

Mt. Hope United Church of Christ

2400 Mt. Hope Church Rd.
Whitsett, NC 27377

Office: 336-697-1561

e-mail: mthopeuccoffice@gmail.com

Website: www.mthopeucc.com

Office Hours: M, W, & F (8am-3pm) effective 4/1/22

Church Pastor

Rev. Kristin Gerner Vaughn
(336) 402-2897 (cell)

Email: mthopeuccpastor@gmail.com

Administrative Assistant

Lorie Arrington

Email: mthopeuccoffice@gmail.com

Accompanist

Email: mthopeuccoutreach@gmail.com

Interim Music Director

Email: mthopeuccmusic@gmail.com

Consistory President

Gloria Apple

Board of Christian Education

- Susan Finley, Director

Outreach & Digital Technology Director

Lorie Arrington

Email: mthopeuccoutreach@gmail.com

Director of Youth and Children Ministry

Julianna Pierdomenico

Email: mthopeuccyouth@gmail.com

Mt. Hope Messenger June - 2022

Love Letter from Your Pastor: The Not-So-Ordinary time of Ordinary

We are entering ordinary time. We are moving from Easter to ordinary time. I have to admit, early in my ministry I had to look this one up. Ordinary time seems so, well, ordinary. It isn't Advent or Lent, the time of preparation for Christmas and Easter, it isn't a day we celebrate baptism or communion. It is a season of time, in fact, it is the longest season of time of the church year...June 12 through the end of November.

When I think of the ordinary, I think of the opposite of extraordinary. Nothing special, just status quo, normal, maybe it even makes you think, "Boring." Ordinary time in the church is anything but ordinary. It is a time of growth. Marked by the color green, it is the time in the church where we focus on growth, growth as a church but especially on growth in ourselves in our Christian walk.

Not long ago in Bible Study one of the members present spoke up when we were talking about our walk with Christ and she said, "I don't want to be the same kind of Christian next year that I am right now. I want to be better. I am by nature a judgmental person. Things come to my mind so quickly sizing up another person or situation. I pray that God will change my heart. I don't want to be judgmental. I want to be full of grace and love. That is my prayer and I am working on it."

I have stood witness to this Christian's journey to becoming a better and better disciple of Christ. She has been a real testimony to what can happen when we use ordinary time wisely. Many of us say we want to become closer to God, we want to "do better," we want to be more faithful. Many of us wish we could be full of grace, but these things take active work. Want to be fit

and muscular, you cannot just look at the weights in the gym, you actually have to lift them up, repeatedly, out of dedication and commitment.

The season of ordinary time is a time of active growth. As we watch the grass turn from brown to green and the leaves fill in on the trees, we decorate the church in green, I will hang a green stole about my neck and we can all dedicate ourselves to being the newest version of our best spiritual selves. The growth of individual flowers together make the entire garden beautiful and if we are growing as individual members of the community, the entire church will grow.

We will begin our season of growth with the celebration of Pentecost on June 5 and Graduation Sunday on June 12. We are saying goodbye, part of the grieving process of being a church, people come and people go. A huge thanks to Susan Finley and Katelyn Gossett, both of whom stepped in as interim staff members to lead in the church when they were needed most. Grief makes room for what is to come (you think it is easy for the leaves to fall from the trees?) We will also welcome to our staff and community, Julianna Pierdomenico, Director of Youth and Children Ministry. (See her bio and picture included in this newsletter.) We are delighted to have her and look forward to partnering with her as she provides ministry and support to our children and youth and their families. Introduce yourselves to her and extend Mt Hope hospitality to her.

What is your vision for yourself? How do you hope to grow during this ordinary time?

Courage for your season of growth-

Pastor Kristin

Make Your Mark

On Sunday, June 5th between 11:30 am and 12:30pm come make your mark. Gather at the steeple in the church parking lot (Mt. Hope Ch. Rd side) and we will make our mark on the steeple before it is put back into its rightful place on the top of the church.

