

AROUND THE MOUNTAIN

August 2020

“When are we going to be able to come back to worship?”

Our last day together was March 15, 2020. It has been a really long time since we gathered in the sanctuary for worship. Immediately following worship on that day, the church council met to discuss what we were expecting would be the focus of the Governor’s press release. We were right. Schools were closed and business as we knew it, would come to a complete halt.



I shared with you a May 13, 2020 letter from the SC Synod. The first of 25 recommendations was a “14-day decline in cases.” Well, you know, we are no where near that first step. At the July church council meeting, a Health and Safety Task Force was formed. The members of the Task Force are: Pastor Gina, Ricky Bouknight, Dr. Carl Kinard, MD, Myra Kinard, Marion Leaphart, Devona Price, Wynne Price, and Terry Swygert. The Task Force has begun meeting and making recommendations to Church Council. If you should have any specific questions or concerns, please contact a member of this task force.

I ask you to continue to worship and devote yourselves to be an intense follower of Christ during these very unusual times. Worship will continue to be live streamed and devotions continue each evening at 6:35. Drive-In Communion and Zoom Sunday School will continue also. So that we know you are worshipping and studying, please either click on the “like” or “love” emoji on the bottom of the FB feed or place a comment on FB. Even if you are not able to worship during the live streaming, please make a comment so that we can “hear from you” in the comments. Many of us enjoy reading the comments during the week. Most of the equipment for the permanent live streaming ministry has arrived and is being installed. We look forward to setting-up, learning, and using the equipment over the next weeks.

So, here is my answer to the original question, *“When are we going to be able to come back to worship?”* We never stopped being children of God. We never stopped being the Church! We never stopped worshipping! Actually, we have begun new ministries, expanded existing ministries, and we have reached children of God who have never even entered the sanctuary at 3011 Leaphart Road.

We are worshipping. We are the Church. We are Mt Hermon!

Sister in Christ,
Pastor Gina

AROUND THE MOUNTAIN

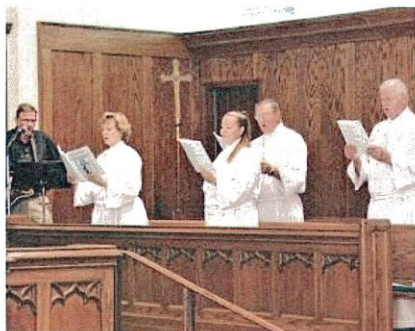
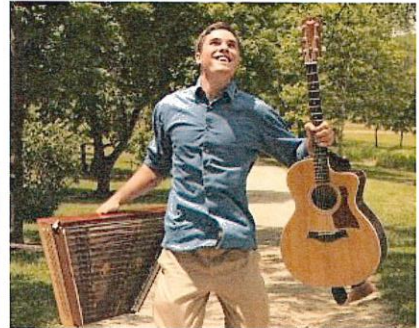
MT HERMON MUSIC WEEKEND FACEBOOK LIVE STREAM

AUGUST 8-9

SATURDAY 6:30 PM

SUNDAY 9:00 AM

SUNDAY 6:00 PM



SATURDAY 6:30 PM
MT HERMON MUSICIANS

SUNDAY 9:00 AM
WORSHIP

SUNDAY 6:00 PM
THE DULCIMER GUY

**Live Streaming
and Recording of
worship**

**If you would like to contribute to this ministry,
mark your check or envelope
"LiveStreaming Ministry"**

AROUND THE MOUNTAIN

Congregational Council Mini Minutes June 14, 2020 via Zoom

ATTENDANCE: All were present with the exception of Buddy Hydrick

CARES AND CONCERNS: Praying for Kim Addy, Perry Bouknight, and Pastor Everett Price after surgery; Gene Schofield blood clot in leg, Cyndi Crolley's mom Fran after shoulder surgery, and Jeff Bucknam has returned home from deployment

ADOPTION OF AGENDA: No formal agenda for this meeting

ADOPTION OF MINUTES: The minutes from the May 17, 2020 meeting were approved

REPORTS:

- Treasurer: Written report received for May 2020. Parker recommends that Finance Committee at their next meeting review small inactive bank line items with outstanding balances and move them to other active line items to cleanup our spreadsheet.
- Financial Secretary: Written Report distributed to our mailbox at church instead of email.

