

Mt. Hope United Church of Christ

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Church Pastor

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Accompanist

Ekin Ustunel
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Interim Music Director

Susan Finley

Church Secretary

Stacey Martin
Office hours:
Monday – Friday
9 am – 1 pm

Consistory President

Dallas Belvin

Board of Christian Education

Susan Finley, Director

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Mt. Hope Messenger October 2021

Love Letter from your Pastor: Transitions

Most of the people I talk to these days feel a little if not a lot unsettled. People are leaving their jobs. In a poll taken in May of this year 30% of healthcare workers were strongly considering leaving their profession. These numbers are similar in the church world; 29% of pastors left their positions in 2020. 52% of the labor force turned over in the past year. In general we are under enormous amounts of stress. Struggling with decision fatigue, caregivers fatigue, on top of all the things life has dished up for us. This kind of stress leaves us one poke away from exploding, melting down, acting out.

The world is in a time of transition. These transitions can feel like a crisis is looming. Sue Monk Kidd in her book, *When the Heart Waits* says that “a crisis is a holy summons to cross a threshold. It involves both a leaving behind and a stepping toward, a separation and an opportunity.” Crisis is a Greek word that means, “a separating.” So could it be that we are so antsy these days as a whole because it is hard to be pulled away from our old ways of being. We have been waiting for things to return to normal, but, yet, every day we realize that “normal” often doesn’t look the same and doesn’t feel the same.

As we prepare for World Communion Sunday, as we prepare to eat the bread of Jesus that has been separated, pulled apart, this question rises, “What is it that we are being asked to separate from? What needs to be left behind?”

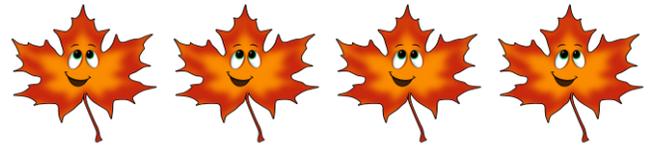
As the man who asked Jesus how he could be a disciple and follower said, "Let me first go and bury my father." Kidd says that Jesus gave him what seems like a harsh answer, "Follow me, and leave the dead to bury their own dead" (Matthew 8:21-22). Being a Christ follower is more often about the journey of separating the heart from the tug of earthly things so that one can be free to follow in the ways of Jesus. This is a call to separation. To "leave the dead." In order to follow the inner journey, we need to leave behind those things that are deadening, the loyalties that no longer have life for us.

I wonder if the pandemic has pressed the reset button of life for many of us, individuals and families, alike. I wonder if we are struggling to resume "normal" activities because we have re-remembered, put back together the things of life during the pandemic that we had forgotten we loved: a new hobby, an old pastime, a slower way of life, more time with the children, etc.

During the weeks of October, we will hear different voices in the scriptures grasping for a new set of rules to define order and life. The old has been shaken and the new has not yet been redefined. The ground under Jesus' followers' and the bystanders' feet is shaking. We will hear these questions being asked, "What is lawful?" "What must I do to inherit eternal life?" "Will I be granted a place in glory?" "Let me see again?" "What commandment is most important?"

Maybe it is comforting, to know that we are not the first people to ever have to redefine "normal," to separate from the old and find our footsteps on the path forward. You are not alone on this journey. We are all in this together.

Courage and strength for your journey forward—
Pastor Kristin



A note from your Consistory

In 2020 we applied for the Payroll Protection Program Loan during Covid and in 2021 we found out our loan plus interest was forgiven for \$22,969.03. During our September meeting the Consistory unanimously approved to tithe 10% (\$2296.90) of our forgiven amount and make a donation to the Mustard Seed Community Health in Greensboro.

There was a time when a doctor truly knew each family that came into the clinic—not just the state of the family's health but its joys, its sorrows, its stresses, and its accomplishments. The clinic staff took the time to look beyond the symptoms to understand everything that might be affecting each person's wellbeing.

Mustard Seed Community Health is that kind of clinic.

