

# AROUND THE MOUNTAIN

December 2020



## **A New Year's Party like no other ...**

**November 29<sup>th</sup> – the church returns to in-person worship!**

It is like Christmas morning. We have been waiting for the return to in-person worship and we can hardly wait! We want all of us to remain safe and you will find an additional copy of the protocols in this newsletter. Please know that livestreaming will continue as a permanent ministry and if you are not able to return yet, we completely understand. Please continue to either use the LiveStreaming or you may even park in the parking lot and, from the comfort of your car, tune to 106.1 and hear the live broadcast of worship. This replay continues all week, and we welcome you to come and listen again and again.

New Year's Party? Advent is the beginning of a new church year. November 29<sup>th</sup> is the first Sunday in Advent. During Advent we will simply SLOW DOWN. The 6:35 devotions will continue and the theme for the next months will be praying and studying the Psalms. As we anticipate the return of Christ, we wait and we have patience. Waiting and patience are not always easy for us, I know.

I pray your Thanksgiving Day and events around Thanksgiving gave you a time to remember and a time to give thanks to God for the blessing which we all share and enjoy. May we continue being the church of Jesus where we live to spread the Gospel and share our abundance. You will read below how we continue to spread the light of Christ in this community. Continue to let your light shine as we enter into this new year.

Sister in Christ,

*Pastor Gina*

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**I hope everyone is ready for our  
Advent, Christmas and Epiphany Seasons!**



Starting with Advent, we will have traditional Sunday services with the lighting of the Advent candles. On December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>, we will live stream the Holden Evening Prayer, beginning at 6:35 pm every Wednesday. Our choir rehearsals will follow at 7:00 pm every Wednesday.

We will have a Christmas Eve Pre-service Concert – start time to be announced.

A Children's Christmas Event will be held on Sunday, December 20<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 pm. We will take a look at Christmas Eve from various perspectives: Angels, Shepherds, Wisemen, Joseph and Mary. Our puppet team will share in this program, (but will operate independently and safely spaced).

Our Epiphany service normally features the Palmetto Master Singers. We will have the festival service using our own Mt. Hermon musicians. The service will be Wednesday, January 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm – (Live Streamed).

As you can see what the music program is offering the congregation and community, please keep in mind that we depend on our Funds for the Arts for financial help. Please consider contributing to this fund for musicians and special programs.

Have a wonderful season in glory of the Christ Child!

*Ruthie*



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## **Congregational Mini Council Minutes October 11, 2020 via Zoom**

**ATTENDANCE:** All were present with the exception of Mitch Stevens

**CARES AND CONCERNS:** Praying for Jimmy Mills, Theda Addy, Glenn Smith, Bonnie Bouknight's cousin Camden, Richard Lindler, Pastor Greg Brown, and Lisa Palmer.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA:** Approved with no additions

**ADOPTION OF MINUTES:** Approved with one correction

### **REPORTS:**

- Pastor Gina: Written report received. She will be at Lutheridge October 19-21 for Advent and Lenten planning.
- Treasurer: Written report received for September 2020
- Financial Secretary: Written report received for September 2020, third quarter 2020, and all of 2020.

### **Team Reports/Recommendations:**

1. Outreach: Written report received from September 21<sup>st</sup> meeting. A banner to be made to advertise Food Pantry outreach. 399 families have received Food Pantry services since April 15<sup>th</sup> and 376 handmade face masks have been distributed. The cost of food distribution per person is \$20 and we are averaging 29 persons per week. We will send out applications to schools for children who could be included on Angel Tree for Christmas. Free Garage Sale tentatively scheduled for December 11<sup>th</sup> in the Fellowship Hall. Donations are requested and will be stored in the basement conference room.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Cross on Sanctuary: Quotes are being gathered
2. Health & Safety Task Force: Meeting tomorrow night. Members asking when we will be back in sanctuary and council suggests task force give us their final recommendations so we can approve them and set a date for reopening. A council member suggests making and posting a video on our website about restrictions and policies regarding reopening when they are approved.
3. Teach team activities for children: No new information

