

AROUND THE MOUNTAIN

February 2021



Share the Gospel

¹⁴ Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, ¹⁵ and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.” Mark 1:14-15

Wow, it seems hard to believe we are already inside of February! We are well into the time after Epiphany where we are studying what it means to *Follow Jesus*. Each Sunday in Epiphany, we explore and see proof of Jesus’s invitation.

Only 14 verses into Mark’s gospel and we read these two verses. These two verses are the heart of Mark’s gospel. Mark tells of Jesus’ purpose and determination to share the good news of God. Jesus’s purpose and determination should translate to OUR purpose and determination:

Share the Gospel!

As we share the Gospel, the first chapter in Mark might give you some language as you share the gospel with others.

- We invite others as Jesus invites us.
- We learn a new catch as Jesus teaches us to fish.
- We teach with authority as Jesus is the authority.

I will post this link to a YouTube video on the church website: It is one my favorite series for understanding the Gospel of Mark.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HGHqu9-DtXk&t=os>

Mark will be the primary gospel as we move throughout this church year.

Let’s learn together as we find our purpose and determination to Share the Gospel. Invite others to come and learn with you. Together, we will be able to Share the Gospel with others, who share with others, who share with others ... the purpose of the church: Share the Gospel!

Drive-In Ashes on February 17th. See details below.

Sister in Christ,
Pastor Gina

AROUND THE MOUNTAIN



Thanks again to the choir for their dedication and commitment these past months of very unusual circumstances. I have had to depend on a much smaller group of musicians for a lot more work to maintain a standard of meaningful, quality music for our worship services.

That being said, we are planning a series of **Lenten services** with Pastor Gina in which we will use Joseph Martin's "Whispers of the Passion". The services will be Sunday evenings at 630 p.m. Each service will present one of the pieces from the cantata and a meditation entwined for a beautiful message each week. A few examples: prologue and invitation to the journey, the chalice, the walls of Jerusalem, whispers of the palms, and the cross. We, as always, hope you will participate in this journey with us as we prepare our hearts for the holiest of weeks leading up to and including the festival of the Resurrection of our Lord.

The music program of Mt. Hermon will present a concert on **February 13, Saturday** evening at **7:00 p.m.** The concert will be livestreamed. Included in the program will be the choir, solos, trumpet and cello music. It's a great way to spend a quiet evening with your favorite "Valentines". Cook someone a lovely meal and let us provide the music to complete your evening! Hope you will join us!

Please stay safe and continue to worship with us. We miss being with you in person, but hope that we will be able to continue to serve you via our live stream efforts.

God bless you all!
Ruthie

Please note that Ruthie's has a new email address: Ruthie@WeAreMtHermon.com



Happy Valentine's Day
Join the Mt. Hermon music team for a
special music concert

February 13th at 7:00 pm

AROUND THE MOUNTAIN

Congregational Council Minutes December 13, 2020 via Zoom

ATTENDANCE: All were present

CARES AND CONCERNS: Praying for Earl Sease's sister in rehab, Bob Champion, Angie Hydrick's sister, Richard Lindler, John Catoe, and Marvin Mathias

ADOPTION OF AGENDA: Approved with no additions

ADOPTION OF MINUTES: Approved with no corrections

REPORTS:

- Pastor Gina: Written report received. Robert and Joy Haygood to join church (Marion Leaphart's sister).
- Treasurer: Written report received for November 2020
- Financial Secretary: Written report received for November 2020 to present

Team Reports/Recommendations:

1. Worship: Written report received from December 7th meeting. Council member requests considering two Christmas Eve services for 2021.
2. Outreach: Distributed 42 Thanksgiving meals. A successful Free Garage Sale helped 35 families. Angel Tree was able to distribute presents to 36 individuals. Committee thanks everyone who contributed to each event and/or volunteered. Food Pantry will also distribute Christmas meals.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Cross on Sanctuary: Signtech currently building cross.
2. Health & Safety Task Force: Written report received from December 10th meeting. We are currently seating members every third pew in sanctuary with maximum capacity of 50 members. We could change seating to every other pew allowing 80 members in sanctuary. We cannot use the fellowship hall for overflow because of inadequate ventilation. Motion to approve increasing church capacity to 80 members.

