

## Lenten Challenge



*On Ash Wednesday, we were invited to Lent: As disciples of Jesus, we are called to a discipline that contends against evil and resists whatever leads us away from the love of God and neighbor. I invite you, therefore, to the discipline of Lent—self-examination and repentance, prayer and fasting, sacrificial giving and works of love—strengthened by the gifts of word and sacrament. Let us continue our journey through these forty days to the great Three Days of Jesus’ death and resurrection.*

(Ash Wednesday Liturgy)

Lent is a season of looking at our lives through a microscope. Some people respond by “cleaning out” clothing and closets and donate to local thrift stores. Some may accept a change by reading their bibles for an extra 5 minutes. Some people spend this season intentionally serving others. Lent is a season.

Discipleship is not a season, but rather a way of life that continues for 24/7/365. Discipleship is the permanent change in our daily life which causes the realization of the kingdom. As a disciple of Christ, we focus our attention to live “more like Jesus” in every aspect of our lives. We commit to a *permanent change* in our lives, for the sake of the Gospel. Disciples undertake the permanent change to discipleship.

As disciples of Christ who call Mt. Hermon “home”, we accept the challenge to discipleship. Join in the season of Lent as we examination and evaluate our lives through a microscope. We examine not to be critical of our lives and life choices, but rather, we examine and align our lives with the life of Christ.

We will begin a series of Bible Studies: “A Call to Discipleship” and the first study will be led by Diane Boulware. The study will be on-line only and will be held on Wednesdays during Lent. A second study will begin after Easter and will be centered around the Disney Movie, Moana.

Discipleship is the core of who we are as followers of Christ. Let’s take this challenge together and deepen our discipleship.

Sister in Christ,

*Pastor Gina*

PS. Mark your calendars: 7 students are accepting the challenge to deepen their discipleship and are to be Confirmed on March 28<sup>th</sup>.

# AROUND THE MOUNTAIN

**Greetings on this hopeful day!**



I want to look ahead to the time we will begin returning to some semblance of normalcy – with choirs, puppets and some fun dinner events! I truly believe the isolation endured by most of the congregation has made us realize the blessings we have received and can share with others and among ourselves.

Our dedicated music ensemble will continue as they have (MANY THANKS TO THEM!). I want to begin having separate rehearsals to involve the other choir members and prospective choir members (still small group rehearsals).

I invite anyone interested in being a part of the music program – instrumental or vocal, to send an email to me at my church email ([ruthie@wearemthermon.com](mailto:ruthie@wearemthermon.com)) and let me know you are interested. We have a lot of fantastic music planned for the coming months!

Also, I am looking for a puppet team to begin when it is safe to do so. We will work in six-to-eight-week time increments to prepare a specific program instead of keeping rehearsal going year-round. Historically, that is a more successful approach for those involved in a lot of extracurricular activities.

We have a lot of work to do to rebuild programs and exercise those voices that need to be singing. You can be a part of it all and add to the energy and enjoyment of praise at Mt. Hermon. We need to have programs/choirs of variety to allow **anyone** to have a connection with our church through worship.

I welcome ideas and participation! Let's make it happen – our chains will be gone and we can run free again! **Thanks be to God!**

Looking forward to reuniting,

**Ruthie**

Please note Ruthie's has a new email address:  
[Ruthie@WeAreMtHermon.com](mailto:Ruthie@WeAreMtHermon.com)



# AROUND THE MOUNTAIN

## Congregational Council Mini Minutes January 10, 2021 via Zoom

**ATTENDANCE:** All were present

**CARES AND CONCERNS:** Praying for Danny Scott's sister Patricia after COVID hospital stay, Richard Lindler, and Buddy Hydrick's cousin David.