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Nominations for Church Council: Council recommends Parker Boulware, Allison Swygert, Joel Price Sr., Sheila Eargle, and Jackson Price be placed on ballot. Congregation will nominate up to 4 adults and one youth on November 1<sup>st</sup> to be added to ballot.
2. 2021 Ministry Plan: Finance Committee recommends the following changes from 2020 Ministry Plan: Add line item of Live Streaming with no money since this is a new ministry, increase copyright fees from \$980 to \$1500, increase postage from \$800 to \$1000 due to increased usage with COVID closure, increase Pastor Gina's salary from \$39,000 to \$39,600 which will also increase her housing allowance from \$13,650 to \$13,860 and Social Security from \$8665 to \$8800. Increase Susan's secretary salary from \$11,440 to \$12,480 with possible total of \$14,040 if needed for overtime work. Increase Ruthie's organist salary from \$21,000 to \$21,400. Increase Ricky Bouknight and Terry Swygert's Sexton salary to split from \$15,500 to \$15,800. Finally, Workers Compensation is projected to decrease from \$1400 to \$970.92. Motion to accept Finance Committee's recommendations and send to congregation for approval. **APPROVED**
3. Annual meeting logistics: Meeting will be held in parking lot using FM transmitter. A ballot will be mailed to each active confirmed, communing, contributing member. Each member may nominate up to 4 adults and 1 youth. Nominations must be dropped off in person during communion time on November 1<sup>st</sup>. There will be a second mailing after this with all members nominated for election to church council and proposed budget. Any nomination ties will be broken at beginning of annual meeting on November 15<sup>th</sup> at 11 am. Motion made to approve new process for meeting this year. **APPROVED**

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4. Stephen Price scholarship fund: Motion made to award this year's scholarship to Matthew Hansen our seminarian. **APPROVED**
5. Next council meeting will be November 8<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm with devotions by Karen Nicholson.

Robin Ellisor, Council Secretary

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## **NEWLY ELECTED CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL**

Blake Allen, Sheila Starkey, Mike Rawl, Allison Swygert,  
Jackson Price (Youth)

2021 Congregational Officers will be elected Dec. 13<sup>th</sup>  
Installation of Church Council – Sunday Dec. 20<sup>th</sup>

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### **Treasurer Report January 2020 - October 2020**

	<b><u>Actual Income</u></b>	<b><u>Actual Expenses</u></b>	<b><u>Difference</u></b>
<b>Current &amp; Benevolence</b>	183,033.74	176,488.18	6,545.56
<b>Building Improvement</b>	10,864.43	10,799.88	64.55
<b>Building on Holy Ground</b>	56,564.12	57,000.00	(435.88)



### **Live Stream Check-ins**

November 1	124+
November 8	116+
November 15	132+

**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](http://www.mthlc.com) and select *Online Giving* **<http://www.WeAreMtHermon.com/online-giving.html>**





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## Outreach Happenings . . .

### Thanksgiving Bags

Thank you for the out-pouring of food that we received for the Thanksgiving Bags. Through your donations and a Thrivent Action Team grant, we were able to supply 40 families with Thanksgiving dinner. A special thanks to Bonnie Bouknight for heading up this project and decorating the bags so beautifully.



### Food Pantry

The word is out that Mt. Hermon Lutheran Church has a Food Pantry. Our participants keep increasing in number. Each family that comes receives one set-up per family. The set-up of food costs approximately \$20.



During the month of October, we gave families 110 set-ups of food. That amounts to \$2200 worth of food that has been donated either by groceries or by monetary donations just in the month of October. As of November 18 (when this article was written), we have given out 98

setups of food. This is in addition to the 40 Thanksgiving bags of food.