APPROVED

3. Teach team: Children Focus of sermon at the December 20th service

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Church Council election: Members voted to add Blake Allen, Mike Rawl, Sheila Starkey, Allison Swygert, and Jackson Price. Members who completed their 3-year term were thanked for their service: Ann Addy, Diane Boulware, Devona Price, Alyson Price, and Mitch Stevens.
2. Christmas/Advent/Epiphany offering: Motion to approve designating offerings in these envelopes be given to food pantry. **APPROVED**
3. Vacation pay: Pastor Gina and Ruthie Brannon both worked thru their vacation time due to extenuating circumstances of COVID and live streaming startup. Motion to pay them their regular salary for those days and not at a substitute's rate as a one-time situation. Ruthie would receive \$807 and Pastor Gina \$3000. Parker would be allowed to take from church funds based on his discretion to cover the overage. **APPROVED**
4. Election of Church Council officers: All current positions were voted to continue for 2021. President: Ronnie Fulmer, Vice President: Marion Leaphart, Secretary: Robin Ellisor, Treasurer: Parker Boulware, and Financial Secretary: Annette Price.
5. Next council meeting will be January 10th with devotions by Marion Leaphart. Council will be installed at church on December 20th.

Robin Ellisor, Council Secretary

AROUND THE MOUNTAIN



Live Stream Check-ins + In-person = Total				
January 3 rd	118	+	21	139
January 10 th	121	+	31	152
January 17 th	132	+	25	157
January 24 th	148	+	23	171



ASH WEDNESDAY

February 17th

Drive-In Ashes

Church Parking Lot

7:00am - 8:30am

5:00pm - 6:30pm

Worship

Worship 7:00pm

in-person and live streaming

Sunday Evening
Lenten Services

6:30 pm
In Person and LiveStreamed



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>



Pastor Gina and members of Mt. Hermon,

Thank you so much for the prayers, cards, phone calls and memorials. The Peace Lily is beautiful and the paper products came in handy. Your thoughtfulness has made a difficult time much easier!

We miss our Mom but know she's in a really good place – and no more pain!

Debbie, Gloria, Katie, Joan
Daughters of Lois Watson



Outreach happenings . . .

Food Pantry – God has used our Food Pantry ministry to assist so many this year. We provided **874** “setups” of food in 2020. Each “setup” consists of groceries totaling about **\$20**. That means that Mt. Hermon disciples along with community groups such as Boy Scouts, Pineview Ruritan Club, Woodmen of the World and Thrivent Financial have provided **\$17,480** of food for families in our community. The Food Pantry runs solely by donations and is not part of the church budget. In addition, we also distributed 40 Thanksgiving and 40 Christmas bags which contained food for a ham dinner



AROUND THE MOUNTAIN

and dessert. The quantity of food in these bags varied depending on the size of the family. **Current Needs** - We have recently had several requests for **diapers**, for both **children** and **adults**. We will welcome any size that you have to donate.



Meals on Wheels – Mt. Hermon participates in Lexington County Commission on Aging's Meals on Wheels program. Jean Shealy and James Hallman chair this ministry at Mt. Hermon. Mt. Hermon has four teams which take turns distributing meals to the elderly each Wednesday.

Facemask Ministry – Mt. Hermon disciples have sewn and donated over **500** handmade facemasks for members of the community. These masks are given to anyone in need of a facemask. There is no way of knowing how many lives have been saved through this ministry.

Little Free Library – There are books for all ages in our Little Free Library. Please come at your leisure to check-out the books available. We change the books in the Library every week or so. People can borrow, donate, exchange or keep the books in the Little Free Library. It is a world-wide book sharing program to promote literacy and community unity.



ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY



Mt. Hermon continues to help keep Leaphart Road clean by participating in the Adopt-a-Highway program. Tom Stahl chairs this ministry at Mt. Hermon. Please consider helping at our next pickup, **February 20**. We meet in the church parking lot at 9:00. Caring for our environment is part of our responsibility as God's stewards.

Free Garage Sale – Thank you for your donations to the annual Free Garage Sale. We had thirty-four people “shop” our event. Even though their “shopping time” was limited to ten-fifteen minutes, the participants were able to find many items they needed. The people who came were very appreciative of all that they received. The items that were left after the event were donated to His House because the Salvation Army was closed due to

AROUND THE MOUNTAIN

COVID 19. A special thanks to some of Mt. Hermon's Boy Scouts and their families for packing the leftover items and taking them to His House.



