

# AROUND THE MOUNTAIN

January 2021



## *Peace and Joy and Normalcy in 2021*

**Merry Christmas & Happy New Year to each of you.**

*“Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.” John 14:6-7*

As we continue the Christmas Season, we continue to celebrate the birth of Christ as a child in a manger. We celebrate God’s love for humanity by sending his Son as a human, but a divine being.

God calls us to be a light to the world. God calls us to be a light in bright places, as well as dark places. We will continue to be the light of Christ together at Mt. Hermon, in West Columbia, in South Carolina, and in the world, together.

- What makes your light shine?
- What brings you undeniable joy?
- Where are you taking your light for the sake of Christ in 2021?

These are the questions for us to ponder as we enter the new year with our eyes wide open for opportunities to serve others. I am excited about the new year and eager to see how God will use us to spread the light of His son in this community. Rest and make sure your batteries are charged. We have a lot of shining (for the sake of the Gospel) to do in 2021. Let us be the light together!

Sister in Christ,

*Pastor Gina*

*Advent and Christmas Eve was a blessed time. 2020 was not what any of us had expected on January 1, 2020. However, we know that God was present every moment during our times of shut-down and quarantining. We are blessed that you responded to the adventure of LiveStreaming and financially supported that ministry. It will continue to be a permanent ministry.*

*We are also blessed that during these times, the church financially supported the ministries of the church and we worked tirelessly to make worship REMAIN at the center of how we show our praise to God. We also very appreciate the wonderful, generous gift which you gave us on Christmas Eve. It is a blessing to serve God with you!*

*Thank you*

***Pastor Gina & Ruthie***

# AROUND THE MOUNTAIN

## Congregational Council Minutes December 13, 2020 via Zoom

**ATTENDANCE:** All were present

**CARES AND CONCERNS:** Praying for Earl Sease's sister in rehab, Bob Champion, Angie Hydrick's sister, Richard Lindler, John Catoe, and Marvin Mathias

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

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

### **REPORTS:**

- Pastor Gina: Written report received. Robert and Joy Haygood to join church (Marion Leaphart's sister).
- Treasurer: Written report received for November 2020
- Financial Secretary: Written report received for November 2020 to present

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

1. Worship: Written report received from December 7<sup>th</sup> meeting. Council member requests considering two Christmas Eve services for 2021.
2. Outreach: Distributed 42 Thanksgiving meals. A successful Free Garage Sale helped 35 families. Angel Tree was able to distribute presents to 36 individuals. Committee thanks everyone who contributed to each event and/or volunteered. Food Pantry will also distribute Christmas meals.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Cross on Sanctuary: Signtech currently building cross.
2. Health & Safety Task Force: Written report received from December 10<sup>th</sup> meeting. We are currently seating members every third pew in sanctuary with maximum capacity of 50 members. We could change seating to every other pew allowing 80 members in sanctuary. We cannot use the fellowship hall for overflow because of inadequate ventilation. Motion to approve increasing church capacity to 80 members. **APPROVED**
3. Teach team: Children Focus of sermon at December 20<sup>th</sup> service

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Church Council election: Members voted to add Blake Allen, Mike Rawl, Sheila Starkey, Allison Swygert, and Jackson Price. Members who completed their 3 year term were thanked for their service: Ann Addy, Diane Boulware, Devona Price, Alyson Price, and Mitch Stevens.
2. Christmas/Advent/Epiphany offering: Motion to approve designating offerings in these envelopes be given to food pantry. **APPROVED**
3. Vacation pay: Pastor Gina and Ruthie Brannon both worked thru their vacation time due to extenuating circumstances of COVID and live streaming startup. Motion to pay them their regular salary for those days and not at a substitute's rate as a one time situation. Ruthie would receive \$807 and Pastor Gina \$3000. Parker would be allowed to take from church funds based on his discretion to cover the overage. **APPROVED**
4. Cemetery marker for Eddie Ellisor: His marker in the cemetery lists his name in addition to his wife, Virginia Ellisor. He received written permission from Ella Sharpe estate's personal representative, Rhonda Blackwell, in 2014 to be buried in her square. The letter clearly states that only he was to be buried in one of the corner's of the square and no space was to be granted for his wife. His wife knew this but at his death January 8, 2020, included herself on the marker in the cemetery. After this occurred, Ann Addy, chairperson of the Cemetery Committee, contacted Mr. Jack Bryan who also handled Ella Sharpe's estate and he reaffirmed this was the agreement reached between the two parties and sent in a letter confirming this in 2020. Motion to send Virginia Ellisor a certified letter containing the Cemetery policies of Mt. Hermon, a copy of the 2014 and 2020 letters, and giving her 60 days to remove the marker from our cemetery. She will also have to have the new marker approved by church council before its placement in the cemetery. **APPROVED** **cont'd. . .**

