

AROUND THE MOUNTAIN

September 2025



WHAT'S YOUR PRAYER SCORE?

¹⁴ For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, ¹⁵ from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. ¹⁶ I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit ¹⁷ and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. ¹⁸ ***I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth ¹⁹ and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.*** ²⁰ Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, ²¹ to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen. *Ephesians 3:14-21*

⁹ For this reason, since the day we heard it, ***we have not ceased praying for you and asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of God's will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding,*** ¹⁰ ***so that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, as you bear fruit in every good work and as you grow in the knowledge of God.*** ¹¹ May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, so that you may have all endurance and patience, joyfully ¹² giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. *Colossians 1:9-12*

Brothers and Sisters,

On a scale from 1 (lowest) to 10 (highest), how would you grade your prayer life? As you read throughout Paul's letters to the churches, he constantly writes about praying for the community.

It's easy to count our personal blessings — and we should! But as we look at how Paul prayed in his letters, we're reminded that his prayers were often focused outward: full of thanksgiving, yes, but also full of deep concern and hope for the church. Here's an invitation: would you join me in praying like Paul? Let's pray for the churches in our own community. Right now, there are many congregations around us without musicians. Several are without a pastor. Some are struggling to remember who they are, and why they exist. These aren't far-off churches — these are our neighbors, our siblings in Christ. Would you add them to your prayer list this week?

And while you're at it, please also pray for Mt. Hermon. We are a healthy church, with many ministries growing and thriving at 3011 Leaphart Road. For that, we give thanks. But we also stay alert. As Paul knew well, the enemy often takes aim at what is strong and good. Let us cover our ministries, our leaders, and our church family in prayer — not from fear, but from faith.

God is at work here. Let's keep our eyes open, and our prayers wide.

*Sister in Christ,
Pastor Gina*

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CHURCH COUNCIL HAPPENINGS

Motion from the April Council meeting

The Finance Committee recommends that we accept the quote from Georgia Stage to replace our stage curtain with a like color. The price should not exceed \$16,000.00. Money is to come from Loan Proceeds from #3307 \$7,838.36, with the remainder coming from #3305 the Building Improvement Fund. **Motion passed unanimously**

Congregational Council Minutes July 2025

ATTENDANCE: Absent – Mary Koon, Jerry Price, and Terry Swygert

CARES AND CONCERNS: Prayers for Isaiah, friend of Skyler Miller who lost his home in a fire; Jane Sexton; Terry Swygert and family; Jennifer Miller at the passing of Sarge; and for DJ Plummer who will give birth soon.

MEMBER CARE:

ADOPTION OF AGENDA: Accepted as presented

ADOPTION OF MINUTES: Accepted as presented

REPORTS:

- Pastor Gina: Report for July 2025 was submitted. Pastor Gina plans to broach the idea of reviving Lay School of Religion to her pastors' group. The Leadership Retreat will be January 9-11, 2026, at the Isle of Palms Retreat Center. The driver's training class was a success, and Jeff Jones has asked us to host this class 2-3 times a year with the next session likely occurring in September.
- Treasurer: 1c Designated Funds Last Month for June 2025 and 1b Budget Comparison Last Month for June 2025 were submitted. We had a good month and collected more than we spent, but we're still \$8,000-\$9,000 behind budget for the year. It was noted that we spend approximately 25% of our budget on outreach each year, with most of those funds going to our Food Pantry.
- Financial Secretary: Funds Report for January-June 2025 and June 2025 were submitted.
- Executive Committee:

Team Reports/Recommendations:

Team for Ministry:

Care: Written report submitted.

Outreach: No report submitted. Drive By Prayer will be July 24.

Support: Written report submitted. The stage curtain has dry rotted and needs to be replaced. A quote from Georgia Stage was acquired. We will address this further in next month's meeting.

Finance: No report submitted.

Teach: No report submitted.

