

Mt. Hope United Church of Christ

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Church Pastor

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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

March, 2021

Love Letter from your Pastor:

As a small child learning to spend the night with a friend, I remember packing my bags in preparation for the weekend sleepover. The night time brought dread. What if I didn't want to stay? What if I wanted to come home? Filled with anxiety, I would pack my bags and weep. I was conflicted, I wanted to go to my friend's house more than anything and with equal amounts of dread, I didn't want to be separated from my family for that long. I remember my mother sitting with me in my dark night and consoling me and before I would go to sleep staring at my packed bags sitting in the corner, she would say, "Now, now, go to sleep. Things will be better in the morning."

The daffodils and crocuses, visual reminders of the Resurrection of Jesus and the little resurrections of life are popping up all around us and in us. The dead places within us are coming to life. We are throwing off the blankets, coming out from under the covers of our long night and celebrating the dawning of a new day.

As the blades of grass turn green may you shake off the winter chill, throw open the window sashes, breath in the fresh air (if you can handle a little pollen) and make way for the lifeless places in your life to see the first breath of their resurrection.

As soon as the weather warms up a bit, we will be worshipping in some capacity, together. We are all waiting for that moment of resurrection, to fling the doors of the church wide and to feel the vibration of the organ rattling our souls to awaken to a new day of life and possibility. Until then...

A Springtime Prayer by Joyce Rupp

O Dancer of Creation,
the earth awakens to an urgent call to grow.
In the hidden recesses of my wintered spirit
I, too, hear the humming of your voice,
calling me, wooing my deadness back to life.

My soul yawns, stretches, quickens,
as the energy of Spring revives my weariness.

I sit with wonder, observing the steady activity of downy woodpeckers and newly yellowed finch.

I do so wait with the avid attention of a child's first look,
savoring the colors and shapes of earth's loveliness.

As the filtering patterns of early sunlight lift the shades of green in every growing thing,

I enter into spring's unlettered words of life.

For a while my doubts, anxieties, and worries

become like chapters in some ancient book

whose text no longer claims my full attention.

I am content to sit, watching Spring turn the pages of this animated publication,
eager to discover the invigorating story reflected in my own springtime revelation.

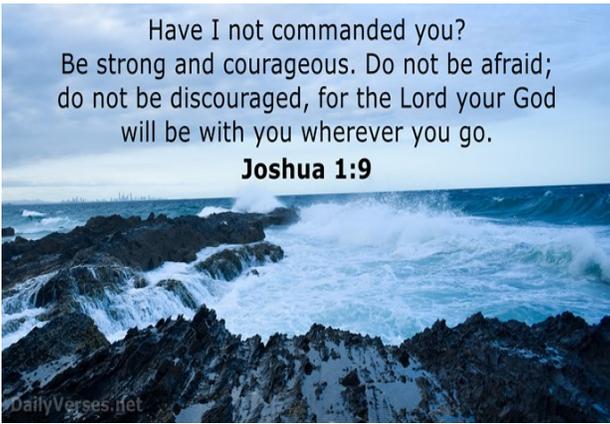
Tell me, Wise Awakener,
why is it easier to believe in a stem of new grass,
or the opening bud of a fresh purple crocus,
than it is to believe in the greening of me?

**Courage and strength for your Lenten journey-
Pastor Kristin**



Lenten Scripture Memory/Focus Verse

The scriptures tell us that where 2 or 3 are gathered, there God is there with us, also. A church working together on one common goal is a powerful opportunity for God's presence to transform those who are working together. You are encouraged to use this memory/focus scripture daily. Post it in a common area of your home, use it as a Lenten prayer, meditate on it. Where are the places in your life where you are discouraged? What are you afraid of?
Prayer: "God, be my strength and my courage. Remind me that I am never alone but stand in your presence always."



Have I not commanded you?
Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid;
do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God
will be with you wherever you go.

Joshua 1:9



Daylight Saving Time begins on Sunday, March 14th. Be sure to set your clocks ahead one hour before going to bed on Saturday evening!!

The Women's Fellowship met on Tuesday, February 11th via Zoom. Our next meeting will be Tuesday, March 9th at 6:30 p.m. when we will discuss the final chapters and end our study of *The Secret Life of Bees*.



**Mt. Hope United Church of Christ
Consistory Zoom Meeting
1-14-21**



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

February weighing a total of 359 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.

A gift has been given to Greensboro Urban Ministry in Mt. Hope Church's honor by **Timothy Hucks. May God's blessings be yours as this loving gift is shared with those in our community who are in critical need.

