

AROUND THE MOUNTAIN

September 2020

Don't wait idly, but work as you wait.

¹² Now we ask you, brothers and sisters, to acknowledge those who work hard among you, who care for you in the Lord and who admonish you. ¹³ Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work. Live in peace with each other. ¹⁴ And we urge you, brothers and sisters, warn those who are idle and disruptive, encourage the disheartened, help the weak, be patient with everyone. ¹⁵ Make sure that nobody pays back wrong for wrong, but always strive to do what is good for each other and for everyone else. ¹⁶ Rejoice always, ¹⁷ pray continually, ¹⁸ give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. 1 Thessalonians 5:12-18



The Bible is a holy and living document. The words may have been written many, many years ago, but it continues to speak to God's children throughout the years. First Thessalonians is believed to be the oldest book in the New Testament and written by Paul to this group who believed the return of Jesus would happen during their lifetime. Paul reminds them to not wait idly, but work as they wait.

Work as we wait, could be our motto today. It could be said that Covid-19 has placed us into a pattern of uncertainty, questioning, and waiting for what is next. Paul reminded the Thessalonians and I remind you, disciples of Christ: Don't wait idly, but work as you wait. There is work to be done in the kingdom of God. Let's keep the work going!

Thank you to the many workers who have worked to install the new camera systems in the sanctuary. The live feed will look much different than our current broadcast. For example, there will always be a live picture of the sanctuary and the words to the hymns and other parts of the worship service will appear on the bottom of the screen. We are working diligently to learn the new software and we will transition as soon as we are comfortable transmitting using the new equipment.

As we work differently, I remind you of a couple of events: Drive In Communion on the 1st and 3rd Sundays. Zoom Sunday School on 2nd and 4th Sundays. Zoom: Coffee, Food, and Fellowship on 5th Sundays.

Students are asked to bring their backpacks to Drive In Communion during September for a blessing. We are all encouraged to bring school supplies for students in the community. You may drop them off in the office or bring them to Drive In Communion on September 6th.

As you can tell, we are not waiting idly, as the community of disciples at Mt. Hermon, we are working as we wait!

Sister in Christ,
Pastor Gina

AROUND THE MOUNTAIN

Congregational Council Mini Minutes July 12, 2020 via Zoom

ATTENDANCE: All were present with the exception of Joe Koon and Mitch Stevens

CARES AND CONCERNS: Praying for family of Wayne Stoddard (Diane Boulware's uncle who passed away), family of Connie Bucknam after her passing, David Hydrick (Buddy Hydrick's cousin) who had a stroke, and Gene Schofield who is slowly healing at home.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA: Approved with addition of line item for discussion of time of future council meetings

ADOPTION OF MINUTES: The minutes from June 14, 2020 meeting were approved with corrections
REPORTS:

- Pastor Gina: Written report received. 90 Day Devotion Challenge books available in church office
- Treasurer: Written report received for June 2020. Offering collected through June 30, 2020, in Current and Benevolence Fund is \$116,892.15 with expenditures of \$110,034 for the same time period.
- Financial Secretary: Written Report received for June 2020, second quarter 2020, and first two quarters together of 2020. Request from member for Annette to let members know when their Thrivent distributions have been sent to the church. Request from member that congregation would like to know amount collected for Mother's Day Bulletin (\$985) and Father's Day Bulletin (\$1050).

Team Reports/Recommendations:

1. Worship: Live Stream donations to the project total \$4000 thus far. Wires are being pulled in the church for new video/audio system. Cameras are ordered for Live Streaming. Ruthie has asked council's permission to possibly move dates of Live Streaming Concert due to various artists trying to get together. The concert may also occur over two days. She will update church in time for everyone to watch. **APPROVED**
2. Teach: Question from council member if there will be online VBS or Sunday School. Alyson Price says the committee hasn't met recently but she will reach out to Daryl Leigh Anthony.
3. Support: Finance Committee to meet in the future
4. Outreach: Food Pantry recipients continue to request face masks. Little Library is fully stocked but don't have usage information.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Cross on top of church: Cross still needs to be repaired on top of church steeple. Earl Sease has contacted the closest person known to do this work in Greensboro, North Carolina. He hasn't traveled here to assess damage due to COVID. The cross still remains lit even though it's broken so that will need to be addressed if it can remain lit when repaired.
2. Church office: Hours back to normal Monday-Friday 9 am to 1 pm
3. SC Synod Convention: Will occur virtually on 7-25-20 and anyone can watch at home with election of new bishop to occur. Mt. Hermon can have one male and one female delegate to vote. Council recommends that Terry Swygert and Diane Boulware represent Mt. Hermon. **APPROVED**

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Task Force for reopening church: Wynne Price will chair with members who have volunteered—Dr. Carl Kinard, Myra Kinard, Marion Leaphart, and Devona Price to study reopening plans and logistics. Council tables discussion about reopening church for now.
2. Future meeting times: Motion to change council meetings to second Sunday of each month at 6pm unless there is a time change requested by a council member. If Ruthie has her concert on the second Sunday of August we will meet on the third Sunday at 6pm. **APPROVED**

Robin Ellisor, Council Secretary

AROUND THE MOUNTAIN

Called Congregational Council Meeting Minutes August 2, 2020 via Zoom

ATTENDANCE: All were present with the exception of Jenny Scott

MEETING PURPOSE: Discuss recommendations from Health and Safety Task Force Meeting

Recommendation #1: The food pantry delivery to be made through the door in the education wing closest to the bus shed.

