

AROUND THE MOUNTAIN

October 2021



Focusing on the Constant

¹For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:
²a time to be born, and a time to die;
a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;
³a time to kill, and a time to heal;
a time to break down, and a time to build up;
⁴a time to weep, and a time to laugh;
a time to mourn, and a time to dance; Ecclesiastes 3:1-4

It's October and we enter the final quarter of 2021. During this Fall season, leaves high in the trees were once green and the leaves blew and waved in the winds. The leaves had a firm grip. Together with the other leaves, they provided shade for the ground. Those very same green leaves became hues of red and yellow and they have lost their grip. The wind, which was indicated by the movement of the leaves, has now blown these individual leaves from the tree, through the woods, and onto the ground. Those individual leaves again join under the trees for a new purpose: to begin to decay and provide warmth and nourishment for the roots of the tree. The seasons of our lives are much like both the leaves and the tree.

We are in a changing season for the Church. We gather both in-person and on-line and we are thankful to maintain community through worshipping together. We hoped Covid-19 was going away and yet it returned in a new variant. We wanted to throw away masks and yet we dug them out of our purses and pockets again. We signed up for one or two vaccines – and now some have signed up and received a third dose. Through these changes we have not lost our grip on the gospel! The church continues its mission to make a difference in the world. The church maintains its presence and continues to be what God has called us to be: His hands and feet! I might add: His love and His presence at #3011 Leaphart Road and beyond.

We realize leaves change colors because we remember the green. We realize lows because we remember the highs. We realize sadness because we remember joy. Scripture reminds of us of the only constant in our lives: *Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. Hebrews 13:8.* We give thanks for the seasons of which Matt Hansen and Lisa Crouch served #WeAreMtHermon! We will realize their impact because we will experience their absence.

As we continue through the Fall, there are many worship services, events, community projects, etc. May God protect us and lead us through this next season for each of us. May we be reminded of both change and the One who is constant.

Sister in Christ,
Pastor Gina

Remember to join FaceBook Live (or www.WeAreMtHermon.com) for nightly devotions at 6:35 pm.

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We all are loving the feel of fall and those family times that come with the season! We have changed/rescheduled some of our events as we are still in the shadow of the pandemic.

Our **First Annual Food Truck Fest** will be this **Friday, October 1 from 5 – 8 PM**. Instead of children's activities, we will have activity boxes to hand out to the children. As many of our musicians have been ill, we cannot promise we will have music during this event, but please bring folding chairs and sit outside for a little safe fellowship.

On **Sunday, October 10**, we will celebrate **Homecoming with our annual Gospel Sing** service at 9:00 AM. Everyone always enjoys singing the old hymns and bringing back memories of years past.

Saturday evening, October 16, we had planned a candlelight dinner – now changed to a **Candlelight Concert** in the sanctuary at 6:00 PM. Regan Anthony will be singing, accompanied by Ruthie Brannen on the piano. Plan to come and enjoy! We will live stream the program. That being said, performances are always better in person!

October 17 at 2:30 PM, we will begin our **Children/Youth Handbells** in the choir room. I am requesting that everyone wear masks, although we will be distanced and wearing handbell gloves. This is to provide a comfort level for anyone who may have concerns.

The same day, at 3:00 PM, Pastor Gina and I will give an **Introduction to Confirmation and the Puppet Ministry**. If you are not a part of the confirmation program, but interested in puppets, please COME! We will meet in the fellowship hall.

October 31, at the 9:00 service, we will celebrate with a **Reformation Festival service**. We will sing the traditional Reformation hymns and experience that meaningful sense of our heritage on this special day!

As you can see, we are not slowing down at Mt. Hermon. It is important for us to provide worship experiences and church activities for our congregation as we can in a safe environment.

Please feel free to contact me at Ruthie@wearemthermon.com if you have any suggestions or ideas for activities/worship.

Stay safe and may God shower you with blessings each and every day!!