Members Present: Gloria Apple, Lorie Arrington, Dallas Belvin, Noral Belvin, David Blakesley, Bill Craft, Janet Ellis, Cathy Gossett, Bob Hamlett, and Dora Moore

Pastor Present: Pastor Kristin

The meeting was called to order at 7:07p.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: Dora Moore made a motion to accept the minutes as presented and Bob Hamlett seconded. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Dora Moore presented a report on November & December. The beginning balance for November was \$143,582.58 and the monthly income was \$22,286.23. Expenses were \$19,231.44, which resulted in an ending balance of \$146,637.37. The beginning balance for December was \$147,487.37 (updated with Vanco giving) and the monthly income was \$45,409.00. Expenses were \$30,659.98 which resulted in an ending balance of \$162,236.39. Gloria Apple made a motion to accept the treasurer's report as presented for November and December and Cathy Gossett seconded. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Kristin reported we had two deaths, Joe Thomas on November 30th and Carol Sawyer on January 8th. She reminded us that the church is sending out a series of booklets for a year for the loved ones and the last book would arrive on the one-year anniversary of their loss. We had two births, Jacob Thomas Hughes in Sept. parents, Michael & Kim Hughes, grandparents, Joe & Cindy Hughes, and great grandparent, Jaynee Brown. Hayden Mae Patton born in October, parents, Rob & Kristen Patton, grandparents, Max & Elaine Layton. Christmas Eve service was online and the luminaries were prepared by the youth and Bobby Taylor donated sand for them. Lent starts February 17th with Ashe Wednesday.

Call to Confession
Words of Assurance
We present our offerings
Committee Reports:

BOCE – Planning a meeting in January or February.

Maintenance – Bob Hamlett is meeting with roofer next week. He will call Bob on Tuesday to set up a day. They will pressure wash the steeple for \$350 to check for leaks and advise what needs to be done.

Stewardship - Bill Craft reported they did not meet.

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

Music & Worship – No report.

Greensboro Urban Ministry – Bob Hamlett reported 369lbs were delivered before Christmas and will be delivering more next week. Gloria Apple to sort food collected and let Bob know when it is ready.

Blessing Bag Ministry – No report at this time

Social Concerns – No report at this time.

We offer our concerns for the future (New Business)

Task Force – Janet Ellis reported they met January 26th to determine if we will reopen the church.

Wise Church – Wise is welcoming, inclusive, supportive and engaging church. Committee will meet at the end of January.

Outdoor Ministry tabled until February.

PPP Loan – All indications, it may be forgiven. Will keep us updated.

Director of Technology – Executive committee met on 12/14/20 and proposed to take to the Consistory. To create a part-time position for someone to handle the technology needs for Mt Hope. Proposed 26 weeks beginning in January 2021 at \$125 per week. On 12/15/20 the Consistory voted via email on the proposal. Nine members voted yes in support and two members did not vote.

Old Stained Glass Windows request-tabled until February meeting.

The 5 for 5 UCC Christmas Fund supports Retired and active clergy in financial distress. Dora Moore made a motion to donate \$426 from the community resource fund and Dave Blakesley seconded. Motion carried.

Parking lot will be done in January or February.

New camera – A new camera was donated by Bennie & Judy Gerner and installed in the center of the balcony to continue live worship services online.

Luminaries- \$705 was collected for our outreach ministries.

Lock box- Tabled for further discussion.

Kristin closed in prayer.

Charge & Benediction

Meeting adjourned at 9:06 p.m.

Next Consistory Meeting on Zoom February 11th at 7pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gloria Apple
Secretary



BINGO NIGHT WINNERS!

We had a fun night of fellowship, Bingo, and surprise animal appearances! (You had to be there!) Congratulations to everyone who won gift card prizes. Our Grand Prize winner for the adults was Virginia Barker. Lizzie Honey was our Grand Prize winner for the 18 and under group. Other gift card winners were: Bennie & Judy Gerner, Kristin Gerner Vaughn, Barbara & Clifton Greeson, Barbara Honey, Cindy and Joe Hughes, Jesse Landreth and Emma Vaughn. However, everyone who participated was a winner because we laughed a lot, and just had a good time being together (virtually.) Our next game night is Family Trivia Night on Saturday, March 20 at 7:00! Be sure not to miss out on the fun!



Join us for Family Trivia Night on ZOOM Saturday, March 20 at 7:00 p.m.

We will play in teams. Fun! Fellowship! Winners get bragging rights!

