCE – Bingo is tomorrow night.

Maintenance – Third floor air handling still in progress.

Stewardship - Bill Craft reported they did not meet.

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

Music & Worship – Meeting Feb 18th

Meals4kids – No report at this time

Greensboro Urban Ministry – Bob Hamlett to make a delivery

Blessing Bag Ministry – No report at this time

Social Concerns – No report at this time.

We offer our concerns for the future (New Business)

Steeple Leak – Bob Hamlett reported the steeple will have to be taken off the roof to clean and do repairs. It would take 3-4 weeks depending on the weather and they would remove 4 rows of bricks all

the way around and then rebrick. Also looking into repairs to the ceiling of the balcony. Bob was given references on their previous work and will check with insurance company and get a price next week.

Task Force – Janet Ellis reported they met January 26th. Ash Wednesday Service was discussed. Handbell rehearsal was approved to begin in March. The handbell group is a small group and will practice in the new fellowship hall, with masks on and social distancing. The youth will still be meeting virtually. They determined no in person worship through the end of February and will meet again on Feb 16th.

Wise Church – Covered in Pastor's report.

Outdoor Ministry tabled until March.

Old Stained Glass Windows - Bill Craft

and Dave Blakesley will get with Dee

Greeson and Linda & Steve Shue to check

on what we can do and report back at our

next Consistory meeting.

Lock box at the portico is tabled at this time.

Lock box at the bank – Dora to go over contents.

Cemetery cleanup on old cemetery for Elizabeth

AME Church is ongoing.

Parking Lot- waiting on clear weather

Kristin closed in prayer.

Charge & Benediction

Meeting adjourned at 8:51 p.m.

Next Consistory Meeting on March 11th at 7pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gloria Apple, Secretary



The Women's Fellowship met on March 9th via Zoom. At this meeting, we concluded our study of the book "The Secret Life of Bees". Marcia challenged us to look at how parts of the book brought out a gospel message.

In March, we lost Lorena Levens, one of our long time members. Lorena will be greatly missed by the Women's Fellowship. She will particularly be remembered for her many years of loyalty and hard work serving our church's choir.

Our next meeting will be Tuesday, April 13 at 6:30 p.m. We will meet LIVE in the new fellowship hall!! We plan to watch the movie of our concluded book study. Everyone is asked to wear a face mask, practice social distancing and bring your own snack. See you there!

Blessings,
Dee Greeson



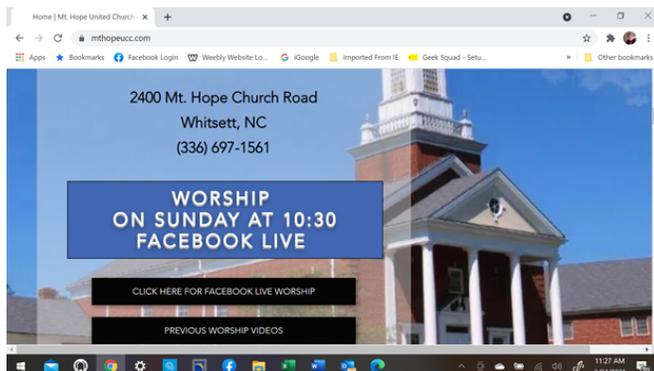
Choir:

- 4/7 - Off
- 4/14 - 7:00 pm Outside at church (this is a time change)
- 4/21 - 7:45pm on Zoom
- 4/28 - 7:45pm on Zoom



Handbells:

Will not meet in April



We have a new and updated website! Check it out at the same web address you have been using, <https://www.mthopeucc.com> and take a tour. To keep up with the happenings at Mt. Hope, go to this website any time you want more information on meetings, zoom meeting addresses, upcoming events and more. Click on the **menu** at the top as well as events you see as you scroll down the page. We want to make it a fun tour for you while we showcase our church, worship services, and outreach programs. Thanks to Ekin Ustunel for her expertise and leadership on this project.
Communications Team



ro Urban Ministry: The wonderful generosity of Mt Hope Church of Christ congregation continues. Your generous food donations to the Greensboro Urban Ministry really adds up through-out the year. This congregation provided food items in

March weighing a total of 202 lbs.

The need is always great and the staff at the food bank are grateful for your generosity. They appreciate the contributions, volume and variety

Cemetery Information – Mowing season has begun. Remember to keep the area around the headstone clear of any decorations and to never use glass containers.

