

AROUND THE MOUNTAIN

November 2020

As the church year comes to an end ...

The church year ends on November 22nd with Christ the King Sunday. The first Sunday in Advent is November 29th. It seems hard to believe that 2020 is almost over. We are instructed to move our clocks back one-hour on November 1st. Personally, I'm not sure I want to participate in this task. I am not sure I want an extra hour of this 2020 year. This task and requirement are not for me to decide, though, is it? Sometimes just by where we are and who we are around, our lives are shaped by variables outside of our control.



Covid-19 has changed much about how we live. It has certainly changed how we worship. As the Health and Safety Task Force makes re-opening recommendations to the Church Council, I ask that you continue to keep yourselves well and free from this virus which has caused havoc on our world. As we move into a “time to begin the re-opening phases” you must know that ***your health and safety are our highest priority.***

Surely everyone will not feel comfortable returning to the sanctuary. Remember that LiveStreaming will continue as a permanent ministry even once we return to in-person worship! We are doing everything in our powers to keep the air clean: We have installed Merv-13 filters in the sanctuary. We will circulate the air for a longer time both before and after service. We will be appropriately spaced in the sanctuary. Masks are worn in the buildings. We will wear masks and gloves while distributing communion. Communion will be distributed in both the narthex for those attending worship and also continue to be distributed on the 1st and 3rd Sundays in the parking lot. Scripture tells us about moving into times of experiencing ups and downs: *a time to break down, and a time to build up; a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; Ecclesiastes 3:3-4* As we move into this “time to dance” as we return to in-person worship, we move forward with the highest of safety and protection for God’s people. After all, we are disciples of Christ who call Mt. Hermon “Home” and I deeply care for each of you! Please stay in touch with your Council Representative and keep yourself in the know about moving to in-person worship.

As we move into the season of Harvest and Thanksgiving, know that I thank God for you and the ministry which we share!

Sister in Christ,
Pastor Gina

P.S. Your generosity and commitment to financially support God’s mission at Mt. Hermon continues to deeply touch my soul and fill my heart!

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Congregational Council Mini Minutes September 13, 2020 via Zoom

ATTENDANCE: All were present with the exception of Devona Price and Mitchell Stevens

CARES AND CONCERNS: Praying for Earl Sease's sister who is in hospital with broken leg, Buddy Hydrick's cousin and sister, Buddy Hydrick's granddaughter in hospital twice within a week, Diane Boulware's nephew Neal a firefighter in Los Angeles wildfires, Becky Koon, Bryce Addy recovering, Clifton Addy eye surgery this week, and Eldon Eargle waiting to have surgery

ADOPTION OF AGENDA: Approved with no additions

ADOPTION OF MINUTES: Approved with following changes: Income from parsonage to be reported as Facilities Usage fee, Food Pantry sign in sheet to be changed weekly instead of daily and stored in its room.

REPORTS:

- Pastor Gina: Written report received. Our new seminarian is Mr. Matthew Hansen and he will be with us for 4 hours per week for 12 weeks assisting with worship.
- Treasurer: Written report received for August 2020 and all of 2020.
- Financial Secretary: Written report received for August 2020.

TEAM REPORTS/RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Worship: Written report received for August 24, 2020 meeting. Our live streaming Sunday services average 118 people watching and 273 views. The music concert had 755 views and The Dulcimer Guy concert 1600 views. Masks are mandatory inside the church. The Health & Safety task force is meeting every two weeks tracking local COVID cases and making plans about how and when to reopen for in person worship.
2. Support: Joel Price Sr. distributed the names of the 7 persons in the church with a Commercial Driver's license for the bus.
3. Outreach: Written report received from August 24, 2020 meeting. We have 11 teams of two persons to serve in the Food Pantry. We are trying to add paper products, deodorant, and cleaning supplies. Two prayer request boxes have been installed at the Food Pantry. Carson Thornton, a Boy Scout, and his father have volunteered to build a Little Free Library near Hidden Valley Mobile Home Park. Back to school drive was a success with donations given to six schools in the area.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Cross on Sanctuary: Metro Signs who installed our church sign came for an evaluation. They quoted \$3668 just to remove the cross from the steeple. They would have to examine it for materials used and potential electrical rewiring to give a quote on making a new one and installing it. They estimate that could range from \$10,000-\$12,000 additional cost. Additionally, if the cross is lit and the bulbs burn out it would cost about \$4000 to replace and would likely burn for 5 years. Marion Leaphart talked to Marion Duncan of a sign company in Lown Town who are going to come and give another quote. He estimates a cost of \$6000-\$7000 without having seen the cross yet. He will come to give a more exact quote. We have asked both of them to give quotes for a lit and unlit cross to reinstall on the steeple.
2. Health & Safety Task Force: They are studying when to recommend reopening for in person services. Should we go by positivity rate of <5% as recommended by CDC? Are any other stats relevant? Do we get specialized HVAC filters and how much do they cost?

