

AUGUST 2025

MT HOPE MESSENGER

MT. HOPE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

OFFICE HOURS: M, W, & F (8AM - 3PM)



2400 Mt. Hope Church Road
Whitsett, NC 27377

Pastor - Rev. Kristin Gerner Vaughn
Cell 336-402-2897

Email:
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Administrative Assistant
Lorie Arrington
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& Music Director
Julianna Pierdomenico
Email: mthopeuccyouth@gmail.com
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Accompanist - Ekin Üstünel
Director of Digital Technology - Ekin
mthopeuccddt@gmail.com

Consistory President - Gloria Apple

Board of Christian Education
Susan Finley



Sunday for Worship
at 10:00 am



Pastor's Note



"Cans, Crayons and Kayaks"

While taking a walk after dinner at a dear friend's house, the chilly autumn air called forth the goosebumps on my arms. My friend offered me one of her sweatshirts and the message on it still comes to mind often, "One CAN do more!" It was the logo and motto of the community food pantry in China Grove of which she was the executive director. Seeing it printed on my newly acquired sweatshirt is much more accurate than reading it. It wasn't forcing an individual to more than they could or should, it was encouraging anyone, everyone to do just enough...One CAN, can do more...than if no one shared a can at all.

I was reminded of that sweatshirt and the message it represented the week VBS volunteers asked for used crayons. "I only have a few, but you are welcome to them," the first voice on the other end of the church phoneline uttered as I answered the phone. "You are welcome to any that I have, but I don't have many," another said. "I dug around in my cabinets and found some from the 1980's (they had Woolworths printed on the side of them) when my grandkids were little," another said. People I didn't even know, much less know that we were needing old, broken crayons showed up to the church door and handed me a handful of old crayons. I put each handful in a bin. Before long that bin was full and another one was started. Someone else called in, "You need crayons without paper on them? I have ordered some and they will be here tomorrow. We didn't have any broken ones we weren't using at my house." Another person bought new crayons for the same reason and we were able to replace the children's worship supplies with new and use the old ones for VBS...One CAN do more! Look what happens when many offer what they have. One crayon becomes enough crayons for another need.

It has been a growing desire among many members at Mt. Hope to **have a food pantry** open to the community housed at the church. This desire birthed a Taskforce, a group of interested people who were willing to do the research and prayer about this need in our community. On **August 24th during Worship by the Lake we will hear from the Taskforce** about their findings over the past 5 months and the Taskforce wants to hear from you about your desires AND concerns about a food pantry at Mt. Hope. Food scarcity in our community is becoming a larger concern and the more we talk together about how to address these concerns the greater the chance that one CAN do more! Jesus never expected the call to ministry to be a lonely one. Come join the Taskforce for an informational session and a time to share your support and concerns. Addressing all of our thoughts about this project early can help us be most successful.

Worship by the Lake at Macintosh Lake Guilford Marina is always a great time for Mt. Hope. We worship together and have a hotdog lunch prepared and provided by the youth and Music and Worship Committee. Kayaks and lifejackets will be available for anyone to get out on the water after lunch. Dress is casual as there are also lots of park activities such as walking trails, swings, and volleyball courts to enjoy. If you have mobility issues please know that we are prepared to take care of you and make your time at the lake easy and accessible.

Please bring a lawn chair and a dessert you can eat without a fork if you feel so inclined.

One CAN do more and so can we, together with great courage at Mt. Hope

Pastor Kristin





Garden club has decided to dissolve and will be joining in with Friends and Neighbors . Which is open to church and community members. Come & join to see what it's about!



Want to feel young again? Want to work with youth and help build leaders for tomorrow? We are looking for some people who would be willing to be part of a teaching team for our middle school and high school youth beginning again in the fall. If you are interested, or would like more information, please contact Susan Finley.



Women's Fellowship
No meeting in
August!



Beginning July 7th, summer office hours will be Monday and Friday 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. As always, for pastoral care emergencies call Pastor Kristin.

There is no consistory meeting in July, so there will be no minutes.



IT'S BEET TIME!
\$10 PER QUART
\$6 PER PINT

CALL TO ORDER:
DEE @ 336-207-3079
CHURCH 336-697-1561



youth

Our Youth group consists of ages 6th - 12th grade and they meet on Sundays at 12 pm if you know of someone that would like to join! All are welcome!



UPCOMING YOUTH EVENTS

AUG
24

WORSHIP AT THE LAKE/BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

Youth will serve the meal and we'll have a short youth council meeting following for some events coming up in September.

AUG
31

LABOR DAY WEEKEND

No meeting.

Be on the lookout for texts from Julianna for additional meetings in early August depending on everyone's availability!

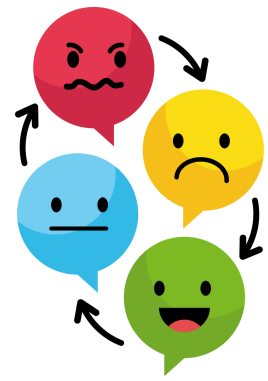
BACK
TO
SCHOOL

Save the Date! Blessing of the backpacks will be on August 24th during worship at the lake.



