



LIVING IN THE LIGHT

¹³ “You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.

¹⁴ “You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

Matthew 5:13-16

As part of Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount, Jesus shares these verses with his audience. Jesus reminds us that every good thing created for the blessing of this life can be used also as weapons in this life. Salt is good, but if salt loses its saltiness, how can it be good? A light is good, but a hidden light is not good. What good is a light that shines in a closed, dark, box? What would happen if we constantly had the focus of using salt as it was intended to be used? What would happen if our focus was to continue to bring light to illuminate the darkness around us?

We live in a world where technology and innovation continue to advance. I don’t know about you, but sometimes I sit and think of my grandparents cooking on a wood-burning stove. I think of my mom trying to describe that my dad was going to send me a piece of paper on the telephone (fax machine). I sometimes think back on that day and that conversation and realize a fax machine was birthed and died in about 10 years. I remember not purchasing a video camera in the mid 1990’s because the means of storing the pictures was changing to a 3.5 disc that one could pop into their computer. When we went to purchase the 3.5-disc camera, we learned about the new cameras with a SD card that would hold so much more data than the 3.5 disc we about to be released. We postponed our purchase, again. Time and time again, we let the plan of purchasing a video camera be blown out by the salesperson.

One thing is for sure, Jesus’s light in us is not to be blown out. His light is not to be put-off for something newer and better, either. Jesus’s light is to be burning bright and obvious in each of us. As we enter Lent, we are to let our lights shine, so that all the world comes to know the Savior of the world, Jesus!

Sister in Christ,

Pastor Gina

#3011LeaphartRoad

#WeAreMtHermon

AROUND THE MOUNTAIN

COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS

Reading through the New Testament in one year:

	2/1	Matthew 21:1-22		3/1	Mark 8:1-21		4/1	Luke 8:1-25
	2/2	Matthew 21:23-46		3/2	Mark 8:22-9:1		4/2	Luke 8:26-56
	2/3	Matthew 22:1-22		3/3	Mark 9:2-29		4/3	Luke 9:1-27
	2/4	Matthew 22:23-46		3/4	Mark 9:30-50		4/4	Luke 9:28-62
	2/5	Matthew 23:1-22		3/5	Mark 10:1-31		4/5	Luke 10:1-24
	2/6	Matthew 23:23-39		3/6	Mark 10:32-52		4/6	Luke 10:25-42
	2/7	Matthew 24:1-28		3/7	Mark 11:1-14		4/7	Luke 11:1-28
	2/8	Matthew 24:29-51		3/8	Mark 11:15-33		4/8	Luke 11:29-54
	2/9	Matthew 25:1-30		3/9	Mark 12:1-27		4/9	Luke 12:1-24
	2/10	Matthew 25:31-46		3/10	Mark 12:28-44		4/10	Luke 12:35-59
	2/11	Matthew 26:1-46		3/11	Mark 13:1-23		4/11	Luke 13:1-17
	2/12	Matthew 26:47-75		3/12	Mark 13:24-37		4/12	Luke 13:18-35
	2/13	Matthew 27:1-31		3/13	Mark 14:1-31		4/13	Luke 14:1-14
	2/14	Matthew 27:32-66		3/14	Mark 14:32-72		4/14	Luke 14:15-35
	2/15	Matthew 28		3/15	Mark 15:1-20		4/15	Luke 15:1-10
	2/16	Mark 1:1-20		3/16	Mark 15:21-47		4/16	Luke 15:11-32
	2/17	Mark 1: 21-45		3/17	Mark 16		4/17	Luke 16
	2/18	Mark 2		3/18	Luke 1:1-38		4/18	Luke 17:1-19
	2/19	Mark 3: 1-19		3/19	Luke 1:39-80		4/19	Luke 17:20-37
	2/20	Mark 3: 20-35		3/20	Luke 2:1-24		4/20	Luke 18:1-17
	2/21	Mark 4: 1:20		3/21	Luke 2:25-52		4/21	Luke 18:18-43
	2/22	Mark 4: 21-41		3/22	Luke 3:1-22		4/22	Luke 19:1-27
	2/23	Mark 5 1:20		3/23	Luke 3:23-38		4/23	Luke 19:28-48
	2/24	Mark 5: 21-43		3/24	Luke 4:1-30		4/24	Luke 20:1-19
	2/25	Mark 6: 1-29		3/25	Luke 4:31-44		4/25	Luke 20:20-47
	2/26	Mark 6: 30-56		3/26	Luke 5:1-16		4/26	Luke 21:1-19
	2/27	Mark 7: 1-23		3/27	Luke 5:17-39		4/27	Luke 21:20-38
	2/28	Mark 7: 24-37		3/28	Luke 6:1-16		4/28	Luke 22:1-38
				3/29	Luke 6:17-49		4/29	Luke 22:39-71
				3/30	Luke 7:1-35		4/30	Luke 23:1-25
				3/31	Luke 7:36-50			