There is no money in our Church Spending Plan budgeted for the Food Pantry. This money comes from members donating to this ministry and community support. During the month of November, we received several donations from the community to support this ministry. The

**Pineview Ruritan Club** donated many boxes of canned goods and the **Woodmen of the**

**World** gave Mt. Hermon a check for \$300 for the Food Pantry. **Thrivent Financial** has awarded members of our congregation two grants of \$250 each to be used in the Food Pantry. We have also had members of the community come to the Food Pantry to donate canned goods or money because they notice that we care for our community and they want to help. We are very grateful for the strong support of this ministry.



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***You are Invited to help others this Christmas season***

**Free Garage Sale -Friday, December 4th**



Due to COVID 19 and social distancing restrictions, this year's garage sale will be different. **COATS** are the only clothing item we will accept this year. Items needed in good condition are: toys, linens, baby items, pots, pans, dishes, tools, lamps, bikes, furniture, jewelry, decorations, etc.

- Drop off items by Wednesday, Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- Help sort donated items - Tables are set up in the Fellowship Hall and labeled to assist with sorting.
- Volunteer to help Friday, December 4<sup>th</sup> 9:00 am – 1:00pm.

If you want to donate, be sure to sign in by the church office and take your donated items to the Fellowship Hall. Call the church office if you need someone to meet you there.

Please let Diane Boulware know if you can help!

## **The Angel Tree**

- Go to the church website and click on the Angel Tree icon to view the list of children and their families who need your help this Christmas.
- When you decide who you would like to help, call or email Diane Boulware, Outreach Chair at [MtHOutreach@gmail.com](mailto:MtHOutreach@gmail.com) or call the Church Office.
- Once your email or call is received, your name will be added to the list under the sponsor column next to the person you are sponsoring.



*You may also make monetary donations to:  
Mt. Hermon Lutheran Church – memo line: Angel Tree*

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Please note that we will not have the **Christmas Card Mailbox** at church this year. Please continue to share the love of Jesus and send your Christmas cards directly to the persons whom you would have dropped off at church. We certainly hope that next year is a time to return to normal.



## **FAMILY CHRISTMAS SERVICE**

Sunday, December 20

3:00

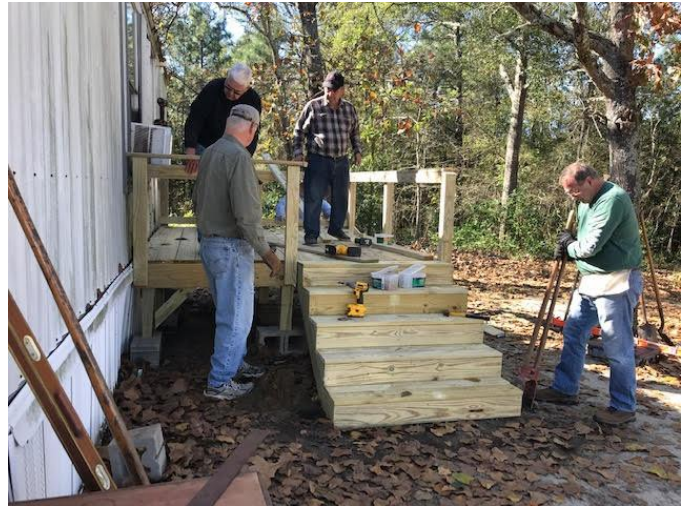
In-person and livestreamed

Please call the church office to reserve your family space for this special Happy Birthday Jesus party!



# AROUND THE MOUNTAIN

## Lutheran Men Ministry New Deck Built November 17, 2020





## MT HERMON PRAYS ...

### ***Continual Prayers***

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

### ***Members in Special Need of Prayer***

Jane Sexton	Jo Leach
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### ***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*  
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 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*

