

AROUND THE MOUNTAIN

June/July 2020

*Jesus said, I am the light of the world.
Whoever follows me will have the light of life.*
(ELW 231, Holy Baptism)



These are the words spoken as the newly baptized is given a lighted baptismal candle. These past months have provided many opportunities for us to be a “light” in the world! You will see in a message within this newsletter how Alyssa Stevens encountered the “light” through a worker at Bi-Lo. The food pantry continues to be a “light” to the community through the distribution of food, as well as, handmade masks. The additional day for the Food Pantry has proven to be needed for the community. So far, during the month of June (thru the 12th), 42 families have come to the food pantry. That is just in the first two weeks of the month. We have also distributed 69 masks to families since May 29th. The food pantry allows Mt. Hermon to continue to be a “light” to the community.

LiveStreaming has also allowed Mt. Hermon to shine a “light” on Sunday mornings. I watch the replay of the service and count how many of you indicate that you are “worshipping too.” You will notice each Sunday’s bulletin the number in attendance includes a + next to the number. That + indicates we are aware others are watching, but they have not commented or indicated to me they are watching.

Another way you continue to be a “light” is by your kind comments on Facebook when you see visitors are worshipping with us. My heart is filled when I see you being the people we know we are inside the sanctuary. Our services are watched by many visitors. There are usually at least 10 visitors who comment on the service each week. Your warm, welcoming, and kind comments are extended to visitors on-line and that is also a bright “light.” God continues to use us to be his “light.”

Church council met on June 14th and agreed it is too soon for us to return to in-person worship. We are aware some churches have re-opened their sanctuaries and some churches have already paused their in-person worship due to members testing positive following a Sunday worship. We feel it is just not the right time for Mt. Hermon to resume in-person worship. We will continue to LiveStream on Sundays. Actually we will continue even when we are able to resume in-person worship! That being said, we have worked countless hours on researching the best ways to continue LiveStreaming. We created a LiveStreaming Worship Team. The members of that team are: Pastor Gina, Wynne Price, Earl Sease, Teddy Koon, Sheila Starkey, and Breanna Metze. We met with two companies who provided counsel and quotes. During the June 14th Council meeting, after a proposal presentation, Council gave this task force authority to move forward with making LiveStreaming and recording of the services a permanent ministry. The cost of this project is “up to \$15,000.” Supplies are limited and council authorized this task force to go forth immediately with the ordering and purchasing of the needed components for this project. Many of you have expressed appreciation for this ministry and have also expressed an interest in contributing towards this project. You have an opportunity now. All of us have this opportunity. You may contribute and mark on your check/envelope: LiveStreaming Project. These funds will go directly towards this project.

We are living in very different times, but I can’t imagine living anywhere else, but with you! Your kindness and love which you have expressed towards me confirms again that we are “lights in the right places together!” We will continue to build “light fixtures” together so that the “light of God” shines brightly in our community!

Sister in Christ, striving to be a “light”,

Pastor Gina

AROUND THE MOUNTAIN

Congregational Council Minutes May 17, 2020 via Zoom

ATTENDANCE: All were present with the exception of Joe Koon and Karen Nicholson

CARES AND CONCERNS: Praying for Eldon Eargle and Gene Schofield after surgery; Debbie Fulmer's mom, Iris House, living with them not doing well; former member Dan Tinman on hospice

ADOPTION OF AGENDA: No formal agenda for this meeting

ADOPTION OF MINUTES: The minutes for the March 8, March 15, and March 25th meetings distributed

REPORTS:

- Treasurer: Written report received for April. Report to be amended due to change in insurance disbursement. Our April and May receipts exceeded expenditures and synodical payments have been made for the first six months of 2020. Parsonage utilities are being billed to church and reimbursed by renter. Our loan balance amount is \$414,028 and \$65,799.20 is leftover from our loan for air conditioner/church improvements.
- Financial Secretary: Written Report received for March and April 2020 in addition to first quarter 2020

Team Reports/Recommendations:

1. Worship Team: Written report received for May 4th meeting via Zoom. They are requesting estimates for improving our audio/video streaming services. Worship board requests that there be a line item in 2021 budget for expenses with video streaming our services such as stands for iPad/adaptor, etc. **APPROVED**
2. Outreach Team: Youth are helping purchase and distribute food in the food pantry.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Parsonage: The yard has been cleaned up, house painted, air conditioner serviced and working well, and refrigerator had to be replaced. The \$700 rent will count as a regular monthly church contribution. A signed agreement was obtained and Rick Anthony will inquire about how we are insured with parsonage. After all bills have been received, Parker will get a total for all expenditures in preparing parsonage for occupancy.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Discussion about reopening church to in person services:
 - Some members have no internet to watch Sunday services-would we be able to burn them a DVD to view?
 - Our sanctuary has 37 full pews and 1 short pew that are 14 feet long which if we had 5 people per pew and skipped every other pew then we could fit 90 people not counting the 3 pews upfront for the choir
 - Fellowship Hall might be easier to set up and sanitize
 - We already have on hand 200 masks and gloves
 - Synod sent out a letter with their recommendations for safely reopening which included not doing so until there were 14 consecutive days of decreased new COVID infections, no wine for Holy Communion, no singing, wearing face masks, and shortening the length of services.
 - Council recommends continuing to keep church closed for in person services and activities for the next 30 days and reopening discussions on the subject at our next council meeting on June 14, 2020. **APPROVED**

After Feedback, the meeting was adjourned with praying the Lord's Prayer.

Robin Ellisor, Council Secretary

Treasurer Report January 2020 - May 2020

	<u>Actual Income</u>	<u>Actual Expenses</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Current & Benovelence	99,070.82	90,637.76	8,433.06
Building Improvement	6,641.49	4,359.88	2,281.61
Building on Holy Ground	29,934.12	\$32,000.00	(2,065.88)