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

**ADOPTION OF MINUTES:** Approved with no corrections

### **REPORTS:**

- Pastor Gina: Written report received. Preached funeral services of 3 members: Mike Watford, Lila Catt, and Lois Watson.
- Treasurer: Written report received for December 2020 with corrections and all of 2020. Parker has gone thru inactive line items of earmarked funds and recommends moving them to other funds or creating a new line-item earmarked fund for each. Please see copy of attached recommendations. Motion **APPROVED** to accept recommendations as amended on handout. Parker also reports a 2020 ending balance of \$67653.96 in Building on Holy Ground fund. He recommends we pay \$47,000 out of this fund towards the principal on our bank loan balance. Motion **APPROVED**.
- Financial Secretary: Written report received for December 2020 and all of 2020.

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

1. Worship: Written report received from January 4<sup>th</sup> meeting. Worship Team recommends that in lieu of Easter lilies the funds given "in Honor" and "in Memory" be donated to the Fund for the Arts with a bulletin listing the honorariums and memorials. **APPROVED** with one no vote.
2. Support Team: Personnel Committee reports that there is no church owned computer for Music Director or Pastor to use at the church. Recommend purchase of desktop computer for Music Director with cost not to exceed \$750 and purchase of Mac desktop from Pastor Gina she has been using since start of her service for cost of \$1400 from Building Improvement Fund. **APPROVED**. Recommendation from Cemetery Committee that "All cemetery markers must be approved by the Cemetery Committee prior to fabrication for installation in our graveyard." **APPROVED**.
3. Care Teams: New care team listings for each council member distributed.
4. Outreach: Written report received for November 16<sup>th</sup> meeting. Free Garage Sale in December had 34 clients and donated items left over were donated to His House. The Angel Tree also distributed gifts to 34 children and 10 adults. The Food Pantry provided 40 Thanksgiving and Christmas meals to clients. Our Food Pantry increased services from 136 persons in 2019 to 874 persons in 2020. Each meal costs about \$20 so that was total of \$17,480 worth of food distributed in 2020 thru much appreciated donations to this non budgeted ministry of Mt. Hermon. In addition, our members made 500 face masks that were donated.

**Cont'd**

# AROUND THE MOUNTAIN

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Cross on Sanctuary: Signtech is currently building the cross.
2. Health & Safety Task Force: Written report received from January 7<sup>th</sup> meeting. Recommendation that Pastor Gina have discretion to conduct funerals in the sanctuary observing same safety protocols as for other services. **APPROVED.**

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Building Renovation & Repair Task Force: Our current bank loan expires on November 1, 2021, at interest rate of 3.99%. We propose making a list of repairs and renovations needed on our campus to prioritize and consider using the balance of our A/C loan to fund.

Robin Ellisor, Council Secretary



## **Notes from the Treasurer . . .**

### **Treasurer's Recommendations for Earmarked Funds**

1. Move MHL Homework Center balance to new fund "Community Outreach".  
(\$530.53)  
Reason: We no longer have a Homework Center and the new program could be used for community outreach programs approved by the Outreach Committee.
2. Move Congregational Retreat balance to Leadership Retreat. (\$973.50)  
Reason: Funds have been in the account for over 10 years and not been used. The Leadership Retreat Fund is sometimes used to pay for facilitators and other expenses of the retreat. All money in the account comes from Council Members.
3. Move Christian Edu Service Pro balance to new fund "Children's Programs"  
(\$49.87)  
Reason: The funds could be spent for any approved activities for the children not provided for in the budget.