Mt Hope United Church of Christ
Consistory Minutes
4-21-2022

Approved 5/12/22

Members Present: Gloria Apple, Lorie Arrington, Janet Ellis, Cathy Gossett, Cindy Hyle, Simon Clark, Jim Turner, and Dora Moore.

Pastor Present: Kristin Vaughn

The meeting was called to order by Gloria Apple, a quorum was established and Gloria welcomed all.

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Dora Moore had a devotion and time of prayer.

1 John 3:16

16 This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters.

After Easter

Dora's devotion was regarding how beautiful all of our Easter services and events were. It was great for all of the attendance. But we as people need to focus more on becoming "Easter People" all year.

We Celebrate our past

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made by Dora Moore to approve the minutes from March 2022 consistory meeting and Cindy Hyle seconded. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report:

The beginning balance was \$231,777.00, Receipts \$26,644.37, and monthly expenses \$40,340.77. Leaves an ending balance of \$218,100.70. Jim Turner made a

motion to accept the Treasurer's report and Lorie Arrington seconded. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report

Five new members joined the church on Easter Sunday. Barbara & Mike Vaughn, Gary Strader, Jacob Arrington, and Libby Lowdermilk. Pastor has compared with others and we are in line with other churches as far as attendance goes. Going forward we need to look at the future and programming things to draw new people. Sunday School was not well attended before or after COVID. Various ideas are being addressed. Looking at times and drawing younger families as well.

May 15th - worship in NFH - Horton Hears a Who movie and mental health awareness.

May 22nd - Annual worship at the park / Mackintosh Guilford side / YMA musicians & Bennie Gerner group performing music, hot dogs only and donated desserts.

Committee Reports:

1-BOCE – Simon Clark - VBS June 13-17th (9am - 2 pm) Friday Family night, 4 themes. Discussed how music merges with VBS. No Graduating class at this time. Transportation for VBS included.

2-Maintenance & Trustees – Parts for ice maker ordered, step lights are here and new flags ordered as well.

3-Stewardship – meeting coming up

4-Urban Ministry – 159 lbs delivered for month per letter from GUM

5-Communications Team – Working on reorganizing some of the positions. Still planning a training

6-WISE Team – Pinwheels were put up this month around church. Autism Awareness on the sign and sticker given out on Sunday for everyone to wear. Upcoming, making a stress relief box for here at the church and some to donate to schools as needed to students struggling with anxiety and depression.

If a committee was not listed, there is no report at this time.

Prayer – Pastor Kristin

Old Business:

Steeple Repair Update – Gloria Apple

Starting Friday, April 29th. Gloria will be thanking everyone for donations and encouraging them to continue.

Outdoor Ministry Phase III – Gloria Apple

There are funds leftover, not a lot. Walkway to shelter for easier access is in and just needs painting.

Task Force Update: Janet Ellis

Continue meeting in NFH or Old with spaced out and masks optional.

Youth Room Project Update: Gloria Apple

Youth room items are out getting ready to donate. You will be working on painting the room.

New Business: Gloria Apple

175th / Homecoming - will be held on Sept 18th, combining to one, waiting on approval from Memorial Association to agree to do as one. Pastor suggested each committee have a part. Gloria looking at music and worship normally handles a celebration.

Procedure Book: Cindy Hyle

Cindy Hyle had a problem with the lights at a meeting. Suggesting to create a procedure book of where all breakers and water shut offs are located, and that each room be labeled for newcomers at the church. Book being made with maps and locations. Copy to each trustee and a copy at the church that is available. Freddie and Bennie are going to work on starting the book and labeling will begin and be looked at.

Sunday School

Dora Moore wanted to know if continuing Sunday School at 11:30? BOCE discussed, Music & Worship discussing, and pastor thinks those that attend should be polled and currently advise it is still a work in

progress. There will be some that want both and will not make everyone happy.

Offering

Dora Moore is saying people don't know what to do with their offering. Kristin advised people were wanting variety, not always the same process, which is why there was a change. Advised will add back passing the plate in the service, someone suggested the youth do it.

Remaining items

*We will vote by email if necessary on BOCE PrayGround that was wanted. Still researching on removal of pews and investigating options - Per Gloria

*Constitution revision year - Bennie Gerner is chairman and will handle.