Ruthie Brannen

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September 17, 2021

To the disciples of Mt. Hermon Lutheran Church:



After an amazing year together, I am transitioning to serve an online mission-start in my home synod. I spent the last six months researching and dreaming with the North Carolina Synod Director of Evangelical Mission and a former parish pastor how we could gather all the best practices of online/hybrid worship to create a digital-first congregation. With great joy, this community now has funding and I will be contracted to help launch worship at the beginning of 2022. The community is called Anam Cara, which is Gaelic for “soul friend.”

It is with mixed emotions that I begin this new project. I could not have asked for a better field education congregation than Mt. Hermon. I have loved being with you each Sunday during the academic year. You have been incredibly hospitable to me— from Facebook comments, to drive-in communion conversations, to now when we are finally able to gather in-person after so many months of lockdown.

Pastor Gina has been an incredible mentor to me during this time. And I plan on continuing to rely on her expertise in hybrid worship as I bring ideas to this new mission-start. Thank you, Pastor Gina!

I also want to thank all of you for being so welcoming and hospitable. While my new field education placement will require traveling to different congregations each month, I plan on continuing to be apart of this community before I depart for my third-year internship.

In Christ,

Matthew Hansen

P.S. — To stay in touch, my email is matthew.hansen@my.lr.edu



Live Stream	Check-ins	+	In-person	= Total
September 5 th	151	+	0	151
September 12 th	149	+	0	149
September 19 th	82	+	16	98
September 26 th	81	+	35	116

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Congregational Council Minutes August 8, 2021

ATTENDANCE: All were present except Jenny Scott, Allison Swygert, and Buddy Hydrick (hospitalized).

CARES AND CONCERNS: Praying for Earl Sease after pacemaker insertion, Hazel Bockus in hospital awaiting nursing home placement, Kim Addy's grandfather on hospice, and Angie and Buddy Hydrick.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA: Approved with addition of dishwasher issue under Support Team and removal of Teach Team saying they had minutes attached.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES: Approved with no corrections

REPORTS:

- Pastor Gina: Written report received. She will be having a Bible Study on Wednesdays in September. Additionally, she will offer a New Members class on September 20th, October 3rd, and October 10th during Sunday School hour.
- Treasurer: Written report received for July 2021.
- Financial Secretary: Written report received for July 2021.

Team Reports/Recommendations:

Support: The dishwasher in the Fellowship Hall isn't pumping water out properly and splashing. It is connected on the same circuit breaker as the ice machine and the dishwasher is causing breaker to flip off. A new dishwasher would be about \$400 and also need a dedicated circuit breaker. It's used maybe 4 times annually so it will be added to the Building Renovation wish list.

Outreach: Written report received from July meeting. The Food Pantry distributed 95 setups in July. The Red Cross blood drive is August 22nd and the workshop Dementia Through the Lens of Grace is August 29th. Mrs. Dot Mathias has asked that her Exercise Class be under the Outreach Team. She typically has 22 community participants.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Building Renovation & Repair Task Force: Motion to send an informational letter to the congregation and schedule a meeting on August 29th after worship to discuss the information and receive feedback from the congregation.

APPROVED

2. Procedural Audit Inquiry: Motion to send audit inquiry to Finance Team for further discussion and consideration. **APPROVED**
3. SC Beekeepers Association: They will notify us if they accept reservation request of Fellowship Hall on first Tuesday of each month.
4. Parsonage: The family renting the parsonage will leave on August 31st. There is currently no interest in someone else renting the parsonage.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Cemetery Committee recommends that Zack Keisler & Company be the only grave digger to open grave sites in Mt. Hermon Lutheran Church Cemetery. Should a family choose a funeral home that does not use Zack Keisler & Company, then Mt. Hermon will notify the funeral home that we have our own