Worship: No report submitted.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. Director of Music Search Team – The Team was installed during the worship service today. A survey will be sent to the members of the choir and handbell choir, and the group will meet on Sunday, August 3 at 3:00pm to talk about the results of the survey and to give input to the Search Team.
2. SC Synod Assembly Update – A Vice President was elected, and the event went well.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Next Meeting: Sunday, August 10, 2025, at 11:30am
2. Next Month's Devotions and Lock Up – Wayne Corley

Sheila Eargle, Council Secretary

AROUND THE MOUNTAIN

ATTENDANCE REPORT

	<u>In-person</u>	<u>Live Streaming</u>	<u>Total</u>
Aug 3	95	119	214
Aug 10	110	142	252
Aug 17	92	131	223
Aug 24	108	120	228

TREASURER REPORT

Loan Balance 06/30/2025	64,943.52
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2025 July	Actual Income	Actual Expense	Difference
Current & Benevolence	15,143.72	22,263.70	(7,119.98)
Building Improvement	898.13	917.15	(19.02)
Building Fund	5,025.00	4,954.48	70.52

2025 Year to Date	Actual Income	Actual Expense	Difference
Current & Benevolence	142,213.97	158,716.08	(16,502.11)
Building Improvement	8,719.13	6,857.36	1,861.77
Building Fund	18,112.88	13,637.59	4,475.29

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COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS



Dear Friends at Mt. Hermon, Thank you so much for your donation of 9 book bags to Pine Ridge Middle School. Your kindness is appreciated! Sincerely Linda B. Brown.

Altar Flower Sign up: There are currently two openings for Altar Flower sign-up on September 14th and September 28th. Please sign up in the breezeway if you are interested. Thank you



*Are you curious
about what it means
to be a disciple of
Christ who calls Mt.
Hermon 'home'*

Pastor Gina invites you into
conversation at 10:30
in the Gathering Room
September 7, 21, 28



WeAreMtHermon

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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 members and attend the next meeting!

He-Brews Supper Clubs will meet on September 13th Our next He-Brews Supper Club is Saturday, September 13 at 6 pm.

Sign up sheet is in the breezeway or online at <https://tinyurl.com/Hebrewssupperclub>.



Porch Visit: September 21 at 2 pm. All are welcome to join us for porch visits with members who are no longer able to attend church worship. Ryan is bringing his guitar for music and a sing-along too! We will be meeting in the church parking lot.

Legacy Planning Seminar – September 28 Please join us for a Legacy Planning Workshop with Danny Scott, Attorney on Sunday, September 28 at 3 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

Danny will discuss Trusts, Wills, Living Wills, Power of Attorney, DNR orders and more. Please register to be sure we have enough handouts! Registration sheet is in the breezeway or online (see Facebook group for link).



New Care 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.

Active Meal Trains: Plummer Family

<https://www.mealtrain.com/trains/96k06o>

Jennifer and Skyler Miller

<https://www.mealtrain.com/trains/6956oy>

Please use the links if you would like to provide a meal or gift card.



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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 Saturdays. We need help with praying with participants, to load groceries and restocking set ups. Please consider volunteering for this very rewarding project. Please contact Diane Boulware or any member of the Outreach Team.



Fall Festival – It is that time of year again. Fall is hot far away and we are starting to plan for the Fall Festival. As you know, we will be needing a lot of candy and volunteers, so we are going to start collecting the candy now. There will be totes in the breezeway to place candy and sign-up sheets for volunteering. Thank you for all your support in this Community Outreach program.

Scooter Scott Project – Outreach in coordination with the Scooter Scott project is going to sponsor another Drivers Training class. The dates for the class will be September 30, October 1 and 2. Each night the class will run from 4:30 pm until 7:00 pm. If you are interested in assisting with this, please contact Charlene Corley at 803-636-5352.

Scooter Scott Project Driver Training Classes

**Sept. 30th,
Oct. 1st & 2nd
4:30 pm - 7:00 pm**



Free Smoke Detectors – The Outreach team met with a disaster coordinator for the Red Cross. As part of our discussion, we were told that any household in SC is entitled to get FREE smoke detectors through your local fire department. All you have to do is ask any fireman or call your local fire department and they will come out and install them for free. The life of the average smoke detector is normally ten years, so this would be an excellent way to replace or add to the safety of your home.

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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 members and attend the next meeting.

