

Mt. Hope United Church of Christ

2400 Mt. Hope Church Rd.
Whitsett, NC 27377

Office: 336-697-1561
Fax: 336-697-1449

e-mail: mthopeuccoffice@gmail.com
Website: www.mthopeucc.com

Church Pastor

Rev. Kristin Gerner Vaughn
(336) 402-2897 (cell)
Email: mthopeuccpastor@gmail.com

Accompanist

Ekin Ustunel
Email: mthopeuccoutreach@gmail.com

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

Outreach & Digital Technology Director

Ekin Ustunel

Email: mthopeuccoutreach@gmail.com



Mt. Hope Messenger

September 2021

Love Letter from Your Pastor: “All Good Gifts”

A man, who had never so much as stuck his hands in the dirt, decided to start a flower garden. He prepared the soil and planted the seeds of many beautiful flowers. But when they came up, his garden was filled not just with his chosen flowers but also overrun by dandelions. He sought out advice from gardeners all over and tried every method known to get rid of them but to no avail. Finally, he walked all the way to the wisest master gardener he could find. The wise old woman had counseled many gardeners before and suggested a variety of remedies to expel the dandelions but the man had already tried them all. They sat together in silence for some time and finally, the wise master gardener looked at the young man and said, “Well, then I suggest you learn to love them.”

I wonder how many times we look at ourselves and try to look like someone else? Try to be like someone else? Have you ever taken the time to see your “weeds” as a “gift?” Just like the many characters in the Bible, God uses our shiny parts and our dull parts to share the good news about God. Remember David or Jacob or Sarah? They didn’t get it right all of the time, but God used them, even their “dandelions” to make a difference and tell about the promises of God.

Clint Pulver tells an inspiring story about his troubled school days. When he was in early elementary school, he was always getting in trouble in school. Often hearing the words, “Clint, stop tapping and be still.” Clint couldn’t help it. He had so much energy. He tried to sit still. He tried to concentrate, but eventually the

tapping would just burst forth from his body and he would disrupt the class. One day in school, Mr. Jensen called out his name just as a burst of energy was surging through his fingertips onto his desktop and he asked him to stay after class. Clint recalls the butterflies that built up in his stomach waiting for the doom to drop on his head once and for all.

After class, Clint approached Mr. Jensen. The teacher looked at him, opened up his desk drawer and pulled out two pieces of wood. He handed them to Clint and he said, "Here, take these drumsticks. You are going to make an amazing drummer." Mr. Jensen was right. Clint did go on to become one of the best professional drummers, but Mr. Jensen was right about one other thing, someone else's differences aren't to be oppressed, but used as a gift.

In the month of September we will be spending time together as a church looking at our gifts. You will be receiving a booklet in the mail in the next few days called, "Your Spiritual Gifts Inventory." And we will be exploring our spiritual gifts together on Sunday, September 19th during the worship and Gather. Learn. Grow (formerly known as Sunday School.) When you receive your gift, set aside some time to answer the questions. You may choose to answer all the questions at one sitting or split them up into multiple sittings. Before you begin the questions, take a moment to ask God to help you see yourself as a gift worth celebrating, because you are.

The New Testament, especially the stories of the early church celebrate the church as being One Body (Christ) with many members (all of us.) You make up the body of Christ. We are the body of Christ together. Join us as we learn together about our own spiritual gifts and use our gifts to further the gospel into all the world. Who knows, you might need a pair of drumsticks and not even know it!

Courage for your journey—Kristin

Please Note!

To increase the probability of you receiving the monthly newsletters emailed from the church, please add these email addresses to your contacts list or address books:

mthopeuccoffice@gmail.com – (church office)

mthopeuccpastor@gmail.com – (pastor Kristin's email)

mthopeuccmusic@gmail.com - (choir director)

mthopeuccoutreach@gmail.com – (Ekin Ustunel, accompanist and technology director)

If you have questions, contact Ekin Ustunel or Barbara Greeson.



Based on a recommendation from the Memorial Association, the Consistory has voted to indefinitely postpone our 2021 Memorial Day Homecoming. We appreciate everyone's understanding and participation.