*Voted to not have a meeting in July.

Charge and Benediction

Meeting adjourned.

Next meeting May 12th at 7:00 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Lorie Arrington

Secretary

♥ Youth Corner ♥

● **Coming Soon! Save the Date!**

June 13-17 – Music Camp & VBS –
9:00 a.m. Monday through Thursday,
Friday evening Concert & Family Night
for children who have just finished
kindergarten through 8th grade.

- June 5th - Youth Disc Golf at Burlington Springwood Park

- June 12th - Youth hike - Company Mill Preserve Trail - meet at Haganstone Park
- June 25th - Youth assist with Andy Open Golf Tournament



ANDY OPEN

10th Annual Golf Tournament, Saturday, June 25th at Brookwood Golf Course.

Proceeds to benefit Mt. Hope UCC Projects. See Dallas Belvin (336-601-1982), Janet Ellis, Dee Greeson, or Cathy Gossett for further information. Register by June 15th. Good times & great prizes! Sponsorships available! See You there!



Thank you for everything you did for me and the residents at Alamance Plaza. I appreciate the meals you brought me, goodie bags, etc.. God Bless You,
Lena Williams - 306

Dear Church family,

Thank you very much for the cards, calls, prayers and support you have sent. They all are greatly appreciated. Please continue to keep me in prayer as I do my best daily and try to do as the doctors ask. Thank you again.

Joan May

YOGA CLASSES

Reminder Yoga with Sonia is on Monday at 6 pm and on Thursday at 8 am each week. All are welcome! Invite a neighbor or friend!



COMMUNICATIONS

Are you pretty good with a computer? You don't have to be. Just a willingness to be involved in sharing the works of the church?

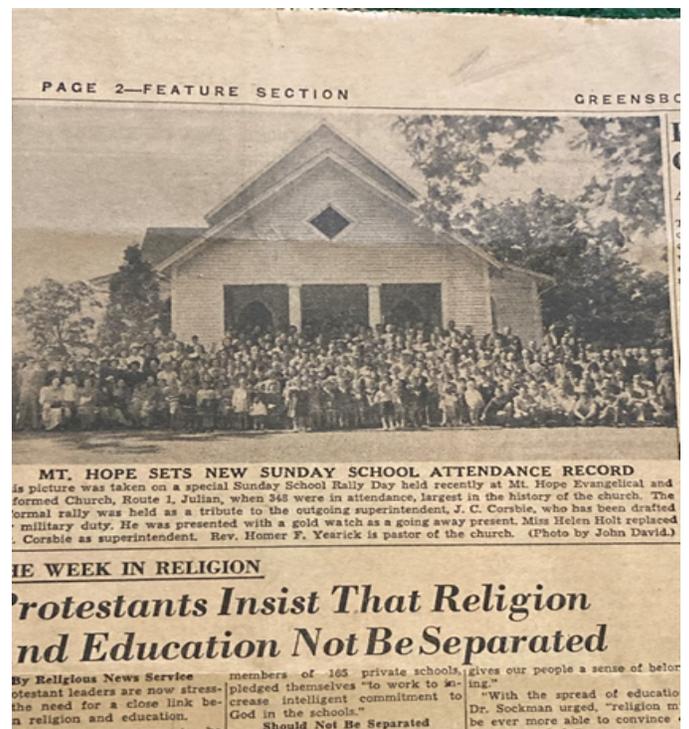
Communications committee is looking for some volunteers. They are responsible for bringing attention to the programs, projects and ministries of Mt. Hope within the church community and the community at large. They are now in the planning stages to hold a training class about our website and Facebook page to help others be more comfortable using this tool. If this interests you, feel free to contact Lorie Arrington, the chair. Other members of the committee are Barbara Greeson, Bill Craft, Jacob Arrington, Ben Beach, and Alex Hughes. Joining a committee is a great way to get to know some of your church family better while helping spread God's word.



Do you like music or do you just have some ideas on our worship service? This week's

committee highlight is the Music & Worship Committee. The committee coordinates and sets policy for the music program of the congregation, assists the Pastor in the preparation of regular worship and other services of celebration.

