



HOPEFUL, PEACEFUL, JOYFUL

*Restore us, O LORD God of hosts;
let your face shine, that we may be saved. Psalm 80:19*

It's December and many of us who are beginning our Christmas decorations and present purchasing – and then again, there are others among us who have completed their Christmas decorations and present purchasing. Then there are some of us who are somewhere in the middle of decorations and purchasing. We are each uniquely created and formed. While some can't imagine those who have not started, others of us can't imagine being completely finished. We all act and react differently, and we are all Children of the one true God.

During the season of Advent, as a community, we are called to be hopeful, peaceful, joyful. Each Wednesday in Advent in the Fellowship Hall we will gather for a 30-minute worship service. These times of reflection will be focused on: Being Hopeful, Being Peaceful, Being Joyful. These are the focus of each of the three candles in the advent wreath which we will light each Sunday and Wednesday. These services will include times of being silent so that we can focus on His message to us. I ask you to carve out time each Wednesday evening; 30 minutes worship, 30 minutes to be served by our youth, and then some time for you and your family/friends to ponder what God has done, is doing, and promises to do in your life.

Advent is not just about the birth of Christ; we all pretty much know the details of how that came to be. This Advent we will focus on the present life of Christ and why that matters in our own lives. We will also wonder and dream of what it means to live in a fully focused life of being a disciple of Christ.

Make/Take time during these busy days of Advent to prepare your heart and souls for an active Christmas season of living out our lives of disciples of Christ who call Mt. Hermon “home” today, tomorrow, and into the new year as we live out our mission statement: *We will gather. We will be fed. We will be sent.*

Sister in Christ,

Pastor Gina

#3011LeaphartRoad

#WeAreMtHermon

AROUND THE MOUNTAIN

COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS

If you are looking for ways to invite others to experience the Mt Hermon family, these Community Happenings pages are places for you to come and bring a friend!



Sydney Bucknam, Walker Kinard

We give thanks for these two disciples who became confirmed disciples on Reformation Sunday 2023!

Community Bonfire Friday, December 15th

The Lutheran Men invites you to Campfire and Carols at the firepit. BYOC – Bring your own chair. Hotdogs and smores will be provided.



Annual Congregation Meeting was held on November 19th

The 2024 Mission Plan was adopted, and the following were elected to serve a 3-year-term on Church Council: Sherwood Garrett, Jennifer Miller, Jerry Price, Terry Swygert

1-year-youth position: Connor Eargle

Terms expiring 2023: Thank you to these four who were elected during the outdoor/parking lot annual meeting in 2020:

Blake Allen, Mike Rawl, Sheila Starkey, Allison Swygert

AROUND THE MOUNTAIN

Canned Food Drive

Thank you to everyone who supported this ministry!



Thank you to Lexington Medical Center's Patient Financial Services! They collected 329 items for the Mt. Hermon Food Pantry!

thank  you

feet to work – to feed God's people. Please read the outreach team report regarding the numbers the food pantry is serving here at the corner of Leaphart and Methodist Park Road.

Mt. Hermon's food pantry is making a difference in our community. We are thankful for all who think of – and all who put their hands and

AROUND THE MOUNTAIN



The Worship and Music Team will be decorating the sanctuary with poinsettias this year. The cost of each poinsettias is \$10.00. If you would like to honor or remember someone with a poinsettia, please include your information in the Christmas Bulletin envelope or drop your check with the information in the offering plate. The information is needed in the church office by 9:00am on Monday, December 18th

(if possible would you allow the poinsettias to be used in worship through the January 7th worship service.)



AROUND THE MOUNTAIN

NEW MINISTRIES

and new opportunities for Community



WeAreMtHermon

Care Team

Would you be willing to call and check on some of our shut-ins? This would give you an opportunity to connect with those who built and invited us to become part of the ministry at Mt. Hermon.

Outreach Team

Would you be willing to help with fitting children with shoes at Cayce Elementary? This would give you an opportunity to see the children in our community who might not know what the hands and feet of Jesus looks like yet.