Located in east Greensboro and nationally recognized as a model for integrated care, Mustard Seed

Community Health's patients are some of the most vulnerable people in Guilford County. Many don't have health insurance, many are living in homes that make them and their families sicker, many are struggling with trauma, or struggling simply to put healthy food on the table. And before the Mustard Seed Community Health Clinic opened in 2013 as a weekly site and in January 2016 at the current site full time, many went without healthcare until their problems became acute or even irreversible. If you are a Guilford County resident living at 200% percent below the federal poverty level and don't have insurance Mustard Seed is here to help.

**Mt. Hope United Church of Christ
Consistory Meeting
8-12-21**

Members Present: Gloria Apple, Dallas Belvin, David Blakesley, Janet Ellis, Bob Hamlett, Joe Hughes, Cole Levens, and Dora Moore

Pastor Present: Pastor Kristin

The meeting was called to order at 7:10pm. 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 David Blakesley seconded. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Dora Moore presented a report on July. The beginning balance for July was \$168,812.48 and the monthly income was \$16,975.00. Expenses were \$14,938.45 which resulted in an ending balance of \$170,849.03. Cole Levens made a motion to accept the treasurer's report as presented and Joe Hughes seconded. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Kristin was very appreciative of the vacation time and the good Pastoral Care that was done while she was out. Worship service remains 10:30-11:15am followed by the education hour after. Covid presented us with an opportunity so BOCE and M&W are trying some new things and appreciate everyone making an effort to give them a chance. Once a month will be mission Sunday and it is a chance to "Be The Church". WISE Team is still meeting once a month. You will see more information in the newsletters. They will be attending a lunch & learn on October 21st to hear about Mustard Seed. The Mustard Seed Clinic helps individuals with no insurance and physical & mental health issues. They just hired two social workers and have rented an apartment next door so they will have a place to meet. The rental on the apartment is \$1000 per month and the lunch is also a fundraiser to help meet the costs. October 3rd is World Communion Sunday.

Prayer of Confession

Words of Assurance

We present our offerings

Committee Reports:

BOCE – They met last month and will meet again Sunday.

Maintenance – Waiting on parts to fix bathroom

Stewardship- Gloria Apple reported the clean-up day is Saturday August 21st at 9am. Anyone is welcome to help.

Evangelism – They are assisting with the Mobile Meals Ministry and WISE team is meeting August 17th.

Music & Worship – They will have communion once a month through the end of the year.

Meals4kids – No report

Greensboro Urban Ministry – Dave reported 63lbs was dropped off. They also taking vegetables to Second Harvest approximately 300lbs 5 days a week. Dave has also donated some to a church in High Point that was in need.

Blessing Bag Ministry – No report

Social Concerns – Continuing supporting the wishing well and back to school supplies.

We offer our concerns for the future (New Business)

Memorial Day – Dallas to contact the Memorial Association and Covid team concerning keeping or changing the date at this time.

Update August 23rd: Memorial Association met and voted to postpone our 2021 Memorial Day/Homecoming indefinitely due to the current Covid Pandemic. To make this official the Consistory voted by email with 10 approve and 1 disapprove to postpone it indefinitely. Motion carried.

Steeple – Work in progress

Land Swap – Work in progress

Outdoor Ministry – Joe Hughes made a motion to allow the Maintenance Committee the flexibility with what is feasible for the clearing at the picnic shelter to stay within budget. Dora Moore seconded. Motion carried.

Task Force – Janet reported they will meet this month and will update the Consistory after their meeting.

WISE Team – Mental Health Week is coming up Sunday October 10th.

Stained Glass Windows – Dave Blakesley reported John Kozak is building the frames. We thank Dave Blakesley, Bill Craft, John Kozak, Dee Greeson and Linda Shue for their time on this.

Historical Committee – Bill Craft will be getting together with some of the members to help work on digitizing information.

Old Cemetery for Elizabeth AME Church-working on a dedication

Consistory Meetings – Was suggested could we meet at 6pm to 8pm instead of waiting until 7pm. Dallas to get with everyone to see if this change would work for everyone.