# AROUND THE MOUNTAIN

5. Election of Church Council officers: All current positions were voted to continue for 2021. President: Ronnie Fulmer, Vice President: Marion Leaphart, Secretary: Robin Ellisor, Treasurer: Parker Boulware, and Financial Secretary: Annette Price.
6. Next council meeting will be January 10th with devotions by Marion Leaphart. Council will be installed at church on December 20<sup>th</sup>.

Robin Ellisor, Council Secretary

## Treasurer Report January 2020 - December 2020

	<u>Actual Income</u>	<u>Actual Expenses</u>	<u>Difference</u>
<b>Current &amp; Benevolence</b>	226,449.57	216,548.17	9,901.40
<b>Building Improvement</b>	18,241.48	16,603.15	1,638.33
<b>Building on Holy Ground</b>	85,794.12	67,000.00	18,794.12



### Live Stream Check-ins

November 29 <sup>th</sup>	109+
December 6 <sup>th</sup>	99+
December 13 <sup>th</sup>	93+
December 20 <sup>th</sup>	95+
December 24 <sup>th</sup>	173+
December 27 <sup>th</sup>	141+

**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>

# AROUND THE MOUNTAIN



The Outreach Team would like to thank the congregation for your outpouring of love shown through your generous donations to the Angel Tree, Free Garage Sale and the Food Pantry. Your donations have helped brighten the lives of so many people.

## **Food Pantry**

Our Food Pantry continues to serve our community on Wednesdays and Saturdays. Just as we provided a Thanksgiving Meal, we were able to provide a Christmas Meal for our Food Pantry patrons.



## **Mark your bibles**



### **January 3<sup>rd</sup>**

Jeremiah 31:7-14  
Psalm 147:12-20  
Ephesians 1:3-14  
John 1:[1-9] 10-18

### **January 24<sup>th</sup>**

Jonah 3:1-5, 10  
Psalm 62:5-12  
1 Corinthians 7:29-31  
Mark 1:14-20

### **January 10<sup>th</sup>**

Genesis 1:1-5  
Psalm 29  
Acts 19:1-7  
Mark 1:4-11

### **January 31<sup>st</sup>**

Deuteronomy 18:15-20  
Psalm 111  
1 Corinthians 8:1-13  
Mark 1:21-28

### **January 17<sup>th</sup>**

1 Samuel 3:1-10 [11-20]  
Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18  
1 Corinthians 6:12-20  
John 1:43-51

## MT HERMON PRAYS ...

***In the hospital*** Marvin Mathias, *Prisma Baptist*

### ***Continual Prayers***

Patricia Bachman, *Carolina Gardens*

Alberta Berry, *home*

Hazel Bockus, *Carolina Gardens*

Nell Buff, *home*

Margie Hook, *home*

Rev. Everette Price, *home*

June Roof, *Rapha*

Tom Roof, *home*

Lena Wessinger, *Presby. Home*

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

Buddy Hydrick

Jo Leach

Jane Sexton

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

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*

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*

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 Hodgins, *friends of Herb Bucknam*

