

Mt. Hope United Church of Christ

2400 Mt. Hope Church Rd.
Whitsett, NC 27377

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

Church Pastor

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Accompanist

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Gloria Apple

Board of Christian Education

Susan Finley, Director

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Katelyn Gossett

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Mt. Hope Messenger April 2022

A Love Letter from Your Pastor: Emerging

Raising butterflies is a beautiful process. Beautiful, but messy. The little caterpillar larvae, the size of a black fuzzy pencil head, eats and eats like Eric Carle illustrates in his book, *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*, until they are nearly 2 inches long. Then when the time is right, they crawl up to the cup lid lined with tissue paper adequate for them to hang upside down until their mushy little bodies are covered in silk threads that form a chrysalis.

Some days I wish I could hang upside down completely encapsulated in a protective coating, shielded from all of the demands of the world. Some days it would be nice to turn off the lights, let the blood rush to my head and do some really deep thinking. Some days this kind of enclosure would make me feel claustrophobic just to imagine the tight space. I would want to know as the last thread was being spun around me, "How long will this take? How many days will I be here? Is there an escape hatch? How will I scratch my nose? Can I take my phone and a book with me?" Asking these questions makes me realize I am not ready for the chrysalis.

All seems dead when the darkness comes. There is no movement, the caterpillar ceases all activity. No eating, no excretions...nothing. The first time I raised butterflies, I almost lost hope. They looked like sticks, dead, lifeless. After days of no action, I felt silly standing watch for the first glimpse of the transformation. Nothing was going to change, transformation would not happen when all was dead. I had failed. Code Blue. They didn't make it. I left them

on the counter for a few days in their “butterfly house” only because I didn’t know what to do with them, or maybe it was because I couldn’t completely turn my back on them. And then it happened. While I was cooking dinner, something caught my attention. There was movement. One of the “dead” things began to wiggle, it wiggled and spastically moved like the erratic valve on a pressure cooker until it found its rhythm. It wasn’t dead. It was clearly alive. I just couldn’t see the transformation. My hope had been restored.

It took several more days for the caterpillar’s journey to finish, but a butterfly eventually appeared. After all the waiting it was a beautiful sight to behold. Life had come from death.

It is no wonder that the butterfly is nature’s symbol of our spiritual transformation from death to life in the resurrection story of Easter. The hopelessness of Good Friday lends its way to the hope and joy of new life. It is beautiful but it is messy. Transformation only comes after chaos. Life is possible after death.

Like the caterpillar, the church is in a time of transformation. Coming out of Covid the church, not just ours, but most churches are emerging from who they have been to who they are becoming. It is easy to feel the discomfort of being in the chrysalis of change and want to grab onto all our old practices, the ones that worked and did not work before Covid. However, it is important for us to sit in the stillness, and what can often feel like death. It is dying to our old self, our old ways of being church together, our old ways of community life and practices of faith, but in so dying we are reborn to the resurrected life that is better than any one of us could have imagined. The caterpillar, growing in its silken stillness whispers to us, “Be still, God is doing a new thing.”

When the butterfly emerges from her darkness, her wings are wet. Even then she is not yet ready to fly. A butterfly on the wings of the morning, stretches out her wings and uses them as solar panels to receive energy enough to fly.

We, the church, are being reborn. It is time for us to be still, let God roll back the heavy stones that weigh us down, stretch our wings and soar to great heights.

Come and be a part of this transformational journey through Holy Week. Maundy Thursday dinner

(6:15 pm) and service (7:00 pm) will be April 14th in the New Fellowship Hall. Good Friday service (7:30 pm) will be April 15th in the Sanctuary. The celebration will continue on Easter Morning with Sunrise Service (6:30 am) in the cemetery with a full breakfast in the New Fellowship Hall and Easter worship at 10:30 am.

Spread your wings! Take Courage! Emerge!

Pastor Kristin

P.S. Sunday, April 3 is our playground dedication. Wear Blue and your favorite hat and join us for this joyous occasion. Plan to stay and eat a hot dog lunch with us at the picnic shelter. Wear Blue if you can!

Pastor Kristin and her family will be away April 4-10. Pastor Ray Mims will be filling in for her while she is away. If you have a pastoral care emergency please call the church office at 336.697.1561 or Consistory President, Gloria Apple at 336.312.8951. Prayers for safety and rejuvenation for our pastor and her family.

