

AROUND THE MOUNTAIN

December 2024



ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE WITH GOD

¹³ But the angel said to him, “Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John. ¹⁸ Zechariah said to the angel, “How can I know that this will happen? For I am an old man, and my wife is getting on in years.” ¹⁹ The angel replied, “I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. ²⁰ But now, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time, you will become mute, unable to speak, until the day these things occur.” Luke 1:13, 18-20

Thank you for reading through the New Testament for one year. As we being a new church year on December 1st, Beginning December 1, we will return to reading the assigned readings for each Sunday. This church year we will be studying Luke.

The above passage is from the first chapter in Luke. We hear that Elizabeth and Zachariah are “getting on in years” and supposedly well past, childbearing age. **HOWEVER**, if God says it is to be – it will happen. Zachariah (like most of us who are getting on in age would also do) did not believe. As a result, God caused Zachariah’s unbelief to be seen by the community that day, and to be read about by us 2,000 years later. Zacharia was not able to speak until John was born and the story continues until verse 64: *⁶⁴ Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue freed, and he began to speak, praising God.* If God says it is to be – it will happen.

As we enter this season of Advent, we find ourselves both hopeful and waiting. Hopeful that the world will be a place of peace and joy. We also wait as we watch what God is doing in the world in which we live. I wish you a season of waiting and watching. Waiting for the next coming of Christ. Waiting for what God has planned for you and your family. Waiting to see how the Spirit blows in your life.

There are many opportunities to come and worship as a community this Advent season. Wednesdays in Advent, meals each Wednesday by the youth, children nativity rehearsals and costume choosing, choir and handbell practice for a blessed Christmas Eve service, reverse Advent boxes – and so much more...just keep reading this newsletter for more and more activities.

We are called to be the hands and feet of Jesus – and we continue our journey as we also wait.

Sister in Christ,

Pastor Gina

#3011LeaphartRoad

#WeAreMtHermon

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CHURCH COUNCIL HAPPENINGS

November Motions to Council:

- The Executive Team recommends that the Stephen Price Scholarship be awarded to Ben Bernstein for the 2024 Fall Semester in the amount of \$700. **PASSED unanimously.**
- The Personnel Team would like to recommend the hiring of Roberta Smith for the position of Administrative Assistant. She has twice worked as a Parish Administrator in the past. She also has several years' experience as an Administrative Assistant. She will start as soon as her SLED background check is completed. She will begin at \$15.00 an hour for 20 hours a week. Depending on work flow she may need to work additional hours as needed. **PASSED unanimously.**
- Frankie Jackson read the following motion: Church Council recommends that the 2025 Mission Plan be accepted as presented. **PASSED**

Congregational Council Minutes October 2024

ATTENDANCE: Absent – Sherwood Garrett, Jennifer Miller, Jeff Price, Joel Price, Sr.

CARES AND CONCERNS: Prayers for victims of Hurricane Helene and Hurricane Milton, a first-time visitor named Judy, Cyndi Leaphart's co-worker who lost her home in Hurricane Helene, and Ann Addy with health concerns.

MEMBER CARE:

ADOPTION OF AGENDA: Accepted as presented.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES: Minutes for September 2024 were accepted as presented.

REPORTS:

- Pastor Gina: Report for October 2024 was submitted.
- Treasurer: Balance Sheet Last Month for September 2024, Monthly Budget Comparison Last Month and Treasurer's Report for September 2024, and Designated Funds Last Month for September 2024 were submitted.
- Financial Secretary: Report for September 2024, Funds Report for July-September 2024, and Funds Report for January-September 2024 were submitted.
- Executive Committee: No report

Team Reports/Recommendations:

Team for Ministry: Will meet November 4 at 6:30.

Care: No report submitted. Several events are being planned.

Outreach: Written report submitted.

Support: Written report submitted.

Finance: No report submitted.

Teach: No report submitted. Will assist with the Harvest Festival and holiday programs are being planned.