The M&W committee's current members are Cindy Hughes, Judy Gerner, Dee Greeson, Linda Shue, Pat Branson, Sylvia Belvin, the choir director and the accompanist. If you would like to know more, contact Cindy Hughes, the committee chair.



Historical Committee

They are responsible for researching, maintaining, displaying, and protecting historical materials and artifacts of Mt. Hope United Church of Christ. This committee is being reactivated this year with the task of identifying people and events already on file and creating an electronic backup. The current members are Bill Craft, Jaynee Brown, Sylvia Belvin and Jacob Arrington. If you are a history buff or just want to learn more about the history of our church, please contact one of the members on this committee



Julianna is extremely excited to join the team at Mt. Hope! Her love for youth and the church has grown from her experience at Bear Creek Camp, a ministry of the Southeastern and Northeastern Pennsylvania Synods of the ELCA. For five summers, she worked at Bear Creek as a counselor and as a part of the leadership team. After that, she continued her love for working with youth in ministry at Temple Lutheran Church located outside of Philadelphia where she was the church's first Children, Youth, and Family Minister and was tasked with building a strong foundation for the youth and children there. Julianna aspires to create cultivating communities where kids can still be kids while building the confidence to share and grow their faith. She just graduated with her M. Ed in Music Education from Kutztown University and is a graduate student at UNC Greensboro studying clarinet performance and working as a graduate assistant in the music theory area. Her main hobbies (when she isn't practicing!) include hiking, running, and spending time with friends, family, and her cat Lucy.

A Hand Up Not a Handout

The UCC heard the cries of many people who were dealing with exorbitant healthcare bills and decided to do something about it. With the leadership and vision of Rev. Otis Moss the RIP Medical Debt was formed. The UCC announced on February 14 that it used \$200,000 from one of its annual Giving Tuesday campaigns to purchase and pay off \$33 million in medical debt. This is just another way the UCC comes together to do great things. Church leaders came together in the city of Chicago to address the needs of many who were drowning in medical debt. It became a justice issue for the UCC and the pastors pooled their resources and fundraising efforts to join the non-profit work of RIP Medical Debt that was established long before the pandemic in 2014.

In our country, all of the unpaid medical bills get lumped into "portfolios" and medical providers sell the debt in an effort to recoup some of the loss of income. However, even though the debt is "bought" the providers still try to collect the debt from those who received the services. In an article in the Christian Century (April 6, 2022) "RIP Medical Debt instead abolishes the debt, with no tax consequences or strings attached for the recipients. The beneficiaries, while remaining anonymous to the denomination, receive a letter saying, "The funds that abolished this debt were generously provided by the United Church of Christ.

The UCC started in the state of Ohio because that is where our national church office is located in Cleveland. The UCC hopes that this kind of advocacy and justice will expand to other states and other conferences within the denomination. The UCC's most recent medical debt purchase in Ohio abolished the medical debt of 10,757 households in 70 counties. The criteria used by the UCC for qualifying debtors were those earning less than two times the federal poverty level; in financial hardship, with out-of-pocket expenses that are at least 5% of the household income. Traci Blackmon, minister of Justice and Local Church Ministries said in the article, "As we close this campaign by abolishing all the debt available to us in the state of Ohio, we urge you to remember charity and celebrations were never the goal of this initiative, Advocacy was.

WISE Moment

LGBT Youth increased risk for depression, anxiety and suicide

Today I want to speak about LGBT youth and their increased risk for depression, anxiety, and suicide. As we know adolescence can be a difficult time of figuring out who you are and establishing identity, also how you are accepted at home, at school, and with peers.

Statistics

According to the Trevor project:

45% of LGGBT you have seriously considered suicide in the last year

Only 1 in 3 LGBT youth found their homes to be affirming

78% of LGBT youth reported symptoms of anxiety

58% of LGBT youth experienced symptoms of depression

70% of LGBT youth described their mental health as poor

75% of LGBT youth reported that they had experienced discrimination based on their sexual orientation or gender identity

These numbers were all increased for people of color.

