

AROUND THE MOUNTAIN

May 2025



TRANSFORMED?

² Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect ³ For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. Romans 12:2-3

After the Lenten journey with Jesus to the cross, hearing the words of his arrest, denial, death, and crucifixion does it change – or maybe a better word – transformed your relationship with Jesus?

As we entered the 40 days of the Lenten journey, we are to come out transformed followers of Christ. Now that we enter the 50 days after Easter, this is a time to enter a season of making those transformations part of your daily lives.

Remember that Paul's letter to the Romans was to a group of people whom he had not ministered to face-to-face. He writes this letter to them as if they know very little. He is thorough in his writings to the Romans. Paul must have known that self-examination was something the Romans were lacking. We use the Lenten season to do this self-examination. We use the time to begin to think of our own self discerning for the will of God in our lives. We take a time to move through a non-impaired judgement of ourselves. Now what?

Now that we have seen and heard that God raised Jesus from the dead, we can live into the realization that our sins are forgiven. We are cleansed again and we can stand up straight and live into the very being which God intended us to live. We don't have to live behind a veil of darkness and shame. We can live in the full and complete presence of Jesus, the One who makes us new, again!

A Christmas song, O Come, All Ye Faithful includes a chorus:
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

This chorus still is true in this time of renewal. Our Lord is to be worshipped and adored both as a babe in Bethlehem, and a Savior on Sunday. O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

*Sister in Christ,
Pastor Gina
#3011LeaphartRoad
#WeAreMtHermon*

AROUND THE MOUNTAIN

CHURCH COUNCIL HAPPENINGS

Motions from April Meeting

The Worship Team recommends to the Support Team that the audio and video in the Fellowship Hall be accessed. The components are older and outdated and most of it is not operable.

Congregational Council Minutes March 2025

ATTENDANCE: Absent – Cyndi Leaphart and Jennifer Miller

CARES AND CONCERNS: Prayers for Greg, a repeat visitor to Mt. Hermon, who is going through a difficult time; Fran Bouknight's neighbor, Ann, who was recently diagnosed with bone cancer; Cyndi Thurman's move to Encompass; Dennis Thurman's return home and his recovery from illness; and thanksgiving at the news that Rebekah Swygert Boatwright has been called to be the associate pastor at Pisgah Lutheran in Lexington and will be moving home soon.

MEMBER CARE:

ADOPTION OF AGENDA: Accepted as presented with the addition of SC Synod Assembly as Item #1 under New Business.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES: No minutes were presented as there was no February meeting.

REPORTS:

- Pastor Gina: Report for March 2025 was submitted.
- Treasurer: 1a Balance Sheet Last Month for February 2024, 1b Monthly Budget Comparison Last Month for February 2025, and 1c Designated Funds Last Month February 2025 were submitted.
- Financial Secretary: Funds Report for February 2025 was submitted.
- Executive Committee:

Team Reports/Recommendations:

Team for Ministry:

Care: Written report submitted. The Travel Group is going to Greenville on Saturday to see The Sound of Music.

Outreach: Written report submitted.

Support: Written report submitted.

Finance: No report submitted.

Teach: No report submitted. The Easter Eggstravaganza is coming up and the Team discussed Children's Choir and how and when to offer it.

Worship: Written report submitted.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. None

NEW BUSINESS:

1. SC Synod Assembly – June 12-14, 2025 – This event will be held in Charleston this year. We can send two adults and one extra person under the age of 30. Let Pastor Gina know if you are interested in attending.
2. Next Meeting: Sunday, April 6, 2025, at 11:30am – We will meet a week earlier due to our regular meeting falling on Palm Sunday.
3. Next Month's Devotions and Lock Up – Cyndi Leaphart

Sheila Eargle, Council Secretary

AROUND THE MOUNTAIN

COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS

Mt. Hermon Picnic – May 4 at 11:30 am. Plan to join us for food, fun, and fellowship! Bring a picnic dish to share and a bag chair to hang out in. The church will provide bottled water and juice boxes.