Mt Hope United Church of Christ

Consistory Minutes

2-10-22

Final – Approved 3/10/22

Members Present: Gloria Apple, Lorie Arrington, Dallas Belvin, Janet Ellis, Cathy Gossett, Cindy Hyle, Joe Hughes, Cole Levens, Sharon Mims, Simon Clark and Dora Moore.

Pastor Present: Kristin Vaughn – by phone for her presentation

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

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Lorie Arrington had a devotion and time of prayer.

Lorie's devotion talked about the dash. Not the beginning and ending dates on your stone but the dash, the time in between and what you do with it. How that time is in the hands of our heavenly Father. How we should look to God to lead and guide us in everything we do. That we should always have confidence and assurance that he is watching over us. Are we doing what we should, are we making the most of our purpose in life and what God has led us to do?

We Celebrate our past

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made by Cole Levens to approve the minutes from January 2022 consistory meeting and Joe Hughes seconded. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report:

The beginning balance was \$210,871.25, Receipts \$30,338.81, and monthly expenses \$20,079.03. Leaves an ending balance of \$221,131.03. Janet Ellis made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report and Cathy Gossett seconded. Motion carried.

Consistory members agreed Dallas would remind the congregation of the Steeple Fund during t Sunday's service.

Pastor's Report

Deaths were Jean Neese Berry and Blanche Greeson this month. Jacob Arrington had requested to be baptized and approval was requested. Dallas Belvin made a motion to accept Jacob Arrington by baptism and Dora Moore seconded. Motion carried. A new member class will be in March, as it was postponed in January due to weather and Dementia Class. There are 12 people interested at this time.

Lenten service will be March 2nd, theme is

"Grounded in God's Love". Ash Wednesday service will be Wednesday at 6:30 pm.

The Personnel Committee has accepted Stacey Martin's resignation. Lorie Arrington will fill in as Interim Secretary. An announcement will be placed in the bulletin with office hours. M, T, & TH (9am – 1 pm).

Thanks to all of the church assisting with the Aria family. They have moved into a home and settled in. They are learning to ride the bus. The daughter has gotten on a Guilford County bus route. The security deposit and first month's rent were paid. Currently working on resumes, jobs, and health/dental care.

Kristin will be assisting in the funeral service for Bill Smith at Forbis & Dick in Pleasant Garden on Thursday, February 17, 2022.

Committee Reports:

Committee reports will be sent to Janet Ellis going forward and she will present at consistory meetings.

1-BCE – meeting coming up 2/20/22

2-Maintenance & Trustees – Freddie Gossett had the fallen gutter repaired. Working on lights for steps in front of church and light on the flag.

3-Stewardship – meeting March 1st

4-Urban Ministry – food is being delivered, unsure of total this time, around 60 lbs.

5-Communications Team – Meeting 2/22, Lorie attending a meeting for Guilford County regarding internet access. Going to plan a training for our website and social media.

6-WISE Team – will be holding 3 weekly sessions for Dementia on Wednesday evenings. If a committee was not listed,

there is no report at this time.

Prayer

Old Business:

Steeple Fund Raiser: Dora Moore and Gloria Apple

Current balance of the Steeple Fund is \$68,043.61.

Steeple repair is \$100,000 and the expected start date is April 1st. A deposit has been paid to Campbellville Industries.

Outdoor Ministry Phase III update: Gloria Apple

They have started setting up and reducing to minimal space to save on mulch. We have been able to purchase used curbing for half the cost. And so far, received enough donations to cover the cost.

Task Force Update: Janet Ellis

Things remained the same, continuing to wear masks until further update. They have not met again as of this meeting.

Stained Glass Windows Update: Gloria Apple

John Kozak has finished all the windows. Waiting on COVID to settle and will get help to mount them.

Youth Room Project Update: Gloria Apple

Youth room is done and waiting on youth to complete.

New Business:

Note that it was voted by email and approved by consistory members for Lorie Arrington to be approved as interim Admin in office.

Discussed church closing due to bad weather and procedure for Gloria to continue posting on Fox 8 and News 2. It will also be posted on Facebook and asking that all consistory members share, if possible, to spread the word.

Charge and Benediction

Meeting adjourned.

