

# AROUND THE MOUNTAIN

December 2025

## Journey to the Manger



Christmas Eve worship service will be a little different style this year. The 4:00 pm worship will focus on the children's view of the first nativity. The children will be the "little animals" around the nativity as adults will present the nativity story. The children will be given special animal headbands and will sing carols. Each child will take home a nativity scene so they can continue to share the story with their families. Invite your neighbors and friends to this special service!

The 7:00 pm will be a Traditional Worship with Holy Communion and Candlelight sis also a special service. Invite your neighbors and friends to this special service too!



# AROUND THE MOUNTAIN

## PATIENCE AND ANTICIPATION



*<sup>7</sup>Be still before the Lord, and wait patiently for him;  
do not fret over those who prosper in their way,  
over those who carry out evil devices Psalm 37:7-9*

What does it mean to be patient? What if you are someone who wants nothing but good to happen to humankind and you can see destruction coming?

What does it mean to be patient? What if you know something incredible is about to happen and those around you are about to be totally shocked – in a good way – and you already know what it about to happen, but you just can't tell them?

What does it mean if you were trusted to keep a secret – have patience and let the story unfold – and you tell the secret? You probably will not be entrusted with the secret again.

Paul wrote to the church in Galatia ... the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience. Having patience is one of the fruits of the Spirit. Patience is a marker for discipleship. It means we acknowledge that patience comes from living with the Holy Spirit inside of us.

The Advent Season is the four weeks leading up to Christmas. This season is a season of patience and a season of anticipation. This season was once thought to be the anticipation of the birth of Jesus – after all – that is the marker for the end of the season. The four candles of the Advent wreath are lit and the center candle – the Christ candle is lit on Christmas Eve. I invite you to approach this season of Advent not in anticipation of Jesus's birth – but rather – the anticipation of Jesus' return.

Sometimes we must have patience and other times we must be bold and act in ways that throw patience to the wind. The story of Jesus' birth, life, death, and resurrection is just that kind of story that we must go boldly into the world to share.

There are many ways that you can share the love of Christ with this town! We have both an angel tree, additional Christmas bags through the food pantry, Shock and Claus, Advent worship on Wednesday's, Sunday worship, and two services on Christmas Eve. Don't experience these moments alone! Think of someone right now who needs to hear this good news - a neighbor, coworker, family member, or friend. Invite them personally, offer them a ride, sit with them. Sometimes the greatest act of boldness is simply saying, 'Come with me.' We are God's people on a mission. Go and make a difference in the world!

*Sister in Christ,  
Pastor Gina*

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## CHURCH COUNCIL HAPPENINGS

### Motion from the November Council meeting

None

### Congregational Council Minutes October 2025

**ATTENDANCE:** Absent – Mackenzie Burns, Mary Koon, Jennifer Miller

**CARES AND CONCERNS:** Prayers for Fran Bouknight's niece, Melissa; Cyndi Leaphart's co-worker who was recently deployed; Terry Swygert's former co-worker who was killed in a carjacking incident; Danny Scott's niece, Melissa, who recently had spine surgery; and continued healing for Pastor Gina after a bout with kidney stones.

**MEMBER CARE:** A question was raised about how to hand families that are not attending but are still members. We will continue to send correspondence until further notice.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA:** Accepted as presented

**ADOPTION OF MINUTES:** Accepted as presented

#### **REPORTS:**

- Pastor Gina: Report for October 2025 was submitted. Aaron Head and Dylan Whitaker will be confirmed next week.
- Treasurer: 1a Balance Sheet Last Month for September 2025, 1b Budget Comparison Last Month September 2025, and 1c Designated Funds Last Month for September 2025 were submitted. We are short on budget at this time, and a Temple Talk will be presented to the congregation to make everyone aware of the situation.
- Financial Secretary: Funds Report for September 2025 and January-September 2025 were submitted.
- Executive Committee: Greg Bowman has signed a month-to-month lease agreement for the rental of the parsonage.

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

##### **Team for Ministry:**

**Care:** Written report submitted.

**Outreach:** Written report submitted. We will purchase candy, and a monetary donation will be made to Mt. Hebron for the Fall Festival.