We will have dedication for the new Pickleball court, music provided by Ryan Price, and games for all ages!

Casual dress for Worship that day!

**In case of rain, event will be moved to the Fellowship Hall*

Please join us!

MT. HERMON PICNIC

MAY 4, 2025
11:30 am

Please bring:
a dish to share
a bag chair to hang out in

Lots of Activities:
New Pickleball Court Dedication
Music by Ryan Price
Games for all ages



If you have anyone graduating from High School or College, please contact the Church office at 803-240-3143. Sunday School classes will not meet.

Our Church's Graduates

AROUND THE MOUNTAIN

ATTENDANCE REPORT

	<u>In-person</u>	<u>Live Streaming</u>	<u>Total</u>
April 6	103	129	232
April 13	121	129	250
Maundy Thursday	58		58
Good Friday	68		68
April 20 Sunrise	73		73
April 20 9:00	152	203	355
April 27	95	125	220

CARE TEAM HAPPENINGS

The Care Team meets on the 1st Monday of every month at 5:30 pm in the conference room. If you would like to serve on this team, please contact Alyson Price and Sheila Starkey or any team member and attend the next meeting!



SUPPER CLUBS

He-Brews Supper Clubs will meet May 24, 2025.

This will give our members an opportunity to share a meal together, get to know others in our congregation, and encourage one another in our faith journey.

Sign-up sheet is in the breezeway, or you can also register online. The deadline to register is **May 18**.

Care Connection

The Care Connection Program is off to a great start with several people enjoying the daily text. If you live alone, join the Care Team's Care Connection! It's as simple as a quick text in the morning to say hi, send an emoji, or whatever you prefer to be sure your "Care Connection Partner" is safe and well.

If you are interested in participating in this daily check in, please contact Sheila Starkey at starkey.sheila@gmail.com or text 803-315-2990.



AROUND THE MOUNTAIN



Coffee, Food, and Fellowship

Join us in **celebrating our 2025 Graduates** on May 18. Coffee, Food and Fellowship starts at 10:30 am in the Fellowship Hall. If you have anyone graduating from High School or College, please contact Sheila Starkey at starkey.sheila@gmail.com. Sunday School classes will not meet.



Porch Visits

Porch Visits are scheduled for **May 25** at 2 pm. We will visit some of our shut-ins where we'll have conversation and singing! All are welcome. Let us know if you would like to join us.

Book Recommendations!

I am so happy I can recommend the book Experiencing God by Henry Blackaby (1994). It is about our true love relationship with God. God initiates an invitation. We adjust, act, and obey. He speaks to us through the Word, prayer, Church, and circumstances. I look around at all the ministries He has called this Congregation to, and I am amazed and thankful for all the devoted people here. This shows that we are all one with Christ. Wow! This book is not in print anymore, but you can get used paperbacks on Amazon for inexpensive as well as I have left my copy in the lobby by the church office for people to peruse. For any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at 803-920-0222.

Your loving sister in Christ, Myra Kinard



AROUND THE MOUNTAIN

OUTREACH TEAM HAPPENINGS

*The Outreach Team meets on the 3rd Thursday of every month at 6:00 pm in the conference room. If you would like to serve on this team, please contact **Bonnie Bouknight, Melanie Jackson, or any team member** and attend the next meeting.*



Outreach Columbia- The Outreach Team is still looking for volunteers for the food bank on Saturday. We need help with praying with participants, to load groceries and restocking set ups. This project has grown a lot in the past few years and could use more assistance. Please consider volunteering for the very rewarding project. Please contact Diane Boulware or any member of the Outreach Team. After a successful

trip to feed, distribute backpacks and pray with the unhomed we are going to continue this ministry on a more often basis. Therefore, supplies are still needed for the backpacks in the future. Also, we love to have anyone who might be interested in helping join us. Supplies Needed: Socks, Sunscreen Lotion, Toothpaste, Tarps, Wet Wipes, Tissues Chapstick, Gloves Breakfast Bars, Pop Tarts, Lance Crackers, Bottled Water, Reusable Grocery Bags, Vienna Sausages, Packaged Meats- tear open, Hand Sanitizer, Deodorant, Flashlights, Stocking Caps, New or gently used blankets and coats. All items need to be small or travel size to fit in the backpacks. Thank you for considering helping with the Outreach projects.