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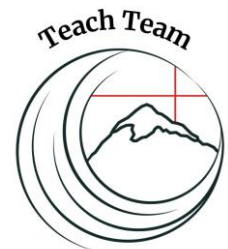
WeAreMtHermon

Support Team

Would you be willing to come to the church for several hours to assist with phone calls, greeting those who stop, etc.?

Teach Team

Would you be willing to be a teacher's assistant to our youngest children on Sunday mornings? There will be a lead teacher in the classrooms, and you will help with stickers on pages, setting up the space before the children arrive from music class and assist in the cleaning up after the children leave. This would give you the opportunity to connect with those who will be part of the ministry for years to come.



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Worship and Music Team

Would you be willing to be trained by a professional voice teacher and then sing on Sunday mornings?

AROUND THE MOUNTAIN

CHURCH COUNCIL HAPPENINGS

Motion from the Council meeting

November Council motions:

**CHURCH COUNCIL
HIGHLIGHTS**

Support: Written report submitted. The Personnel Team recommends the hiring of Denise Wolfe as parish administrator. She is currently a parish administrator at another church and requests (and we honor) her recommendation to begin in January. She will work 15 hours a week at \$16 an hour and she will move towards working 20 hours a week once she takes on additional responsibilities such as live streaming. **PASSED** unanimously.

Congregational Council Minutes October 2023

ATTENDANCE: Absent – Blake Allen, Mary Koon, and Jeff Price

CARES AND CONCERNS: Mrs. Marie Kleckley is doing well in her new home at Lexington Extended Care; Chris Carroll has gone back to work but still has some cardiac procedures upcoming; Care Team has contacted all the shut ins to invite them to attend Homecoming.

MEMBER CARE:

ADOPTION OF AGENDA: Accepted as presented.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES: Minutes for September 2023 were accepted as presented.

REPORTS:

- Pastor Gina: Report for October 2023 was submitted.
- Treasurer: Budget Report for September 2023 and Treasurer's Report for September 2023 were submitted.
- Financial Secretary: Funds Report for October 2023 and January-October were submitted.
- Executive Committee:

Team Reports/Recommendations:

Team for Ministry: No report submitted.

Care: Written report submitted.

Outreach: Written report submitted. Volunteers needed for Sole Stepping program.

Support: No written report submitted. The Safety Team took a three-hour safety course with the Lexington County Sheriff's Department.

Finance: No report submitted. The Finance Team recommends the use of "undesignated funds" in the amount of up to \$1,000 for Pastor Gina to attend and participate in the ordination ceremony of Rebekah Swygert Boatwright, a daughter of Mt. Hermon, in Denver, Colorado, on November 17, 2023. **PASSED unanimously.**

Teach: Written report submitted.

Worship: Written report submitted.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. None

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Mission Plan Presentation
2. 2024 Council Nominations – Those nominated were Wayne Corley, Jennifer Miller, Wynne Price, Terry Swygert, and Connor Eargle.
3. Next Meeting: Sunday, November 12, 2023, at 11:30am
4. Next Month's Devotions and Lock Up – Jeff Price

Sheila Eargle, Council Secretary

AROUND THE MOUNTAIN

ATTENDANCE REPORT

| | <u>In-person</u> | <u>Live Streaming</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|------------------|------------------|-----------------------|--------------|
| November 05 | 97 | 86 | 178 |
| November 12 | 98 | 84 | 187 |
| November 19 9:00 | 102 | 81 | 194 |
| November 12 5:00 | 120 | 89 | 192 |
| November 26 | 102 | 92 | 189 |

TREASURER REPORT

| YTD October 2023 | Income | Expense | Over (Short) |
|-------------------------|---------------|----------------|---------------------|
| Current Mission Plan | 188,568.47 | 197,884.35 | (9,316.18) |
| Building Fund | 57,005.02 | 49,544.80 | 7,460.22 |
| Bldg Improvement | 19,553.79 | 16,665.51 | 2,888.28 |



Scan to donate

Use your camera to open this site and make a donation to support ministry at Mt. Hermon.