NEW BUSINESS:

1. New Seminary student: Matthew Hansen will be here for 12 weeks assisting in worship
2. Services for October 4th and 11th: These two weeks services will be recorded on September 27th to give everyone involved in the worship service a vacation. We will still be able to access them on Facebook Live.
3. Annual meeting with Church Council and Budget voting: Pastor Gina has talked with the SC Synod on how to handle these processes without in person meeting together. She has found

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out you can buy an FM transmitter for about \$120 that lets you broadcast from inside the church to cars in the parking lot on a certain frequency. We could use this to broadcast the meeting to members without contact. Council members could go to cars to distribute and collect ballots. Motion to pursue purchasing FM transmitter for annual meeting.

APPROVED. Council to receive list of eligible/ineligible members from Susan to ask if they will serve on Council if nominated. The nominations should be emailed to Pastor Gina or Ronnie Fulmer before our next meeting.

4. Council member asked if Daryl Leigh Anthony would be contacted to have the Teach Team meet and discuss possible online options for Sunday School/Christian Education for children.
5. Next council meeting will be October 11th at 6 pm via Zoom with devotions from Buddy Hydrick.

Robin Ellisor, Council Secretary

Treasurer Report January 2020 - September 2020

	<u>Actual Income</u>	<u>Actual Expenses</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Current & Benevolence	165,939.88	158,236.27	7,703.61
Building Improvement	10,229.62	8,128.28	2,101.34
Building on Holy Ground	51,639.12	52,000.00	(360.88)



Live Stream Check-ins

October 4	118+
October 11	126+
October 18	124+
October 25	134+

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>



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Here's what our production room looks like now! Sunday, October 18, 2020



There were a lot of emotions on our first day of using the new system excitement, stress, and yes, fear. We went from a simple iPad and iPhone model with touch screen to much more sophisticated software, camera equipment, etc. There's a lot more to video production now, but we are pleased with how we are progressing in the new system.

Thanks to everyone that commented so that we knew it was going well!! It helps to have all your support. Also, thanks to everyone that has contributed to our livestream ministry. Now that all the cables, tripods, microphone wires, etc. have been removed from the sanctuary, we can't wait to see everyone. Until then, we'll continue livestreaming and experimenting with all the features we now have! See you soon!

Outreach Happenings . . .

Food Pantry

Our Food Pantry is booming. We are averaging 29 families each week. Each family receives \$20 worth of food. That amounts to **\$580 worth of food** that we distribute each week to the community. Your donations of food and money are crucial to the continued success of our Food Pantry. Thank you for supporting the Food Pantry and enabling us to be God's hands in the community.



Current Items Needed in the Food Pantry

The complete list of what we need each week is listed on the church website. This month we are emphasizing our need for **canned meats, peanut butter and jelly**. Any donation will be greatly appreciated.

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Angel Tree – Are you interested in helping someone have a brighter Christmas this year? Consider sponsoring a child/parent from our Angel Tree. This year's Angel Tree will be virtual. The families we are helping attend our local schools. If you are interested in sponsoring a child or their parent this year, please send the Outreach Team an email message at mthoutreach@gmail.com or call the church office at 803-794-6430. We will then give you access to the virtual tree so that you can choose which child/person you want to help. We have asked each parent to list their children's needs and wishes. We have several children already on the list and will be adding others within the next week or two. Each person's name has been coded to protect their privacy.

In an effort to keep the number of gifts each child within a family receives equal, we ask that you wrap gifts together or separately for a total of FIVE packages per child. Please write the child's code in pencil or attach a removable tag with their code and return the wrapped gifts to the church by **Monday, Dec. 7**. The church office is open from 9 – 1 pm M-F.

Free Garage Sale – We are still making plans to have a Free Garage Sale again this year. When it will be is still to be determined. We hope to have it in December as we usually do, but that is not certain at this time. If you have items you would like to donate to help those in need, please bring them to the church and place them in the conference room at the base of the stairs under the sanctuary. If you have furniture that you would like to donate, please call either Diane Boulware or the church office. Furniture will be stored in another area.