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grave digger. The funeral home will prepay Zack Keisler & Company \$600 with certified funds before the opening of the grave. The check will be delivered to Mt. Hermon Lutheran Church. After the grave is opened, Mt. Hermon will notify the funeral home that the site is ready for them to set up for the burial. Motion that we accept Cemetery Committee's recommendation. **APPROVED.** Cemetery Committee also reports that Norman Hook requests to remove the large oak tree located on the outside of the cemetery near the Hook family burial plot at their own expense. Motion that we accept Norman Hook's request. **NOT APPROVED 6-3 vote.** Motion that we allow the Hook family to trim the oak tree at their expense to improve their family burial plot. **APPROVED.**

2. 2022 Spending Plan Requests: Each team should submit their budget requests to the Finance Committee in August for planning 2022 church budget. The Finance Committee will then meet in September to plan budget to submit to council for review at October meeting. The budget will then be sent to the congregation for approval in November.
3. Annual Congregational Meeting: The Annual Meeting will begin on November 7th following worship with the submission of nominations for council. A list will be distributed with those ineligible to serve.
4. Background Checks: Updating policy on whose responsibility it is to update files.
5. Motion from Robin Ellisor to require masks and social distancing between pews in church services per CDC and DHEC guidelines. **NOT APPROVED 6-3 vote.**
6. Next meeting September 12th at 6 pm with devotions by Karen Nicholson.

Robin Ellisor, Council Secretary

Treasurer Report August 2021

	Actual Income	Actual Expenses	Difference
Current & Benevolence	148,865.01	146,765.43	2,099.58
Building Improvement	20,867.72	13,024.02	7,843.70
Building on Holy Ground	40,556.45	40,000.00	556.45

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Outreach Happenings

1st Annual Food Truck Fest

Mt. Hermon's First Annual Food Truck Fest is on October 1 from 5 to 8 p.m. Meet us in the parking lot where you can purchase food and drinks from local Food Trucks while enjoying fellowship. A portion of the proceeds from the Food Trucks will be donated to Mt. Hermon Fund for the Arts. Come hungry!!



Mark your calendars: Mt Hermon Homecoming will be celebrated on 10-10-2021. This will be our annual Gospel Sunday as well.

Food Pantry

October items of the month: Canned Ham and Canned Sweet Potato

Our Food Pantry is definitely being used by the community. Some of the local schools are listing our Food Pantry on the resource sheet they share with families in need of assistance.

The list of food and toiletries that we normally distribute is on the church website. If you are able to add any of these to your grocery list and drop them by the church, we will share them with those in need. As food costs continue to increase, our Food Pantry funds are becoming depleted.

Any donation you can make would be greatly appreciated. We are grateful to all who continue to give to make this ministry possible.



Mark Your Calendars!

Friday, December 3 – Free Garage Sale

November and December: Angel Tree ...

more information coming soon!



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Saturday, October 30 from 5 to 7 pm
Mt. Hermon's Harvest Festival Trunk or Treat event will be an evening of outdoor fun for all with food, contests, trunk or treat and more!

Call for Volunteers!

We need volunteers for the following activities: **Food/Drinks** - purchase, prep, distribution and clean up; **Games** - planning, prep, volunteers to setup, man games during event and clean up; **Hayride** - Tractor, open trailer, hay for seating; **Candy** to replenish trunk or treat; **Prizes/Judges** for costume contest, pumpkin carving contest, apple pie bake off and Trunk or Treat. We also would like at **least 25 cars/vehicles decorated** and volunteers to hand out candy. If you are interested, please call Melanie Jackson at 803-315-6991 or sign up at church.



Exercise Classes

For almost 20 years, Dot Mathias has been leading people to become healthier through exercise. She is a certified instructor, and the classes are held on Tuesdays and Thursdays in the church Assembly Room. The 2:00 class is the exercise class with exercises that can be done either standing or seated in a chair. The 3:00 class is on Tuesdays only and is a mat class using mainly Pilates. All are welcome to come and participate. Be sure to wear comfortable clothes. If you have questions, give Dot a call. Masks and hand sanitizer are available and there is room for social distancing.