We will be starting **Adopt-A-Highway** pickup from the church parking lot at 9 AM on Saturday, May 17, 2025. Please join us if you can. The next pickup will be on August 16th.



THE PINEVIEW RURITANS CLUB SHOE DRIVE

Please donate new or gently used shoes. They can be adult, childrens, womens, or mens shoes. There is a box in the breezeway for you to

drop the shoes in. The shoe drive will run through May 31st. If you have any questions, please contact Charlene Corley or Diane Boulware.

AROUND THE MOUNTAIN

SUPPORT TEAM HAPPENINGS

*The Support Team meets on the 4th Tuesday of every month at 6:30 pm in the conference room. If you would like to serve on this team, please contact **Ronnie Fulmer** or any team member and attend the next meeting.*

The Support Team continues to monitor the physical buildings for maintenance. The had a thorough cleaning of the outdoor worship space the week before Sunrise service.

TEACH TEAM HAPPENINGS

*The Teach Team meets on the 3^d Sunday of every month at 11:30am in the conference room. If you would like to serve on this team, please contact **Mary Koon, Cyndi Leaphart,** or any team member and attend the next meeting.*

VBS Volunteer Request: Teach Team is excited to offer 3 nights of Vacation Bible School in June! We need MANY VOLUNTEERS to make light work of sharing God's Love with our community! Please consider areas where you feel called to serve. A sign-up sheet will be available throughout the month of May 2025.

Dates: June 23, 24, 25

GUIDES NEEDED: Preschool, Lower Elementary, Upper Elementary, Youth

ROTATIONS NEEDED: Arts & Crafts, Snack time, Story Telling, Team Games

GENERAL SUPPORT NEEDED: Registration / Check In Table, Meal planning, Meal preparation and Clean Up.



Our Church's Graduates

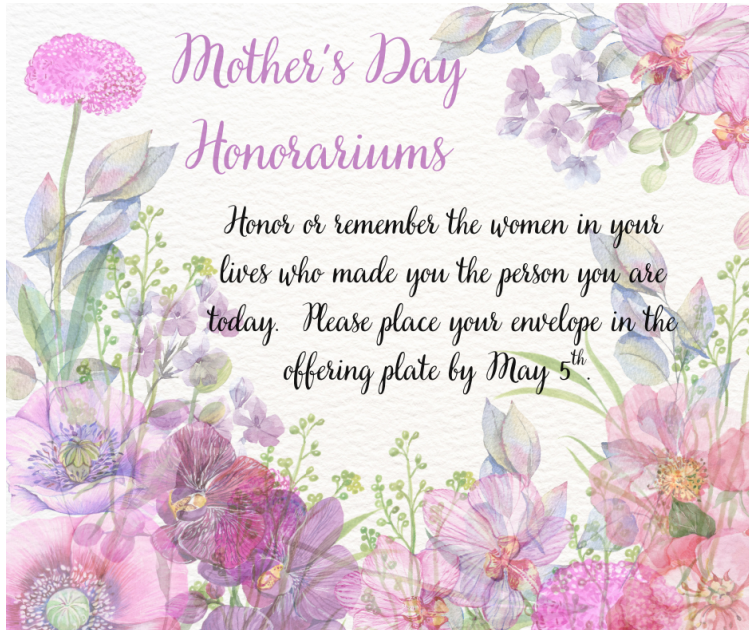
Graduates: Don't forget to let us know. We don't want to leave anyone out!