Next meeting March 10th at 7:00 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Lorie Arrington
Secretary

Auction - Linda Shue's House 4/30/22

On Saturday, 4/30/22 there will be an auction at Linda Shue's House, located at 2860 Mt Hope Church Road. Tools, power tools, trailers, household items, outside furniture, car parts (old), motors, and yard tools. Auction starts at 10 am. You can come early that day to browse. Hope to see you there!



Outdoor Ministry Phase III Update

We would like to thank the following people who helped spread the mulch for the playground. Which was 170 yards and boy that is a lot of mulch!

Bennie Gerner, Dave Blakesley, Ray Mims, Dallas Belvin, Noral Belvin, Jacob Arrington, Karen Mounce, Lorie Arrington, Bob Hamlett, and Harden Phipps. A special thank you to Harden for the use of his Skid Steer. Attached are a couple of pictures. Check out the one with Bob Hamlett & Ray Mims testing the see saw! It took us 3 years to complete all the outdoor ministry projects because of COVID. We have a couple little touches to complete, but will be holding a playground dedication on April 3rd at 12:00 pm, which will include a cookout of hot dogs. Please mark your calendar to join us. More details are to come. God's timing is perfect to have the playground dedication on the same day as we begin the month of April with Autism Acceptance and Child Abuse Prevention month.

God is good ALL the time!
Gloria Apple

W.I.S.E. MOMENT

April is Autism



ACCEPTANCE Month!

What is Autism?

Autism, or autism spectrum disorder (ASD), refers to a broad range of conditions characterized by challenges with social skills, repetitive behaviors, speech, and nonverbal communication. There are many subtypes of Autism and each person with autism has a distinct set of strengths and challenges. Autism is often accompanied by sensory sensitivities and medical issues such as gastrointestinal disorders, seizures, or sleep disorders, in addition to mental health challenges.

Did you know?

- Autism affects an estimated 1 in 44 children
 - 1 in 27 boys and 1 in 116 girls identified with autism
 - Boys are 4 times more likely to be diagnosed
- Does not discriminate, though minority groups tend to be diagnosed later and less often
- There is no medical detection for autism
- Early intervention affords best opportunities to support healthy development
- An estimated 40% of people with autism are nonverbal
- Nearly 2/3 of children with autism 6-15 have experienced bullying
- Autism costs an estimated \$60,000 a year through childhood in special services & lost wages
- All 50 states have passed autism insurance legislation to provide access to medical treatment/therapies

How can you help?

- Wear blue on April 2nd for World Autism Awareness Day
- Donate to Autism Speaks (www.autismspeaks.org)
- Participate in awareness walks! Find one near you at act.autismspeaks.org

Blue is the color for Autism Acceptance Month and Child Abuse Prevention Month. During April our Church lawn will be displaying blue pinwheels to help bring awareness to both issues, as we are Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive, and Engaging.



Thank you

Mt Hope Church Family,
My spirits were lifted by your kindness as I awaited relief for my back pain. Your thoughts, prayers, cards, and calls were truly appreciated while I recovered from my back surgery.
Love and many thanks,
Carolyn Simpson

Mt Hope Church Family,
Thank you so much for all the food you brought when Bill passed. It really helped to feed the family. Most of all, I thank you for your prayers, visits, and cards from so many. The people from Mt. Hope **cannot** be beat. This is the most caring group of people I have ever known. This is why our church stands apart. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Nancy Smith Family

Mt Hope family, I would like to thank you for all of the prayers, cards, food, and calls during my knee replacement. I appreciate you all very much.
Linda Miller

Thank you Mt. Hope Church Family for your kindness & generosity during this difficult time. Also, thank you for all the cards sent to Dennis during his illness and the prayers.

The Dennis McGee Family.

THANK YOU so much for your prayers & support. David is progressing slowly. Thank you for the prayers he has truly felt.

Diana Edwards & David Massengill



Thank you to Marcia Cham for opening her home for our March meeting. She shared information and pictures of her journey to the Holy Land. We will continue the study of her book at our next meeting on Tuesday, April 12, 6:30 pm in the New Fellowship Hall. Please read Book IV in preparation.

Many thanks to...

... everyone who donated Bingo prizes or participated in Bingo night! We had a great time fellowshiping, and enjoying Mary Catherine's oatmeal and devil's food cookies and Bennie Gerner's calling skills with the help of Marlene Pierce. All Bingo players went home with several new items, and the winner of our \$25 Grand Prize Gift Card was Lizzie Honey!