Volunteering

If you are interested in being involved in any of these ministries, please let either Pastor Gina or an Outreach Team Member know. We would love to have your help. The Outreach Team members are: Laura Stevens, Mitch Stevens, Angie Hydrick, Allison Swygert, Jenny Scott, Sheila Starkey, Eric Carroll, Laura Carroll, Mike Rawl, Leah Rawl, Nancy Addison, Lynn Bouknight, Jo Leach, Mary Koon, Pastor Gina and Diane Boulware, chair.



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Oct 02

Amanda Mills

Oct 09

Tanner Addy

Oct 11

Jennifer Price

Oct 17

Presley Miller

Oct 18

Audrey Whitaker

Oct 19

Emily Arroyo

Oct 20

Jean Shealy

Oct 21

Preston Bryant

Denise Thurman

Oct 22

Sophie Martin

Oct 23

Mackenzie Burns

Oct 27

Lynn Card

Oct 28

Cody Kleckley

Jackson Price

Oct 29

Marion Leaphart

Emily Morris

Oct 31

Gable Jolly



Oct 02

Jon & Tiffany Kaylor

Oct 03

Jason & Kim Addy

Oct 20

Rick & Daryl Leigh Anthony

Oct 26

Thomas & Dani Martin



We would love to keep our calendar up to date with your special occasions, but we need your help. If your birthday or anniversary is missing, please give us a call or email us at office@wearemthemon.com

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MT HERMON PRAYS ...