- Discussion: We need to decrease foot traffic through the church office area. If recommendation is to receive and distribute food to food pantry clients at the end of the education wing, shouldn't we move the food pantry itself to end of Sunday School hall? A battery operated doorbell camera has been donated that could be installed on door for viewing of clients in blind spots and for safety. Lutheran Men would volunteer to build shelves for food storage in new location. Motion by council to move food pantry to the last Sunday School room on the right side of the education wing, install a battery operated doorbell camera on outside door, build shelving, and deliveries to be made through the door in education wing closest to the bus shed. **APPROVED**

Recommendation #2: The kitchen, fellowship hall, and the basement of the sanctuary to be sanitized and secured to prevent entry into those spaces. With the exception of the food pantry, the only entry and exit will be through the doors outside of the church office. Signs will be posted at secured entrances to direct people to the church office for entry into these areas, if absolutely necessary.

- Discussion: Recommend sign in sheet of who comes into secured area with the time frame listed and where they go in the church. This will help us know what areas to sanitize if someone tests COVID positive. Ricky Bouknight and Terry Swygert will continue to walk thru these areas one to two times per week to insure there are no leaks or other maintenance issues to be addressed. Toilets will also be flushed and water used out of fountains to keep them from acquiring disease from non usage. A letter will be created and mailed to congregation to explain these recommendations. Motion by council to approve recommendation #2 with additional language: "Sign in sheets" will be provided in church office to keep a record of who enters, where they go in church, and how long they are in that area. This will only be used in the event a member who has accessed the church tests COVID positive and we need to initiate contact tracing purposes and sanitization." **APPROVED**

Robin Ellisor, Council Secretary

Treasurer Report January 2020 - July 2020

	<u>Actual Income</u>	<u>Actual Expenses</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Current & Benevolence	134,194.14	125,775.98	8,418.16
Building Improvement	8,512.91	6,359.16	2,153.75
Building on Holy Ground	42,114.12	42,000.00	114.12

AROUND THE MOUNTAIN

Tithe.ly Online Giving.

You may download the Tithely app and select
Mt. Hermon Lutheran Church 3011 Leaphart Road

Or you may give from our website at www.mthlc.com and select
Online Giving

<http://www.WeAreMtHermon.com/online-giving.html>



Your continued financial support to the work of God at Mt. Hermon is both appreciated and needed to continue ministry. You may drop your check in the US Mail: 3011 Leaphart Road, West Columbia, SC 29169. You may also drop it in the locked box on Leaphart Road. Some of you have taken advantage of banks mailing a check straight to Mt. Hermon. Many of you are taking the opportunity to use online giving. Thank you for your financial and spiritual support to Mt. Hermon!



AROUND THE MOUNTAIN

Outreach Happenings . . .

THANK YOU for responding to our need. This month Mt. Hermon's Food Pantry has been blessed with many donations.

- The Lutheran Men donated shelving for our new location at the end of the Education Building.



- **Bonnie Bouknight** applied for and received a Thrivent Action Team Grant for the Food Pantry. She and **Alyssa Stevens** went shopping and stocked the Food Pantry.

- Boy Scouts have started having food drives to collect food for our Food Pantry. **Tanner Addy, Gable Jolly, Carson Thornton, Alston Brooks** have donated the food they collected. Tanner and Gable are disciples at Mt. Hermon. Carson and Alston are

disciples at other area churches and wanted to donate to Mt. Hermon because they think so much of their scout leader, **Jason Addy**.



- The students at **PAC** (Palmetto Athletic Center) afterschool program donated **30 bags** of groceries to our food pantry. Thank you **Erica Conklin**.
- Other food donations have also appeared when we needed them the most.
- Several monetary donations have also been made.



- Many have donated their time by serving in the Food Pantry. We now have **eleven teams of disciples** who have agreed to serve in the Food Pantry.