Most persons questioned, stated that their feelings of anxiety and depression were because of non-acceptance of who they are.

These issues are far reaching and can have lasting impact, poorer physical health, dropping out of school, homelessness, and an increased chance of substance abuse, and suicide.

Suicide is the second leading cause of death in youth ages 15-24.

What can we do?

It is important to have an open mind, let them speak without judgment, let them know that they are in a safe place. If they are expressing that they want to harm themselves, call prevention lifeline 1-800-273-TALK or text Crisis text line to 741741. Or have them speak with a trusted counselor.

These young people want what we all do to be accepted for who they are to be loved, to be safe. ***Let us be that people, let here be that place, let us be the church***, All are Welcome, All are Welcome, All are Welcome in this place.

There are safety pins with a rainbow bead at the front of the church. Please take and wear them as a symbol of your support. A safety pin is a sign for all who are marginalized that they are safe.

Alex Hughes

Melinda Kozak

Resources and Information

The Trevor Project - thetrevorproject.org provides 24 hour crisis support services.

Guilford Green Foundation and LGBT Center, 121 N. Green St, provides community resources, services, and groups. National Suicide prevention Lifeline 800-273-8255.

Pflag - Pflag.org an organization that provides support and resources for LGBT people and their families and allies. NAMI crisis line 741741

The WISE Team is looking for donations of shoe boxes with the lids attached for the anxiety boxes.



Young Musicians of Alamance
513 Front Street
Burlington, NC 27215
336-524-6764
ymofa1@gmail.com

Our beet sales were fantastic last year. If beets grow as expected, we will be canning again this month. Be ready for some hard but rewarding work ladies!



2022 Beet Crop at the Margaret & Norman Sharpe Farm

CHURCH ON THE LAKE

Our church on the lake was a great success! Big thanks to all those that helped and all those that were able to come! The food was fabulous as always, big thanks to those that gave their time to serve and all those that made desserts.

Fantastic entertainment with Bennie Gerner's Bluegrass group, we appreciate your time and great music! Also, the wonderful little people and teachers of Young Musicians of Alamance! What a blessing to the children to receive the training and teachings that will hopefully change their life! It takes \$150 to sponsor a student for one month. Below is some information if you did not get a chance to donate or wasn't prepared.

No amount of donation is too small! They are currently collecting musical instruments, specifically flute, clarinet, trumpet, trombone, guitar, drums, bass and keyboard. You may contact them by email to get ways of how you can help.





Lake Mackintosh photos - church on the lake. May 22, 2022. Music, hot dog lunch & homemade desserts. Then time to fellowship, kayak, fish, and play on the playground.





*Note there will be no Board of Christian Education Meeting this month.
 *Note there will be no Bible Study the month of June.

Thursday, June 2
 8:00 am Yoga with Sonia

Sunday, June 5
 10:30 am Worship
 11:30 am Gather, Learn, & Grow
 11:30 am Youth & Children Music
 5:00 pm Youth Disc Golf - Springwood Park
 Burlington

Monday, June 6
 6:00 pm Yoga with Sonia

Tuesday, June 7
 7:00 pm Garden Club - NFH

Wednesday, June 8
 7:00 pm Choir Practice

Thursday, June 9
 8:00 am, Yoga with Sonia
 7:00 pm Consistory - NFH

Sunday, June 12 - Graduation Sunday
 10:30 Worship
 11:30 am Gather, Learn, & Grow
 11:30 am, Youth & Children Music
 5:00 pm Youth Hike, company Mill
 Preserve Trail, meet at Haganstone Park

Monday, June 13
 9:00 am VBS and Music Camp
 6:00 pm Yoga with Sonia

Tuesday, June 14
 9:00 am VBS and Music Camp
 7:00 pm Women's Fellowship - NFH

Wednesday, June 15
 9:00 am VBS and Music Camp
 7:00 pm Choir practice

Thursday, June 16
 8:00 am Yoga with Sonia
 9:00 am VBS and Music Camp

Friday, June 17

9:00 am VBS and Music Camp

Sunday, June 19 - Father's Day
 10:30 am Worship
 11:30 am Gather, Learn, & Grow
 11:30 am Youth & Children Music
 1:30 pm Board of Christian Ed meeting
 5:00 pm No Youth Meeting