Zoom Meeting Link

<https://zoom.us/j/7948432215?pwd=WkRDRytsMUttUjRjcG5XZFpTcm5mUT09>

Meeting ID: 794 843 2215

Passcode: 2400



Virtual Easter Egg Hunt for Children!

Sunday, March 28th
at 3 p.m.

Join us on Zoom



Storytime Easter Bingo Egg Hunt
Activities Easter Story Stick Puppets

Contact the church office by March 5th if you know out-of-town children who would like to participate so that we may mail packets to them. Packets will be delivered to Mt. Hope children by March 27th.

Zoom Meeting Link

<https://zoom.us/j/7948432215?pwd=WkRD RytsMUttUjRjcG5XZFpTcm5mUT09>

Meeting ID: 794 843 2215

Passcode: 2400



Event for Children and Their Families -



Chalk Sidewalk Decorating & Community Garden Fun Saturday, April 3, Drop in at Your Convenience

Stop by and create Easter artwork or leave an Easter message on the sidewalk for everyone to see on Easter Sunday! And, spend some time in the Community Garden helping us get ready for a new season of planting. Instructions and prompts for both activities will be under the church portico. If you have your own digging tools, please bring them with you. (Even sturdy beach shovels will work.) If not, there will be some you may borrow, along with anti-bacterial cleaning supplies. Rain or shine, but if it rains, be sure to bring along your rain boots & coats!

Community Garden

Last spring Mt. Hope received a grant for a community garden. With the professional

assistance of Cindy Hyle and the financial assistance of the Neighbor's In Need (NIN) Grant, Mt. Hope was not only able to establish our own community garden, but also a community garden for the residents at Alamance Plaza in Burlington. This year we plan to plant another spring/summer garden. What do you want to see grown in the garden? We want your input. A survey will be sent out next week. We hope to hear from you!



Thank you: Mt. Hope Church friends,

Thank you so much for the beautiful blankets which will comfort us in our time of need. Psalm 91:4 He will cover you with his feathers (blanket) and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart. Love you all, Dave & Connie Blakesley

Thank you, Mt. Hope Church for the many ways you have shown love to me over the past few years. Your cards lift me up as they remind me that someone cares and is thinking about me. I sincerely thank you for continuing to pray for me. I was touched again at Christmas when a beautiful, warm throw was delivered to me from Mt. Hope Church. May God bless you all! With love and gratitude, Teresa Oakley

This **“Thank You”** is long overdue. Many thanks for all the cards, love, prayers and support we received from our church family during Jeff's illness and his passing. We appreciated the delicious food the ladies provided. What a wonderful, caring group. With love & thanks, Betty Tucker & Family

Thank you for all the prayers, calls, cards, food and visits during our loss of Wayne. How wonderful it was to see so many brave the weather to attend the graveside service. Your expressions of love and concern are so heartwarming and mean so much. It will help carry us through this difficult time.

Mary, Jeff, Angie, Tanner, Justin, Dee

Thank you: Dear Church Family and
Pastor Kristin,

Thank you so much for all the prayers,
cards, calls and food I received during my recovery
of hip surgery. I am so blessed to have such caring
friends and family. God Bless each of you. Thanks
again. Jaynee Brown



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

The family of Wayne Greeson, who passed away on
Tuesday, February 9, 2021.

Sympathy to Joan May on the death of her brother-
in-law, E.R. Gerringer.

The family of Lorena Levens, who passed away
Wednesday, February 24, 2021.

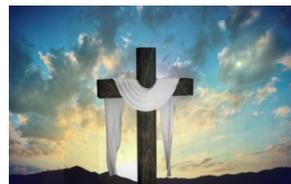


Choir:

Rehearsing on zoom 7:45 pm-8:30 pm on 3/3,
3/10, 3/17, 3/24 No rehearsal 3/31

Handbells:

Rehearsing in old fellowship hall (wearing
masks and distanced) 6:30 pm-7:15 pm on
3/10 and 3/17, 3/24 if needed



Lent/Holy Week Services

Beginning the Lenten Journey

Imposition of Ashes, 2/17 6:30-7 pm Sanctuary
Park beside the portico for in-person

Online Worship 10:30 am

Sundays, Feb. 21-March 21

Palm/Passion Sunday

March 28
10:30 AM FB Live Worship

Maundy Thursday

April 1, at 6:30 PM
FB Live Taize Service & Communion

Good Friday

April 2, at 7:00 PM
FB Live service of extinguishing the light.

Easter Sunday

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

11:00 FB Worship

Note: Due to the Covid pandemic, the place of worship is
subject to change.