Team Reports/Recommendations:

1. Outreach: Diane Boulware suggests the committee might want to schedule a drive by to our members' houses who are not able to stream our services. Pastor Gina should let them know anyone who would qualify. Perry Bouknight has built a Little Free Library book house. It was stocked with books donated by members left over from the Free Garage sale. A Thrivent grant has also been received to buy more books for distribution. Food Pantry served 15 people last Wednesday and 11 people last Friday. We have distributed 92 face masks to clients who have requested one. Our members have continued to donate offering to the food pantry to meet increased need for services.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Cemetery marker letter: Family member of two unmarked gravesites in our cemetery is being sent a letter from church council with a deadline of August 1, 2020, for their markers to be in place as per cemetery policy.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Live Stream Report: The worship/streaming committee members presented a proposal for upgrading our sanctuary with a permanent solution for broadcasting our services. A quote was received from the networking company who had upgraded Pisgah Lutheran Church. The proposal included updating our existing network, adding wireless access to the sanctuary, replace all cameras in the sanctuary, build a computer that could burn services to DVD for distribution to members without internet access, be able to livestream within the church including the fellowship hall, and members' phones could use an application to work as a camera that could reach outside to the cemetery. The projected cost would be between \$12,000 and \$15,000. The committee is requesting council approval for immediate funding up to \$15,000. The congregation will be asked to contribute to the Live Streaming project and a weekly total collected will be listed in the bulletin. During council discussion Diane Boulware proposed that any additional monies needed after donations be deducted the \$13,600 remaining in our capital campaign fund and any additional costs be funded from Building Improvement monies. Council recommends that the Live Streaming Project with cost not to exceed \$15,000 move forward with implementation with funding as discussed above.

APPROVED

2. Return to in person services: Due to increased COVID cases and no flattening of the curve, Council moves to delay discussion on reopening the church until next council meeting on July 12, 2020. **APPROVED**
3. Ruthie would like to live stream a concert from the fellowship hall with no in person audience in the near future. We agreed this would be an excellent idea but the fellowship hall might not be wired properly so a test run is suggested prior to the event. Cont'd next page . . .

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4. Graduate Recognition: We will honor Mitchell Stevens, Bryce Addy, Jerry Price III, Regan Anthony, Melina Threat, and Belle Kneece on Sunday, July 5, 2020. They will be honored after the service with a drive thru in our parking lot. Also Bryce will be surprised with a Navy sendoff.
5. Council meeting time: After discussion, the time was changed from 1:30 pm on the second Sunday of the month to 1 pm.

After feedback, the meeting was adjourned with praying the Lord's Prayer.
Robin Ellisor, Council Secretary

Treasurer Report January 2020 - June 2020

	<u>Actual Income</u>	<u>Actual Expenses</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Current & Benovelence	116,892.15	110,034.03	6,858.12
Building Improvement	7,766.91	4,505.48	3,261.43
Building on Holy Ground	36,429.12	37,000.00	(570.88)

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>



Your continued financial support to the work of God at Mt. Hermon is both appreciated and needed to continue ministry. You may drop your check in the US Mail: 3011 Leaphart Road, West Columbia, SC 29169. You may also drop it in the locked box on Leaphart Road. Some of you have taken advantage of banks mailing a check straight to Mt. Hermon. Many of you are taking the opportunity to use online giving. Thank you for your financial and spiritual support to Mt. Hermon!

AROUND THE MOUNTAIN



If you are not able to join in the live devotions at 6:35 pm, stop by Facebook at any time and join in the short time of re-centering yourself in the love of Jesus.

During 6:35 devotions, Pastor Gina invited listeners to a 90-day challenge of keeping a **Gratitude Journal**. The challenge is to write down 3 things which you are thankful for each day before you go to bed. These journals have arrived, and they are in the church office. Please come by and pick up a journal for each member of you family who will participate in the challenge.

We have sooo much to be thankful for! The purpose of the challenge is to be a visible reminder of our blessings. Let's deepen our discipleship together.

Come by and pick up a journal and enter into the challenge.

Outreach Happenings . . .

Food Pantry

Mt. Hermon is caring for the community through the Food Pantry. The number of clients we serve continues to increase. We feel the need to stay open two days a week, even though our Friday team is starting back to school soon. We are going to try adjusting our Food Pantry days & hours starting August 22 to Wednesdays and Saturdays from 9:00 – 11:00am. We are looking for volunteers. If you are willing to work one Wednesday or Saturday morning a month, please let us know. Please consider sharing **two hours** of your time, once a month, to be God's hands in the community.