AROUND THE MOUNTAIN

CHURCH COUNCIL HAPPENINGS

Motion from the Council meeting

January Council motions: N/A

**CHURCH COUNCIL
HIGHLIGHTS**

Congregational Council Minutes December 2023

ATTENDANCE: Absent – None. Also in attendance were newly elected Council members Sherwood Garrett, Jennifer Miller, Jerry Price, Terry Swygert, and Connor Eargle.

CARES AND CONCERNS: Kristy Bowman, daughter of Jeannette Biley, friend of Cyndi Leaphart, passed away; Jennifer Miller's sister, Samantha, who is to be induced on December 26; thanks to all the carolers who sang and brought joy to shut-in members; Melanie Jackson is feeling better following a bout with Covid.

MEMBER CARE:

ADOPTION OF AGENDA: Accepted as presented.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES: Minutes for November 2023 and the Annual Meeting were accepted as presented.

REPORTS:

- Pastor Gina: Report for December 2023 was submitted.
- Treasurer: Budget Report for November 2023 and Treasurer's Report for November 2023 were submitted.
- Financial Secretary: Funds Report for November 2023 was submitted.
- Executive Committee: The Executive Committee changed the name of the Special Service Offering line item to Habitat for Humanity. The Executive Committee recommends that the Easter Offering and the Christmas Offering line items be moved to the Habitat for Humanity line item. **PASSED** unanimously.

Team Reports/Recommendations:

Team for Ministry:

Care: Written report submitted.

Outreach: No report submitted.

Support: Written report submitted. The Support Team recommends that we use Taylor Rentals (Neal Taylor, owner) to remove existing boxwoods and all roots from this removal and the prior shrubbery removal in front of the church and Education Building, haul away all roots, boxwoods, and the concrete cylinders used for edging. The cost is estimated to be \$3,300 with \$2,000 to come from loan proceeds and \$1,300 from the landscaping donation. **PASSED** unanimously. The Support Team recommends that we use One 12 Landscaping to place cloth weed barrier and plants, and place pine straw in front of the church and Education Building. The cost is not to exceed \$8,700 with funds coming from the landscaping donation. The total for both recommendations is not to exceed \$12,000. **PASSED** unanimously.

Finance: No report submitted.

Teach: No report submitted.

Worship: Written report submitted.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. Council Installation – December 17, 2023

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Election of 2024 Officers – President – Frankie Jackson, Vice-President – Terry Swygert, Secretary – Sheila Eargle, Treasurer – Frank Bouknight, Financial Secretary – Annette Price and Karen Nicholson
2. Next Meeting: January 19-21, 2024, at Coastal Retreat Center, Isle of Palms
3. Next Month's Devotions and Lock Up – Pastor Gina

Sheila Eargle, Council Secretary

AROUND THE MOUNTAIN

ATTENDANCE REPORT

	In-person	Live Streaming	Total
December 31	76	123	199
January 6 (Ephiphany)	69	78	147
January 7	100	102	202
January 14	98+18	120	233
January 21	59+31	108	198

TREASURER REPORT

YTD December 2023	Income	Expense	Over (Short)
Current Mission Plan	\$239,104.07	232,901.44	6,202.63
Building Fund	\$66,391.02	59,453.76	6,937.26
Bldg Improvement	\$22,649.65	18,286.94	4,362.71



WOW! Look at the numbers in the chart above. Together WE DID IT! We covered the expenses of 2023 in a BIG way! You gave to God's mission at Mt. Hermon and not only did we cover expenses for 2023, but we also begin the year with funds for additional ministries that may come up through the year. AND ALSO, you generously showered me with a LOVE offering. You are a generous and faithful community and I am honored to serve alongside you at #3011LeaphartRoad. God is up to some

incredible, visible ministry here!



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AROUND THE MOUNTAIN

CARE TEAM HAPPENINGS

The Care team meets on the 1st Monday of every month at 5:30 in the conference room. If you would like to serve on this team, please contact Allison Swygert, or any team members and attend the next meeting!