Completed Repairs/Maintenance notes:

- Placed steel plate over manhole cover to the dumpster.
- The backsplash was repaired in the ladies restroom in the education wing.
- The spotlights in the Fellowship Hall assembly area were fixed.
- A commode in the Fellowship Hall ladies restroom was repaired.

Future Maintenance & Projects:

- Will meet with Midlands Lock and Key to service locks around church.
- 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 sound system in the Fellowship Hall needs to be restored.
- Sound vents fabric in the Sanctuary need to be replaced.
- Floor Boys to be contacted regarding tile buckling in downstairs hallway.

TEACH TEAM HAPPENINGS

The Teach Team meets on the 3rd 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.

Rally Day and Blessing of the Backpacks

Thank you to everyone who participated in the blessing of the Backpacks. Thank you to all who brought a dish for the brunch. We are blessed to have a congregation who continues to study God’s word for us.

Teachers, please complete your rosters and bring them to the workroom so that your totals are included in the weekly reporting of Sunday School attendance.

If you are wondering which class you should attend, start with one and then try another the next week. There is a class for you and we would like to help you find a class that works for you.

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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.*

Eucharistic Ministry Team

The worship team would like to announce the development of a Eucharistic Ministry Team. Anyone interested in more information, please contact Pastor Gina.

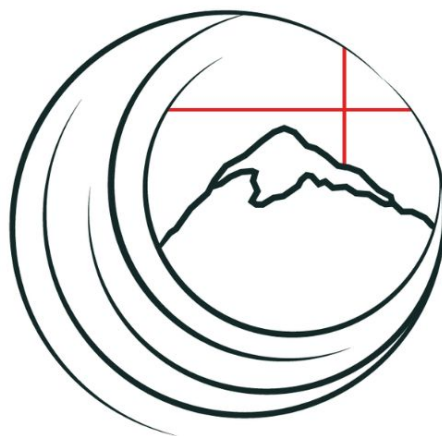


Director of Music Search Team

The Team was commissioned during worship on July 13. Those serving on the team are Marion Leaphart, chair of Worship Team, Charlene Corley, chair of Personnel Team, Nancy Addison, Ann Addy, Fran Bouknight, Scottie Marsh, and Jerry Price. These seven were commissioned and sent out to find the next Director of Music.

October 5th Homecoming

The worship team is working on Homecoming activities. The idea will circle around the theme: Team Jesus. We are all on the same team! However, on Homecoming Sunday we ask you to wear your favorite team jersey or team t-shirt.



Team Jesus

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SERVING IN WORSHIP

	Sept 7	Sept 14	Sept 21	Sept 28
Ushers	Joel Price, Jr.	Tom Stahl	Dan Cooper	Frankie Jackson
	Cindy Price	Jamie Addison	Ronnie Fulmer	Melanie Jackso
Crucifer	Spencer Price	Mackenzie Burns	Hayden Eargle	Brayden Rutherford
Acolyte	Chanler Coppens	Cameron Bucknam	Brayden Morris	Dylan Whitaker
Lector	Sherwood Garrett	Jennifer Miller	Emily Morris	Frank Bouknight
Comm Assts	Devona Price	Denise Thurman	Hayden Eargle	Frank Bouknight
	Joel Price, Sr.	Jennifer Miller	Brayden Morris	Brayden Rutherford
	Joel Price, Jr.	Mackenzie Burns	Emily Morris	Dylan Rutherford
	Spencer Price Chanler Coppens	Cameron Bucknam	Sheila Eargle	Frankie Jackson
	Sherwood Garrett	Jerry Price	Ronnie Fulmer	Melanie Jackson
Audio	Mike Rawl	Arron Kinard	Blake Allen	Brandon Donaldson
Video	Leah Rawl	Quentin Kinard	Breanna Metze	Marie Gardner
Nursery	Alyson Price	Kay Bryant	Charlene Corley	Cassie Swygert
	Brittany Allen	Larry Amick	DJ Plummer	Laura Carroll
Flowers	Jordans	OPEN	Anthony/Price	OPEN