Ted Franklin, *cousin of Cyndi Leaphart*

Kathy Brown, *friend of congregation*

Donnie Shumpert, *brother-in-law of Andrea Bowers & Jan Schofield*

Jim Maddox, *son of Doris Maddox*

Melinda Ruff, *friend of Gene & Jan Schofield*

Tressa Oswalt, *sister of Angie Hydrick*

Sally Ortmann, *friend of Ricky & Fran Bouknight*

Don Cope, *friend of Ricky & Lynn Bouknight*

The Logan Sharpe family, *teammate/friend of Skyler Miller*

Patricia Barber, *sister of Danny Scott*

Catherine Ortmann, *friend of Ricky & Fran Bouknight*

# AROUND THE MOUNTAIN



**Jan 05**

Karly Addy  
Hazel Bockus  
Alyssa Stevens

**Jan 06**

Robin Ellisor

**Jan 08**

Bryan Addy

**Jan 09**

Dani Martin

**Jan 10**

Bobby Carver

**Jan 11**

Rebekah Swygert

**Jan 17**

Shirley Cooper

**Jan 21**

Barbara Corley

Cindy Price

**Jan 22**

Joel Price, Sr.

**Jan 23**

Cindy Kleckley

**Jan 26**

Jordan Thompson

**Jan 31**

Ruth Card



**Jan 15**

James Hallman &  
Jean Shealy

**Jan 17**

Keith & Emily Morris

*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!*

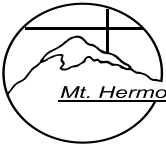
# AROUND THE MOUNTAIN

## WE ARE MT HERMON

## January 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>3</b> 9:00 am 10:30 am 6:35 pm Worship Live Stream Drive in Communion Devotions	<b>4</b> 10:00 am 6:00 pm 6:35 pm Staff Meeting Worship Team Devotions	<b>5</b> 6:00 pm 6:35 pm Executive committee Devotions	<b>6</b> 9:00 am 6:35 pm 7:00 pm Food Pantry (Angie Hydrick & Doris Maddox) Devotions Epiphany Worship	<b>7</b> 6:00 pm 6:35 pm Zoom: health and safety task force Devotions	<b>1</b> 6:35 pm New Year's Day Devotions	<b>2</b> 9:00 am 6:35 pm Food Pantry (Mike Rawi & Laura Stevens) Devotions
<b>10</b> 9:00 am 3:00 pm 6:00 pm 6:35 pm Worship Live Stream Confirmation Class Council Meets Devotions	<b>11</b> 10:00 am 6:35 pm Staff Meeting Devotions	<b>12</b> 6:35 pm Devotions	<b>13</b> 9:00 am 6:35 pm Food Pantry (Diane Boulware & Mary Frances Sease) Devotions	<b>14</b> 6:35 pm Devotions	<b>15</b> 6:35 pm Devotions	<b>16</b> 9:00 am 6:35 pm Food Pantry (Lynn Bouknight & Karen Nicholson) Devotions
<b>17</b> 9:00 am 10:30 am 6:35 pm Worship Live Stream Drive in Communion Devotions	<b>18</b> 10:00 am 6:00 pm 6:35 pm Martin Luther King Jr. Day Staff Meeting Outreach Team Meeting via Zoom Devotions	<b>19</b> 6:35 pm Devotions	<b>20</b> 9:00 am 6:35 pm Food Pantry (Frank & Bonnie Bouknight) Devotions	<b>21</b> 6:35 pm Devotions	<b>22</b> 6:35 pm Devotions	<b>23</b> 9:00 am 6:35 pm Food Pantry (Koon Family) Devotions
<b>24</b> 9:00 am 10:30 am 3:00 pm 6:35 pm Worship Live Stream Sunday School ZOOM Confirmation Class Devotions	<b>25</b> 10:00 am 6:35 pm Staff Meeting Devotions	<b>26</b> 6:35 pm Devotions	<b>27</b> 9:00 am 6:35 pm Food Pantry (Ann Bouknight & Annette Price) Devotions	<b>28</b> 6:35 pm Devotions	<b>29</b> 6:35 pm Devotions	<b>30</b> 9:00 am 6:35 pm Food Pantry (Terry & Allison Swygert) Devotions
<b>31</b> 9:00 am 6:35 pm Worship Live Stream 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*  
 Matt Hansen, *Seminarian* *Matthew.Hansen@my.lr.edu*

**Table of Contents**

[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

Letter from Pastor . . . . .	1
Council Notes . . . . .	2
Community News . . . . .	3-5
Birthdays and Anniversaries . . .	6
Calendar . . . . .	7