Prayer Request Boxes – One of the procedures that has changed in the Food Pantry since COVID 19 is that we no longer use a notebook for the guests to sign. In that notebook, they had an opportunity to write prayer requests. So, we have installed two Prayer Request “mailboxes” in which the community members can let us know specific needs/concerns for which they would like for us to prayer. The congregation is welcome to use these also. The Prayer Request Boxes are located in the grass parking lot by the Little Free Library and at the corner of the cemetery nearest the Education Building and Food Pantry pickup. Members of the Outreach Team check these boxes regularly to make sure that any requests are prayed for in a timely manner. These requests are prayed for by the Outreach Team and given to Pastor Gina to be included in her prayers.

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Face Masks

Our face mask ministry continues. We have distributed over **400** face masks to members of the community through the Food Pantry. These masks are all handmade and donated to this ministry. 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.

The Little Free Library needs novels

We are in need of adult and youth novels in our Little Free Library. If you have some to donate, we would love to have them. 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!



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.



"Help us keep the Midlands beautiful"

- Practice social distancing
- Wear gloves and/or use picker

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Communion Distribution
and Blessings

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Council Nomination Ballots

*Sunday, November 1st*  
10:30 am to noon

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

Please note: There will not be communion on  
Sunday, November 15th due to the Annual Meeting.



## Annual Meeting

**November 1, 2020** there will be a congregational meeting for the purpose of nominating 4 council members and 1 youth member. The meeting will be held in the church parking lot. We will be using a FM transmitter. You will be able to tune to a particular channel on your radio and hear the entire meeting. Please plan to attend this very important meeting as well as the **Annual Meeting on November 15, 2020**. This meeting will also be in the church parking lot.

WELCOME TO OUR  
GUEST NETWORK



WI-FI NETWORK  
**MtHermon-Disciples**

PASSWORD  
**Jesus3011**



# AROUND THE MOUNTAIN

**Sunday, November 1**

**Mark your Bibles:**

Revelation 7:9-17

1 John 3:1-3

Matthew 5:1-12

**Sunday, November 8**

**Mark your Bibles:**

Amos 5:18-24

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Matthew 25:1-13

**Sunday, November 15**

**Mark your Bibles:**

Zephaniah 17:12-18

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Matthew 25:14-30

**Sunday, November 22**

**Mark your Bibles:**

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

Ephesians 1:15-23

Matthew 25:31-46

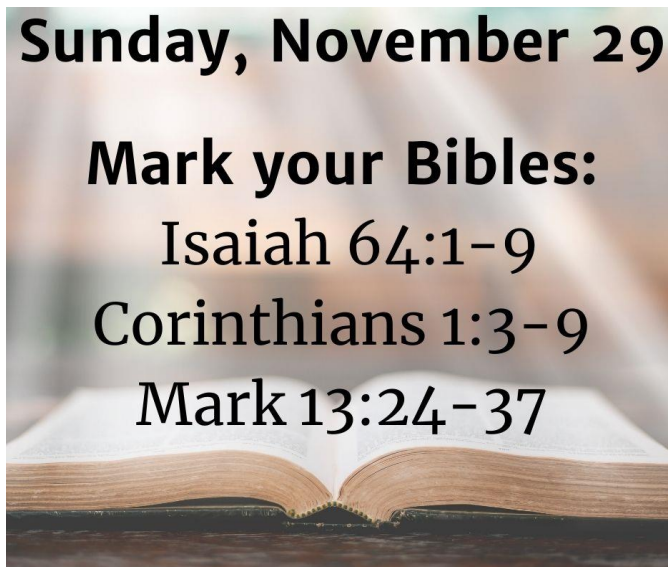
**Sunday, November 29**

**Mark your Bibles:**

Isaiah 64:1-9

Corinthians 1:3-9

Mark 13:24-37





## MT HERMON PRAYS ...

### ***Continual Prayers***

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

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

Bryce Addy

### ***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 Hodgin, *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*  
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*  
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*  
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*  
Ted Franklin, *cousin of Cyndi Leaphart*