Make a Donation
get.tithe.ly

AROUND THE MOUNTAIN

OUTREACH TEAM HAPPENINGS

The outreach team meets on the third Monday at 6:00 in the Conference Room. If you would like to serve on this team, please contact Bonnie Bouknight and attend the next meeting!

The Sole Stepping project is November 30th at Cayce Elementary School. We need volunteers to help fit elementary school students with shoes. Shoes are provided. You can volunteer for the morning shift, the afternoon shift, or the entire day.



Thanksgiving Bags – The food pantry served 88 families the week before Thanksgiving. All 50 Thanksgiving bags were distributed on one day. We will be preparing 50 bags for Christmas Bags. Thank you for your donations!

Free Garage Sale

We will host a free garage sale for families in need of assistance on December 1. If you have items in good condition such as: furniture, linens, blankets, towels, coats, socks, shoes, gloves, books, children's clothes, baby items, household items, toys, etc. that you are willing to donate, we are ready to start gathering now. The items can be placed in the room across from the youth room in the church basement. (We are not collecting adult clothing this year.) Your donations are another way that we are caring for God's children.



Taking Donations Now!

We are also looking for volunteers to help us organize the donated items the week after Thanksgiving and volunteers to help the day of the Free Garage Sale. If you are interested in assisting us, please let Diane Boulware know.



Angel Tree Ministry

Spread Christmas Cheer by sponsoring a child for Christmas. Each year we help children in the community have a brighter Christmas by buying gifts for them. The children are identified by the local schools, and we gather a list of their needs and wants and place them on ornaments. The ornaments are on the tree. Please make plans to sponsor a child this Christmas. We will also include parents of the children on the tree with some of their needs. We will need the gifts by **Sunday, December 10.**

AROUND THE MOUNTAIN

TEACH TEAM HAPPENINGS

The outreach team meets on the third Thursday at 6:00 in the education building. If you would like to serve on this team, please contact Cyndi Leaphart and attend the next meeting!

We are currently seeking a leader/facilitator for the Teach Team events. If you are interested, please contact Cyndi Leaphart or Mary Koon.

Lil Lutherans –

- Lil Lutherans have a Group Me Account. If you want to join, see Katie Donaldson or Elyse Kinard to be added.
- Music time for the children will be after the church service, from 10:15 – 10:30.
- Lil Lutheran Christmas program – scheduled for 12/17/2023



Youth –

- The youth have a Group Me Account. If you want to join, see DJ Plummer to be added.
- Youth will provide Advent meals in December as a fundraiser for their upcoming ministries.



Adult Education –

- **LIFE – Living in Faith Experience** – will continue in the new year. Look for learning opportunities for 2024!
- YOU are invited to participate in Small Group Ministry!
- Have you ever wanted to be more connected with your fellow believers? To study Scripture together? To have some of your faith questions discussed and answered? To join with other believers in prayer, fellowship, and outreach? And to rejoice with one another in the good times as well as support each other during the challenges that we all face as we walk through life?
- Please join us November 1st at 6:30 at the home of Frankie and Melanie Jackson, 713 Indian River Drive, West Columbia



AROUND THE MOUNTAIN

WORSHIP TEAM

The teach team meets on the fourth Mondays at 6:30 in the conference room. If you would like to serve on this team, please contact Wynne Price and attend the next meeting!

ADVENT

A Season of Preparation

Advent Worship 2023

Advent worship will be on Wednesdays at 6:35 in the Fellowship Hall. The youth will provide a meal each Wednesday and accept donations to assist with their ministries. Please plan to attend and support the youth at Mt. Hermon.

Audio Ministry: The Worship Team needs your help! We would like to have a dedicated team to help with the set up and breakdowns before and after our outdoor worship services. If you are interested in learning about sound and logistics for this ministry, you will be trained and taught how to become an active part of the music ministry! Please see Pastor Gina to sign up and become engaged in this ministry.