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*

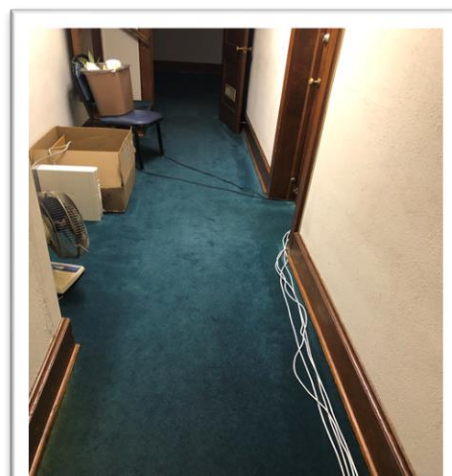
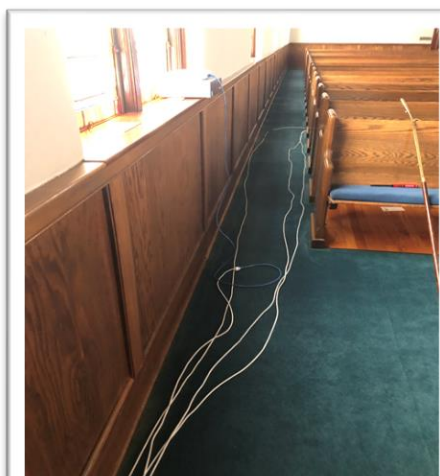
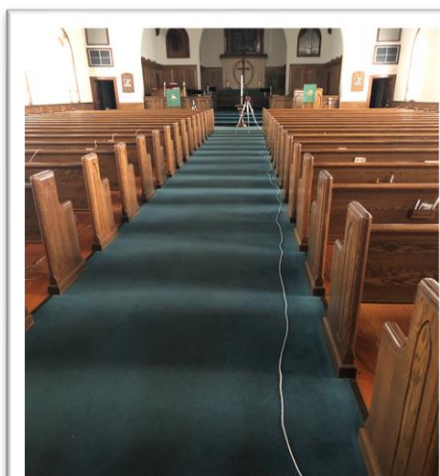
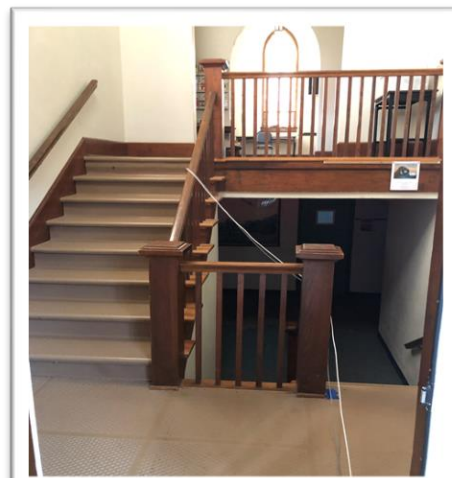
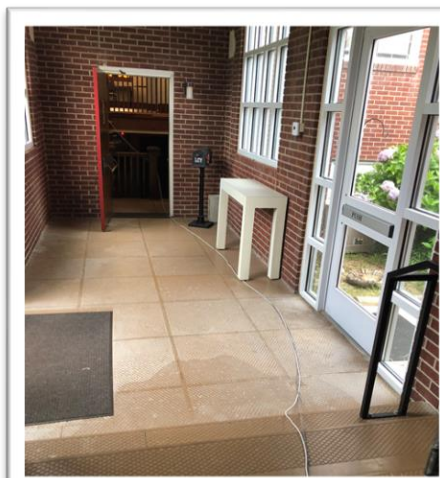
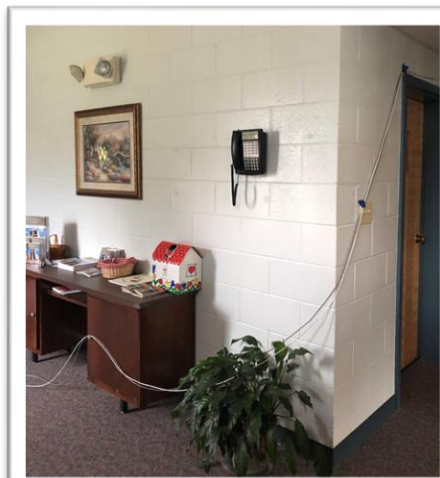
<http://www.WeAreMtHermon.com/online-giving.html>



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

Maybe you have not been by the church and seen all the wiring that is in place for LiveStreaming. We thought you might like to see what happens behind the scene each Sunday.



Details of this ministry is highlighted in Pastor Gina's article. If you have any questions, please see a member of the Task Force

AROUND THE MOUNTAIN



Daily
Devotions
6:35 pm

Join the FaceBook
community
for a time of
daily reflection
with Pastor Gina

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.

AROUND THE MOUNTAIN

Outreach Happenings . . .



Though Mt. Hermon is not worshipping on the church campus as a congregation, we are definitely not closed. The Food Pantry is booming. Since March 18, we have served almost 200 families with supplies for meals. Some of those 200 families have been repeat customers. Your donations are spreading God's love into our community.

If you are interested in helping with this ministry, please let Diane Boulware or the church office know. We are looking for people who can **donate three hours** either

Wednesdays or Fridays **once a month**. We

appreciate the volunteers we have had, but we are losing some of them due to time conflicts with jobs and school. Please consider sharing **three hours** of your time, once a month, to be God's hands in the community.

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, Pasta Sauce, 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.