Vacation Bible School

"INSIDE OUT"



We had a spectacular week at this summer's VBS. Our theme this year was based on Disney's movie "Inside Out." Each day we focused on a different emotion. Monday was joy, Tuesday was sadness, Wednesday was anger and disgust, Thursday was fear, and Friday we had an emotions party complete with paint splattering to make a canvas that represented all of our feelings. Each day was filled with music led by Ekin, Andrew, and Luke, story time led by Gary and Ray, a time of meditation led by Pastor Kristin, and a craft led by Kathryn. The kids had fun learning, playing, eating, and participating in all the activities we had during the day. On Friday night, the children got to showcase their art, writings, songs, and stories to their friends, families, and members of the church. God was moving in this place in all of the laughs, smiles, and tears.

The week could not have happened without our 20 volunteers! I am endlessly grateful to each and every person that helped VBS flourish in the way that it did. Many of the children that attended were not children who regularly attend Mt. Hope, and they now know they have a safe space where they can express who they are and know that God and their Mt. Hope family loves them for exactly who they are. That is something especially to be thankful for. Thanks be to God for an amazing VBS!

Southern Conference - Calling All Middle and High School Students - Let's Talk!

by Rev. Belinda Sledge

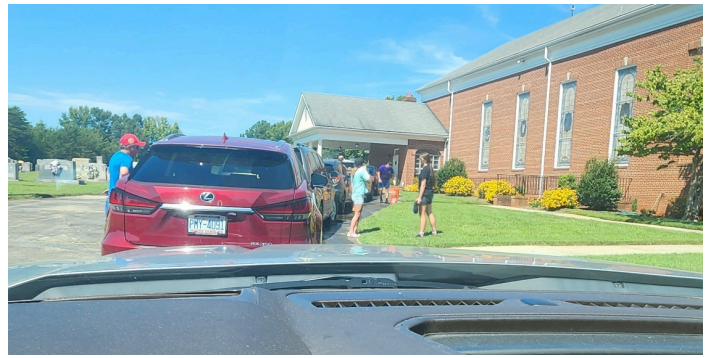
Beginning April 13th, as a youth initiative originating at Union Chapel United Church of Christ and as a start to events leading up to the youth event for 2026, the Southern Conference invites all middle and high school students to join us via Zoom for an unconventional Bible study experience from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. on the second and fourth Sundays of each month. The 2nd Sunday is devoted to studying a book from the Bible, and the 4th Sunday features a pre-planned topic of choice that impacts your daily life, with either a participant leading the discussion or an outside guest. If you are a young adult in the 20s age group, we also welcome you to participate on both Sundays to share the wisdom you have obtained during your younger years. The time together will be facilitated by Rev. Belinda Sledge, Coordinator for the Southern Conference 2024 Youth Event.

You will use the same Zoom link each Sunday:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82852871663?pwd=iu6pSdNCSviKKiRFT7HTz052eVj54E.1>

Meeting ID: 828 5287 1663

Passcode: 506260



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***Thank you to Peg Burns for photos.**



Thank you so much for the prayers, thoughts, phone calls, deliveries and visits to my room at the hospitals, and Ashton, and for the cards with such sweet messages of love shining thru each one! You prayers reaching God have brought me this far. I am grateful for each and every one. It won't be as long as it has been until I'll be able to see your smiling faces. Special heartfelt thanks, Pastor Kristin for being at the hospital when I had surgeries. Thank each and everyone at Mt Hope!
Love, Carolyn

Dear Mt Hope Family,

Thank you all for all of your prayers, cards, notes and positive thoughts over the last several months. It was especially comforting to receive such support while I was away from home and up in Minnesota undergoing treatment. I'm happy to share that my surgery was as successful as we'd hoped and prayed for. I still have some recovery ahead of me but I'm sustained by such gratitude for my family, friends and loved ones, near and far.

I was very grateful to be able to see some of you while home for my Grandma's funeral. While I wish it had been under different circumstances, the in-person face time with y'all came at a moment that was very good for my healing process.

Thank you for all of your love and support and continued prayers as I get my health back on track. As always, my family looks forward to the next time we're back home and we all get to gather together.

Love,
Michael Hughes

Dearest Friends,

Thank you for all of the love and support extended to our family during the passing of my beautiful mother. She loved this church and the people in it for as long as I can remember. Even though she wasn't able to attend this past year, her heart was always here.

A special thank you to the ladies of the church for providing food after the funeral. It was very much needed and appreciated. We also want to thank each of you for the prayers you have lifted for Michael. He is continuing to heal and praying for a full recovery. This has been a very difficult time for our family and we couldn't have made it without your support and the comfort only found in God's love.

With Heartfelt Thanks,
Cindy & Joe Hughes

Worship at the Lake
August 24, 2024
10:30 am



Guilford -Mackintosh
Park & Marina
1345 NC Hwy 61 South
Whitsett, NC 27377

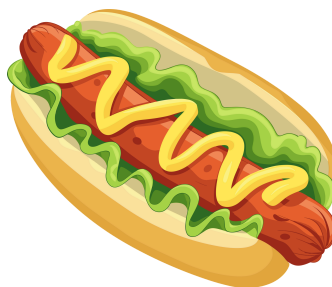
Please plan on attending our Annual Worship at the Lake on Sunday, August 25, 2024!
It will be a day full of worship, fun, and fellowship!