Christmas Eve is on Sunday this year. The Worship and Music Team made the recommendation for this year that the services be held at 9:00 am (children and family focused) and only one afternoon and evening service at 7:00 (traditional candlelight service). That recommendation was approved by the council at the September meeting.

The Community Epiphany Worship will be on Saturday, January 6th. This service will be held at 5:00 and a reception to follow the worship. Pastor Gina will invite area pastors to take part in this worship service. This recommendation was also approved by the council at the September meeting.

AROUND THE MOUNTAIN



A festive poster for New Year's Eve. The background is light beige with white snowflakes and hanging Christmas ornaments in shades of grey, gold, and blue. The text is centered and reads:

New Year's Eve

Sunday, December 31st 9:00 am
Lessons and Christmas Carols

Wear your “sparkles” to church.



A poster for a Community Epiphany Service. The background is dark blue with white stars. Silhouettes of three camels and their riders are shown against a lighter blue sky. The text is centered and reads:

Community Epiphany Service

5:00pm

Saturday, January 6th

AROUND THE MOUNTAIN

SERVING IN WORSHIP

December 2023

| | 12/3/2023 | 12/10/2023 | 12/17/2023 | 12/24/2023 9:00 | 12/24/2023 7:00 |
|------------------|--------------------|-----------------|-----------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| Ushers: | Cindy Price | Ricky Bouknight | Arron Kinard | Blake/Jack Allen | Dion Metze |
| | Joel Price, Jr | Fran Bouknight | Dion Metze | Jeff Price | Marion Leaphart |
| Crucifer: | Spencer Price | Josh Koon | Quentin Kinard | Avery Rawl | Connor Eargle |
| Acolyte: | Cameron Bucknam | Connor Eargle | Hayden Eargle | Adelaide Bryant | Hayden Eargle |
| Lector: | Devona Price | Frank Bouknight | Frankie Jackson | Sam Koon | Ronnie Fulmer |
| Communion Assts: | Spencer Price | Josh Koon | Quentin Kinard | Terri Rawl | Connor Eargle |
| | Cameron Bucknam | Connor Eargle | Hayden Eargle | Mike Rawl | Hayden Eargle |
| | Devona Price | Frank Bouknight | Frankie Jackson | Sherwood Garrett | Ronnie Fulmer |
| | Joel Price, Sr | Fran Bouknight | Melanie Jackson | Sam Koon | Sheila Eargle |
| | Cindy Price | Ricky Bouknight | Kathy Cooper | Daryl Leigh Anthony | Debbie Fulmer |
| Nursery: | Noah Swygert | Katie Donaldson | Charlene Corley | Alyson Price | |
| | Cassie Swygert | Melanie Jackson | DJ Plummer | Brittany Allen | |
| Flowers: | Mary Frances Sease | Stevens | Price Families | Journeys | Journeys |

SERVING IN DECEMBER

COUNCIL REP: Allison Swygert

ALTAR GUILD: Diane Boulware, Mary Frances Sease

TABULATORS: Diane Boulware, Ann Bouknight

USHERS: Marion Leaphart, Susan Busby, Dennis Thurman

AUDIO/VIDEO TEAM: Breanna Metze, Sheila Starkey

** If you are unable to serve, please ask someone to serve in your absence.
Please also notify the church office of the change.*

