

# 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

## *Outreach & Digital Technology Director*

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# 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 19<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:mthopeuccoffice@gmail.com) – (church office)

[mthopeuccpastor@gmail.com](mailto:mthopeuccpastor@gmail.com) – (pastor Kristin’s email)

[mthopeuccmusic@gmail.com](mailto:mthopeuccmusic@gmail.com) - (choir director)

[mthopeuccoutreach@gmail.com](mailto: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 11<sup>th</sup> 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 27<sup>th</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 27<sup>th</sup> 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 15<sup>th</sup> 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 12<sup>th</sup> 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

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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

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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!

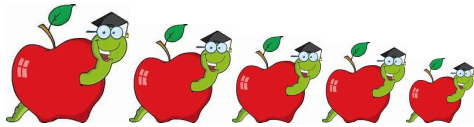
**SEPTEMBER 11, 2021**



## 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](mailto: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 Plakk'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 as 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 5<sup>th</sup> 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 a course. At the top is the NAMI logo (National Alliance on Mental Illness) and the text "NAMI Family-to-Family". Below this is a blue box with white 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 this text is a photograph of a woman smiling. Below the photograph is the NAMI Guilford logo, which consists of a yellow circle with three curved lines inside, and the text "NAMI Guilford". To the right of the logo is another blue box with white 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.namiquilford.org>. There is no  
charge. It's a safe place to learn more about  
the illness and coping strategies.



The image shows the logo for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline. It features the word "NATIONAL" in white on a green background. Below that, the word "SUICIDE" is written in large, bold, black letters, with a green outline around the letter "I". Underneath "SUICIDE" is the word "PREVENTION" in smaller, bold, black letters. Below "PREVENTION" is the word "LIFELINE" in large, bold, green letters. To the right of "LIFELINE" is a small "TM" symbol. Below the logo is the phone number "1-800-273-TALK (8255)" in bold, black letters. At the bottom is a green bar with the website address "suicidepreventionlifeline.org" in white text.

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

## September Anniversaries

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





# Prayer Requests

## 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	Bill & Peggy Welker
Pat Levens	Lloyd & Sylvia Gilliam
LuEller Ingold	<b>Sharon Nance</b>
J.R. Shoffner	<b>Terry Staley</b>
Laurie Baker	Nancy & Jim Wimbish
Bob & Dottie Deeter	Nancy Phipps
Jim Gallagher	Joyce Hammonds
Goldie Sawyer	<b>Ken Clapp</b>
Jaynee Brown	<b>John Staley</b>
Steve & Peg Burns	<b>Billy Shoffner</b>
Dean & Peggy Greeson	<b>Ray Neese, Sr.</b>
Shane Swaim	<b>Family of Charlie Turner</b>