Calendar

Wednesday, March 3

1:00 pm, Music Worship Wednesday
6:00 pm, Bible Study (Zoom)

7:45 pm, Choir Practice

Sunday, March 7

10:30 am, Worship – Mt Hope Facebook Live

6:00 pm, Youth Meeting – Zoom

Tuesday, March 9

6:30 pm, Church Women’s Meeting (Zoom)

Wednesday, March 10

6:00 pm, Bible Study (Zoom)

7:45 pm, Choir Practice

Thursday, March 11

7:00 pm, Consistory Meeting (Zoom)

Sunday, March 14 - Daylight Saving Time

10:30 am, Worship – Mt Hope Facebook Live

6:00 pm, Youth Meeting – Zoom

Wednesday, March 17

6:00 pm, Bible Study (Zoom)

7:45 pm, Choir Practice

Thursday, March 18

10:00 am Music & Worship (Zoom)

Saturday, March 20

7:00 pm, Family Trivia Night - Zoom

Sunday, March 21

10:30 am, Worship – Mt Hope Facebook Live

2:00 pm, BCE Meeting - Zoom

5:00 pm, WISE Team - Zoom

6:00 pm, Youth Meeting – Zoom

Tuesday, March 23 – Deadline for March

Newsletter Information Turn-in

Wednesday, March 24

6:00 pm, Bible Study (Zoom)

7:45 pm, Choir Practice

Sunday, March 28

10:30 am, Worship – Mt Hope Facebook Live

3:00 pm, Virtual Easter Egg Hunt - Zoom

6:00 pm, Youth Meeting – Zoom



- 1st Katelyn Neal
- 7th Jaynee Brown
- 9th Emily Smith
- 13th LB Friddle, Alan Sawyer, Brianna Chapmon
- 14th Lin Gallagher, Conner Chapmon
- 15th David Blakesley Sr., James Baker
- 18th Donald Nance, Joan Hedrick
- 20th Peggy Kilby
- 26th Dorie Whitman
- 27th Cindy Belvin
- 31st Brittany Clark



- 12th Bob & Dottie Deeter
- 13th Dean & Peggy Greeson
- 17th Jim & Lin Gallagher
- 24th Tom & Barbara Honey
- 30th Trevor & Jessica Bolton



Prayer Requests

Health Care Center

Alamance Health Care Center	Grady Gerner (#34)
Alamance Health Care Center	Teresa Oakley (#83)
Alamance House	R. Denny Ingold (#112)
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

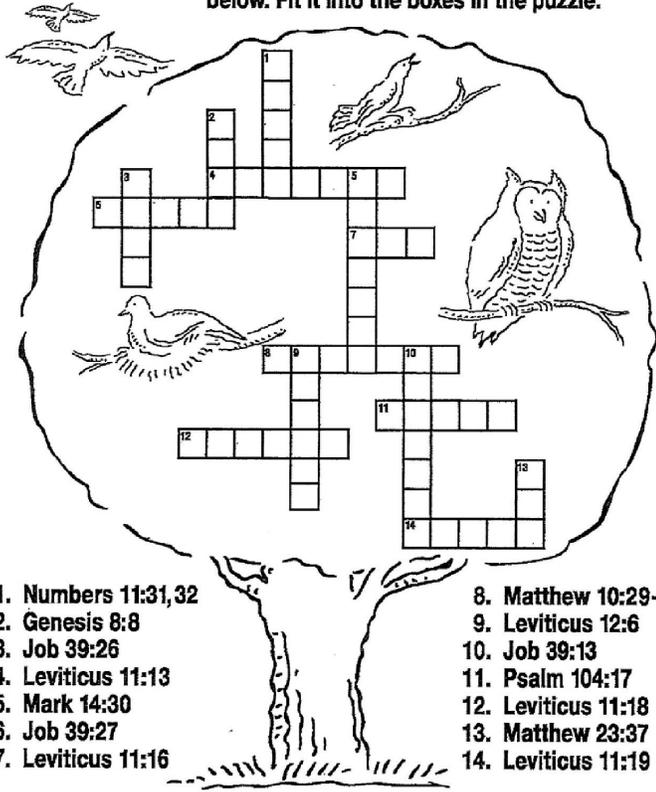
Scott Amick	Grant Harden
Kyle Gerner	Megan Moore Hughes
Michael Clapp	Josh Ellis
Michael Terraforte	
Abigail Thompson	