AROUND THE MOUNTAIN

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES



December



DECEMBER

| | |
|----------|---------------------------------------|
| Dec 02 | Kelli Mills |
| Dec 03 | Ann Addy, Charlene Corley, CJ Threatt |
| Dec 05 | Renee Greenbaum |
| ♥ Dec 05 | Dave & Debra Butts |
| Dec 06 | Doris Maddox |
| ♥ Dec 09 | Jeff & Courtney Bucknam |
| Dec 10 | Marie Lewis |
| ♥ Dec 10 | Eric & Laura Carroll |
| Dec 11 | Jack Allen |
| Dec 12 | Earl Sease, Mitch Stevens |
| ♥ Dec 13 | Wayne & Charlene Corley |
| Dec 14 | Andrea Bowers |
| ♥ Dec 14 | Wynne & Mary Price |
| Dec 17 | Austin Price |
| ♥ Dec 17 | Carl & Myra Kinard |
| ♥ Dec 19 | Bobby & Doris Carver |
| ♥ Dec 19 | Neal & Jeannine Taylor |
| Dec 22 | Avery Rawl |
| Dec 23 | Trudy Bouknight, Jim Whitaker |
| Dec 27 | Eric Carroll, Jeff Price |
| Dec 28 | Dale Miller, Caroline Mills |
| Dec 31 | Gus Arroyo |

*Please let the office know if your information is not printed in this listing.
office@WeAreMtHermon.com or 803.794.6430*



AROUND THE MOUNTAIN

MT HERMON PRAYS

Continual Prayers

Patricia Bachman, *Generations*
Alberta Berry, *home*
Lauvenia Butts, *Lakeside Place*
Bobby & Doris Carver, *Presby Home*
Eldon Eargle, *National Healthcare*
James Hallman, *Lakeside Place*
Marie Kleckley, *Lex Ext Care*
Gene Sexton, *National Healthcare*
Gloria Mathis, *home*
Jean Shealy, *Lakeside Place*
Tom Roof, *home*
Cyndi Thurman, *home*
Linda Waters-Hamilton, *home*

Members in Special Need of Prayer

Bonnie Bouknight Chris Carroll Easton Donaldson Georgianna Gray
Dot Mathias Gene Schofield Jane Sexton Jim Whitaker

Family and Friends Who Have Requested Prayers

Paul Garner, *friend of Robert Haygood*
Debbie Browning, *Sister of Donna Kirkpatrick*
Mrs. William L. Coleman Jr (Carolyn), *friends of Marion & Cyndi Leaphart*
Jaimie Womack, *friend of Ryan & Jennifer Price*
Dale Miller, *son-in-law Wynne and Mary Price*
Iris Wellborn, *sister of Earl Sease*
John Catoe, *family of Ellisors*
Dawn McIlwain-Merck, *friend of Robin Ellisor*
Mike Ondera, *friend of Sherwood Garrett*
Molly Kate Shealy, *friend of Jean Shealy*
Chuck Bachman, *nephew of Jean Shealy*
Jeff Tarlton, *friend of Michelle Gantt*
Carleton Morse, *father of Cyndi Leaphart*
Martha Williamson, *sister of Frank Bouknight*
Jay Sox, *Papa of Brayden Rutherford and Dylan Whitaker*
Ann Piercy, *friend of Kathy and Jim Whitaker*
Jeff Reid, *friend of Jan Schofield*
Stephanie Alewine Hopper, *friend of David & Scottie Marsh*
Vicki Boozer, *friend of David & Scottie Marsh*
Stetson Cooper, *grandson of Shirley & Dan Cooper*
Cindy Maples, *mother of Jennifer Miller*
Lewis Turner, *friend of Jo Leach*
Dr. Kay Moore, *friend, and co-worker of Cyndi Leaphart*
Josh Jackson, *friend of Joel Price, Jr.*
Brannon Yonce, *friend of Michelle Gantt*
Katy Madigan, *friend of Marie Carroll*
Billy Huckabee, *friend of Danny Scott*
Ken Brock, *friend of Kathy Cooper*
Jamie Spell, *friend of David Marsh*
Logan Wittwer, *friend of Jessica Goodwin & Cameron Blakely*
Kamryn and Naveah, *friends of Sheila Starkey*

Please note that this prayer list will be updated soon and those who you wish to remain on the list, please send an email to office@WeAreMtHermon.com