- **Five for Wednesdays:** Angie Hydrick and Doris Maddox, Jo Leach and Andrea Bowers, Annette Price and Ann Bouknight, Mary Frances Sease and Diane Boulware, Frank and Bonnie Bouknight

- **Five for Saturdays:** Terry and Allison Swygert, The Koon Family (Mary, Joey, Joshua and Sam), Lynn Bouknight and Karen Nicholson, Parker and Diane Boulware, Mike Rawl and Laura Stevens, Danny and Jenny Scott (as Saturday substitutes when needed)

Thank you to all who donate to help Mt. Hermon be God's Hands in the community. You are enabling us to help many. Our new hours are: Wednesdays and Saturdays from 9:00am – 11:00pm.

AROUND THE MOUNTAIN

Current Items Needed in the Food Pantry

We are wanting to expand the items that we provide to the community to include more items that SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) will not cover such as: paper products, deodorant, laundry detergent and other cleaning supplies. If you can add some of these to your grocery list and drop them by the church, we would appreciate the donations.

Face Masks



Our face mask ministry continues. We have distributed over 200 face masks to members of the community through the Food Pantry. If you are in need of a face mask, please let us know. We want to do our part to slow the spread of Covid 19 and spread God's love into our community.

Back to School Supplies

- We will be collecting school supplies through **Saturday, September 12** to be distributed to the following schools for their students in need: Riverbank Elementary, Cayce Elementary, Wood Elementary, Batesburg-Leesville Elementary, Fulmer Middle and Pineridge Middle. We selected these schools because they are local and we have disciples from our congregation on their faculty.

SUPPLIES NEEDED:

- 24 pack crayons, pencils, colored pencils, markers, dry erase markers
- Pencil pouches, pencil boxes
- Scissors, glue sticks, dry erase erasers
- Earbuds, headphones
- 3-ring binders (1.5 "), wide rule notebook paper, composition notebooks, dividers
- Bookbags
- Tissues, hand sanitizer, disinfecting wipes



We will have a collection box at church in the Education Building. We will also have one outside during Drive-Thru Communion. Thank you for any way you can help our teachers and students.



Please continue to visit The Little Free Library

We have loaded the Little Free Library with books for all ages. We want to help strengthen literacy skills and inspire a love of reading in our community. You can borrow and return, replace with another book, or if you just loved the story, keep it! The Little Library is open to all!

AROUND THE MOUNTAIN



Outreach Team Members: Angie Hydrick, Allison Swygert, Lynn Bouknight, Jenny Scott, Mike Rawl, Leah Rawl, Mitch Stevens, Laura Stevens, Jo Leach, Mary Koon, Nancy Addison, Eric Carroll, Pastor Gina, Diane Boulware, Chair.



Church offices closed

AROUND THE MOUNTAIN

*First and Third Sunday
of the Month*

**Communion Distribution
and Blessings**

Enter paved parking lot near the bus
and loop in front of the church office.



Sunday School

on Zoom
**2nd & 4th Sundays
10:30 a.m.**

To join the group, please email
pastorgina@WeAreMtHermon.com



**Daily
Devotions
6:35 pm**

Join the FaceBook
community
for a time of
daily reflection
with Pastor Gina

**Drive-In Blessing of Backpacks
Sunday, Sept 6th
10:30 -1:00**



SUPPLIES

COLLECTING THRU SEPT. 12TH
DROP OFF DURING DRIVE IN
COMMUNION



**DONATING TO
LOCAL SCHOOLS**



AROUND THE MOUNTAIN

MT HERMON PRAYS ...

Homebound and Care Facilities

Patricia Bachman, <i>Carolina Gardens</i>	Margie Hook, <i>home</i>
Alberta Berry, <i>home</i>	Rev. Everette Price, <i>home</i>
Hazel Bockus, <i>Carolina Gardens</i>	Tom Roof, <i>home</i>
Nell Buff, <i>home</i>	June Roof, <i>Rapha</i>
Lila Catt, <i>home</i>	Lois Watson, <i>Lexington Place</i>
Lynwood Crout, <i>home</i>	Lena Wessinger, <i>Presby. Home</i>