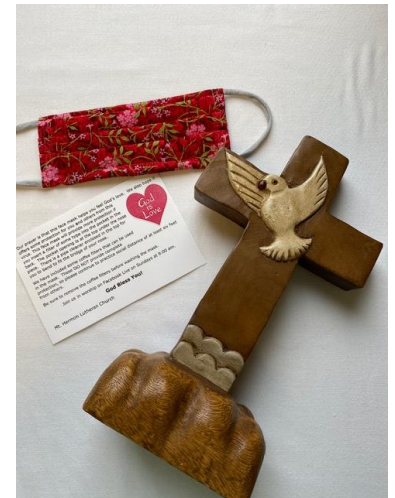


Some of our students have taken on the task of keeping the food pantry stocked each week. This week, when Alyssa entered the grocery store, she was greeted with a very excited Bi-Lo employee. Bi-Lo had just given their employees a \$50 shopping spree where they could quickly choose whatever they wanted in a 5-minute shopping rush! Rather than shop for herself, Aqua decided to choose items for Mt. Hermon's food pantry, and was ready with her donation when Alyssa arrived.

Thank you Aqua for your thoughtfulness of our community. It touched our hearts, and we are deeply grateful for your contribution.

AROUND THE MOUNTAIN

In addition to food, the food pantry has been giving face masks to our Food Pantry customers that are interested in having one. The masks have been made and donated by Annette Price, Diane Boulware and Rumiko Bouknight (Bonnie and Frank Bouknight's daughter-in-law). We have distributed 92 masks to date. This is another way we have been spreading God's love into our community.



Little Free Library

Mt. Hermon now has a Little Free Library. Trudy Bouknight asked the Outreach Team if they would be interested in sponsoring a Little Free Library. We loved the idea.

Trudy commissioned her husband Perry to build it. Perry Bouknight & Parker Boulware then installed the library in the church's grass parking lot.

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!

We have received a Thrivent grant to help us purchase some books and supplies, but we will need ongoing book donations to keep the library well stocked in the future. We have placed a plastic bin in the education building for book donations. If you have some new or used books to share, we would love to have them. Please visit and use our Little Free Library.



AROUND THE MOUNTAIN



Sunday School
on Zoom
2nd & 4th Sundays
10:30 a.m.

To join the group, please email
pastorgina@WeAreMtHermon.com



**First and Third Sunday
of the Month**

**Communion Distribution
and Blessings**

Immediately following service
until 1:00 pm
in the church parking lot

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

AROUND THE MOUNTAIN

05-06-20

Dear Mt. Hermon Family,

Thank you so much for the cards, phone calls, gestures of love, memorials, and most of all PRAYERS following Dad's death. Our church family means the world to us, as it did to Dad.

*Sincerely,
Terry & Allison Swygert & family*

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Dear Mt Hermon,

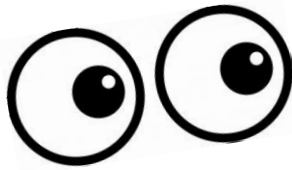
Thank you for your calls, card, and care during my recent time in the hospital and in rehab.

*Thank you!
Doris Carver*



SPECIAL THANKS TO THE MUSICIANS AND VOCALISTS who lead worship: Ruthie Brannen, Regan Anthony, Daryl Leigh Anthony, Wynne Price, Joel Price, Ryan Price, Belle Kneece, Noah Causey, and Jeremy Rish. Also, thanks to the ***LIVE STREAM PRODUCTION CREW***: Sheila Starkey and Breanna Metze.

Thank you!



**PLEASE KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR
A SPECIAL EVENT ON
JULY 5TH
IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING WORSHIP!**

Graduation Recognition Sunday
July 5, 2020



Class of 2020

Bryce Addy
Mitch Stevens
Jerry Price
Regan Anthony
Melina Threatt

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 & June Roof, *home*
Lois Watson, *Lexington Place*
Lena Wessinger, *Presby. Home*
Connie Bucknam, *Lexington Medical*

Members in Special Need of Prayer

Parker Boulware	Gene Schofield	Kim Addy
Suzie Wattenbarger	Perry Bouknight	Jeff Bucknam, <i>home!</i>

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 & Connie 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 & Connie 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*
Todd Hewitt, *friend of Missy Addy*
Sherri Crapps, *sister-in-law of Linda Waters-Hamilton*
Megan Sease, *granddaughter of Earl & Mary Frances Sease*
Jane Park, *friend of Pastor Gina & Dion*
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*
Cheryl Rodgers, *sister of Alberta Berry*