...the Craft, Gossett, Vaughn and Finley families for helping us get started on the ballpark clean up. Special thanks to Jeremy Oehling for doing the mowing. What a great Mission: Be the Church event, and another good opportunity for fellowship while helping our community and the earth! Both fields can now be used, but there is still much work to be done. There are felled trees and branches, and more mowing and/or weed eating around the ball fields, especially around the bleachers and in the parking area. The playground also needs to be cleaned up, and to have all the tree branches and

the "carpet" of pine cones removed. If you like working outdoors, and have time to work on any of these needs, please let Pastor Kristin know of your interest.

...everyone who has been collecting Styrofoam and dropping it off at the church, or who came by on Saturday, March 26th to help out our youth with their Mission: Be the Church Styrofoam Recycle Day project. Way to help clean up our community and earth!

Coming Soon! Save the Date!

Sunday, April 3 – *Cat in the Hat Day!* Wear your favorite hat, and come have your picture with the Cat in the Hat! The Cat will be available beginning at 10 a.m. on the front porch of the sanctuary, and after worship at the new playground!

Saturday, April 9, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m. *Easter EGGstravaganza* for children. Invite your friends and relatives!

Sunday, April 10 – *Palm Sunday Parade* during worship

Sunday, May 15 – Our final "*Gospel According to Dr. Seuss*" day. Horton Hears a Who will demonstrate how we need to listen carefully to cries for help.

June 13-17 – *Music Camp & VBS* – 9:00 a.m. Monday through Thursday, Friday evening Concert & Family Night for ages 3 through 8th grade.

July 10-15, 2022 *Johns River Valley Camp* Junior Camp for Grades 4-6

If you have a child, or know of a child who might enjoy 6 days of aquatics, hikes, games, campfires and more, please contact the church office as soon as possible.

MOBILE MEALS...Have you cooked a meal for Mobile Meals? Are you planning to be a part of this ministry? We now have Food Lion gift cards available for reimbursement. If you don't want the reimbursement for yourself, you may pass on to a friend or family member! Please, give us a call to claim your card 336-697-1561.

Hello

My name is Katelyn Gossett and I am your new youth director! I am very excited to begin this journey here at Mt. Hope and get back involved with the church that I grew up in. I recently graduated from East Carolina University with a bachelors in recreational therapy and moved back home. I plan on continuing my education along with fulfilling this position! I am so thankful and eager to work with the youth of the church and see what all the creative and meaningful activities, events, and missions we can start doing. Here are a few of my favorite hobbies, the outdoors, playing with my dogs, painting, crafts, and basketball! If you or your children are grades 6th-12th come out and join us on Sundays at 5pm in the Youth Room on the first floor of the church and stay tuned for other events! If you would like to support us or have any questions contact Katelyn Gossett: (336) 324-0359 or mthopeuccyouth@gmail.com

Youth Corner

April Events

- April 9th Easter Egg Hunt (youth assist)
- April 10th Youth Easter Egg Hunt @5pm
- April 12th Zaxby's spirit night @5pm-8pm (Whitsett location)
- April 30th Youth Room Remodel Day/ Styrofoam collection @11am-3pm

Youth meetings

April 3rd @5pm in Youth Room
April 24th @5pm in Youth Room

Youth Mission for April

Collect canned food items and STYROFOAM for donations

Youth Fundraiser for April

Come and tell your friends to support the Youth and their growth as a program!

ZAXBY'S @ STONEY CREEK



Congratulations to Lillie Honey!!!

ChalkWalk2022 sponsored by Greensboro Parks and Recreation

Teen winner: Lillie Honey





If you have someone graduating from high school or college this year, please be sure to contact the church office no later than May 1 so that we may send you a form to fill out about your graduating person.