# AROUND THE MOUNTAIN

4. Move Children's Designated Con balance to new fund "Children's Programs" (\$1685.54)  
Reason: I have no record of what they were designated for. The funds could be spent for any approved activities for the children not provided for in the budget.
5. Move Special Flower Fund balance to a new fund "Funeral Meals" (\$1205.06)  
Reason: There is no longer an official WELCA organization at Mt. Hermon to provide the meals as they had in the past.
6. Move WELCA Special Offering balance to a new fund "Women's Center in Tanzania" (\$784.59).  
Reason: There is no longer an official WELCA organization at Mt. Hermon to transfer the funds to.
7. Move Playground Equipment fund balance to new fund "Children's Programs" (\$182.00)  
Reason: Funds have been in the account for over 10 years and not been used. The funds could be spent for any approved activities for the children not provided for in the budget.

~~~**Please note correction to the 2021 Annual Report**~~~

## Income and Expenses for Special Funds

### **Fellowship Hall Loan Balance**

|                                  |                   |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|
| Amount of Loan January 1, 2020   | <b>435,264.28</b> |
| Principal Paid on Loan 2020      | (50,380.59)       |
| Ending Balance December 31, 2020 | <b>384,883.69</b> |

# AROUND THE MOUNTAIN

## Treasurer Report January 2021

|                                  | <u>Actual<br/>Income</u> | <u>Actual<br/>Expenses</u> | <u>Difference</u> |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Current &amp; Benevolence</b> | 19,797.39                | 14,860.04                  | 4,937.35          |
| <b>Building Improvement</b>      | 1,852.70                 | 2,055.00                   | (202.30)          |
| <b>Building on Holy Ground</b>   | 6,275.90                 | 5,000.00                   | 1,275.90          |

**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>



### ***2021 Altar Flowers***

Sign-up board is in the office hallway. You can sign-up when in the church or by calling the church.

Upcoming open dates:

**Mar 14<sup>th</sup>**

**Apr 18<sup>th</sup>, Apr 25<sup>th</sup>**

**May 5<sup>th</sup>**

**Jun 13<sup>th</sup>, Jun 20<sup>th</sup>**



***Please consider choosing one of these dates for the 1<sup>st</sup> half of the year!  
Thank you!***



| <b>Live Stream Check-ins + In-person = Total</b> |     |   |    |            |
|--------------------------------------------------|-----|---|----|------------|
| January 31 <sup>st</sup>                         | 134 | + | 23 | <b>157</b> |
| February 7 <sup>th</sup>                         | 117 | + | 32 | <b>149</b> |
| February 14 <sup>th</sup>                        | 143 | + | 24 | <b>167</b> |
| February 21 <sup>st</sup>                        | 103 | + | 25 | <b>128</b> |

## In Person Worshippers Please call the office

As we begin to come back for in-person worship, please call the church office by Thursday at noon to add your name to the in-person list. We will continue to wear masks and socially distance ourselves during in-person worship.

### Sunday Evening Lenten Services

6:30 pm  
In Person and LiveStreamed



# AROUND THE MOUNTAIN



The following students are completing the confirmation classes and are to be confirmed on Palm Sunday. They know that their education does not come to an end when Confirmation happens. Please keep these young men in your prayers as they continue their discipleship journey:

Tanner Addy, Jake Dugan, Connor Eargle, Alex Greer, Parker Greer, Josh Koon, Lawson Morris



We are excited to announce that Jackson Price passed his Eagle Board of Review on Thursday, February 18, 2021 and is officially an Eagle Scout.

We would like to thank everyone at Mt. Hermon that has supported him throughout the years in all of his scouting endeavors. As many of you know, Jackson is now proud to be a third generation Eagle Scout. We hope that COVID will soon be over and at a stage where we can hold his ceremony which will allow us to celebrate with all those that have been such a special part of this process and his life.

The Mt. Hermon family has long been a friend to scouting, to those working towards their Eagle projects, and certainly to our family. We can't thank you enough for your love and support.

***Joel and Devona Price***



# AROUND THE MOUNTAIN

## Outreach happenings . . .



**Red Cross Blood Drive** – Mt. Hermon is hosting an American Red Cross Blood Drive on **Sunday, April 18** from **11:30 am – 4:00pm** in the Fellowship Hall. Please mark your calendars and plan to donate to save a life. *Watch the bulletin for more information on how to register online.*



**Food Pantry** – God has used our Food Pantry ministry to assist so many this year already. Thank you for your donations. Mt. Hermon's Food Pantry is now listed on the USDA's National Hunger Hotline. This is a listing of food banks and other resources for families in need.

We are wanting to provide families with an **Easter meal** this year. We are collecting canned: hams, pineapple, yams, green beans, carrots, boxed scalloped potatoes & brownie mix.

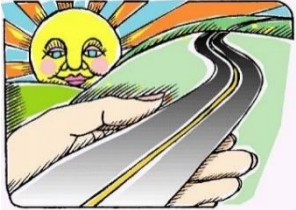
**Current Non-Food Needs** – Deodorant, Laundry Detergent, Dish Soap, Diapers.

# AROUND THE MOUNTAIN

**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. Thank you for the donations of books we have received.



## ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY



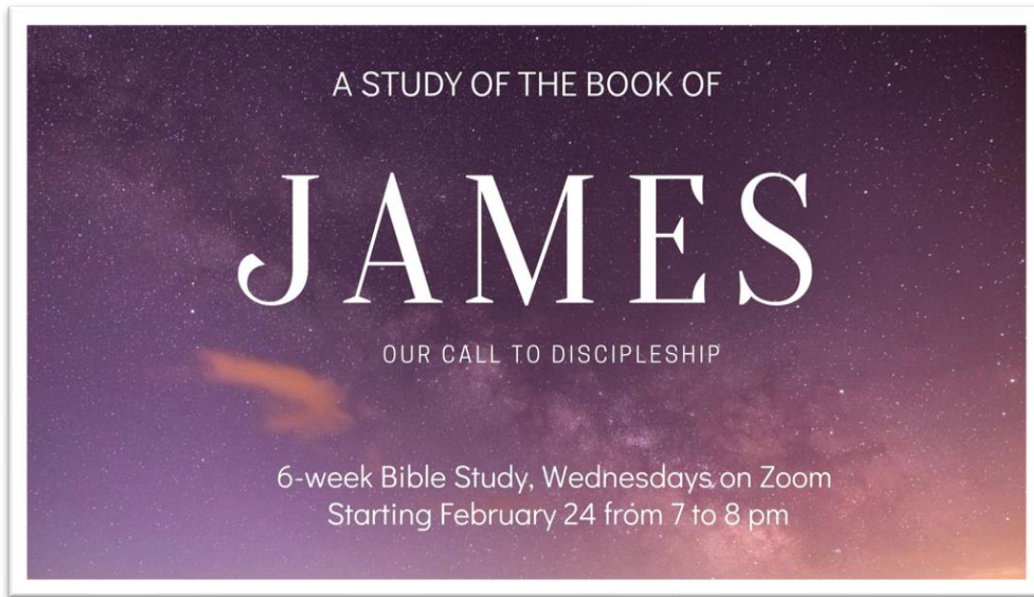
**Adopt-A- Highway** -Please plan to help clean up Leaphart Road during the next Adopt-a-Hwy. Mt. Hermon adopted most of Leaphart Road many years ago. Unfortunately, our February pick up consisted of **three** people trying to cover the entire two-mile section. Our next pickup is scheduled for **Saturday, May 15 at 9:00am.**

Please mark your calendars now and plan to help.

**Facemask Ministry** – Mt. Hermon’s Facemask Ministry has expanded to include making masks for Fulmer Middle School students who did not have one. Mt. Hermon disciples have sewn and donated over **550** 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.



# AROUND THE MOUNTAIN



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

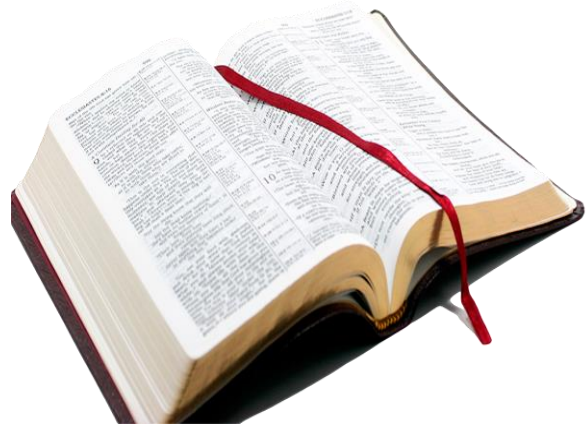


## **Outreach Team Members 2021:**

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



## MARK YOUR BIBLES



### **March 7<sup>th</sup> – Third Sunday in Lent**

Exodus 20:1-17

Psalm 19

1 Corinthians 1:18-25

John 2:13-22

### **March 14<sup>th</sup> – Fourth Sunday in Lent**

Numbers 21:4-9

Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22

Ephesians 2:1-10

John 3:14-21

### **March 21<sup>st</sup> – Fifth Sunday in Lent**

Jeremiah 31:31-34

Psalm 51:1-12

Hebrews 5:5-10

John 12:20-33

### **March 28<sup>th</sup> – Palm Sunday**

Isaiah 50:4-9a