Worship: Written report submitted.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. Personnel Team Chair – Charlene Corley and Fran Bouknight interviewed a candidate last week and two more candidates will be interviewed soon. It is hoped that someone will be hired by the end of the year.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Mission Plan Presentation – Danny Scott made a motion that we accept the 2025 Spending Plan as presented by the Finance Committee with the following adjustment: reduce Vacation Bible School from \$2,500 to \$1,800 and add that difference of \$700 to

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the Director of Music salary, which will increase her 2025 salary to \$20, 100. **PASSED unanimously.**

2. 2025 Council Nominations – Nominated by Church Council were Wayne Corley, Ronnie Fulmer, Angie Hydrick, Al Stevens, and Mackenzie Burns.
3. 2025 Teller Team (outgoing Council members) – The team will be comprised of members who are ineligible for election. Joel Price, Sr. will be asked to chair the team.
4. Next Meeting: November 10, 2024, at 11:30am.
5. Next Month’s Devotions and Lock Up – Jeff Price

Sheila Eargle, Council Secretary

ATTENDANCE REPORT

	<u>In-person</u>	<u>Live Streaming</u>	<u>Total</u>
November 03	121	119	240
November 10	93	127	220
November 17	100	130	230
November 24	99	137	236
Community			
Thanksgiving	87	129	216

TREASURER REPORT

ACTUAL INCOME vs EXPENSES

YTD October 2024	Income	Expense	Over (Short)
Current Mission Plan	\$188,825.51	\$196,448.28	(\$7,622.77)
Building Fund	\$51,437.43	\$46,933.14	\$4,504.29
Bldg Improvement	\$19,014.94	\$12,595.67	\$6,419.271

2024 BUDGET vs ACTUAL

YTD October 2024	Actual	Budget	Over (Short)
Current Mission Plan	\$188,825.51	213,038.80	(\$18,857.49)
Building Fund	\$51,437.43	\$50,000.00	\$2,425.43
Bldg Improvement	\$19,014.94	\$15,000.00	\$4,244.94

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COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS



Wednesdays in Advent, 3rd, 10th, and 17th will be held in the Fellowship Hall with a meal to follow. The meal will be prepared and served by the Youth Ministry. They have many events planned and are using this as a way of serving the community and also raising funds to offset some of the costs for their events.



"Bob the sax player" will be presenting a Jazzy Christmas program for Mt. Hermon and friends on Sunday December 15th from 4:00 – 6:00. This will be a festive time for us to enjoy appetizers together as we continue to wait during the season of Advent.

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The Mt Hermon littlest disciples will present the Christmas Story their style at the beginning of worship on December 15th at 9:00 am. You will not want to miss their telling of the story!

★ children's ★ Christmas Program



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 Christmas Bulletin envelope or drop your check with the information in the offering plate. The information is needed in the church office by 9:00am on Wednesday, December 18th

(if possible would you allow the poinsettias to be used in worship through the January 7th worship service.)

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CHRISTMAS SERVICES

December 24

4 pm Family Christmas

7 pm Christmas Eve Service



Community Epiphany Service

7:00pm

Monday, January 6th



Lessons and Carols

String quartet

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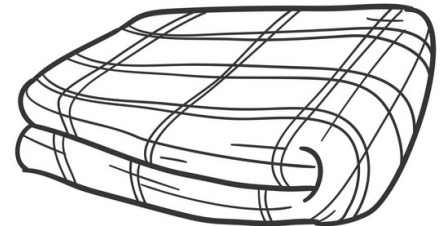


Shock and Claus

Saturday December 7th at 11:30 at Murray's in Cayce, SC. Each participant brings \$100, the 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.

Wrap a Child in a Warm Blanket

Many of the students at one of the local elementary schools need warm blankets for this winter. They need twin blankets that are warm and a solid color or a simple pattern to help prevent jealousy among the children. Please donate if you can. We will continue to be a drop off until December 10th.



Work is progressing on **Connor Eargle's Eagle project!** The damaged section of concrete has been replaced and painting will begin soon. We welcome any donations that are made as the pickleball court begins to take shape. It is Connor's hope that the court will be a place where both church members and the community can play a sport that's rapidly increasing in popularity. Thank you for your support of this project.

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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 Allison Swygert, or any team member and attend the next meeting!

The Care Team is using a new way to reach out to members in our congregation during difficult times. This will involve coordinating meals for those in need whether recovering from surgery, dealing with a death in the family, times of sickness, and even times of joy such as the birth of a new baby! The meals will be coordinated by using an online calendar through Meal Train. A link will be sent out via email to our congregation. If you would like to participate, simply click on the link and find a date you would like to provide a meal or in some instances gift cards. Food and time preferences will be included in the information.



If you prefer to make a monetary donation, please put in an envelope, write the family name on the envelope and place it in the offering plate. Members of the care team will make sure the funds are used for that family.

Thanks for helping take care of our own flock at Mt. Hermon!

Thanks to all for their continued support in our Meal Train ministry. It has made a big impact on the families we have served so far.



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.