The Care Team plans to host the next Jesus & Java on Friday, February 23rd at 6pm. We have the unique opportunity to host/feature Singer/Songwriter Mitch McVicker. McVicker's vocational musical journey began by working with the late, great Rich Mullins. The two performed concerts and wrote songs together. They were roommates. Shortly after a car wreck killed Mullins and badly injured Mitch, a song the two penned together, "My Deliverer," was given the GMA Dove Award for song of the year...all while McVicker was still deep in a lengthy and difficult recovery period.

After his recovery, Mitch continued his musical career, influenced by Rich Mullins in music and thought yet with his own distinct voice and style. McVicker's solo career has spanned over 2400 concerts in 49 states and 13 countries. Along with recording 12 full-length albums, he has made 2 EPs, and released 2 live concert DVDs. **Please join us and invite friends and family to hear this unique and gifted artist! Admission is completely free and a love offering will be taken. Light refreshments and snacks will be served.**

OUTREACH TEAM HAPPENINGS

The Outreach Team meets on the 3rd Monday of every month at 6:00pm in the conference room. If you would like to serve on this team, please contact Bonnie Bouknight, Melanie Jackson, or any team members and attend the next meeting!

The Outreach Team has been busy gearing up for a new year serving others. We are in the process of scheduling dates for Community Workshops, Drive Thru Prayer, Make a Difference Day along with the regular community service that we provide such as Food Pantry and Heart to Home. These are just a few of the outreach projects we are involved in.



**Food
Pantry**

An interesting note: Last year, we gave out 1972 "setups" in the Food Pantry. That is an average of 163 each month. In addition to the regular 3 bags of groceries, we gave out 50 Easter, Thanksgiving, and Christmas bags with special holiday meals.

Thank you for your generosity.

"We have gathered. We have been fed. Now, we go out to make a difference in the world."

AROUND THE MOUNTAIN

SUPPORT TEAM

The support team meets on the fourth Tuesday at 6:30 in the conference room. If you would like to serve on this team, please contact Ronnie Fulmer, chairperson, and attend the next meeting.



The Support Team continues to work on the beautification of the church grounds. The landscaping project is continuing and other plans for the campus continue.

The Finance Team met and will continue to finalize the 2023 Mission plan and will continue to monitor investments and the use of funds for ministry.



2024 Weekend Retreat to Isle of Palms was filled with energy as we reflected on 2023 ministries, and also dreamed of what 2024 might look like. *We need you!* Time and Talent sheets will be distributed at the beginning of Lent. As you reflect and redirect your lives during Lent, we ask you

to reflect and commit to being part of the ministry of your passions. The teams are Care, Support, Outreach, Teach, and Worship & Music. We need you to be part of a team and serve God together as we “make a difference in the world.” See your newsletter for schedules of meetings and contact persons for the team.

AROUND THE MOUNTAIN

TEACH TEAM

The teach team meets on the third Sunday at 11:30 in the conference room. If you would like to serve on this team, please contact Mary Koon or Cyndi Leaphart and attend the next meeting!



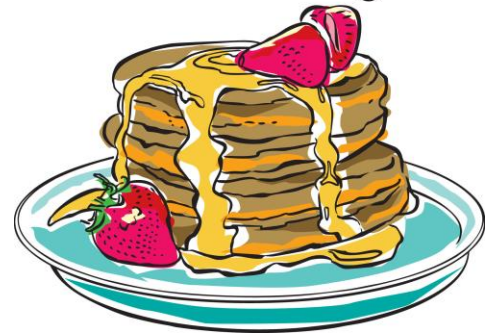
The Teach Team continues to work on the education component of our discipleship. Shrove Tuesday will include a teaching surrounding Shrove Tuesday.

WORSHIP TEAM

The worship team meets on the 4th Sundays at 11:30 in the conference room. If you would like to serve on this team, please contact Wynne Price and attend the next meeting!

Shrove Tuesday will be celebrated on Tuesday February 13th at 6:00pm. Along with the pancake meal and burning of the palms there will be a time for learning about the origins and meanings of the celebration. We will have a “pancake“ walk, a flipping of pancakes in a frying pan race, & some dancing. Plan to attend and enjoy the last festival on the day before Lent begins.

Shrove Tuesday



We begin to prepare our hearts for Easter on **Ash Wednesday** (also Valentine's Day this year!). You can receive Ashes in the Parking Lot at 3011 Leaphart Road from 7 to 9 am, during One Body Worship at 12:05pm or at 7:00 pm, Worship in the Sanctuary.