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Food Items Needed

Food items that are sometimes difficult to get in the quantity we need are: Peanut Butter (small jars), Grape Jelly (small jars), Canned Beef Stew, Canned Vegetables, Spaghetti Noodles, Instant Potatoes and Toothpaste. If you can add some of these to your grocery list and drop them by the church, we would appreciate the donations.

Food Pantry Moving

Works are underway to move the Food Pantry from its current location sharing a room with the computer server to a Sunday School room on the end of the Education hallway. We are purchasing a doorbell camera for that door. We are also needing sturdy shelving. If you have any to donate, please let us know.

Face Masks



Our face mask ministry continues. We have distributed over 175 face masks to members of the community through the Food Pantry. 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.

Back to School Supplies

- School starting is delayed and may look different, but it will be starting in September. During the month of August, we will be collecting school supplies for the following schools: Riverbank Elementary, Cayce Elementary, Wood Elementary, Batesburg-Leesville Elementary, Fulmer Middle and Pineridge Middle. We selected these schools because they are local and we have members of our congregation on their faculty.

The supplies needed:

- 24 pack crayons, pencils, colored pencils, markers, dry erase markers
- Pencil pouches, pencil boxes
- Scissors, glue sticks, dry erase erasers
- Earbuds, headphones
- 3-ring binders (1.5"), wide rule notebook paper, composition notebooks, dividers
- Bookbags
- Tissues, hand sanitizer, disinfecting wipes



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We will have a collection box at church in the Education Building. We will also have one outside during Drive-Thru Communion. Thank you for any way you can help our teachers and students.



The Little Library

We have loaded the Little Free Library with books for all ages. 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.



AROUND THE MOUNTAIN

Dear Mt. Hermon Church Family,
Thank you all for all the love and
support throughout the years and
thank you for my Bible.



*Sincerely,
Bryce Addy*

Dear Mt. Hermon LCY,
Thank you for all the support
throughout the years and
thank you for the gift card.



Thank You

*For your kind expression of sympathy and
thoughtfulness. It is deeply appreciated and
will always be remembered by the
Family of Connie Catt Bucknam*

*Thank you for adding me to
the prayer list. I appreciate
the texts, cards, phone calls
and prayers during my recent
foot surgery. Thank you
Pastor Gina for the prayers
and words of encouragement
during my recovery. Again
thank you for the prayers.*

Love, Kim Addy

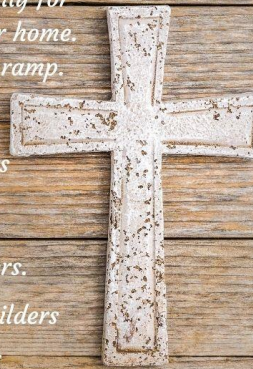


*We are so thankful to everyone on the
building crew and our church family for
building the handicap ramp at our home.
It has been a blessing to have the ramp.*

*Please use our check to help others
who need a handicap ramp. We
appreciate everyone for being so
kind, thoughtful and all the prayers.*

*Again, we cannot thank all the builders
enough and the speed it was built.*

*With many blessings and peace be with you,
Gene and Jan Schofield*



*June Roof
c/o Rapha
3959 Fish Hatchery Road
Gaston, SC 29053*



AROUND THE MOUNTAIN

MT HERMON PRAYS ...