Thank you, Cemetery Committee



FAMILY FUN DAY

Saturday, April 3 – Drop in at Your Convenience

Spend some time outside together, and help us get ready for Easter at the same time! Come decorate our sidewalks with Easter-themed chalk drawings and messages. Remember, we'll actually be

together in person this year! Also, spend a few minutes folding a couple of palm branches into crosses—one to keep, and one leave. Instructions and prompts for both activities will be under the church portico. This event will happen rain or shine, but if it rains, be sure to bring along your rain boots, coats, and umbrellas, and spend a few minutes enjoying the rain.

BRAGGING RIGHTS!

We had a great time at Trivia Night! And everyone learned at least 1 new thing. As promised, the Bragging Rights for the evening go to the members of Team 1 – Pat Huizinga, Elizabeth Craft, Becky Stafford, Barbara Greeson and Bob Finley! Congratulations Team 1! And thank you to everyone who participated in a fun time together. Stay tuned for our next event.

We hope that all of the children found their Easter packets on their front porch or in their door. If you know a child who would like to have one, please let the church office know. We still have a couple of packets left, and the packets have stick puppets and Holy Week activities in them.

We had a great time on Sunday at the Easter Egg Hunt. The children had Storytime & Stick Puppets with Susan, Easter Eggs with Ekin, and Bodacious Bingo with Becky. A good time was had by all. And, congratulations to our Bingo winners: Chloe Strouth, Colton Underwood, Kathryn Vaughn, and Reagan and Skylar Whitman.

Be sure to stop by the church on Saturday, April 3 to help decorate the driveway with chalk messages and pictures, and make crosses out of palm leaves. If you're lucky, you might even find out what's going on in the garden.

wish I could join you. Alas, father time has been at work and my singing has paid the price. I guess I could hum but that would probably be a disaster too! Love to all of you, Pat Levens.



Condolences: We would like to offer our prayers and Christian sympathies to the following families:

The family of E.C. Thornberg, who passed away Monday, March 8, 2021.

The family of Bertie Hart, who passed away Monday, March 8, 2021.

Sympathy to Linwood Ward, whose son Tommy, passed away March 24, 2021.

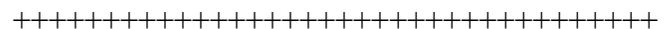
Sympathy to Ray Neese, Jr, whose mom Sandra passed away last week.



Dear Songsters,

Thank you so much for your tribute to Lorena. I'm sure she would have deeply appreciated your act of kindness. Keep singing, I

Flowers bought by choir for Lorena Levens funeral



Helen Smith
C/o Heritage Greens
801 Meadowood St.
Room A2
Greensboro, NC 27409

Alex Hughes
406 W. Smith St. Apt 1A
Greensboro, NC 27401



Calendar

Thursday, April 1 – Maundy Thursday

6:30 pm, Taize Service & Communion - FB Live

Friday, April 2 – Good Friday

12:00 – 3:00 pm Church open for prayer

Sunday, April 4 – Easter

6:45 am, Sunrise Service Outdoor service
beginning under the portico

10:30 am, In-Person and Online Worship (bring
your lawn chair)

Wednesday, April 7

6:00 pm, Bible Study - Zoom

NO Choir Practice

Thursday, April 8

7:00 pm, Consistory Meeting

Sunday, April 11

10:30 am, Worship – Outside & Mt Hope
Facebook Live

5:00 pm, WISE Team

6:00 pm, Youth Meeting - Zoom

Tuesday, April 13

6:30 pm. Church Women's Meeting - NFH

Wednesday, April 14

6:00 pm, Bible Study - Zoom

7:00 pm, Choir Practice –Outside at church

Thursday, April 15

2:00 pm Music & Worship - Zoom

Sunday, April 18

10:30 am, Worship – Outside & Mt Hope
Facebook Live

2:00 pm, BCE Meeting - Zoom

6:00 pm, Youth Meeting – Zoom

Wednesday, April 21

6:00 pm, Bible Study - Zoom

7:45 pm, Choir Practice - Zoom

Sunday, April 25

10:30 am, Worship – Outside & Mt Hope
Facebook Live

Wednesday, April 28

7:45 pm, Choir Practice - Zoom



2nd Amanda Levens

3rd Homer Walsh

4th Peggy Welker

9th Tom Honey

10th Wesley Reece

11th Karen Mounce

13th Shirley Clapp

15th Heinz Slayton

19th Lynne Hinton, Sharon Nance

20th Dee Greeson, Phyllis O'Daniel

21st Helen Johnson

23rd Kristin Vaughn

24th Linda Greeson

25th Jeff Amick, Cliff Greeson, Sr.