May God bless, Mt Hope Consistory

Mt. Hope United Church of Christ
Consistory Meeting
6-10-21

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

Pastor Present: Pastor Kristin

The meeting was called to order at 7:04pm. 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: Bill Craft made a motion to accept the minutes as presented and Dora Moore seconded. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Dora Moore presented a report on May. The beginning balance for May was \$169,601.19 and the monthly income was \$21,046.41. Expenses were \$15,920.54 which resulted in an ending balance of \$174,727.06. Noral Belvin made a motion to accept the treasurer's report as presented and Cole Levens seconded. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Kristin reported in person attendance was down in worship but we will continue our live stream service on Facebook. Music camp is Monday through Friday with a program Friday June 11th at 6:30pm. Music camp is ages 8-13 and we have 12 enrolled, 9 from the community and 3 from church. Price is \$100 for the week. Some that attended commented they had seen the announcement on our church sign. Youth is helping with the music camp. The camp is self-supporting. Ekin and Andrew are being compensated. Cathy Gossett made a motion to approve one scholarship for the music camp and funds to be taken out of the miscellaneous giving fund and Bob Hamlett seconded. Motion carried. June 27th we will have worship at Lake Mackintosh on Hwy 61. We will have hot dogs, hamburgers, tea and water. Everyone is to bring a chair, a side or dessert. Worship is continuing to start at 10:30 a.m. as we did during Covid. We are using this time to try something new with Sunday School immediately following worship as suggested by the Board of Christian Education and Music & Worship. We will

also use this time to have a Mission Sunday each month.

Gather, Learn & Grow together. Kristin's vacation schedule is June 19-26 Ray Mims will be on call and supply minister. July 2-July 7 Marcia Cham will be on call and supply minister.

July 13-18 TBD, July 24-31 TBD, and August 1-7 TBD.

Prayer of Confession

Words of Assurance

We present our offerings

Committee Reports:

BOCE – Youth and children Sunday School will start back in a few weeks. There will be no youth meetings in June but will meet in July.

Maintenance – Dallas approved a window ac unit for Ekin's office and it has been installed. Bob Hamlett to get thermostat for third floor.

Stewardship- Bill Craft reported they met a week ago. BOCE presented the Stewardship Committee with the task of space utilization in the church and not have the youth on the 3rd floor. The committee requested Consistory to approve a small group to look into a recommendation and report back to Stewardship & Consistory for approval. Any items gathered could be donated by the church and give members an opportunity to pick them up. Dora Moore made a motion any items that can be donated would be announced to our members and give them a week to pick them up and Janet Ellis seconded. Motion carried.

Bill was asked to head up a team to make items in the historical room digital. Outdoor Ministry Fund looks to have our estimated final costs covered as long as we stay on budget. They will meet again in July if needed.

Evangelism – They are assisting with the Mobile Meals Ministry and WISE team is meeting the 3rd Tuesday of each month.

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

Meals4kids – Gloria Apple reported she checked with Mrs. Morris and there is no need for school supplies at this time. She told her just to let us know if this changes.

Greensboro Urban Ministry – A delivery was made last week.

Blessing Bag Ministry – Lisa Moser went through all the clothes we had accumulated and donated them.

Social Concerns – No report at this time.

We offer our concerns for the future (New Business)

Installation of Consistory – On June 27th we will install the 2021 Consistory during worship service at Lake Mackintosh. Gloria Apple, Lorie Arrington and Dora Moore have agreed to run again. Joe Hughes, Sharon Mims and Jim Turner had agreed to run. Sharon Mims requested to withdraw her name from the nominees at this time. Dallas approved. Consistory will meet after worship to elect church officers.

Steeple – We are looking into alternative solutions for the steeple. Thanks to Bob Hamlett & Bennie Gerner for their time invested into the steeple.

Land Swap – Work in progress

Outdoor Ministry – Dallas to make announcement

Task Force – Janet Ellis reported they will meet again on June 15th at 1:30pm.

Stained glass windows – Dave Blakesley talked to John Kozak and it is a work in progress

Search Committee – They have posted jobs for music director and youth director.