Monday, June 20
 8:00 am Yoga with Sonia

Tuesday, June 21
 5:30 pm W.I.S.E. Meeting - NFH
 6:30 pm Stewardship - Conf. Rm

Wednesday, June 22
 7:00 pm Choir Practice

Thursday, June 23
 8:00 am Yoga with Sonia

Saturday, June 25
 Andy Open Golf Tournament
YOUTH - Assist w/ golf tournament

Sunday, June 26
 10:30 am Worship
 11:30 am Gather, Learn, & Grow
 11:30 am Youth & Children Music
 5:00 pm No Youth Meeting

Monday, June 27
 8:00 am Yoga with Sonia

Wednesday, June 29
 7:00 pm Choir Practice

Thursday, June 30
 8:00 am Yoga with Sonia



June Birthdays

3rd Joseph Moser
 4th Terence Clapp
 Gary Whitesell
 7th David Gannon
 11th Robert Ingold
 13th Sadie Hughes
 Randy Underwood
 14th Kathryn Vaughn
 Mary Neese
 15th Anne Clapp
 17th Alex Hughes
 Lindsay Harris
 18th Andy Greeson
 Ashlyn Chapmon
 Pat Levens
 Liam Craft

20th Pattie Dix
 21st Dianne Clapp
 Melinda McDade
 22nd Clint Moore
 24th Don Ellis
 Jeanette Kirkman
 Stephanie Lehman
 25th Stephanie Strouth
 26th Thomas Wood
 27th Donald Slayton
 28th John Kozak
 30th Carmen Varney

💖 June Anniversaries 💖

Noral & Cindy Belvin 6/1
 Lloyd & Sylvia Gilliam 6/1
 Jimmy & Pamela Greeson 6/4
 Bennie & Judy Gerner 6/7
 Jared & Anna Lashley 6/7
 Jim & Cathy Turner 6/8
 Dallas & Gloria Belvin 6/10
 Byron & Kristen Greeson 6/13
 Dan & Lydia Sbityakov 6/15
 Scott & Lisa Andrews 6/16
 Don & Janet Ellis 6/17
 David & Constance Blakesley, Sr. 6/20

Terence & Anne Clapp 6/23
 Ken & Marchia Cham 6/25
 Chris & Angel Minor 6/26
 Jason & Kimberly Shinn 6/26
 Eugene & Sandra McCray 6/27
 Phillip & Jane Fittante 6/27
 Reed & Jennifer Kirkman 6/29
 Kyle & Sandi Kirkpatrick 6/29
 Homer & Doris Walsh 6/30



Health Care Center

Alamance House	R. Denny Ingold (#112)
Clapp's Nursing Center	Robert Ingold (#710)
Ralph Scott Homes	Betty Kim Settlemyre
Brookdale Burlington	Peggie Coble (#74)
Twin Lakes	Darlene Cherry
Blakey Hall	Jeanne Ingold (#212)

Mt. Hope Military Connections

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

Members, Friends, & Relatives

Betty & Richard Kime	Brian Smith	Kristen Layton Patton
Pat Levens	Adelita Swaim	
LuEller Ingold	Shane Swaim	
J.R. Shoffner	Goldie Sawyer	
Bill and Peggy Welker	Joan May	
Lloyd & Sylvia Gilliam	Judy Gerner	
Sharon Nance	Noral & Cindy Belvin	
Nancy Wimbish	Dave Blakesley & Connie	
Mandy Levens	Bonnie Thompson	
Nancy Phipps	Virginia Collins	
Libby Lowdermilk	Jane Nelson	
Ukraine & people of Russia	Evelyn Thompson	
Alonzo Smith	Kate Ford	
Steve & Peggy Burns	Robin Stallings	
Tyler Stewart	Johnny Albright, Jr	
Steeple Workers	Dave Blakesley	
Larry May	Vicky Arrington	
	Anne Welker	