Angel Tree – Through the generous donations of Mt. Hermon disciples and their families we were able to help provide Christmas presents to 36 children and 10 adults this Christmas. Thank you for allowing God to work through you to help others in need. Thank you also to Thrivent Financial for an Action Grant to help with this project.

Thank You, Mt. Hermon, for answering God's call to help feed and tend His sheep. Though all of your donations do not show in the church budget, please know that they are appreciated and felt in the community. Thank you for being such dedicated and caring disciples. God has used you to help make all these ministries happen. We are blessed to serve our loving Father together.

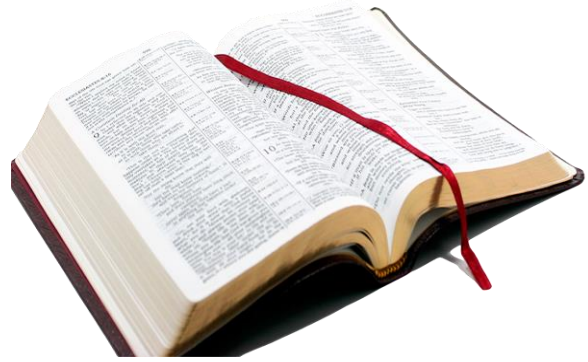


Outreach Team Members 2021: Angie Hydrick, Jenny Scott, Eric Carroll, Mary Koon, Jo Leach, Laura Stevens, Mitch Stevens, Nancy Addison, Allison Swygert, Mike Rawl, Leah Rawl, Lynn Bouknight, Pastor Gina and Diane Boulware, Outreach Team Leader.



If you would like to be a part of this ministry, please contact Diane Boulware.

MARK YOUR BIBLES



February 7th – Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 40:21-31

Psalm 147:1-11. 20c

1 Corinthians 9:16-23

Mark 1:29-39

February 14th – Transfiguration of Our Lord

2 Kings 2:1-12

Psalm 50:1-6

2 Corinthians 4:3-6

Mark 9:2-9

February 21st – First Sunday in Lent

Genesis 9:8-17

Psalm 25:1-10

1 Peter 3:18-22

Mark 1:9-15

February 28th – Second Sunday in Lent

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

Psalm 22:23-31

Romans 4:13-25

Mark 8:31-38

AROUND THE MOUNTAIN

MT HERMON PRAYS ...

Family of

Mike Watford
Lila Catt
Virginia Kiser
Ray Prater
Lois Watson

Continual Prayers

Patricia Bachman, *Carolina Gardens*
Alberta Berry, *home*
Hazel Bockus, *Carolina Gardens*
Lyle Bockus, *home*
Nell Buff, *home*
Margie Hook, *home*

Gennar Kiser, *home*
Rev. Everette Price, *home*
June Roof, *Rapha*
Tom Roof, *home*
Lena Wessinger, *Presby. Home*

Members in Special Need of Prayer

Buddy Hydrick Jo Leach Marvin Mathias Jane Sexton

Family and Friends Who Have Requested Our Prayers

Lois Moore & family, *family of Dennis & Cyndi Thurman*
Bill Harrell, *friend of Ryan & Jennifer Price*
Don Morris, *father of Keith Morris*
Iris Wellborn, *sister of Earl Sease*
Richie Tallent, *friend of Danny Scott*
Mandy McLemore, *co-worker of Amanda Boyd, Kim Addy, & Alyson Price*
John Catoe, *family of Ellisors*
Sherri Crapps, *sister-in-law of Linda Waters-Hamilton*
Megan Sease, *granddaughter of Earl & Mary Frances Sease*
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*
Clara Shultz, *friend of Sheila Starkey*
Debbie Smith & family, *niece of Dennis & Cyndi Thurman*
Sarah Hiltz, *granddaughter of Buddy & Angie Hydrick*
Charlotte & Paul Nelson, *friends of Herb Bucknam*
Richard Lindler, *friend of Marion & Cyndi Leaphart*
Robert Lindler, *father of Cassie Swygert*
Bob Eastwood, *brother-in-law of Marie Kleckley*
Mary Prater, *mother 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 Hodgin, *friends of Herb Bucknam*
Ted Franklin, *cousin of Cyndi Leaphart*
Kathy Brown, *friend of congregation*
Donnie Shumpert, *brother-in-law of Andrea Bowers & Jan Schofield*
Tressa Oswalt, *sister of Angie Hydrick*
Don Cope, *friend of Ricky & Fran Bouknight*
The Logan Sharpe family, *teammate/friend of Skyler Miller*
Patricia Barber, *sister of Danny Scott*