26th Judy Gerner, Stephen Shue

29th Christina Oliver

30th Linda Shue



10th Ellis & Wanda Stewart



Health Care Center

Alamance Health Care Center	Grady Gerner (#86A)
Alamance Health Care Center	Teresa Oakley (#83)
Alamance House	R. Denny Ingold (#112)
Ashton Place	Blanche Greeson (#802)
Clapp's Nursing Center	Robert Ingold (#209)
Ralph Scott Homes	Betty Kim Settlemyre
Woodhaven (Albermarle)	Annie Lee Apple
Morning View	Peggie Coble (#101)
Twin Lakes	Darlene Cherry
Clapp's Assisted Living	Jeanne Ingold (#315)

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	Bill & Peggy Welker	Darrell Harris
Pat Levens	Mandy & Beezer Levens	Shari Allen
Emma Jean Greeson	Cole Yedlowski	Vickie & Dale Dangerfield
Jim & Nancy Wimbish	Lloyd & Sylvia Gilliam	Terry Staley
LuEller Ingold	Mt. Hope's Mobile Meals	Johnnie Brown
Marianne Reynolds	Ministry	Joe & Joan Oliver
J.R. Shoffner	Connie & Dave Blasksley	Mr. & Mrs. Robert Beach
Laurie Baker	Evan	Bertie Hart
Bob & Dottie Deeter	Shane Swaim	Brenda & Gary Greeson
Jim Gallagher	Robin Gerner	Blanche Greeson
Adelita Swaim	Henrietta McGee – Dennis	Karen Mounce
Dennis & Cynthia McGee	McGee's stepmother	Dora Moore
Heinz Slayton	Alvin Goins	Family of Garland Cauthren
	Sharon Nance	Family of Peggy Jones

Answers to last months puzzles:

Crossword –

- | | |
|------------|-------------|
| 1. Quail | 8. Sparrow |
| 2. Dove | 9. Pigeon |
| 3. Hawk | 10. Ostrich |
| 4. Vulture | 11. Stork |
| 5. Rooster | 12. Oprey |
| 6. Eagle | 13. Hen |
| 7. Owl | 14. Heron |

Walk through the woods:

- Psalm 78:46 – grasshopper
 Matthew 10:29-31 - sparrow
 Genesis 8:8 - dove
 Leviticus 11:16 - owl
 Deuteronomy 14:5 - deer
 Genesis 1:26 - fish
 Proverbs 30:19 – eagle

- Proverbs 6:6 - ant
 Judges 14:8 - bee
 Psalm 78-45 - frog



Easter Story

Word Search

S C B M N E J E S U S C H R I S T
 K A A P O D V G V A R E J O I C E
 J R V M S P R A Y E R W C B V F S
 Y N O I X I F I C U R C T R M L E
 L A P C O I E B Q O X B B N O O L
 I R E S U R R E C T I O N R E S T
 T R E P P U S T S A L Y E M B L S
 S H L U P V Y T K V F D M T E K O
 O C A R N E P A X R E S I H M R P
 C R M E P E N L D M A N A O I E A
 E U B I K G A A P I J R R R R V V
 T H X C H Y N T N H R S M N A O X
 N C N C A M I E O C T F Y S C S J
 E K E R K O S E W N E I D A L S U
 P U T O N I R N W R P Y A O E A D
 L E Z W R W M D R Q I T Y F O P A
 B S M N D I S C I P L E S C X G S

- APOSTLES
- BETRAYAL
- CAVE
- CHURCH
- CROSS
- CROWN
- CRUCIFIXION
- DISCIPLES
- FAITH
- GOOD FRIDAY

- JESUS CHRIST
- JUDAS
- LAMB
- LAST SUPPER
- LENT
- MARY
- MIRACLE
- PASSOVER
- PENANCE
- PENTECOST

- PRAYER
- REDEMPTION
- REJOICE
- RESURRECTION
- RISEN
- SAVIOR
- SON
- THORNS
- TOMB