AROUND THE MOUNTAIN

SERVING IN WORSHIP

February 2024

	2/4/2024	2/11/2024	2/14/2024 Ash Wednesday	2/18/2024	2/25/2024
Ushers:	Ronnie Fulmer	David Marsh	Cyndi Leaphart	Frankie Jackson	Terry Swygert
	Wayne Eargle	Rick Anthony	Mary Price	Melaine Jackson	Allison Swygert
Crucifer:	Mackenzie Burns	Connor Eargle	Lawson Morris	Spencer Price	Sam Koon
Acolyte:	Brayden Morris	Sydney Bucknam	Chandler Coppens	Avery Rawl	Cameron Bucknam
Lector:	Wynne Price	Scotty Marsh	Joel Price, Sr	Devona Price	Terry Swygert
Communion Assts:	Mackenzie Burns	David Marsh	Cyndi Leaphart	Mike Rawl	Allison Swygert
	Brayden Morris	Scotty Marsh	Marion Leaphart	Teri Rawl	Sam Koon
	Wynne Price	Sherwood Garrett	Lawson Morris	Devona Price	Cameron Bucknam
	Mary Price	Connor Eargle	Chandler Coppens	Joel Price, Jr	Terry Swygert
	Ronnie Fulmer	Sydney Bucknam	Joel Price, Sr	Spencer Price	Angie Hydrick
Nursery:	Noah Swygert	Katie Donaldson	Leah Rawl	DJ Plummer	
	Cassie Swygert	Melanie Jackson	Brittany Allen	Charlene Corley	
Flowers:	Stevens		Brayden Morris		

SERVING IN FEBRUARY

COUNCIL MEMBER LOCK-UP: Sheila Eargle

ALTAR GUILD: Jennifer Price

TABULATORS: Ronnie Fulmer, Mary Price

USHERS: Marion Leaphart, Susan Busby, Dennis Thurman

AUDIO/VIDEO TEAM: Arron Kinard, Quentin Kinard

** If you are unable to serve, please ask someone to serve in your absence.*

Please also notify the church office of the change.

AROUND THE MOUNTAIN

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES



- Feb 03** Fran Bouknight, Sharon Keefe, Terry Swygert
Feb 04 Tommy Mills
Feb 05 Rick Anthony
♥ **Feb 05** Earl & Mary Frances Sease
Feb 06 Kay Bryant, Kathy Cooper, Breanna Metze
Feb 07 Leah Rawl
Feb 09 Ronnie Fulmer, Pastor Gina Metze
Feb 10 Spencer Price
Feb 11 Christopher Threatt
♥ **Feb 11** Arron & Elyse Kinard
Feb 16 Elyse Kinard, Scottie Marsh
♥ **Feb 17** Jim & Kathy Whitaker
Feb 19 Bryce Addy, Keith Morris, Brayden Morris
♥ **Feb 17** David & Audrey Jennings
Feb 21 Jacob Marsh
Feb 22 Jeff Bucknam, Sam Cooper, Lauren Donaldson
Feb 23 Marvin Bouknight
Feb 24 Al Stevens
Feb 25 Connor Eargle, Beth Jordan
Feb 26 Sheila Eargle, Lawson Morris
Feb 27 Sam Cooper
♥ **Feb 29** Marion & Cyndi Leaphart

*Please let the office know if your information is not printed in this listing.
office@WeAreMtHermon.com or 803.794.6430*

AROUND THE MOUNTAIN

MT HERMON PRAYS

Continual Prayers

Patricia Bachman, *Generations*
Alberta Berry, *home*
Lauvenia Butts, *Lakeside Place*
Bobby & Doris Carver, *Presby Home*
James Hallman, *Lakeside Place*
Marie Kleckley, *Lex Ext Care*
Gene & Jane Sexton
Gloria Mathis, *home*
Jean Shealy, *Lakeside Place*
Tom Roof, *home*
Cyndi Thurman, *home*
Linda Waters-Hamilton, *home*

Members in Special Need of Prayer

Missy Addy Bonnie Bouknight Chris Carroll Easton Donaldson
Georgianna Gray Dot Mathias Kelli Mills Gene Schofield
Jim Whitaker