Continual Prayers

Patricia Bachman, *Generations*

Alberta Berry, *home*

Hazel Bockus, *Springdale Home*

Lyle Bockus, *Springdale Home*

Nell Buff, *NHC*

Gennar Kiser, *home*

Rev. Everette Price, *home*

June Roof, *Rapha*

Tom Roof, *home*

Lena Wessinger, *Presby. Home*

Members in Special Need of Prayer

Clifton Addy

* Frankie Jackson

Jimmy Maddox

Jerry Price III

Earl Sease

Jane Sexton

Jean Shealy

Cyndi Thurman

Linda Waters-Hamilton

Family and Friends Who Have Requested Our Prayers

Grayson Dykes, *friend of Angie Hydrick*

Martha Eastwood, *sister of Marie Kleckley*

David Hydrick, *family of 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*

Molly Kate Shealy, *friend of Jean Shealy*

Chuck Bachman, *nephew of Jean Shealy*

Dawn McIlwain-Merck, *friend of Robin Ellisor*

Gary & Linda Hodgin, *friends of Herb Bucknam*

Tressa Oswalt, *sister of Angie Hydrick*

Don Freeman, *friend of Marion & Cyndi Leaphart*

Jessica Drigger's mother, *friend of Denise Thurman*

Iris Wellborn, *sister of Earl Sease*

Bill Harrell, *friend of Ryan & Jennifer Price*

Richie Tallent, *friend of Danny Scott*

John Catoe, *family of Ellisors*

Dr. Kay Moore, *friend and co-worker of Cyndi Leaphart*

Thomas McDonald, *son-in-law of Joel and Cindy Price*

Cindy Maples, *mother of Jennifer Miller*

Carter Miller, *great-grandson of Mary and Wynne Price*

Lewis Turner, *friend of Jo Leach*

Sarah Geddings, *mother of Allison Swygert.*

Emma Hunt, *grandmother of Laura Carroll*

Beth Ellsworth, *friend of Kenny Bouknight*

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Serving in the Community

October 2021

COUNCIL REP: Earl Sease

ALTAR GUILD: Angie Hydrick and Jennifer Price

TABULATORS: Ronnie Fulmer and Mary Price

USHERS: *call the church office






Altar Flowers		Greeter	
3	Regan and Grayson Anthony	3	*
10	Mt Hermon (Homecoming)	10	*
17	Terry and Allison Swygert	17	*
24	Ruthie Brannen	24	*
31	Joel and Devona Price	31	*
Acolyte		Crucifer	
3	Brayden Morris	3	Lawson Morris
10	Parker Greer	10	Alex Greer
17	Hayden Eargle	17	Conner Eargle
24	Branden Rutherford	24	Tanner Addy
31	Sydney Bucknam	31	Jackson Price
Lector		Communion Assistants	
3	Emily Morris	3	Susan Busby, Joel Price, Sr.
10	Ricky Bouknight	10	Wynne Price, Frankie Jackson
17	Sheila Eargle	17	Ronnie Fulmer, Jennifer Miller
24	Larry Amick	24	Danny Scott, Susan Busby
31	Mary Price	31	Marion Leaphart, Joel Price, Sr.

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Mt Hermon Lutheran Church

October 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						
3 9:00 am 1:00 pm Worship FH: Leah Rawl / Melanie Jackson	4 10:00 am Staff Meeting	5 2:00 pm 6:00 pm Exercise class Executive committee	6 9:00 am Food Pantry (Diane Boulware and Mary Francis Sease)	7 2:00 pm 6:30 pm Exercise class Choir	8 9:00 am FH: Sheila Eargle	9 9:00 am FH: Sheila Eargle Food Pantry (Mike Rawl and Laura Stevens)
10 9:00 am 6:00 pm Homecoming Gospel Service Council Meets	11 10:00 am 6:30 pm Columbus Day Indigenous Peoples' Day Staff Meeting CR: Dot Mathias Lutheran Men meeting	12 2:00 pm Exercise class	13 9:00 am 10:00 am Food Pantry (Annette Price, Ann Bouknight, and Sharon Keefe) Meals on Wheels	14 2:00 pm 6:30 pm Exercise class Choir	15	16 9:00 am 6:00 pm Food Pantry (Terry and Allison Swygert, Laura Carroll) Candlelight Concert
17 9:00 am 10:15 am 10:30 am 12:00 pm 3:00 pm Worship Cherub Tonechimes New disciples class FH: LMIM board meeting Confirmation Puppets Introduction	18 10:00 am 6:00 pm Staff Meeting Outreach Team (conf room)	19 2:00 pm Exercise class	20 9:00 am 10:00 am 6:30 pm Food Pantry (Frank and Bonnie Bouknight, Andrea Bowers) Meals on Wheels Choir	21 2:00 pm Exercise class	22 9:00 am FH: Nancy Addison	23 9:00 am FH: Nancy Addison Food Pantry (Lynn Bouknight and Karen Nicholson)
24 9:00 am 10:15 am 3:00 pm Worship Cherub Tonechimes Confirmation Class	25 10:00 am Staff Meeting	26 2:00 pm 6:00 pm Exercise class Bldg improvement	27 9:00 am 10:00 am Food Pantry (Doris Maddox, Angie Hydrick and Fran Bouknight) Meals on Wheels	28 2:00 pm 6:00 pm 6:30 pm Exercise class Worship Team Choir	29	 30 9:00 am 5:00 pm Food Pantry (Koon Family) Trunk or Treat
31 9:00 am Halloween Worship Reformation Sunday						

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

AROUND THE MOUNTAIN

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**1ST ANNUAL
FOOD TRUCK FEST**
October 1 from 5 to 8 pm



Food & drinks
available
for purchase

Bring a chair
Eat with friends
Listen to music



3011 Leaphart Road
West Columbia

A portion of proceeds from food trucks will be donated to
Mt. Hermon Fund for the Arts

**Homecoming &
Gospel Sunday**
October 10, 2021



Rev. Gina D Metze, Pastor	803.951.3784	PastorGina@WeAreMtHermon.com
Ruthie Brannen, Director of Music		Ruthie@WeAreMtHermon.com
Lisa Crouch, Parish Administrator		Office@WeAreMtHermon.com

www.WeAreMtHermon.com
3011 Leaphart Road
West Columbia, SC 29169
803.794.6430
Monday, Wednesday – Friday
9:00 am – 2:00 pm

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