Prayers of Intercession

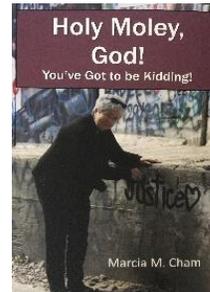
Kristin closed in prayer

Charge and Benediction

Meeting adjourned 8:49pm

Next meeting September 9th at 6pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Gloria Apple, Secretary



To Church from Marcia M. Cham, Author

I have a new book on Amazon, **Holy Moley God! You've Got to be Kidding!** Some of you saw the announcement on Facebook and have purchased it. For a recommendation about the book, check with Jim Turner. He'll tell you about his experiences with the book. The Women's Fellowship is reading and discussing the book in preparation of a 'book talk' at their October and November meeting. I'm hoping at a later date a 'book talk' for other readers can be arranged.



Contact me at 828-719-9611 or chamrev@att.net for further information. (I have a few books that you can purchase from me, or you can purchase one on Amazon.) Thanks for considering a purchase and attending a 'book talk.'
Peace and Love, Marcia

Wishing Well News – by Brenda Currie

Reminder: Our wishing well project is to raise \$3000 to dig a well for a villiage is still going. We have \$604 in our account. Hopefully, everyone will continue to support by children & adults dropping their change, bills, or even **checks made to Mt Hope United Church of Christ** in the Wishing Well at the front of the sanctuary. I know we can reach our goal even if it takes a while. I know it seems far from our goal, but we can do this in time. You can also add it in with your giving envelope, just specify where (Other gift-Wishing Well) and amount on it.

Thanks for all your help.



October is Emotional Wellbeing Month.

Mt Hope UCC and your community care about your mental wellbeing.

Mental Health Awareness Week is October 4-10. During this week check out our church blog for daily blogs on mental health.

Wednesday October 6, Pastor Kristin will be in the church parking lot for drive thru prayer from 7-8 am and from 5:30 - 6:30. The church will be open from 9am - 6:30pm for prayer time.

On Saturday October 9 a combined Crop Walk for Hunger and Mental Health Awareness Walk will be held from 4-6. After the walk we will have pre-ordered box meals from Mythos for \$15. Please contact Gloria Apple or Melinda Kozak to pre-order and pre-pay for your meals by October 6. A NAMI representative will be here during the meal time to make a presentation. Pledge sheets will be available Sunday October 3 at church.

WISE Moment

MT. HOPE UCC IS



WISE FOR **Mental Health**

WALK WITH US! **OCTOBER 9TH**
4PM-6PM

EVENT: MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS/CROP WALK

LOCATION: MT. HOPE CHURCH, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
2400 MT. HOPE CHURCH ROAD
WHITSETT, NC 27377

MEAL: PRESALE MEALS FROM MYTHOS GRILL FOR \$15
PORTION OF PROCEEDS WILL GO TO NAMI OR
HUNGER AWARENESS. NAMI PRESENTATION DURING MEAL.

PAYMENT: CASH OR CHECKS (MADE OUT TO
MT. HOPE CHURCH UCC)

*WE'LL HAVE A SIGN-UP SHEET FOR WALKERS TO POST THEIR PERSONAL OR DONOR PLEDGES.

*INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE UNABLE TO ATTEND CAN ALSO PARTICIPATE VIRTUALLY AND STILL PROVIDE US THEIR PLEDGES.

The Women's Fellowship met on September 14th. We viewed a segment of Fox 8's Successful Aging series with Linda Pritchett focusing on preventing falls. Sonia Knowles instructed us in yoga techniques to improve our balance, which is the main cause of falls in seniors. Handouts of tips for preventing falls in the home were distributed. Marcia then led us in a discussion of aging, remembering elders in our lives who were models of aging for us.

We still have canned tomato juice \$7.00/qt. and tomatoes \$6.00/qt.

Our next meeting will be on October 12th, 6:30 p.m. in the new fellowship hall. We will begin our study of Marcia's book *Holy Moley God, You've Got to Be Kidding*. To prepare for the meeting, please read the introduction and the first two sections of the book. It is exciting to have a book study led by the author. Please join us! See Marcia to purchase a signed copy of the book. The cost of the book is \$10.00.