Psalm 31:9-16

Philippians 2:5-11

Mark 11:1-10

## MT HERMON PRAYS ...

### **Continual Prayers**

Patricia Bachman, *Carolina Gardens*      Gennar Kiser, *home*  
Alberta Berry, *home*      Rev. Everette Price, *home*  
Hazel Bockus, *Carolina Gardens*      June Roof, *Rapha*  
Lyle Bockus, *Springdale Home*      Tom Roof, *home*  
Nell Buff, *home*      Lena Wessinger, *Presby. Home*  
Margie Hook, *home*

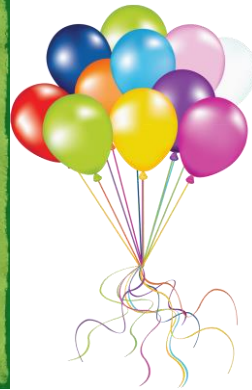
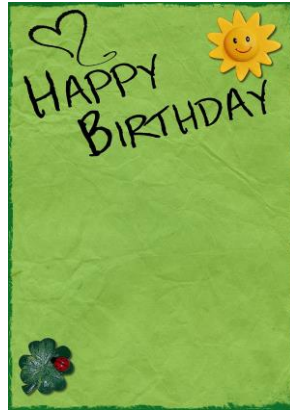
### **Members in Special Need of Prayer**

Shirley Cooper      Buddy Hydrick      Jo Leach  
Marvin Mathias      Jane Sexton

### **Family and Friends Who Have Requested Our Prayers**

Martha Eastwood, *sister of Marie Kleckley*  
Eric Powell, *friend of Kim Fulmer*  
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*  
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*  
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*  
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*  
Don Morris, *father of Keith Morris*  
Richie Tallent, *friend of Danny Scott*  
Mandy McLemore, *co-worker of Amanda Boyd, Kim Addy, & Alyson Price*  
John Catoe, *family of Ellisors*  
Dr. Kay Moore, *friend and co-worker of Cyndi Leaphart*  
Vicki Steffy, *mother of Courtney Bucknam*

# AROUND THE MOUNTAIN



**Mar 08**

Ann Bouknight  
Dot Mathias

**Mar 18**

Scarlett Bryant

**Mar 27**

Baxley Rawl

**Mar 20**

Larry Amick

**Mar 28**

Joshua Ellisor  
Kim Fulmer  
Kasey Lewis

**Mar 22**

Dan Cooper

**Mar 30**

Daryl Leigh Anthony



**Mar 27**

Joe & Mary Koon



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



**2021 Annual Reports  
are available in the church office**

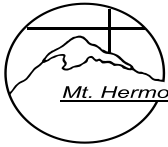
# AROUND THE MOUNTAIN

## WE ARE MT HERMON

## March 2021

| Sunday                                                                                                                                                                                       | Monday                                                                                                                         | Tuesday                                                                         | Wednesday                                                                                                                              | Thursday                          | Friday                                                                               | Saturday                                                                                                                             |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>1</b><br>Worship Live Stream<br>10:30 am<br>Drive In Communion<br>3:00 pm<br>Confirmation Class<br>6:30 pm<br>Lent Service<br>6:35 pm<br>Devotions                                        | <b>2</b><br>First Day of Women's History Month<br>10:00 am<br>Staff Meeting<br>6:00 pm<br>Worship Team<br>6:35 pm<br>Devotions | <b>3</b><br>9:00 am<br>Devotions<br>6:35 pm<br>Executive committee<br>Devotions | <b>4</b><br>9:00 am<br>Food Pantry (Angle Hydrick, Doris Maddox, Fran Bouknight)<br>6:35 pm<br>7:00 pm<br>Zoom: Bible Study<br>James   | <b>5</b><br>6:35 pm<br>Devotions  | <b>6</b><br>9:00 am<br>Food Pantry (Terry & Allison Swygert)<br>6:35 pm<br>Devotions |                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>7</b><br>9:00 am<br>Worship Live Stream<br>10:30 am<br>Drive In Communion<br>3:00 