AROUND THE MOUNTAIN



Jun 02

Debra Butts

Jun 03

Brannon Miller



Jun 10

Brittany Allen

Jun 12

Perry Bouknight

Jun 14

Debbie Fulmer

David Marsh

Jun 15

Mike Rawl

Jun 22

Jeannine Taylor

Jun 23

Gene Schofield

Jun 24

Buddy Hydrick



Jun 03

Parker & Diane Boulware

Jun 05

Randy & Becky Wise

Jun 14

Wayne & Sheila Eargle

Jun 15

Dylan & Amanda Mills

Jun 16

Clifton & Ann Addy

Jun 20

Teddy & Becky Koon

Joel & Devona Price

Jun 23

David & Scottie Marsh

Jun 24

Joel & Cindy Price

Jun 25

Danny & Jenny Scott

AROUND THE MOUNTAIN



Jul 02

Carl Kinard

Jul 08

Kim Addy

Jul 14

Haley Addy

Moises Arroyo

Marie Gardner



Jul 15

Parker Boulware

Jul 16

Dion Metze

Jul 18

Dylan Whitaker

Jul 21

Annette Price

Jul 27

Diane Boulware

Jan Schofield

Jul 29

Randy Wise

Jul 30

Joe Koon

Jul 31

Thomas Martin

Mary Frances Sease



Jul 02

Terry & Allison Swygert

Jul 15

Tom & Jamie Allen

Jul 24

Gene & Jane Sexton

*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.*

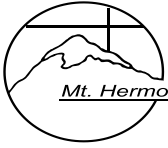
We are sorry we did not have the information in time of printing!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 6:00 pm Worship Team 6:35 pm Devotions	2 6:35 pm Devotions	3 9:00 am Food Pantry (Doris Maddox & Angie Hydrick) 6:35 pm Devotions	4 6:35 pm Devotions	5 9:00 am Food Pantry (Allison Swygert & Lynn Bouknight) 6:35 pm Devotions	6 6:35 pm Devotions
7 9:00 am Worship Live Stream 6:35 pm Devotions	8 6:35 pm Devotions	9 6:35 pm Devotions	10 9:00 am Food Pantry (Mary Koon & Jo Leach) 6:35 pm Devotions	11 6:35 pm Devotions	12 9:00 am Food Pantry (Allison Swygert & Lynn Bouknight) 6:35 pm Devotions	13 6:35 pm Devotions
14 9:00 am Worship Live Stream 10:30 am Sunday School ZOOM 1:30 pm Council Meets: Zoom 6:35 pm Devotions	15 6:00 pm Zoom outreach 6:35 pm Devotions	16 6:35 pm Devotions	17 9:00 am Food Pantry 6:35 pm Devotions	18 6:35 pm Devotions	19 9:00 am Food Pantry (Allison Swygert & Lynn Bouknight) 6:35 pm Devotions	20 6:35 pm Devotions
21 9:00 am Worship Live Stream 10:30 am Drive In Communion 6:35 pm Devotions	22 6:35 pm Devotions	23 6:35 pm Devotions	24 9:00 am Food Pantry (Doris Maddox & Angie Hydrick) 6:35 pm Devotions	25 6:35 pm Devotions	26 9:00 am Food Pantry (Allison Swygert & Lynn Bouknight) 6:35 pm Devotions	27 6:35 pm Devotions
28 9:00 am Worship Live Stream 10:30 am Sunday School ZOOM 6:35 pm Devotions	29 6:35 pm Devotions	30 6:35 pm Devotions				

Please see “calendar of events” at WeAreMtHermon .com for updates.

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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COLUMBIA, SC

Rev. Gina D. Metze, *Pastor* 803.951.3784 *PastorGina@WeAreMtHermon.com*
Ruthie Brannen, *Cantor* *RuthieBrannen@gmail.com*
Susan LaCons, *Parish Administrator* *Susan@WeAreMtHermon.com*

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www.WeAreMtHermon.com
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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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