Members in Special Need of Prayer

Becky Koon	Gene Schofield	Jeff Bucknam
Clifton & Ann Addy	Rodney Oswald	

Family and Friends Who Have Requested Our Prayers

Bob Eastwood, *brother-in-law of Marie Kleckley*
Harold & Mary Prater, *parents of Ray Prater*
Molly Kate Shealy, *friend of Jean Shealy*
Chuck Bachman, *nephew of Jean Shealy*
Floyd Fuller, *uncle of David Marsh*
Dawn McIlwain-Merck, *friend of Robin Ellisor*
Gary & Linda Hodgins, *friends of Herb Bucknam*
Lois Moore & family, *family of Dennis & Cyndi Thurman*
Bill Harrell, *friend of Ryan & Jennifer Price*
Don Morris, *father of Keith Morris*
Cheryl Coureville, *friend of Herb Bucknam*
Iris Wellborn, *sister of Earl Sease*
Jimmy Mills, *father of Tommy Mills*
Richie Tallent, *friend of Danny Scott*
Mandy McLemore, *co-worker of Amanda Boyd, Kim Addy, & Alyson Price*
John Catoe, *family of Ellisors*
Jenifer Gooding, *co-worker of Joel Price Jr. & Mary Price*
Sherri Crapps, *sister-in-law of Linda Waters-Hamilton*
Megan Sease, *granddaughter of Earl & Mary Frances Sease*
Tommy Roof, *son of Tom & June Roof*
Martha Eastwood, *sister of Marie Kleckley*
Eric Powell, *friend of Kim Fulmer*
Jason Wardlaw, *friend of congregation*
Andrew & Candice Coleman, *friends of Erica Conklin*
David Hydrick, *cousin of Buddy Hydrick*
Sarah Hiltz, *granddaughter of Buddy & Angie Hydrick*
Clara Shultz, *friend of Sheila Starkey*
Debbie Smith & family, *niece of Dennis & Cyndi Thurman*

AROUND THE MOUNTAIN

**Sep 02**

Mike Watford

Sep 04

Wayne Eargle

Sep 07

Blake Allen

Sep 12

Sarah Bryant

Sep 13

Shirley Riley

Sep 14

Cyndi Leaphart

Sep 16

Gene Sexton

Sep 18

Lawrence Boulware

Sep 19

Regan Anthony

Sep 22

Karen Nicholson

Sep 23

Cameron Bucknam

Myra Kinard

Sep 24

Grayson Anthony

Sonya Miller

Jerry Price, III

Sep 26

James Hallman

Sep 27

Dave Butts

**Sep 02**

Mike & Dianne Watford

If your birthday or anniversary is missing from these lists, please contact the church office at 803.794.6430 or send an email to susan@WeAreMtHermon.com.

We are sorry we did not have the information in time of printing!

WE ARE MT HERMON

September 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 6:35 pm Devotions	2 9:00 am Food Pantry (Andrea Bowers & Jo Leach) 6:35 pm Devotions	3 6:35 pm Devotions	4 6:35 pm Devotions	5 6:35 pm Food Pantry Closed Devotions
6 9:00 am 10:30 am 10:30 am 6:35 pm Worship Live Stream Blessing of Backpacks Drive in communion Devotions	7 Labor Day-Office Closed 6:35 pm Devotions	8 6:00 pm 6:35 pm Executive committee Devotions	9 9:00 am 6:35 pm Food Pantry (Frank & Bonnie Bouknight) Devotions	10 6:35 pm Devotions	11 6:35 pm Devotions	12 9:00 am 6:35 pm School Supplies Drive Ends Food Pantry (Lynn Bouknight & Karen Nicholson) Devotions
13 9:00 am 10:30 am 6:00 pm 6:35 pm Worship Live Stream Sunday School ZOOM Council Meets Devotions	14 6:35 pm Devotions Zoom: Health & Safety Task Force	15 6:35 pm Devotions	16 9:00 am 6:35 pm Food Pantry (Diane Bouknight & Mary Frances Sease) Devotions	17 6:35 pm Devotions	18 6:35 pm Devotions	19 9:00 am 6:35 pm Food Pantry (Mike Rawl & Laura Stevens) Devotions
20 9:00 am 10:30 am 6:35 pm Worship Live Stream Drive in Communion Devotions	21 6:00 pm 6:35 pm Outreach Mtg via Zoom Devotions	22 6:35 pm Devotions	23 9:00 am 6:35 pm Food Pantry (Ann Bouknight & Annette Price) Devotions	24 6:35 pm Devotions	25 6:35 pm Devotions	26 9:00 am 6:35 pm Food Pantry (Terry & Allison Swygert) Devotions
27 9:00 am 10:30 am 6:35 pm Worship Live Stream Sunday School ZOOM Devotions	28 6:35 pm Devotions	29 6:35 pm Devotions	30 9:00 am 6:35 pm Food Pantry (Angie Hydrick & Doris Maddox) Devotions			

Please see "calendar of events" at WeAreMtHermon .com for updates.



NON PROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT # 958
COLUMBIA, SC

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Rev. Gina D. Metze, <i>Pastor</i>	803.951.3784	<i>PastorGina@WeAreMtHermon.com</i>
Ruthie Brannen, <i>Director of Music</i>		<i>RuthieBrannen@gmail.com</i>
Susan LaCons, <i>Parish Administrator</i>		<i>Susan@WeAreMtHermon.com</i>

Table of Contents

www.WeAreMtHermon.com

3011 Leaphart Road
West Columbia, SC 29169
803.794.6430
Monday – Friday
9:00 am – 1:00 pm
Pastor Gina 803.951.3784

Letter from Pastor	1
Council Notes	2
Community News	3-9
Birthdays and Anniversaries . . .	10
Calendar	11