SERVING IN SEPTEMBER

COUNCIL REP: Cyndi Leaphart

ALTAR GUILD: Mary Frances Sease, Diane Boulware

TABULATORS: Larry Amick, Angie Hydrick

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

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BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Sep 01	Cyndi Thurman
Sep 04	Wayne Eargle
	♥ Sep 06 Andy & Beth Jordan
Sep 07	Blake Allen
	♥ Sep 12 George & Michelle Gantt
	♥ Sep 12 Chris & Melina Threatt
Sep 13	Wayne Corley, Shirley Riley
Sep 14	Cyndi Leaphart
Sep 17	Cassie Swygert
Sep 19	Regan Anthony
Sep 22	Karen Nicholson
Sep 23	Bonnie Bouknight, Cameron Bucknam, Myra Kinard
Sep 24	Grayson Anthony, Sonya Miller, Jerry Price
Sep 26	James Hallman
Sep 27	Dave Butts

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

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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, *Lex Ext Care Rehab*
Cyndi Thurman, *home*
Linda Waters-Hamilton, *home*

Members in Special Need of Prayer

Chris Carroll	Debbie Duval	Renee Greenbaum
Joye Haygood	Ronnie Mathias	Skyler Miller
Dennis Thurman	Mary Frances Sease	Jim Whitaker





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
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*
Singley & Parisano families,
friends of Sam & Kathy Cooper
Joy Jordan, *friend of Michelle Gantt*
Homer Settles, *friend of Ryan Price*
Billy Eubanks, *uncle of Dion Metze*
Dorris Layton,
friend of Earl & Mary Frances Sease
Jody Harper, *friend of Kelli Goff*

september

2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Labor Day Office Closed 	2 6:00pm GR: Grief Support	3 9:00am Food Pantry (Fran Bouknight, Debra & David Butts, Sherwood Garrett) 9:30am Staff Meeting	4	5	6 9:00am Food Pantry (Diane & Parker Boulware)
7 9:00am Worship 10:30am New Disciples Class 10:30am Sunday School	8 12:00pm He-Brews sign-up 5:30pm CR: Care Team 6:30pm Lutheran Men & Women	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	11 PG Vacay 	12 PG Vacay	13 PG Vacay 9:00am Food Pantry (Swygerts & Carrolls) 6:00pm Hebrews Dinner 
14 PG Vacay 9:00am Worship 10:30am Sunday School 11:30am Council Meets	15 PG Vacay	16 PG Vacay 6:00pm CR: Finance Team 6:00pm GR: Grief Support	17 PG Vacay 9:00am Food Pantry (Diane Boulware, Mary Frances Sease, Mary Price) 9:30am Staff Meeting	18 6:00pm CR: Outreach Team	19	20 9:00am Food Pantry (Laura Stevens, Al Stevens, Frank Bouknight)
21 9:00am Worship 10:30am New Disciples Class 10:30am Sunday School 11:30am CR: Teach Team 2:00pm Porch Visits	22 First Day of Autumn Newsletter Information Deadline 	23 6:30pm CR: Support Team 6:30pm LIFE Group at Jackson's	24 9:00am Food Pantry (Debbie & Rick Duval, Jamie & Nancy Addison) 12:05pm OneBody	25 Print Newsletter	26	27 9:00am Food Pantry (DJ Plummer & Youth)
28 9:00am Worship 10:30am New Disciples Class 10:30am Sunday School 11:30am CR: Worship Team 3:00pm FH: Legacy Planning Seminar	29	30 4:30pm Driver Training Class				



WeAreMtHermon

Mt Hermon Lutheran Church
3011 Leaphart Road
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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

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803.240.3143

PastorGina@WeAreMtHermon.com
Office@WeAreMtHermon.com

<i>What's Your Prayer Score?</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Church Council Happenings.....</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Attendance Report.....</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Treasurer Report</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Community Happenings.....</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Care Team Happenings</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Outreach Team Happenings.....</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Support Team Happenings</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>Teach Team Happenings.....</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>Worship Team Happenings.....</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>Serving in Worship.....</i>	<i>9</i>
<i>Birthdays & Anniversaries</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>Mt Hermon Prays.....</i>	<i>11</i>