Blessings,
Dee



Improving Balance by Yoga with Sonia

Greensboro Urban Ministry:

The wonderful generosity of Mt Hope Church of Christ congregation and Sawyer Farm continues. This congregation provided **1078 lbs.** of food in July.

Your generosity, especially during the summer months, is greatly appreciated. Thank you for all you give. Containers are located in the entry ways and in the breezeway as usual. May God richly bless you for your continued generosity!!

Second Harvest Food Bank

Mt. Hope Church as donated **770 lbs.** of squash to Second Harvest due to the generosity of Sawyer Farms.



Thank you - Much thanks to Linda Shue for a job well done organizing and leading our September Mission: Be the Church day! We packed and shipped 100 hygiene kits to Church World Services to be distributed to victims of disasters. Also, much thanks to everyone brought items for the kits and to those who stayed to help fill the kits. Your participation and support for our mission's efforts are greatly appreciated. Good job, Mt. Hope!

Thank you – You are so very gracious to us. God is good, all the time. God bless you as you serve. Thank you for my lunch which will be enjoyed for several days. Regena Ashley



Join Us for **Green Eggs & Ham Breakfast** on Sunday, October 3, drop in from 9:15 – 10:15 am at the Picnic Shelter, gluten-free option available. Come visit, and see and hear Kristin's Facebook reading of the book, *Green Eggs and Ham!* Then, join us after worship for our Mission: Be the Church event, delivering Communion Kits to some of our near and dear so that they can join in on World Communion Day!

We had a great time learning about our spiritual gifts on September 19! Thank you to everyone who completed their Spiritual Gifts Inventory. Pastor Kristin would like for everyone to let her know his or her spiritual gifts.

Didn't get your Spiritual Gifts Inventory completed in time for September 19? No problem! We would still appreciate each person completing his or her inventory, and letting Pastor Kristin know the results. Have questions, or need help completing your inventory, please contact Susan Finley at 336-684-6648 or sdf27377@twc.com.

CALLING ALL CHILDREN, ages 3 through 5th grade. **Christmas Pageant Practice** will begin Sunday, October 10 immediately following worship. Meet Pastor Kristin at the front of the sanctuary! The children should also be thinking about which character in the Christmas story they would like to be. Whether animal or person, everyone gets to choose whom he or she will be! Practice will be Sundays, immediately following worship 10/10 through 11/14, and 11/28. The Christmas Pageant will be on Sunday, December 12.

Mission: Be the Church
November 21 – Make Thanksgiving Placemats for Alamance Plaza residents

December 5 – Make Christmas Star Ornaments for Alamance Plaza residents and our shut-ins

The Gospel According to Dr. Seuss Continues—
November 21 – *The Zax*
December 5 – *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*
January 23 – *The Sneetches*
February 13 – *Yertle the Turtle*

Board of Christian Education Meeting – Sunday,
October 17 at 1:30 p.m.

Choir Rehearsals – Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday Night Bible Study

This month we will be engaging in a Bible Study with the characters of the Andy Griffith show. *The Mayberry Bible Study* brings along the best of Andy, Barney, Aunt B, Opie and friends as we relate life lessons to our faith, laugh and fellowship together. Bible Study meets on Wednesday evening at 6:00 PM in the New Fellowship Hall.



Sunday, October 3- Neighbors in Need Offering

9:15 am, Green Eggs & Ham Breakfast - Pavilion
10:30 am, Worship
11:30 am, Gather, Learn Grow

Monday, October 4

6:00 pm, Yoga with Sonia – Pavilion

Wednesday, October 6

6:00 pm, Bible Study
7:30 pm, Choir Practice

Thursday, October 7

8:00 am, Yoga with Sonia – Pavilion

Saturday, October 9

4-6 pm, CROP Walk/WISE Walk Sunday, October 10-Mental Health Sunday

10:30 am, Worship
11:30 am, Gather, Learn Grow
11:30 am, Christmas Pageant Practice