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OUTREACH TEAM HAPPENINGS

*The Outreach Team meets on the 3rd Monday 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.*

We will host a **free garage sale** for families in need of assistance on December 6. 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. (*We are not collecting adult clothing this year.*) Your donations are another way that we are caring for God's children.



Taking Donations Now!

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.

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. Please make plans to sponsor a child this Christmas. We will also include parents of the children on the tree with some of their needs. We will need the gifts by **Monday, December 9.**



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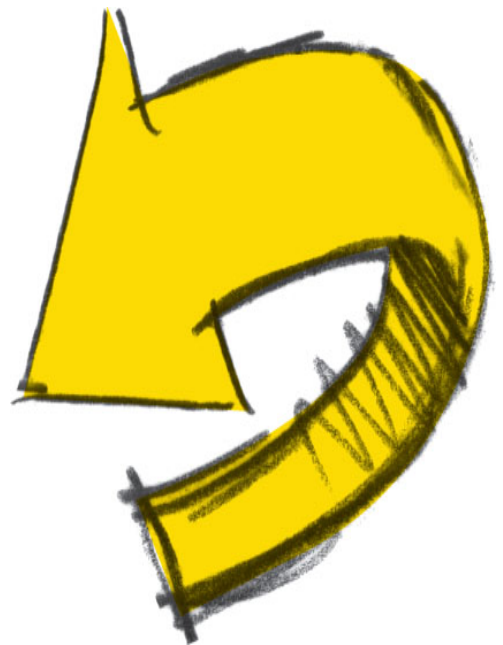


Outreach Columbia is on ongoing collection of items for the homeless. We will be collecting items for homeless packs. Items that we need are: socks, gloves, hygiene products, tarps, protein, crackers, pop tarts, snack items.

Also, new or used coats, sweaters and blankets.

Advent Food Basket

The Advent Food Basket is a type of Reverse Advent Calendar. Instead of receiving something each day of December leading up to Christmas, you will be encouraged to give something. We will have a large box and advent calendar for each person or family that would like to participate. Each day you will put the item suggested on the calendar into the box. On December 24, you will bring your box to the church. Your family may even choose to decorate the box. We will use these items to share with the people who come to the church Food Pantry. Many in the community struggle each month to have enough food to feed their families. Through our Food Pantry we feed over 100 different families each month. Many of these families come twice a month for food. The food collected in each Advent Food Box equals a “set-up” of food that we give each family when they come to the Food Pantry. Please prayerfully consider celebrating the birth of our Lord by helping to feed those in need.



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SUPPORT TEAM

The Support Team meets on the fourth Tuesday at 6:30 pm in the conference room. If you would like to serve on this team, please contact Ronnie Fulmer, chairperson, and attend the next meeting.

Thank you to the support team for assisting in the updating of the Food Pantry scraping, painting, and replacing the bulletin board. Plans are in motion to replace the mulch around the front of the sanctuary.

Finance Team: Please have your 2024 contributions in the office prior to December 31 for your 2024 financial donation statements.

TEACH TEAM

The Teach Team meets on the third Sunday at 11:30 pm in the conference room. If you would like to serve on this team, please contact Mary Koon or Cyndi Leaphart and attend the next meeting!

Thank you to all of the Sunday School teachers and assistants for continuing to teach classes. The Teach Team is looking forward to Christmas and the Children's Christmas program.

Children's Choir rehearsals will take place from the end of worship until 10:30. We will dismiss the children at the very end of service so that they can go to the Music/Craft room for rehearsals with Ms. Svetlana.

If you are a rising 6th grader and have not completed the safety and permission worksheets with the youth leaders, please contact DJ Corley at youth@WeAreMtHermon.com



The real winners are those who visit Mt. Hermon's food pantry for food.

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WORSHIP TEAM

The Worship Team meets on the 4th Sunday at 11:30 pm in the conference room. If you would like to serve on this team, please contact Wynne Price and attend the next meeting!

ALTAR GUILD NEEDS YOU!

Altar Guild would like to add a few more members to their team. Not sure what the Altar Guild is? This is an important group that gets the church ready for services every week. The behind-the-scenes stuff that truly matters. They get the colors on the altar, pulpit, and lectern, set up communion weekly, and much more! If you are interested in joining this group and be put in the rotation to help set up, please talk to Angie Hydrick or Jennifer Price.