Sunday, April 3

- 10:00 am Cat in Hat pictures
- 10:30 am Worship - Cat in Hat Day/Wear Hat
- 11:30 am Gather, Learn, & Grow
- 11:30 am Youth & Children Music
- 12:00 pm Playground dedication & cookout
- 5:00 pm Youth in Youth Room

Monday, April 4

- 6:00 pm Yoga with Sonia

Tuesday, April 5

- 7:00 pm Garden Club - NFH

Wednesday, April 6

- 8:00 am, Yoga with Sonia
- 10:00 am Bible Study - NFH
- 7:00 pm Choir Practice

Thursday, April 7

- 8:00 am Yoga with Sonia

Saturday, April 9

- 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm Easter Eggstravaganza

Sunday, April 10

- 10:30 Worship - Palm Sunday Parade
- 11:30 am Gather, Learn, & Grow
- 11:30 am, Youth & Children Music
- 1:30 pm BOCE Meeting
- 5:00 pm Youth Easter Celebration - Mt. Hope

Ballfield

Monday, April 11

- 6:00 pm Yoga with Sonia

Tuesday, April 12

- 6:30 pm Women's Fellowship - NFH
- 5:00pm - 8:00pm Zaxby's Youth Fundraiser

Wednesday, April 13th

- 10:00 am Bible Study - NFH
- 6:15 pm Handbell practice
- 7:00 pm Choir practice

Thursday, April 14th

- 8:00 am Yoga with Sonia
- 6:15 pm Maundy Meal - NFH
- 7:00 pm Maundy Thursday Service -

Communion

Friday, April 15th

- 7:30 pm Good Friday Service

Sunday, April 17th - Easter

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

Monday, April 18th

- 8:00 am Yoga with Sonia

Tuesday, April 19th

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

Wednesday, April 20th

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

Thursday, April 21st

- 8:00 am Yoga with Sonia
- 7:00 pm Consistory - NFH

Friday, April 22nd

Earth Day

Saturday, April 23rd

Passover Ends

Sunday, April 24th

- 10:30 am Worship / Communion
- 11:30 am Gather, Learn Grow
- 11:30 am Youth & Children Music
- 5:00 pm Youth Meeting / youth room

Monday, April 25th

- 8:00 am Yoga with Sonia

Tuesday, April 26th

- 6:30 pm Stewardship Committee - Conf Rm

Wednesday, April 27th

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

Thursday, April 28th

- 8:00 am Yoga with Sonia



- 15th Heinz Slayton
- 19th Lynne Hinton
- 20th Phyllis O'Daniel
Dee Greeson
- 21st Helen Johnson
- 23rd Kristin Vaughn
- 25th Jeff Amick
Cliff Greeson, Sr.
- 26th Judy Gerner
- 29th Christina Oliver
- 30th Linda Shue

April Birthdays

- 2nd Amanda Levens
- 3rd Homer Walsh
- 4th Peg Burns
Peggy Welker
Deana Whitesell
- 5th Tommy Simpson
- 8th Joshua Greeson
- 9th Tom Honey
- 10th Wesley Reece
Gwen McCormick
- 11th Karen Mounce
- 13th Shirley Clapp

April Anniversaries

Donald & Sharon Nance 22nd

If we missed someone, let the church office know, 336-697-1561.

You're Invited!
Curtis Kennedy's 100th Birthday, April 2nd,
at Mt. Pleasant United Methodist Church,
5120 Burlington Rd, from 2 pm - 4 pm. No
gifts necessary - cards would be great!



Prayer Requests

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) |
| Alamance Healthcare Center | William Andrews (#55) |

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
Pat Levens
LuEller Ingold
J.R. Shoffner
Dean & Peggy Greeson
Bill Welker
Lloyd & Sylvia Gilliam
Sharon Nance
Nancy Wimbish
Cheryl Clark
Linda Neese
Mandy Levens
Nancy Phipps
Abbie Hawkins
Donnie Ellis
Ukraine & people of Russia
The Dennis McGee Family
Peggy Welker
David Massengill
Steve & Peggy Burns
James & Laurie Baker
Carolyn Jenkins
Tyler Stewart
Helen Levens
Terry Pudney
Fred Skinner
William Brady
Keria Tapia
Lee Huffman
Lori Oliver - friend of Amy
Thompson

Bernie Mitchell
Brian Smith
JoAnne Gauldin
Rachael Stafford Family
Adelita Swaim
Helen Busick
Wayne Reece
Scott Andrews
Shane Swaim
Goldie Sawyer
Barbara Humble - friend of
Linda Miller
Ashton Wyrick - Lorie's
Grandson
Barbara Fogleman Reece
Ricky Clapp
Pat Harris
Renee Roberts
Katie Stevens
Saulter Family