Family and Friends Who Have Requested Prayers

Paul Garner, *friend of Robert Haygood*
Debbie Browning, *sister of Donna Kirkpatrick*
Mrs. William L. Coleman Jr (Carolyn), *friends of Marion & Cyndi Leaphart*
Jaimie Womack, *friend of Ryan & Jennifer Price*
Dale Miller, *son-in-law Wynne and Mary Price*
Iris Wellborn, *sister of Earl Sease*
John Catoe, *family of Ellisors*
Dawn McIlwain-Merck, *friend of Robin Ellisor*
Molly Kate Shealy, *friend of Jean Shealy*
Chuck Bachman, *nephew of Jean Shealy*
Jeff Tarlton, *friend of Michelle Gantt*
Carleton Morse, *father of Cyndi Leaphart*
Martha Williamson, *sister of Frank Bouknight*
Jay Sox, *Papa of Brayden Rutherford and Dylan Whitaker*
Ann Piercy, *friend of Kathy and Jim Whitaker*
Jeff Reid, *friend of Jan Schofield*
Stephanie Alewine Hopper, *friend of David & Scottie Marsh*
Vicki Boozer, *friend of David & Scottie Marsh*
Stetson Cooper, *grandson of Shirley & Dan Cooper*
Cindy Maples, *mother of Jennifer Miller*
Lewis Turner, *friend of Jo Leach*
Dr. Kay Moore, *friend, and co-worker of Cyndi Leaphart*
Josh Jackson, *friend of Joel Price, Jr.*
Brannon Yonce, *friend of Michelle Gantt*
Katy Madigan, *friend of Marie Carroll*
Billy Huckabee, *friend of Danny Scott*
Jamie Spell, *friend of David Marsh*
Logan Wittwer, *friend of Jessica Goodwin & Cameron Blakely*
Kamryn and Naveah, *friends of Sheila Starkey*
Louise Cooper, *Kelli Mills*
Hayes Wingard, *grandson of Kathy and Sam Cooper*
Nigel Tetley, *friend of Sherwood*
Paula Miller, *friend of Brittany Allen*
Wayne Kneece, *uncle of Michelle Gantt*
Dewin Rish, *friend of Michelle Gantt*
Jody & Libby Ortmann, *lost their daughter, Sallie, on Christmas Day, Sallie was the "adopted daughter" of Fran Bouknight*
Roger Spires, *friend of Chris Carroll*

Please note that this prayer list will be updated soon and those who you wish to remain on the list, please send an email to office@WeAreMtHermon.com

February 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 9:00am Worship 10:30am Sunday School	29	30	31 9:00am Food Pantry (Diane & Parker Boulware, Mary Price) 10:00am Meals on Wheels 10:00am Staff Meeting 6:30pm Choir	1	2	3 9:00am Food Pantry
4 9:00am Worship 10:30am Sunday School 3:00pm Confirmation 5:00pm Sanctuary - Youth Meeting	5 6:30am Team for Ministry 5:30pm CR: Care Team	6 5:00pm Executive Committee	7 9:00am Food Pantry 10:00am Meals on Wheels 10:00am Staff Meeting 6:30pm Choir	8	9	10 9:00am Adopt-A-Highway - Meet at church parking lot 9:00am Food Pantry
11 Transfiguration Sunday 9:00am Worship 10:30am Sunday School 11:30am Council Meets	12 2:00pm CR: Dot Mathias 6:30pm Lutheran Men & Women	13 Shrove Tuesday 6:00pm Meal: Shrove Tuesday 6:35pm Learning: Shrove Tuesday	14 Ash Wednesday Valentine's Day 9:00am Food Pantry 10:00am Meals on Wheels 10:00am Staff Meeting 12:05pm OneBody Worship 6:30pm Choir 7:00pm Ash Wednesday Worship	15	16	17 9:00am Food Pantry
18 9:00am Worship 10:30am Sunday School 11:30am CR: Teach 3:00pm Confirmation 5:00pm Sanctuary - Youth Meeting	19 Presidents' Day 6:00pm CR: Outreach Team	20 6:00pm CR: Finance Team	21 9:00am Food Pantry 10:00am Meals on Wheels 10:00am Staff Meeting 6:30pm Choir 6:35pm Lenten Worship 7:00pm FH: Lenten Meals	22	23 6:00pm FH: Jesus & Java	24 9:00am Food Pantry
25 9:00am Worship 10:30am Sunday School 11:30am CR: Worship Team	26	27 6:30pm CR: Support Team	28 9:00am Food Pantry 10:00am Meals on Wheels 10:00am Staff Meeting 12:05pm OneBody Worship 6:30pm Choir 6:35pm Lenten Worship 7:00pm FH: Lenten Meals	29	1	2 9:00am Food Pantry

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



Mt Hermon Lutheran Church
 3011 Leaphart Road
 West Columbia, SC 29169

WeAreMtHermon

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 Svetlana Royal, *Director of Music*
 Denise Wolfe, *Parish Administrator*

803.951.3784

 803.794.6430

PastorGina@WeAreMtHermon.com
Music@WeAreMtHermon.com
Office@WeAreMtHermon.com

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