Homebound and Care Facilities

Patricia Bachman, *Carolina Gardens*

Alberta Berry, *home*

Hazel Bockus, *Carolina Gardens*

Nell Buff, *home*

Lila Catt, *home*

Lynwood Crout, *home*

Margie Hook, *home*

Rev. Everette Price, *home*

Tom Roof, *home*

June Roof, *Rapha*

Lois Watson, *Lexington Place*

Lena Wessinger, *Presby. Home*

Members in Special Need of Prayer

Gene Schofield

Perry Bouknight

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*

Cheryl Coureville, *friend of Herb Bucknam*

Iris Wellborn, *sister of Earl Sease*

Jimmy Mills, *father of Tommy Mills*

Richie Tallent, *friend of Danny Scott*

Mandy McLemore, *co-worker of Amanda Boyd, Kim Addy, & Alyson Price*

John Catoe, *family of Ellisors*

Jenifer Gooding, *co-worker of Joel Price Jr. & Mary Price*

Sherri Crapps, *sister-in-law of Linda Waters-Hamilton*

Megan Sease, *granddaughter of Earl & Mary Frances Sease*

Jean Wooten, *friend of Linda Waters-Hamilton*

Tommy Roof, *son of Tom & June Roof*

Martha Eastwood, *sister of Marie Kleckley*

Eric Powell, *friend of Kim Fulmer*

Jason Wardlaw, *friend of congregation*

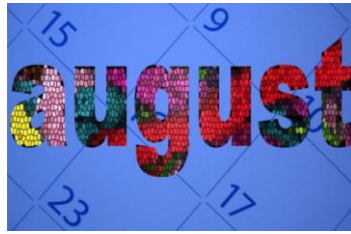
Andrew & Candice Coleman, *friends of Erica Conklin*

Carolyn Shumpert, *sister of Jan Schofield and Andrea Bowers*

David Hydrick, *cousin of Buddy Hydrick*

Janice Head, *mother of Ronnie Head*

AROUND THE MOUNTAIN

**Aug 01**

Nancy Addison
Laura Carroll

Aug 02

Allison Swygert

Aug 08

Dianne Watford

Aug 14

Tiffany Kaylor

Aug 17

Kay Little

Aug 20

Doris Carver
Lila Catt

Aug 21

Teddy Koon

Aug 23

Skyler Miller

Aug 24

Brayden Rutherford

Aug 25

Sam Koon

Aug 26

Wynne Price
Danny Scott

Aug 27

Jason Addy
Noah Swygert

Aug 28

Hayden Eargle

**Aug 06**

Tommy & Kelli Mills

Aug 19

Marvin & Gabrielle
Bouknight

Aug 20

Johnny & Marie Lewis

Aug 23

Tom & June Roof

Aug 24

Noah & Cassie Swygert

*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.*

We are sorry we did not have the information in time of printing!

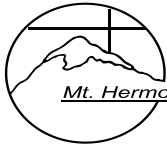
AROUND THE MOUNTAIN

WE ARE MT HERMON

August 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 6:35 pm Devotions
2 9:00 am 10:30 am 11:30 am Drive in communion Devotions	3 6:00 pm 6:35 pm Worship Team Devotions	4 6:35 pm Devotions	5 9:00 am 6:35 pm Food Pantry (Doris Maddox & Angie Hydrick) Devotions	6 6:35 pm Devotions	7 9:00 am 6:35 pm Food Pantry (Allison Swygert & Lynn Bouknight) Devotions	8 6:30 pm Mt Hermon Musicians Live Stream
9 9:00 am 10:30 am 6:00 pm Worship Live Stream Sunday School ZOOM The Dulcimer Guy LiveStream Concert	10 6:35 pm Devotions	11 6:35 pm Devotions	12 9:00 am 6:35 pm Food Pantry (Jo Leach) Devotions	13 6:35 pm Devotions	14 9:00 am 6:35 pm Food Pantry (Allison Swygert & Lynn Bouknight) Devotions	15 6:35 pm Devotions
16 9:00 am 10:30 am 6:35 pm Worship Live Stream Drive In Communion Devotions	17 6:00 pm 6:35 pm Outreach Mtg via Zoom Devotions	18 6:35 pm Devotions	19 9:00 am 6:35 pm Food Pantry (Annette Price & Diane Boulware) Devotions	20 6:35 pm Devotions	21 9:00 am 6:35 pm Food Pantry (Allison Swygert & Lynn Bouknight) Devotions	22 9:00 am 6:35 pm Adopt-A-Highway Devotions
23 9:00 am 10:30 am 6:35 pm Worship Live Stream Sunday School ZOOM Devotions	24 6:35 pm Devotions	25 6:35 pm Devotions	26 9:00 am 6:35 pm Food Pantry (Doris Maddox & Angie Hydrick) Devotions	27 6:35 pm Devotions	28 9:00 am 6:35 pm Food Pantry (Allison Swygert & Lynn Bouknight) Devotions	29 6:35 pm Devotions
30 9:00 am 6:35 pm Worship Live Stream Devotions	31 6:35 pm 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*

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www.WeAreMtHermon.com

3011 Leaphart Road
West Columbia, SC 29169
803.794.6430
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9:00 am – 1:00 pm
Pastor Gina 803.951.3784

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