Members/Friends & Relatives

Betty & Richard Kime	Dustin Goodwin - friend of	Family of Lorena Levens
Wesley Reece	Becky	
Pat Levens	Mt. Hope's Mobile Meals	
Emma Jean Greeson	Ministry	
Jim & Nancy Wimbish	Connie & Dave Blasksley	
LuEller Ingold	Evan	
Marianne Reynolds	Shane Swaim	
J.R. Shoffner	Robin Gerner	
Laurie Baker	Henrietta McGee – Dennis	
Bryce Rhew	McGee's stepmother	
Bob & Dottie Deeter	Alvin Goins	
Jim Gallagher	Bill & Nancy Smith	
Debbie Underwood	Donald Slayton	
Adelita Swaim	Sharon Nance	
Goldie Sawyer	Darrell Harris	
Dennis & Cynthia McGee	Denny Ingold	
Cindy Hamlett	Garland Cauthren	
Heinz Slayton	Sandra Neese	
Corona virus victims	Millie Loy	
Bill & Peggy Welker	Shari Allen	
Mandy & Beezer Levens	Vickie & Dale Dangerfield	
Cole Yedlowski	Terry Staley	
Lloyd & Sylvia Gilliam	Johnnie Brown	
Susan and Dan Martin	Joe & Joan Oliver	
Hayden Stallings	Family of Joyce Shipp	
Glenn Shipp	Mr. & Mrs. Robert Beach	
	Bertie Hart	
	Family of Wayne Greeson	
	Brenda & Gary Greeson	

"And God said, ...let birds fly above the earth across the expanse of the sky." Genesis 1:20

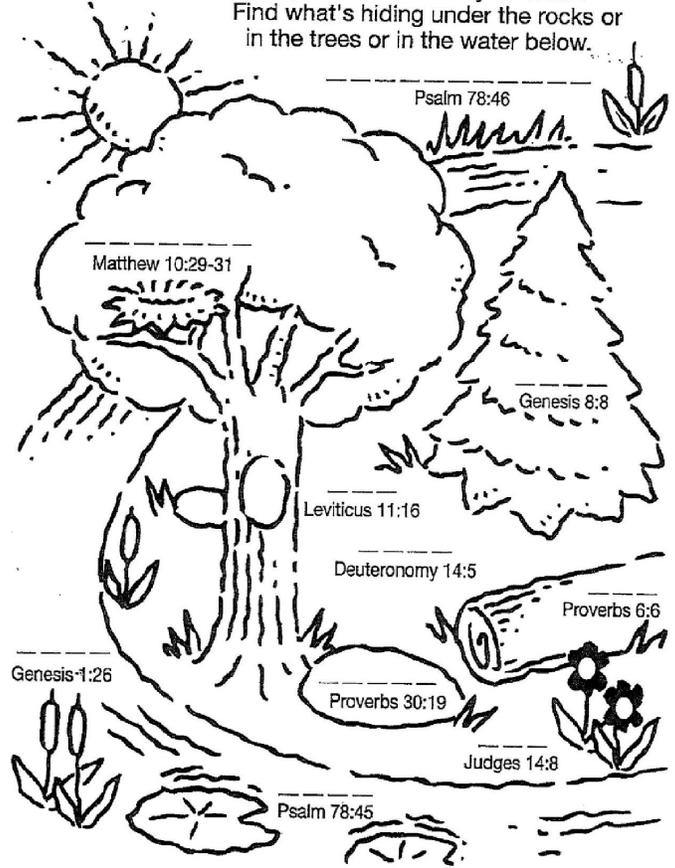
Find the bird mentioned in each of the verses below. Fit it into the boxes in the puzzle.



- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Numbers 11:31,32 | 8. Matthew 10:29-31 |
| 2. Genesis 8:8 | 9. Leviticus 12:6 |
| 3. Job 39:26 | 10. Job 39:13 |
| 4. Leviticus 11:13 | 11. Psalm 104:17 |
| 5. Mark 14:30 | 12. Leviticus 11:18 |
| 6. Job 39:27 | 13. Matthew 23:37 |
| 7. Leviticus 11:16 | 14. Leviticus 11:19 |

Take a hike through a park, the woods or your neighborhood. See what wonderful creatures God has made.

Look up these verses in your Bible. Find what's hiding under the rocks or in the trees or in the water below.



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

UPHOLD
NOURISH
FAMILY
MARRIAGE
DISCIPLE
JESUS
CHRIST
WOMAN
FASTING
FAITH
LEARNING
STUDY
SCRIPTURES
PATIENCE
KINDNESS
FORGIVENESS
PRINCIPLES
PARENTS
GRANDPARENTS
RESPONSIBILITY
VIGOROUSLY
ENGAGED
BLESSING