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**Dec 02**

Kelli Mills

**Dec 03**

Ann Addy

**Dec 05**

Renee Greenbaum

**Dec 06**

Doris Maddox

**Dec 10**

Marie Lewis

**Dec 11**

Jack Allen

**Dec 12**

Earl Sease

Mitch Stevens

**Dec 14**

Andrea Bowers

**Dec 17**

Austin Price

**Dec 21**

Clifton Addy

**Dec 22**

Avery Rawl

**Dec 23**

Trudy Bouknight

Jim Whitaker

**Dec 27**

Eric Carroll

Jeff Price

**Dec 28**

Dale Miller

**Dec 31**

Gus Arroyo

**Dec 10**

Eric & Laura Carroll

**Dec 14**

Wynne & Mary Price

**Dec 17**

Carl & Myra Kinard

**Dec 19**

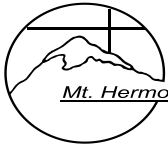
Neal & Jeannine Taylor

*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](mailto:Susan@WeAreMtHermon.com).  
We are sorry we did not have the information in time of printing!*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<b>1</b> 6:35 pm Devotions	<b>2</b> 9:00 am Food Pantry (Diane Boulware & Mary Frances Sease) 6:35 pm Advent Service	<b>3</b> 6:35 pm Devotions	<b>4</b> 6:35 pm Free Garage Sale-FH (D.Boulware) Devotions	<b>5</b> 9:00 am Free Garage Sale-FH (D.Boulware) Food Pantry (Mike Rawl & Laura Stevens) 6:35 pm Devotions
<b>6</b> 9:00 am 6:35 pm Free Garage Sale-FH (D.Boulware) Worship Live Stream Devotions	<b>7</b> 6:00 pm 6:35 pm Free Garage Sale-FH (D.Boulware) Worship Team Devotions	<b>8</b> 6:00 pm 6:35 pm Free Garage Sale-FH (D.Boulware) Executive committee Devotions	<b>9</b> 9:00 am 6:35 pm Angel Tree Pick up-FH Free Garage Sale-FH (D.Boulware) Food Pantry (Angle Hydrick & Doris Maddox) Advent Service	<b>10</b> 6:00 pm 6:35 pm Free Garage Sale-FH (D.Boulware) Zoom: Health & Safety Task Force Devotions	<b>11</b> 6:35 pm Devotions	<b>12</b> 9:00 am 6:35 pm Food Pantry (Koon Family) Devotions
<b>13</b> 9:00 am 3:00 pm 6:00 pm 6:35 pm Worship Live Stream Confirmation Class Council Meets Devotions	<b>14</b> 6:35 pm Devotions	<b>15</b> 6:35 pm Devotions	<b>16</b> 9:00 am 6:35 pm Food Pantry (Andrea Bowers & Jo Leach) Advent Service	<b>17</b> 6:35 pm Devotions	<b>18</b> 6:35 pm Devotions	<b>19</b> 9:00 am 6:35 pm Food Pantry (Mike Rawl) Devotions
<b>20</b> 9:00 am 9:00 am 10:30 am 3:00 pm 6:35 pm Council Installation Worship Live Stream Drive In Communion Family Christmas Service Devotions	<b>21</b> 6:35 pm Devotions	<b>22</b> 6:35 pm Devotions	<b>23</b> 9:00 am 6:35 pm Food Pantry(Frank & Bonnie Bouknight) Devotions	<b>24</b> Christmas Eve 7:00 pm 11:59 pm Preservice Music (time TBD) Christmas Eve Service Devotions	<b>25</b> Christmas Day Devotions 6:35 pm Devotions	<b>26</b> 6:35 pm Devotions
<b>27</b> 9:00 am 6:35 pm Worship Live Stream Devotions	<b>28</b> 6:35 pm Devotions	<b>29</b> 6:35 pm Devotions	<b>30</b> 9:00 am 6:35 pm Food Pantry(Ann Bouknight & Annette Price) Devotions	<b>31</b> 6:35 pm New Year's Eve 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* *RuthieBrannen@gmail.com*  
Susan LaCons, *Parish Administrator* *Susan@WeAreMtHermon.com*  
Matt Hansen, *Seminarian* *Matthew.Hansen@my.lr.edu*

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[www.WeAreMtHermon.com](http://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

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