December 2023

| Sunday | | Monday | | Tuesday | | Wednesday | | Thursday | | Friday | | Saturday | |
|--|--|--|--|---|--|--|---|---------------------------------------|--|--|---|--|---|
| 26 FH: Free Garage Sale 9:00am Worship 10:15am MR: Childrens Choir 10:30am Sunday School | 27 FH: Free Garage Sale 6:30pm CR: Worship Team | 28 FH: Free Garage Sale 6:00pm GR: Grief Support 6:30pm CR: Support Team | 29 FH: Free Garage Sale 9:00am Food Pantry (Diane & Parker Boulware, Mary Price) 10:00am Meals on Wheels 6:30pm Choir | 30 FH: Free Garage Sale 9:00am Sole Stepping Cayce Elem. 6:00pm GR: Grief Support | 1 FH: Free Garage Sale | 2 FH: Free Garage Sale 9:00am Food Pantry (Al & Laura Stevens) 10:00am Shock and Claus | 3 Advent FH: Free Garage Sale 9:00am Worship 10:15am MR: Childrens Choir 10:30am Sunday School 2:00pm Porch Visits 5:00pm Youth Meeting 6:00pm Advent Family Night | 4 5:30pm CR: Care Team | 5 5:00pm Executive Team 6:00pm GR: Grief Support | 6 9:00am Food Pantry (Fran Bouknight, Angie Hydrick, Sherwood Garrett) 10:00am Meals on Wheels 6:30pm Choir 6:35pm FH: Advent Worship 7:00pm FH: Advent Meal | 7 6:00pm GR: Grief Support | 8 9:00am Food Pantry (Koon family) | 9 9:00am Food Pantry (Parker & Diane Boulware) |
| 10 9:00am Worship 10:15am MR: Childrens Choir 10:30am Sunday School 11:30am Council Meets | 11 | 12 6:00pm GR: Grief Support | 13 9:00am Food Pantry (Ann Addy, Ann Bouknight, Sharon Keefe) 10:00am Meals on Wheels 12:05pm OneBody Worship 6:30pm Choir 6:35pm FH: Advent Worship 7:00pm FH: Advent Meal | 14 6:00pm GR: Grief Support | 15 6:00pm Bonfire at Firepit | 16 9:00am Food Pantry (Kinnard Family) | 17 9:00am Worship (council installation) 10:30am Sunday School 6:00pm Youth Party | 18 6:00pm CR: Outreach Team | 19 6:00pm CR: Finance Team 6:00pm GR: Grief Support | 20 9:00am Food Pantry (Diane Boulware, Mary Frances Sease, Mary Price) 10:00am Meals on Wheels 6:30pm Choir 6:35pm FH: Advent Worship 7:00pm FH: Advent Meal | 21 First Day of Winter 6:00pm GR: Grief Support 6:00pm Teach Team | 22 | 23 9:00am Food Pantry (Kinard Family) |
| 24 9:00am Worship (Family & Children) 10:30am No Sunday School 7:00pm Christmas Eve | 25 Christmas Day | 26 | 27 9:00am Food Pantry (Dave & Debra Butts Andrea Bowers) 10:00am Meals on Wheels 6:30pm Choir | 28 6:00pm GR: Grief Support | 29 | 30 9:00am Food Pantry (Melanie & Frankie Jackson, Katie Donaldson) | 31 9:00am Lessons & Carols 10:30am No Sunday School | 1 | 2 | 3 9:00am Food Pantry (Fran Bouknight, Angie Hydrick, Sherwood Garrett) 10:00am Meals on Wheels 6:30pm Choir | 4 6:00pm GR: Grief Support | 5 | 6 9:00am Food Pantry (Youth) 5:00pm Community Epiphany Worship |

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



Mt Hermon Lutheran Church
 3011 Leaphart Road
 West Columbia, SC 29169

WeAreMtHermon

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Rev. Gina D. Metze, *Pastor*
 Svetlana Royal, *Director of Music*
 open, *Parish Administrator*

803.951.3784

 803.794.6430

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