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SERVING IN WORSHIP

December

	12/1/2024	12/8/2024	12/15/2024	12/22/2024	12/29/2024
Ushers	Blake Allen	Frank Bouknight	Teddy Koon	Tom Stahl	Ronnie Fulmer
	Jeff Price	Herb Bucknam	Joey Koon	Jamie Addison	Wayne Eargle
Crucifer	Sydney Bucknam	Mackenzie Burns	Sam Koon	Spencer Price	Brayden Rutherford
Acolyte	Jacquelynn Hawlik	Brayden Morris	Dylan Whitaker	Brayden Johnson	Avery Rawl
Lector	Alyson Price	Mary Price	Sam Koon	Kirby Johnson	Frankie Jackson
Comm Assts	Sydney Bucknam	Mackenzie Burns	Sam Koon	Spencer Price	Brayden Rutherford
	Larry Amick	Brayden Morris	Dylan Whitaker	Kirby Johnson	Frankie Jackson
	Kay Bryant	Emily Morris	Mary Koon	David Marsh	Melanie Jackson
	Joel Price, Sr Cameron Bucknam	DJ Plummer	Joey Koon	Scottie Marsh	Mike Rawl
	Danny Scott Jenny Scott	Charlene Corley	Connor Eargle	Daryl Leigh Anthony	Frank Bouknight
Nursery	Charlene Corley	Leah Rawl	Melanie Jackson	Cassie Swygert	Alyson Price
	DJ Plummer	Brittany Allen	Katie Donaldson	Laura Carroll	Brittany Allen
Flowers	Stevens Family	Price Families	Wynne and Mary Price	Earl and Mary Frances	Wynne and Mary Price

SERVING IN DECEMBER

COUNCIL REP: Terry Swygert

ALTAR GUILD: Mary Frances Sease, Diane Boulware

TABULATORS: Ann Bouknight, Diane Boulware

USHERS: Marion Leaphart, Susan Busby, Dennis Thurman

AUDIO/VIDEO TEAM: Breanna Metze, Sheila Starkey

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

Please also notify the church office of the change.

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BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES



- 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 Bobby & Doris Carver
♥ 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
Dec 31 Gus Arroyo

Please let the office know if your information is not printed in this listing.
office@WeAreMtHermon.com or 803.794.6430

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MT HERMON PRAYS

Continual Prayer

Patricia Bachman, *Asbury Arms*
Lauvenia Butts, *Lakeside Place*
Bobby & 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, *Prisma Baptist*
Linda Waters-Hamilton, *home*

Members in Special Need of Prayer

Bonnie Bouknight
Mary Frances Sease
Chris Carroll
Jim Whitaker
Randy Clark
Joye Haygood

Family and Friends Who Have Requested Prayers

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*
Katy Madigan, *friend of Marie Carroll*
Phil Dennis, *brother of Lavonne Roof*
Nancy Lail-Hulon & Family,
friends of Debra & Dave Butts
Sandra Watson, *aunt of Courtney Bucknam*
Sarah Harmon, *friend of Courtney Bucknam*
Quentin Oswalt, *Angie Hydrick's nephew (Iraq)*
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*
Tom Shaul, *friend of the Kinard Family*
Debbe Dearman, *neighbor of Kathy Cooper*
Jillian Stover, *friend of Erin Rose*
Bryce McKelvey, *friend of Regan Gross*
Max Schronce,
friend of the David & Scottie Marsh
Faye McCartha, *mother of Debra Butts*
Hayes Wingard,
grandson of Sam and Kathy Cooper
Robbie Rector, *friend Jennifer Miller*
Bill Geddings, *father of Allison Swygert*
Jane Baxley, *cousin of Michelle Gantt*
Mark King, *coworker of Michelle Gantt*
Joyce Davis, *grandmother of Jaquelyn Hawlik*
Will & Summer Satcher,
friend of Courtney Bucknam
Family of David Kaylor,
friend of Ryan & Jennifer Price
Dorothy Collins, *friend of Ryan Price*
Lauren Addy, *friend of Kathy Cooper and Metztes*
Jodi Harper, *friend of Erin Rose*
Sam Lockridge, *friend of Scottie Marsh*
Lutheran Disaster Recovery workers
Hurricane Helene survivors and families
Mary Duffie, *mother of Alyson Price*



Mt Hermon Lutheran Church
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 West Columbia, SC 29169

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Rev. Gina D. Metze, *Pastor*
 Svetlana Royal, *Director of Music*
 Roberta Smith *Parish Administrator*

803.951.3784

 803.794.6430

PastorGina@WeAreMtHermon.com
Music@WeAreMtHermon.com
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