Monday, October 11

6:00 pm, Yoga with Sonia – Pavilion

Tuesday, October 12

6:30 pm, Women's Meeting

Wednesday, October 13

6:00 pm, Bible Study
7:30 pm, Choir Practice

Thursday, October 14

8:00 am, Yoga with Sonia – Pavilion
7:00 pm, Consistory Meeting

Sunday, October 17

10:30 am, Worship
11:30 am, Gather, Learn Grow
11:30 am, Christmas Pageant Practice

1:30 pm, BCE Meeting

6:00 pm, Youth Meeting – Pavilion

Monday, October 18

6:00 pm, Yoga with Sonia – Pavilion

Wednesday, October 20

6:00 pm, Bible Study
7:30 pm, Choir Practice

Thursday, October 21

8:00 am, Yoga with Sonia – Pavilion
2:00 pm, Music & Worship Meeting

Sunday, October 24

10:30 am, Worship
11:30 am, Gather, Learn Grow
11:30 am, Christmas Pageant Practice

6:00 pm, Youth Meeting – Pavilion

Monday, October 25

6:00 pm, Yoga with Sonia - Pavilion

Wednesday, October 27

6:00 pm, Bible Study
7:30 pm, Choir Practice

Thursday, October 28

8:00 am, Yoga with Sonia – Pavilion

Sunday, October 31

10:30 am, Worship
11:30 am, Gather, Learn Grow
11:30 am, Christmas Pageant Practice

**Please have your newsletter articles in by
October 27.**



Birthdays

- 1st Jack Branson, Reagan Whitman
 3rd Kimberly Shinn
 5th Alan Levens, Cindy McGee, Annette Taylor
 6th Devin Knowles, Lydia Sbityakov, Travis Staley
 7th Melinda Kozak
 8th Linda Ayers
 9th Betty Neese
 10th Bernell Holyfield
 12th Pat Huizinga
 14th Bill Craft
 15th Kristen Greeson, Goldie Sawyer

- 20th Don Perkins
 21st Karla Tucker
 22nd Mike Vaughn, Sara Oehling, William Oehling
 23rd Kelly Greeson, Kevin Greeson, Cindy Hamlett
 25th Linda Kirkman, Barry Bradsher
 26th Dennis Perkins
 27th Betty Tucker
 28th Luka Sbityakov, Nikolai Sbityakov
 29th Michael Hughes
 30th Debra Prater
 31st Nancy Phipps, Brittany Reece

Anniversaries

- 17th Kevin & Sharon Moore
 18th Phillip & Stephanie Strouth



Health Care Center

- | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|
| Alamance Health Care Center | Teresa Oakley (#83) |
| Alamance House | R. Denny Ingold (#112) |
| Clapp's Nursing Center | Robert Ingold (#807) |
| Ralph Scott Homes | Betty Kim Settlemyre |
| Woodhaven (Albermarle) | Annie Lee Apple |
| Brookdale Burlington | Peggie Coble (#74) |
| Twin Lakes | Darlene Cherry |
| Clapp's Assisted Living | Jeanne Ingold (#315) |
| Guilford House | Blanche Greeson |
| Heritage Green | Helen Smith |

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
Pat Levens
LuEller Ingold
J.R. Shoffner
Laurie Baker
Bob & Dottie Deeter
Jim & Lin Gallagher
Goldie Sawyer
Jaynee Brown
Steve & Peg Burns
Dean & Peggy Greeson
Shane Swaim
Adelita Swaim
Bill & Peggy Welker
Lloyd & Sylvia Gilliam
Sharon Nance
Terry Staley

Nancy & Jim Wimbish
Nancy Phipps
Joyce Hammonds
John Staley
Billy Shoffner
Ray Neese, Sr.
Family of Linda & Steve Yoder
Sabrina Isley-Alcantera
Barbara Willis
Rebecca, Cecil, Peg - friends of Libby
Lowdermilk
Wesley & Esther Clark
Chad Levens
Jeannette Kirkman
Jeanette Apple
Woody Levens