Graduates are invited to wear caps and gowns to worship on May 18th

AROUND THE MOUNTAIN

WORSHIP TEAM HAPPENINGS

The Worship Team meets on the 4th Sunday at 11:30am in the conference room. If you would like to serve on this team, please contact Marion Leaphart or any team member and attend the next meeting.



Flowers from your mother?

You may have noticed the flowerbeds outside the church office. The plans are to make these two spaces perennial gardens. If you don't know what that is: They are flowers which come back each year. Iris, daylilies, lantana, shasta daisies, etc.

Maybe you have some of your family flowers which you might want to share in these flower beds. If so, please contact the church office as we work to design and ultimately, plant these beds.

The funds from the Mother's Day honorariums will go towards purchasing additional flowers for the landscaping in these beds. In order to be included in the honorarium bulletin, we need your information to the church office by May 5th.

You may email it to office@WeAreMtHermon.com.

**COMMUNITY
MEMORIAL DAY
CONCERT** with the
Mastersingers with
Reception to follow on
May 26th at 6:00 pm.



**Honoring Our Brave Heroes!
Community Memorial Day
Concert with the
Mastersingers**

May 26, 2025 6:00 pm
Mt Hermon
3011 Leaphart Rd
West Columbia, SC



Join us for a community memorial service as we remember those who gave their lives for our country. Let us honor their sacrifice and celebrate their legacy together.

AROUND THE MOUNTAIN

SERVING IN WORSHIP

	May 4	May 11 Mother's Day	May 18	May 25
Ushers	Joel Price, Jr.	Teddy Koon	Arron Kinard	Herb Bucknam
	Cindy Price	Joey Koon	Frank Bouknight	Kirby Johnson
Crucifer	Spencer Price	Jake Dugan	Quentin Kinard	Cameron Bucknam
Acolyte	Jaquelynn Hawlik	Sam Koon	Walker Kinard	Brayden Johnson
Lector	Devona Price	Charlene Corley	Diane Boulware	Jim Whitaker
Comm Assts	Joel Price, Jr.	Wayne Corley	Quentin Kinard	Kirby Johnson
	Joel Price, Sr.	DJ Plummer	Walker Kinard	Cameron Bucknam
	Spencer Price	Jake Dugan	Parker Boulware	David Marsh
	Devona Price Wynne Price	Sam Koon	Diane Boulware	Scotty Marsh
	Mary Price Marie Gardner	Charlene Corley	Elyse Kinard	Brayden Johnson
Audio	Mike Rawl	Arron Kinard	Blake Allen	Brandon Donaldson
Video	Leah Rawl	Quentin Kinard	Breanna Metze	Marie Gardner
Nursery	Brittany Allen	Cassie Swygert	Charlene Corley	Melanie Jackson
	Alyson Price	Laura Carroll	DJ Plummer	Katie Donaldson
Flowers	Breanna Metze	Carroll's	David, Scottie & Jacob	Fulmer's

SERVING IN MAY

COUNCIL REP: Jerry Price

ALTAR GUILD: Jennifer Price

TABULATORS: Larry Amick, Angie Hydrick

** If you are unable to serve, please ask someone to serve in your absence.*

AROUND THE MOUNTAIN

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES



♥ May 01 Brandon & Katie Donaldson

May 02 Jenny Scott
May 04 Michelle Gantt
May 05 Adam Bryant
May 06 Ricky Bouknight
May 09 Sydney Bucknam, Emily Carroll

♥ May 09 Mike & Leah Rawl

May 10 Devona Price
May 11 Abbey Carroll

♥ May 11 Dion & Pastor Gina Metze

May 12 Kenneth Bouknight
May 16 Kitty Boulware, Lauvenia Butts

♥ May 17 Jeff & Alyson Price

May 18 Johnny Lewis

♥ May 18 Moises & Emily Arroyo

May 21 Courtney Bucknam
May 22 Dylan Mills

♥ May 22 Blake & Lauren Donaldson

♥ May 22 Ronnie & Debbie Fulmer

May 23 Missy Addy
May 26 Herb Bucknam, Joel Price, Jr.