**Support:** Written report submitted. A motion was made to give a Temple Talk regarding our finances on November 2, which is the first week of our Congregational Meeting. **PASSED unanimously.** Wayne Corley will give the talk, and Ronnie Fulmer will provide support.

**Finance:** Written report submitted.

**Teach:** No report submitted.

**Worship:** Written report submitted.

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

1. Director of Music Search Team – A salary budget for Irina, Ryan, and Josh for October 2025-January 2026 was presented. This budget will compensate the musicians at a rate comparable to what Svetlana Royal earned when she was here. They will be paid once a month. A recommendation was made to accept the Music Ministry Salary Budget as presented. **PASSED unanimously.**
2. Stage Curtain – The deposit has been paid, and work should begin in December.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Finance Team Recommendations – Finance Committee made a motion to accept the 2026 Spending Plan as presented. **PASSED unanimously.**
2. Nominations for 2026 Council Elections – Nominated by Church Council were: Jamie Addison, Diane Boulware, Angie Hydrick, Melanie Jackson, and Hayden Eargle (Youth Representative.)
3. Next Meeting: Sunday, November 9, 2025, at 11:30am
4. Next Month's Devotions and Lock Up – Ronnie Fulmer

Sheila Eargle, Council Secretary

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## ATTENDANCE REPORT

	<u>In-person</u>	<u>Live Streaming</u>	<u>Total</u>
Nov 02	125	147	272
Nov 09	107	138	245
Nov 16	88	133	221
Nov 23	93	142	235

## TREASURER REPORT

Loan Balance 10/30/2025 50,581.52

### 2025 October

	Actual Income	Actual Expense	Difference
Current & Benevolence	16,186.80	20,573.73	(4,386.93)
Building Improvement	1,485.00	493.67	991.33
Building Fund	6,015.00	4,974.48	1,040.52

### 2025 Year to Date

	Actual Income	Actual Expense	Difference
Current & Benevolence	194,695.72	218,690.92	(23,995.20)
Building Improvement	20,790.60	19,425.30	1,365.30
Building Fund	23,542.88	18,652.07	4,890.81



Altar Flowers

**The 2026 flower chart** is posted in the breezeway. Please sign up to remember or honor your loved ones. The cost of the flowers is \$65. You can place a check in the offering plate in the month when the flowers are placed on the altar.



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## COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS

Mempkin Abbey  
Creche Festival  
Saturday, December 6



Travel with us to Mempkin Abbey Creche Festival  
theme: Nativity in Wood and With Wood

**Bus leaves at 8:30 am**

Lunch after at Music Man's Bar-B-Que

*Reservations limited to 35 people - sign up in breezeway*

The 35 reservations for “Nativity in Wood and with Wood” at Mempkin Abbey have been requested. However, we have seats on the bus! Please come and enjoy the gardens and then of course, have lunch with the group. If you would like to add your name to the cancellation/waiting list, please call the church office.

thank  
you

**Spencer Price's**

**Eagle Project:** Thank you for your donations and continued support throughout my project and scouting career. In addition to building 8 portable showers and

bases, I was able to donate \$250 to Camp Adam Fisher to support type one diabetic children and their needs while attending camp.



**Newest disciples of Christ who call Mt Hermon “home”**

Please welcome Ryan Corley and Gina McKelvey.




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## **Mission Plan and Church Council**

Congratulations to the newly elected Church Council Members Jamie Addison, Diane Boulware, Melanie Jackson, Marion Leaphart and Hayden Eargle, youth.

The 2026 Mission Plan was accepted as presented to the congregation.



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 green Christmas Bulletin envelope or drop your check with the information in the offering plate. The information is needed in the church office by Wednesday, December 17th at 9:00am.  
*(if possible would you allow the poinsettias to be used in worship through the January 6th worship service.)*

**SHOCK & CLAUS**  
*December 13*  
Let's make someone's  
Christmas a little brighter!  
*contact Frankie Jackson for details*



## ***Shock and Claus***

Saturday December 13<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am at Cracker Barrel on Bush River Road. Each participant brings \$100. The cost of your meal will be paid out of the money collected and the remainder will be given to the server as a generous tip. Please contact Frankie or Melanie Jackson if you would like to attend or if you have any questions.