Prayers of Intercession

Kristin closed in prayer

Charge and Benediction

Meeting adjourned 9:06pm

No July meeting. Next meeting August 12th at 7pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Gloria Apple, Secretary

Mt Hope United Church of Christ
Called Consistory Meeting at Lake Mackintosh
6-27-21

Members Present:

Gloria Apple, Lorie Arrington, Dallas Belvin, Dave Blakesley, Simon Clark, Janet Ellis, Bob Hamlett, Joe Hughes, Dora Moore and Jim Turner

Dallas called the meeting to order at 1:57pm and opened in prayer.

2021 Church Officers:

Janet Ellis nominated Joe Hughes and Simon Clark for assistant treasurers.

Dallas Belvin, president, Janet Ellis Vice President, Dora Moore, treasurer, Joe Hughes, assistant treasurer, Simon Clark, assistant treasurer, Gloria Apple, secretary, and Lorie Arrington, assistant secretary.

Simon Clark made a motion to accept the church officers for 2021 and Bob Hamlett seconded. Motion carried.

Family in need:

Lorie Arrington made a motion to get with Kristin to find out more info on ERAP and if there are other needs, we approve up to \$400 to be used from the Community Resource Fund at Kristin's discretion. Joe Hughes seconded.

Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Gloria Apple, Secretary

Mt Hope United Church of Christ
Congregational Meeting
6-13-21

May 30, 2021

Dallas Belvin announced we will have a Congregational meeting to vote for officers for Consistory and Trustees for 2021 and also approve the 2021 budget. The floor was opened to nominees.

June 6, 2021

Brenda Currie made a motion to close the nominations and Donnie Ellis seconded. Motion carried.

Gloria Apple, Lorie Arrington, Cathy Gossett, and Dora Moore all agreed to run for another term. Joe Hughes, Sharon Mims, and Jim Turner have agreed to run also.

June 13, 2021

A quorum was established and the meeting was called to order at 10:05am.

Dallas Belvin welcomed all.

Election of Church Officers

Noral Belvin has served a term of 54 months due to covid and has served as president of Consistory for one of those years. Bill Craft was not running for a second term. Bill has been an assistant

treasurer during his time of serving on the Consistory. We thank Noral and Bill for their dedication to the church.

We had seven nominees but Sharon Mims withdrew her name at this time. Sharon Mims is very dedicated to

Mt. Hope and will continue to help in any way she can.

Dallas accepted her request.

The six that have agreed to run are Gloria Apple, Lorie Arrington, Cathy Gossett, Joe Hughes, Dora Moore,

and Jim Turner. Freddie Gossett agreed to run for another term as trustee.

Barbara Greeson made the motion to accept the nominees by acclamation and Carolyn Simpson seconded. Motion carried.

2021 Budget

Dora Moore as treasurer thanked everyone for supporting the church during Covid. Dora presented the 2021 budget. Joe Hughes made a motion to accept the budget with the clarifications and Donnie Ellis seconded. Motion carried.

Brenda Currie made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Noral Belvin seconded. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 10:33 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gloria Apple
Secretary

Mt. Hope United Church of Christ
Email Vote
7-12-21

Space Utilization

The Stewardship Committee submitted their recommendation on how to address the issue of space utilization with reference to our Youth Programs.

The Consistory was to approve this action in order for them to move forward. An email was sent out on 7/12/21 for all Consistory Members to vote on. Eight Consistory members voted to allow the Stewardship Committee Group to take action on the

procedures to provide Mt. Hope UCC with a Youth Room. Three members abstained.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gloria Apple
Secretary



SEPTEMBER 6, 2021



The History of Labor Day



The first Labor Day holiday was celebrated on Tuesday, September 5, 1882, in New York City. Labor Day, *the first Monday in September*, is a creation of the labor movement and is dedicated to the social and economic achievements of American workers. It is a yearly national tribute to the contributions workers have made to the strength, prosperity, and well-being of our country. It is appropriate, that the nation pay tribute on Labor Day to the creator of so much of the nation's strength, freedom, and leadership — the *American worker*. Enjoy your day!

SEPTEMBER 11, 2021



MISSION PROJECT

Our next church wide Mission Project is to collect materials for hygiene kits and put them together.