♥ May 26 Perry & Trudy Bouknight

May 27 Patricia Bachman, Kim Rayer

♥ May 29 Robert & Joye Haygood

May 30 Ryan Price

Please let the office know if your information is not printed in this listing.
office@WeAreMtHermon.com or 803.240-3143

AROUND THE MOUNTAIN

MT HERMON PRAYS

Continual Prayer

Patricia Bachman, *Asbury Arms*
Lauvenia Butts, *Lakeside Place*
Doris Carver, *Presby Home*
Georgianna Gray, *home*
James Hallman, *Lakeside Place*
Marie Kleckley, *Lex Ext Care*

Gloria Mathias, *home*
Jane Sexton, *Phoenix Asst Living*
Jean Shealy, *Lakeside Place*
Cyndi Thurman, *home*
Linda Waters-Hamilton, *home*

Members in Special Need of Prayer

Chris Carroll	Debbie Duval	Debbie Fulmer
Michelle Gantt	Joye Haygood	Frankie Jackson
Dennis Thurman	Mary Frances Sease	Jim Whitaker
Wynne Price		

Family and Friends Who Have Requested Prayer

Billy Huckabee, *friend of Danny Scott*
Stetson Cooper, *grandson of Dan Cooper*
Paula Miller, *friend of Brittany Allen*
Dawn McIlwain-Merck, *friend of Robin Ellisor*
John Catoe, *family of the Ellisors*
Mrs. William L. Coleman Jr (Carolyn),
 friends of Marion & Cyndi Leaphart
Iris Wellborn, *sister of Earl Sease*
Mrs. Cruz, *teacher of Abbey Carroll*
Phil Dennis, *brother of Lavonne Roof*
Nancy Lail-Hulon & Family,
 friends of Debra & Dave Butts
Sandra Watson, *aunt of Courtney Bucknam*
Jaimie Womack, *friend of Ryan & Jennifer Price*
Cynthia Rabon, *friend of Ryan & Jennifer Price*
Blase Rhine,
 grandson of Frank & Bonnie
Bouknight
Cynthia Mallard,
 friend of Sheila Starkey & Beth Jordan
Jeslyn, *friend of Scarlett Bryant*

Max Schronce,
 friend of the David & Scottie Marsh
Faye McCartha, *mother of Debra Butts*
Robbie Rector, *friend Jennifer Miller*
Bill Geddings, *father of Allison Swygert*
Jane Baxley, *cousin of Michelle Gantt*
Joyce Davis, *grandmother of Jaquelyn Hawlik*
Will & Summer Satcher,
 friend of Courtney Bucknam
Dorothy Collins, *friend of Ryan Price*
Lauren Addy, *friend of Kathy Cooper and Metz*
Sam Lockridge, *friend of Scottie Marsh*
Mary Duffie, *mother of Alyson Price*
Thelma Moyer, *mother of Diane Boulware*
Kaiden Howell, *friend of Jacquelynn*
Hawlik
Randy Stonehill, *friend of Ryan & Jennifer*
Linda Bennett, *mother of Beth Jordan*
Neice of *Abbey Carroll's teacher*
Linda Starkey,
 sister-in-law of Sheila Starkey



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

NON PROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT # 958
COLUMBIA, SC

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Rev. Gina D. Metze, *Pastor*
Roberta Smith *Parish Administrator*

803.951.3784
803.240.3143

PastorGina@WeAreMtHermon.com
Office@WeAreMtHermon.com

<i>Transformed?</i>	1
<i>Church Council Happenings</i>	2
<i>Community Happenings</i>	3
<i>Attendance Report</i>	4
<i>Care Team Happenings</i>	4
<i>Outreach Team Happenings</i>	6
<i>Support Team Happenings</i>	7
<i>Teach Team Happenings</i>	7
<i>Worship Team Happenings</i>	8
<i>Serving in Worship</i>	9
<i>Birthdays and Anniversaries</i>	10
<i>Mt Hermon Prays</i>	11