AROUND THE MOUNTAIN

**Feb 03**

Fran Bouknight

Terry Swygert

Feb 04

Tommy Mills

Feb 05

Rick Anthony

Feb 06

Kay Bryant

Breanna Metze

Feb 07

Leah Rawl

Feb 09

Ronnie Fulmer

Pastor Gina Metze

Feb 10

Tom Allen

Spencer Price

Feb 16

Scottie Marsh

Feb 19

Bryce Addy

Keith Morris

Brayden Morris

Feb 21

Jacob Marsh

Feb 22

Jeff Bucknam

Feb 23

Marvin Bouknight

Feb 24

Al Stevens

Feb 25

Connor Eargle

Feb 26

Sheila Eargle

Lawson Morris

Feb 29

Nell Buff

**Feb 05**

Earl & Mary Frances

Sease

Feb 17

Jim & Kathy

Whitaker

If your birthday or anniversary is missing from this list, 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!

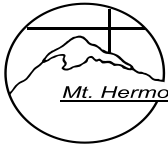
AROUND THE MOUNTAIN

WE ARE MT HERMON

February 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 10:00 am First Day of Black History Month Staff Meeting Worship Team Devotions	2 6:35 pm Devotions	3 9:00 am Food Pantry (Angie Hydrick, Doris Maddox, Fran Bouknight) Devotions	4 6:35 pm Devotions	5 6:35 pm Devotions	6 9:00 am Food Pantry (Mike Rawl & Laura Stevens) Devotions	
7 9:00 am Worship Live Stream 10:30 am Drive In Communion 3:00 pm Confirmation Class 6:35 pm Devotions	8 10:00 am Staff Meeting Devotions	9 6:00 pm Executive committee Devotions	10 9:00 am Food Pantry (Diane Boulware & Mary Frances Sease) Devotions	11 6:35 pm Devotions	12 6:35 pm Devotions	
14 9:00 am Valentine's Day Worship Live Stream Council Meets Devotions	15 10:00 am Presidents' Day (regional holiday) Staff Meeting Zoom: Outreach Team Devotions	16 6:35 pm Devotions	17 7:00 am Drive-In Ashes Food Pantry (Frank & Bonnie Bouknight, Andrea Bowers) 5:00 pm Drive-In Ashes 6:35 pm Devotions 7:00 pm Ash Wednesday Service	18 6:35 pm Devotions	19 6:35 pm Devotions	
21 9:00 am Worship Live Stream 10:30 am Drive In Communion 3:00 pm Confirmation Class Lent Service Devotions	22 10:00 am Staff Meeting Devotions	23 6:35 pm Devotions	24 9:00 am Food Pantry (Ann Bouknight, Annette Price, Sharon Keefe) Devotions	25 6:35 pm Devotions	26 6:35 pm Devotions	
28 9:00 am Worship Live Stream 10:30 am Sunday School ZOOM 6:30 pm Lent Service Devotions						
						20 9:00 am Adopt-A-Highway Food Pantry(Lynn Bouknight & Karen Nicholson) 9:00 am Lutheran Men Convention Devotions
						27 9:00 am Food Pantry (Koon Family) Devotions

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



Mt. Hermon Lutheran Church
3011 LEAPHART ROAD
WEST COLUMBIA, S.C. 29169

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Rev. Gina D. Metze, *Pastor* 803.951.3784 *PastorGina@WeAreMtHermon.com*
Ruthie Brannen, *Director of Music* *Ruthie@WeAreMtHermon.com*
Susan LaCons, *Parish Administrator* *Susan@WeAreMtHermon.com*
Matt Hansen, *Seminarian* *Matthew.Hansen@my.lr.edu*

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
News from Music Director	2
Council Notes	3
Community News	4-9
Birthdays and Anniversaries . . .	10
Calendar	11