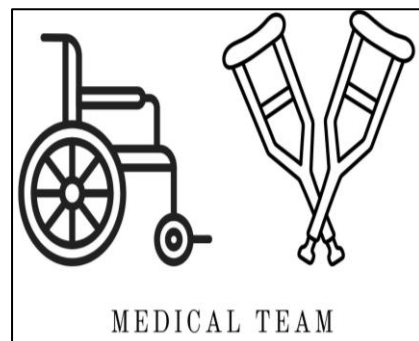
# AROUND THE MOUNTAIN

## CARE TEAM HAPPENINGS

*The Care Team meets on the 1<sup>st</sup> 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 members and attend the next meeting!*

### Medical Team Ministry

Already the Medical Team has received a number of medical devices which anyone may use. If you have medical equipment that you wish to donate to this ministry, please contact Myra Kinard at 803-920-0222.



**Our final Porch Visit** for this year is on Sunday, December 14 at 2 pm.

We will visit some of our shut ins and sing Christmas Carols. All are invited to come along and help make this season merry for members that are unable to attend worship.

Many members enjoyed food and fellowship during the **He-Brews Supper Club** nights this year. The 2026 Schedule will be out soon!



### Care Connection

Our morning check-ins continue. Each morning you'll receive a text (or phone call, if you prefer). Just a quick response is all that's needed to be sure everyone is ready for the day!

If you would like to be included, please contact the church office!

# AROUND THE MOUNTAIN

## OUTREACH TEAM HAPPENINGS

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

### Free Garage Sale

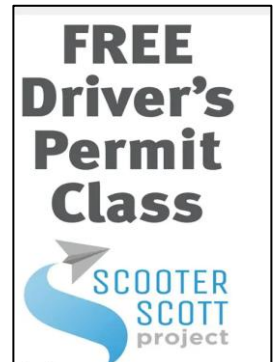
We will host a free garage sale for families in need of assistance on December 5. If you have items in good condition such as furniture, linens, blankets, towels, coats, socks, shoes, gloves, books, children's clothes, baby items, household items, toys, etc. that you are willing to donate, we are ready to start gathering now. The items can be placed in the room across from the youth room in the church basement. (The only adult clothing we are collecting are jackets, coats and shoes.) Your donations are another way that we are caring for God's children. 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 by calling her or emailing her at [mthoutreach@gmail.com](mailto:mthoutreach@gmail.com).



**Taking Donations Now!**

### Mark Your Calendars:

Next Driver's Education class will be December 1, 2, & 4<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 pm. Please contact the Scooter Scott project if you would like to be a student in this ministry.



### 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 tree is in the office lobby. To sponsor a child, please see the angels on the tree with the details for gift items. We have also included parents of the children on the tree with some of their needs. We will need the gifts by **Monday, December 8.**



# AROUND THE MOUNTAIN

## **SUPPORT TEAM HAPPENINGS**

*The Support Team meets on the 4<sup>th</sup> 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 members** and attend the next meeting.*

### **Repairs Needed / Maintenance Projects:**

- Parsonage new renter has moved in
- Updates for the Parsonage have been accomplished or are in the process of being addressed.
- We are getting quotes on the repairs needed at the Parsonage.
- Weed eating the cemetery grounds has been scheduled for Tuesday November 4<sup>th</sup>. Mulch will be refreshed at this time as well.

### **Future Maintenance & Projects:**

- Midlands Lock & Key to service locks around the church. The Scout Hut lock will be included in this work. The door knob may require replacement.
- The purchased lockbox (real estate type), to go on Scout Hut will be installed.
- A cabinet will be obtained for Pickleball “equipment storage” in the Scout Hut.
- The stage curtain from Georgia Stage is due for Delivery in December. Painting of the stage area will start in December once curtain is received.
- The sound system in the Fellowship Hall needs to be restored. Quotes are expected.
- Sound vents fabric in the Sanctuary needs replacing.
- Floor Boys is to be contacted regarding tile buckling in downstairs hallway.
- The downstairs ladies room commodes need to be fixed or replaced.