We will assemble them on September 12 after worship. We will use the sign up genie, so please watch for it to come out soon! If you prefer to make donations, feel free to do that, just mark it for fall hygiene kits. Donations need to be dropped off in the new fellowship hall by noon on Saturday, 9-11. Call or email Linda Shue with questions. 336-698-0123 or lindashue32@gmail.com.



Youth Calendar for September

- 9/5 - Labor Day Weekend - No Youth
- 9/12 - Mission Sunday - Directly after church service - Youth to do final packing and deliver packages to Alamance Plaza residents. No 6pm Youth
- 9/19 - 6pm Youth Meeting
- 9/26 - 6pm Youth Meeting

Wishing Well News – by Brenda Currie



Reminder: Our wishing well project is to raise \$3000 to dig a well for a village 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 Brenda Currie 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.



*To my Mt. Hope Family: Thanks for your participation in my 90th Birthday celebration on August 14th at the Drive Through at Papp's Assisted Living. It was exciting to see who was coming next. There were 21 cars and 37 people. I appreciate your presence and all the beautiful cards and gifts.
Love to all!
Jeanne Ingold*

Greensboro Urban Ministry:

The wonderful generosity of Mt Hope Church of Christ congregation and Sawyer Farm continues. This congregation provided **943 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 has donated **2022 lbs.** of squash to Second Harvest due to the generosity of Sawyer Farms.

COMING SOON!

The Gospel According to Dr. Seuss –

September – *Bartholomew and the Oobleck*. Check the church website for the link to hear the book being read by Pastor Kristin

October – *Green Eggs and Ham*, including Green Eggs & Ham Breakfast on Sunday, October 3 at 9:15 a.m. at the Picnic Shelter

November – *The Zax*

December – *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*

Christmas Pageant Practice will begin Sunday, October 10 immediately following worship for children ages 3 through 5th grade.

Christmas Pageant – Sunday, December 5

Mission: Be the Church

September 12 – Hygiene Kits

October 3 – Communion Kits

November 21 – Thanksgiving Placemats

December 5 – Christmas Ornaments

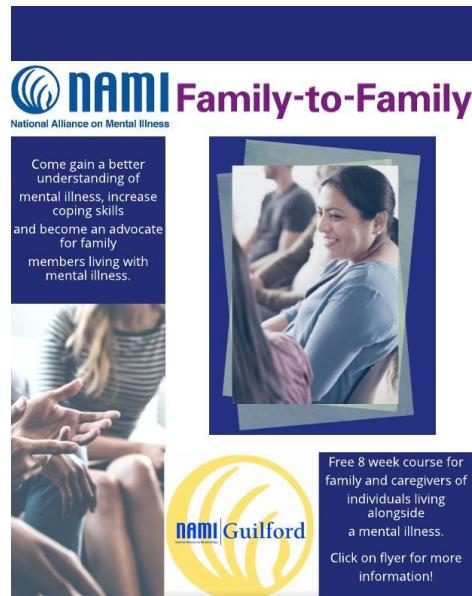
Board of Christian Education Meeting – Sunday, September 19 at 1:30 p.m.

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

Family to Family 8 week course.

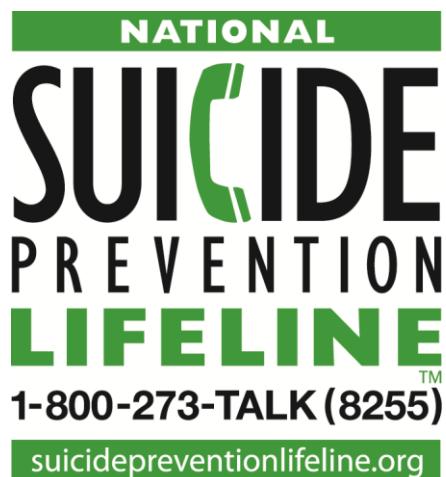
The class is for family and friends of adults with a mental illness.

There is no charge for the class, but registration is necessary.



The image shows a flyer for the NAMI Family-to-Family program. At the top left is the NAMI logo with the text "nami National Alliance on Mental Illness". To the right of the logo is the text "Family-to-Family". Below this is a blue box containing text: "Come gain a better understanding of mental illness, increase coping skills and become an advocate for family members living with mental illness." To the right of the text is a photograph of a woman smiling. Below the photograph is another photograph showing two people, one gesturing while speaking. At the bottom left is the NAMI Guilford logo, which includes a yellow sun-like graphic. To the right of the logo is text: "Free 8 week course for family and caregivers of individuals living alongside a mental illness. Click on flyer for more information!"