pm<br>Confirmation Class<br>6:30 pm<br>Lent Service<br>6:35 pm<br>Devotions                             | <b>8</b><br>10:00 am<br>Staff Meeting<br>6:00 pm<br>Health & Safety Meeting<br>6:35 pm<br>Devotions                            | <b>9</b><br>6:00 pm<br>Executive committee<br>6:35 pm<br>Devotions              | <b>10</b><br>9:00 am<br>Food Pantry (Diane Bouknight, Annette Price, Sharon Keefe)<br>6:35 pm<br>7:00 pm<br>Zoom: Bible Study<br>James | <b>11</b><br>6:35 pm<br>Devotions | <b>12</b><br>6:35 pm<br>Devotions                                                    | <b>13</b><br>9:00 am<br>Food Pantry (Mike Rawl & Laura Stevens)<br>6:35 pm<br>Devotions                                              |
| <b>14</b><br>Daylight Saving Time starts<br>9:00 am<br>Worship Live Stream<br>10:30 am<br>Zoom: Sunday School<br>6:00 pm<br>Council Meets<br>6:30 pm<br>Lent Service<br>6:35 pm<br>Devotions | <b>15</b><br>10:00 am<br>Staff Meeting<br>6:00 pm<br>Zoom: Outreach Team<br>6:35 pm<br>Devotions                               | <b>16</b><br>3:00 pm<br>Confirmation Assignment Due<br>6:35 pm<br>Devotions     | <b>17</b><br>9:00 am<br>St. Patrick's Day<br>6:35 pm<br>7:00 pm<br>Zoom: Bible Study<br>James                                          | <b>18</b><br>6:35 pm<br>Devotions | <b>19</b><br>6:35 pm<br>Devotions                                                    | <b>20</b><br>9:00 am<br>Confirmation Class<br>Rehearsal<br>9:00 am<br>Food Pantry (Parker & Diane Bouknight)<br>6:35 pm<br>Devotions |
| <b>21</b><br>9:00 am<br>Worship Live Stream<br>10:30 am<br>Drive In Communion<br>6:30 pm<br>Lent Service<br>6:35 pm<br>Devotions                                                             | <b>22</b><br>10:00 am<br>Staff Meeting<br>6:35 pm<br>Devotions                                                                 | <b>23</b><br>6:35 pm<br>Devotions                                               | <b>24</b><br>9:00 am<br>Food Pantry (Ann Bouknight, Annette Price, Sharon Keefe)<br>6:35 pm<br>7:00 pm<br>Zoom: Bible Study<br>James   | <b>25</b><br>6:35 pm<br>Devotions | <b>26</b><br>6:35 pm<br>Devotions                                                    | <b>27</b><br>9:00 am<br>Food Pantry (Lynn Bouknight & Karen Nicholson)<br>6:35 pm<br>Devotions                                       |
| <b>28</b><br>9:00 am<br>Palm Sunday & Confirmation Live Stream<br>10:30 am<br>ZOOM: Sunday School<br>6:30 pm<br>Lent Service<br>6:35 pm<br>Devotions                                         | <b>29</b><br>10:00 am<br>Staff Meeting<br>6:35 pm<br>Devotions                                                                 | <b>30</b><br>6:35 pm<br>Devotions                                               | <b>31</b><br>9:00 am<br>Food Pantry (Angle Hydrick, Doris Maddox, Fran Bouknight)<br>6:35 pm<br>7:00 pm<br>Zoom: Bible Study<br>James  |                                   |                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                      |

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



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

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**Please note: 2021 Annual Reports  
 are available in the church office**

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

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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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