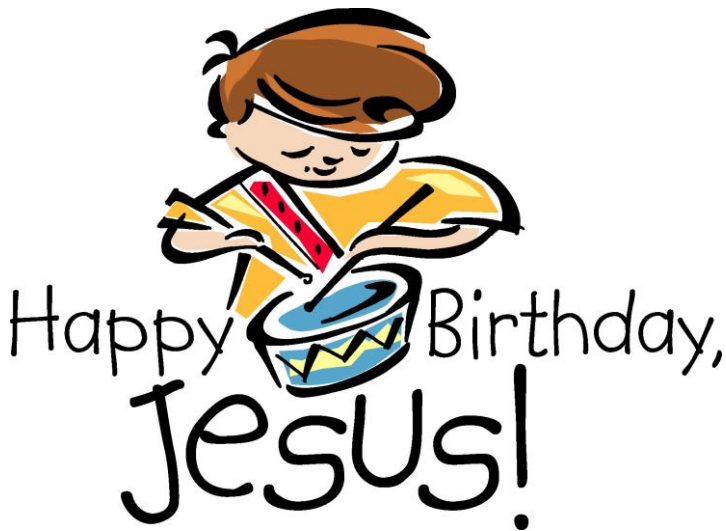


# AROUND THE MOUNTAIN

## TEACH TEAM HAPPENINGS

*The Teach Team meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.*

The 4:00 Christmas Eve worship will be an active nativity story this year. All worshippers be invited to be part of the telling of the birth of Jesus. There are no speaking parts, just our actions to tell the story. All children will practice at 10:30 on Sunday December 23 during the Sunday School hour. If you would like to help with costumes, please plan to stay in the sanctuary following worship on the 23<sup>rd</sup>.



# AROUND THE MOUNTAIN

## WORSHIP TEAM HAPPENINGS

*The Worship Team meets on the 4<sup>th</sup> 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.*



### Wednesday's Advent Worship

We will be using the Holden Evening Prayer service. The worship on the 3<sup>rd</sup> will be held in the sanctuary and the meal will be in the assembly room. December 10<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> worship and meal will be in the fellowship hall. All meals will be provided by the youth, and these donations will offset the cost of their events for the 2026 year.

**O come,  
let us see him and adore him!**

The 4 pm Children/Family worship will allow all who attend to participate in the telling of the birth of Jesus. From sheep to angels to Mary to Joseph to all of God's children. Come and invite others to come and learn so we can go and tell!



## Community Epiphany Service

COME AND WORSHIP  
JANUARY 6TH  
6:00PM  
RECEPTION TO FOLLOW





# AROUND THE MOUNTAIN

## SERVING IN WORSHIP

	Dec 7	Dec 14	Dec 21	Dec 24 Christmas Eve 7pm	Dec 28
Ushers	Jamie Addison	David Marsh	Arron Kinard	Marion Leaphart	Wayne Eargle
	Frank Bouknight	Herb Bucknam	Frankie Jackson	Cyndi Leaphart	Ronnie Fulmer
Crucifer	Chanler Coppens	Sydney Bucknam	Lawson Morris	Connor Eargle	Walker Kinard
Acolyte	Dylan Whitaker	Sam Koon	Quentin Kinard	Hayden Eargle	Brayden Morris
Lector	Charlene Corley	Danny Scott	Emily Morris	Ronnie Fulmer	Terry Swygert
Comm Assts	Chanler Coppens	Sydney Bucknam	Lawson Morris	Connor Eargle	Walker Kinard
	Dylan Whitaker	Sam Koon	Quentin Kinard	Hayden Eargle	Terry Swygert
	Charlene Corley	Danny Scott	Emily Morris	Ronnie Fulmer	Allison Swygert
	Cheri Coppens Wayne Corley	Jenny Scott	Melanie Jackson	Wynne Price	Brayden Morris
	Daryl Leigh Anthony Debbie Fulmer	Danni Martin	Kathy Cooper	Mary Price	Jerry Price
Audio	Marie Gardner	Arron Kinard	Blake Allen	Breanna Metze	Brandon Donaldson
Video	Marie Gardner	Quentin Kinard	Breanna Metze	Breanna Metze	Marie Gardner
Nursery	Alyson Price	Kay Bryant	Cassie Swygert		
	Brittany Allen	Larry Amick	Laura Carroll		
Flowers	Stevens	Seases	Bouknight/Price	Journey Class	Carrolls