You should plan on arriving at 10:30am with the service starting at 11am. Due to limited parking at the picnic area, you should park in the first parking lot on the right after you enter the gate (at the office). There will be someone there to greet you and give directions. The church van will be there to shuttle folks to the picnic area. A golf cart will be available to take those of you who have difficulty walking down the trail to the picnic shelter.

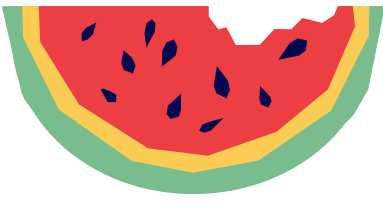
The Youth Group will be providing a hot dog lunch after our service. We ask that, if you are able, please bring a hand-held dessert (cookies, brownies, dessert bars, etc. - nothing that requires plates or utensils).

There are picnic tables and benches under the shelter, but if you can, please bring your own folding chair! After lunch, there will be kayaks and a canoe for your use!

We hope you will join your church family on this special day! It's a perfect place for meditation and reflection in God's beautiful creation.



Everyone is welcome!
Please Join Us!



AUGUST

BACK TO SCHOOL

- 3rd - Worship @ 10 am - Gather Learn Grow @ 11:15
- 10th - Worship @ 10 am - Gather Learn Grow @ 11:15 - No Youth
- 10th - BCE Meeting in Conf. Room @ 12:00 pm
- 14th - Consistory Meeting @ 6pm in Conf. rm.
- 17th - Worship @ 10 am - Gather Learn Grow @ 11:15 - No Youth
- 21st - Men of Valor @ 6:30 pm in OFH
- 24th - Worship @ Lake Mackintosh - Highway 61 @ 10:30 am
- 24th - Blessing of the Backpacks at Worship at the Lake
- 31st - Worship @ 10 am - Gather Learn Grow @ 11:15 am - No Youth

*Yoga on Monday and Thursday in the NFH at 5:30 pm each week.

*Please know every is welcome to attend any event.

*We love to have you bring a friend or invite your neighbor! Share His word!



Happy Anniversary

Haywood & Peggy Levens

Rob & Lisa Sinclair

Greg & Lisa Moser

Max & Elaine Layton

Clifton & Barbara Greeson

Brian & Emily Neal



2nd Alayna Woollett
6th Bernice Shoffner
7th Donna Cauthren
Noral Belvin
9th Colton Underwood
11th Colby Arrington
17th Susie Simpson
20th Shelby Jean McClean
21st Linda Neese
22nd Michael Craft
Casey Gorrell
Peggy Eller

23rd Jeremy Oehling
Jo Ann Gauldin
Richard Knowles
24th Rachael Stevens
25th Landon Woollett
28th Simon Clark
29th Sara Shue

Prayer Concerns

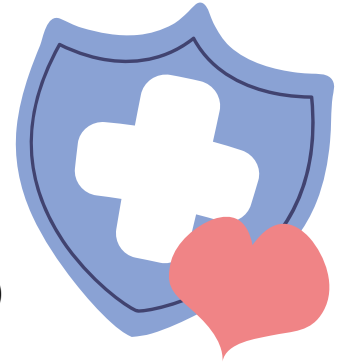
Health Care Center

Alamance House - R. Denny Ingold (#305)

Clapp's Nursing Center - Robert Ingold (#801)

Blumenthal Health & Rehab Center - Harold Reece, Jr.

Shannon Gray Rehab. & Recovery Ctr. - Carolyn Simpson - (#806)



Mt. Hope Military Connections

Michael Terraforte

Solomon Price, Jr.

Kyle Gerner

Scott Amick

Wade Greeson

Members, Friends, & Relatives

Joan May
Christina Oliver
Baby Otto
Lizzie Honey
Krissy Coomer
Betty Neese
Barb Santa
Helen Johnson
Beezer Levens
Luke Sbityakov
Bennie Ellington
Dallas Amick
Cindy Hughes

Steve Burns
Cindy Hamlett
Amanda Levens
Debra Prater
Michael Hughes
Emma Jean Greeson
Shirley Harris
Ralph O'Ferrell
Mary Catherine Moser
Cheryl Royal
Faye Newsome
Robert Proctor

Woody & Peggy Levens
Peggy Greeson
Clifton Greeson
Daniel Piazza
Brianna Chapmon
Fara
The Linnens Family
Linda Neese
Steve & Barbara Frizzola
Family of Adelita Swaim
Shane Swaim
Randy Underwood

Noral & Cindy Belvin
Barb Santa
Orlando Stone
Marie Butler
Lori Wrenner
Joanne & Bill Uhl
Bug Whitesell
Andrew Beech's Mother
Craig - Virginia's Nephew
Caitlin Smith
Troy Lopp
Chris Caviness