They also host a Support Group for family members every Tuesday evening at 7:00 PM via ZOOM. You can register at <http://www.namiguilford.org>. There is no charge. It's a safe place to learn more about the illness and coping strategies.



The image features the Suicide Prevention Lifeline logo. It has a green horizontal bar at the top with the word "NATIONAL" in white. Below this is a large, bold title "SUICIDE PREVENTION LIFELINE" where the "U" and "P" are in green and the rest of the letters are in black. A small "TM" symbol is at the end of the "LIFELINE" word. Below the title is the phone number "1-800-273-TALK (8255)" in a large black font. At the bottom is the website "suicidepreventionlifeline.org" in a smaller green font.

September is also Suicide Prevention Awareness Month.



CALENDAR

ZOOM IS STILL AN OPTION

Wednesday, September 1

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

Thursday, September 2

8:00 am, Yoga with Sonia – Pavilion

Sunday, September 5

10:30 am, Worship

Monday, September 6- Labor Day

6:00 pm, Yoga with Sonia – Pavilion

Wednesday, September 8

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

Thursday, September 9

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

Sunday, September 12 - Communion

10:30 am, Worship

Monday, September 13

6:00 pm, Yoga with Sonia – Pavilion

Tuesday, September 14

6:30 pm, Women's Fellowship

Wednesday, September 15

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

Thursday, September 16

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

Sunday, September 19

10:30 am, Worship
1:30 pm, BCE Meeting
6:00 pm, Youth Meeting

Monday, September 20

6:00 pm, Yoga with Sonia – Pavilion

Tuesday, September 21

5:30 pm, WISE Meeting

Wednesday, September 22

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

Thursday, September 23

8:00 am, Yoga with Sonia – Pavilion

Sunday, September 26

10:30 am, Worship

6:00 pm, Youth Meeting

Monday, September 27

6:00 pm, Yoga with Sonia – Pavilion

Wednesday, September 29

6:00 pm, Bible Study

7:30 pm, Choir Practice

Thursday, September 30

8:00 am, Yoga with Sonia – Pavilion



September Birthdays

3 rd	Kelly Stanley, Dona Branson
7 th	Heath Smith
10 th	Megan Hughes, Katelyn Gossett
12 th	Logan Ellis, Joe Hughes
13 th	Ray Neese Jr., Beth Harris
14 th	Dottie Deeter
20 th	Tyler Stewart
21 st	Bob Deeter
22 nd	Mary Greeson
23 rd	Anna Lashley
25 th	Marcia Cham
27 th	Gerald Greeson
30 th	Phillip Strouth, Sonia Knowles

September Anniversaries

8 th	James & Laurie Baker
8 th	Karen & Dewayne Mounce
17 th	Phillip & Tracy Nelson
20 th	Alan & Amanda Levens
25 th	Travis & Sunny Staley
30 th	Michael & Katie Craft



Prayer Requests

Health Care Center

Alamance Health Care Center
Alamance House
Clapp's Nursing Center
Ralph Scott Homes
Woodhaven (Albermarle)
Brookdale Burlington
Twin Lakes
Clapp's Assisted Living
Guilford House
Heritage Green

Teresa Oakley (#83)
R. Denny Ingold (#112)
Robert Ingold (#807)
Betty Kim Settemyre
Annie Lee Apple
Peggie Coble (#74)
Darlene Cherry
Jeanne Ingold (#315)
Blanche Greeson
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 Gallagher
Goldie Sawyer
Jaynee Brown
Steve & Peg Burns
Dean & Peggy Greeson
Shane Swaim

Bill & Peggy Welker
Lloyd & Sylvia Gilliam
Sharon Nance
Terry Staley
Nancy & Jim Wimbish
Nancy Phipps
Joyce Hammonds
Ken Clapp
John Staley
Billy Shoffner
Ray Neese, Sr.
Family of Charlie Turner