### SERVING IN DECEMBER

COUNCIL REP: Jennifer Miller

ALTAR GUILD: Mary Frances Sease, Diane Boulware

TABULATORS: Diane Boulware, Ann Bouknight

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

# AROUND THE MOUNTAIN



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 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

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*  
Jean Shealy, *Lakeside Place*  
Cyndi Thurman, *home*  
Linda Waters-Hamilton, *home*

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

Lauren Addy  
Renee Greenbaum  
Doris Maddox  
Mary Frances Sease

Chris Carroll  
Joye Haygood  
Skyler Miller  
Jim Whitaker

Debbie Duval  
Frankie Jackson  
Dennis Thurman  
Elyse Kinard

### ***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*  
Jeslyn, *friend of Scarlett Bryant*  
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*

Sam Lockridge, *friend of Scottie Marsh*  
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*  
Singley & Parisano families,  
*friends of Sam & Kathy Cooper*  
Joy Jordan, *friend of Michelle Gantt*  
Dorris Layton,  
*friend of Earl & Mary Frances Sease*  
Jody Harper, *friend of Kelli Goff*  
Tressa Oswalt, *Angie Hydrick's sister*  
Wayne LaBounty, *friend of Herb Bucknam*  
Scarlett Redmon, *cousin of Kinard Family*  
Joe & Billy Corder, *friends of Ryan Price*  
Michael Williams,  
*son-in-law Georgianna Gray*  
Wayne & Kristen Watkins,  
*friends of Courtney Bucknam*  
Meredith Thorndike,  
*goddaughter of Wayne & Charlene Corley*  
Melissa, *niece of Ricky & Fran Bouknight*  
Anne Piercy, *friend of Kathy Whitaker*  
Addie, *granddaughter of LaVonne R*



# December 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Angel Tree FH: Free Garage Sale 4:30pm Driver Training Class 5:30pm CR: Care Team	2 Angel Tree FH: Free Garage Sale 4:30pm Driver Training Class 6:00pm GR: Grief Support	3 Angel Tree FH: Free Garage Sale 9:00am Food Pantry (Fran Bouknight, Angie Hydrick, Sherwood Garrett) 9:30am Staff Meeting 6:30pm Advent Worship 7:00pm Advent Meal	4 Angel Tree FH: Free Garage Sale 4:30pm Driver Training Class	5 Angel Tree FH: Free Garage Sale	6 Angel Tree FH: Free Garage Sale 8:30am Mepkin Abbey Trip 9:00am Food Pantry (Kinard Family)
7 Angel Tree 9:00am Worship 10:30am Sunday School	8 12:00pm Angel Tree Presents Due	9 5:00pm Executive Team 6:30pm LIFE Group at Jackson's	10 9:00am Food Pantry (Ann Addy, Ann Bouknight, Sharon Keefe) 12:05pm OneBody 6:30pm FH: Advent Worship 7:00pm Choir Practice 7:00pm FH: Advent Meal	11 6:00pm CR: Travel Team	12	13 9:00am Food Pantry (Koon Family) 9:00am Shock and Claus
14 9:00am Worship 10:30am Sunday School 11:30am Council Meets 2:00pm Porch Visits	15	16 6:00pm CR: Finance Team 6:00pm GR: Grief Support	17 9:00am Food Pantry (Diane Boulware, Mary Frances Sease, Mary Price) 9:30am Staff Meeting 6:30pm FH: Advent Worship 7:00pm FH: Advent Meal	18	19	20 9:00am Food Pantry (Wayne & Charlene Corley, Elaine Clawson)
21 9:00am Worship (Council Install) 10:30am Children Rehearsal 10:30am Sunday School 11:30am CR: Teach Team	22 Newsletter Info Due	23	24 Christmas Eve 9:00am Food Pantry (Closed) 4:00pm Children/Family Worship 7:00pm Candlelight Worship	25 Christmas Day	26	27 9:00am Food Pantry (Swygerts & Carrolls)
28 9:00am Worship 10:30am Sunday School	29	30	31 9:00am Food Pantry (Closed)			



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

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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

803.951.3784  
803.240.3143

*PastorGina@WeAreMtHermon.com*  
*Office@WeAreMtHermon.com*

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