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**Nov 01**

Frank Bouknight

**Nov 05**

Tom Roof

**Nov 06**

Mary Koon

**Nov 11**

Alberta Berry

Lyle Bockus

Ruthie Brannen

Karl Dugan

Jerry Ellisor

Becky Koon



**Nov 12**

Joshua Koon

**Nov 13**

Margie Hook

**Nov 16**

Kathy Whitaker

**Nov 19**

Marie Kleckley

**Nov 20**

Lynn Bouknight

**Nov 21**

Angie Hydrick

Jon Kaylor

**Nov 23**

Faye Sox

**Nov 24**

Ainsley Allen

**Nov 28**

Abram Kaylor

Mary Price

**Nov 29**

Addison Allen

Bella Kaylor



**Nov 28**

Preston & Kay Bryant

**Nov 30**

Ryan & Jennifer Price

*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!*

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## WE ARE MT HERMON

## November 2020

| Sunday                                                                                                                                                 | Monday                                                                   | Tuesday                                                            | Wednesday                                                                                         | Thursday                          | Friday                            | Saturday                                                                                                                                      |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>1</b><br>9:00 am<br>10:30 am<br>6:35 pm<br>Worship Live Stream<br>Communion & Council<br>Nominations<br>Devotions                                   | <b>2</b><br>6:00 pm<br>6:35 pm<br>Worship Team<br>Devotions              | <b>3</b><br>6:00 pm<br>6:35 pm<br>Executive committee<br>Devotions | <b>4</b><br>9:00 am<br>6:35 pm<br>Food Pantry (Andrea<br>Bowers & Jo Leach)<br>Devotions          | <b>5</b><br>6:35 pm<br>Devotions  | <b>6</b><br>6:35 pm<br>Devotions  | <b>7</b><br>9:00 am<br>6:35 pm<br>Food Pantry (Terry &<br>Allison Swygert)<br>Devotions                                                       |
| <b>8</b><br>9:00 am<br>3:00 pm<br>6:00 pm<br>6:35 pm<br>Worship Live Stream<br>Confirmation (Parents<br>& Students Zoom)<br>Council Meets<br>Devotions | <b>9</b><br>6:35 pm<br>Devotions                                         | <b>10</b><br>6:35 pm<br>Devotions                                  | <b>11</b><br>9:00 am<br>6:35 pm<br>Food Pantry (Angie<br>Hydrick & Doris<br>Maddox)<br>Devotions  | <b>12</b><br>6:35 pm<br>Devotions | <b>13</b><br>6:35 pm<br>Devotions | <b>14</b><br>9:00 am<br>6:35 pm<br>Food Pantry (Parker &<br>Diane Boulware)<br>Devotions                                                      |
| <b>15</b><br>9:00 am<br>10:30 am<br>6:35 pm<br>Worship Live Stream<br>(Gospel)<br>Annual Meeting<br>Devotions                                          | <b>16</b><br>6:00 pm<br>6:35 pm<br>Outreach Mtg via<br>Zoom<br>Devotions | <b>17</b><br>6:35 pm<br>Devotions                                  | <b>18</b><br>9:00 am<br>6:35 pm<br>Food Pantry (Frank &<br>Bonnie Bouknight)<br>Devotions         | <b>19</b><br>6:35 pm<br>Devotions | <b>20</b><br>6:35 pm<br>Devotions | <b>21</b><br>9:00 am<br>9:00 am<br>6:35 pm<br>Adopt-A-Hwy-Parking<br>Lot<br>Food Pantry (Lynn<br>Bouknight & Karen<br>Nicholson)<br>Devotions |
| <b>22</b><br>9:00 am<br>10:30 am<br>3:00 pm<br>6:35 pm<br>Worship Live Stream<br>Sunday School ZOOM<br>Confirmation Class<br>Devotions                 | <b>23</b><br>6:35 pm<br>Devotions                                        | <b>24</b><br>6:35 pm<br>Devotions                                  | <b>25</b><br>9:00 am<br>6:35 pm<br>Food Pantry (Ann<br>Bouknight & Annette<br>Price)<br>Devotions | <b>26</b><br>6:35 pm<br>Devotions | <b>27</b><br>6:35 pm<br>Devotions | <b>28</b><br>6:35 pm<br>Devotions                                                                                                             |
| <b>29</b><br>9:00 am<br>6:35 pm<br>Worship Live Stream<br>Devotions                                                                                    | <b>30</b><br>6:35 pm<br>Devotions                                        |                                                                    |                                                                                                   |                                   |                                   |                                                                                                                                               |

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





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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Sunday, November 1<sup>st</sup>  
All Saints' Sunday  
We remember our brothers  
and sister!

Jimmie C. Bouknight  
Connie Catt Bucknam  
Clyde Lynwood Crout  
Albert Eddie "Peavine" Ellisor  
Ernest "Ernie" Leon Swygert

Rev. Gina D. Metze, *Pastor* 803.951.3784 [PastorGina@WeAreMtHermon.com](mailto:PastorGina@WeAreMtHermon.com)  
Ruthie Brannen, *Director of Music* [RuthieBrannen@gmail.com](mailto:RuthieBrannen@gmail.com)  
Susan LaCons, *Parish Administrator* [Susan@WeAreMtHermon.com](mailto:Susan@WeAreMtHermon.com)

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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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