

# DECEMBER 8, 2024

# WELCOME

We welcome you to Mt. Hermon Lutheran Church! If you are worshipping with us for the first time, WELCOME. If you are worshipping again, WELCOME BACK. Worship is much more joyful when we add our voices to offer praise and thanksgiving. If you need anything, just ask one of the ushers or greeters. If you would like to discuss discipleship at Mt. Hermon, Pastor Gina would love to speak with you!

Again welcome ...

#### Welcome and Announcements

Please see the Community Announcements in the back section of the bulletin. Please note that all the congregation responses are printed in **Bold and Italics**.

We prepare our hearts for worship.

Prelude

Come Jesus Come

Bentley/CCLI #7154136

# THE GATHERING

We stand and face the baptismal font. Blessed be the holy Trinity, **†** one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. *Amen.* 

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow. *Amen.* 

We turn to face the cross at the entrance of the sanctuary. As broken children, we begin worship by acknowledging our sin and asking for God's forgiveness.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

We confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of mercy, We confess that we have sinned. We trust earthly powers and human authority alone. We grow fearful. We cling to false comforts.

God of might, We confess that we have sinned. We have turned away from our neighbors. We have trusted false promises.

God of our midst, We confess that we have sinned. We plead: come to us. Bring your mercy to birth in us.

A righteous branch springs forth: It is Christ the Lord, our Savior, In whom we have forgiveness, life, and mercy. By the power of the Holy Spirit, received the grace and forgiveness of God through Christ Jesus, whose day draws near. *Amen.*  As fully forgiven children of God, turn and face the altar as the cross passes you. Hymn Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus Walker/CCLI #4850021 1 Come, thou long-ex - pect-ed Je-sus, born to thy peo-ple free; set 2 Born thy peo-ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king; from our fears and sins re - lease us; let find our us rest in thee. born to reign in gra-cious king-dom bring. us for - ev - er, now thy Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art, By thine own e - ter - nal Spir-it rule in all hearts a - lone; our na-tion, joy of dear de - sire of ev-'ry ev-'ry long-ing heart. thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo-rious throne. by

## GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. *And also with you.* 







in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

# PRAYER OF THE DAY

We pray together. Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming give to all the people of the world knowledge of your salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen. We sit.

# The Word

#### Malachi 3:1-4

A reading from Malachi.

<sup>1</sup>See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. <sup>2</sup> But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; <sup>3</sup> he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. <sup>4</sup> Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

Word of God, pointing to the light. *Thanks be to God.* 

# PSALM: LUKE 1:68-79

<sup>68</sup> Blessed are you, Lord, the God of Israel,
 you have come to your people and set them free.
 <sup>69</sup> You have raised up for us a mighty Savior,
 born of the house of your servant David.

<sup>70</sup> Through your holy prophets, you promised of old to save us from our enemies,

<sup>71</sup> from the hands of all who hate us,

#### <sup>72</sup> to show mercy to our forebears, and to remember your holy covenant.

<sup>73</sup> This was the oath you swore to our father Abraham: <sup>74</sup> to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

free to worship you without fear, <sup>75</sup> holy and righteous before you, all the days of our life.

<sup>76</sup> And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, for you will go before the Lord to prepare the way,

<sup>77</sup> to give God's people knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of their sins.

<sup>78</sup> In the tender compassion of our God the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

<sup>79</sup> to shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

# Philippians 1:3-11

A reading from Philippians.

<sup>3</sup> I thank my God every time I remember you, <sup>4</sup> constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, <sup>5</sup> because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. <sup>6</sup> I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. 7 It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. <sup>8</sup> For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. <sup>9</sup> And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight <sup>10</sup> to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, <sup>11</sup> having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

Word of God, pointing to the light. *Thanks be to God.* 





GOSPEL: Luke 3:1-6 The holy gospel according to St. Luke the 3<sup>rd</sup> chapter. Glory to you, O Lord.

<sup>1</sup> In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, <sup>2</sup> during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. <sup>3</sup> He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, <sup>4</sup> as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.<sup>5</sup> Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; <sup>6</sup> and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

The gospel of the Lord. *Praise to you, O Christ.* 

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#### We stand. HYMN Oh Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry Praetorius/Public Domain On Jor - dan's bank the tist's cry Bap nounc -1 an es Then cleansed be 2 ev 'ry life from sin; make straight the 3 We hail you as our Sav \_ ior, Lord, our ref uge Stretch forth hand, health re - store, and make 4 your our us 5 All praise ter nal Son, whose ad to you, e vent \_ \_ that the Lord nigh; wake heark is and a en, God all for with - in, let way and us our and our great re - ward; with - out your grace we fall rise no more; oh. let your face to up free has dom whom with the Fa ther our won,

## SERMON

# Preparation

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# PRAYER OF PREPARATION

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Please pray with me the prayer of preparation. Holy God, you have a word for me today. Make my heart soft and plant your word in me in order that it may bear fruit in your kingdom. Amen.

# APOSTLES' CREED

Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith with the words of the Apostles' Creed.

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate. was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven. he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

#### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

As we prepare for Emmanuel, God with us, let us pray for all people and places that long for God's presence.

#### Lord in your mercy, receive our prayer.

Savior of the nations, come, and receive these prayers and the pleas of our hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ. *Amen.* 

# **PEACE** The peace of Christ be with you. *And also with you.*

The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and may say, "Peace be with you," or similar words.

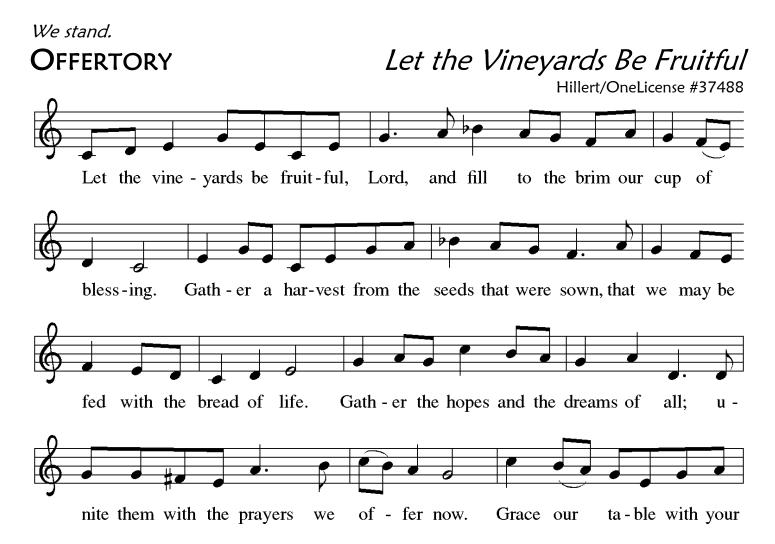
#### We sit. OFFERING

We give our monetary offering to support Christ's mission in this place and around the world in gratitude of God's amazing grace. You may contribute any time by visiting www.WeAreMtHermon.org and click on "On-line Giving." Thank you for your gifts and your stewardship. Friendship pads have returned to the pews. Please take a moment to sign the forms so that we may get to know our neighbors and we will also have a record of your communing.

# ANTHEM

Prepare the Royal Highway

Swedish Folktune/OneLicense #85802





OFFERING PRAYER We give thanks for these gifts and we pray together. Creator God, you made the whole world, even the farthest stars, and you draw near to feed us. We praise you for these gifts of bread and wine. Strengthen us with this food that we may live in expectation for the advent of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

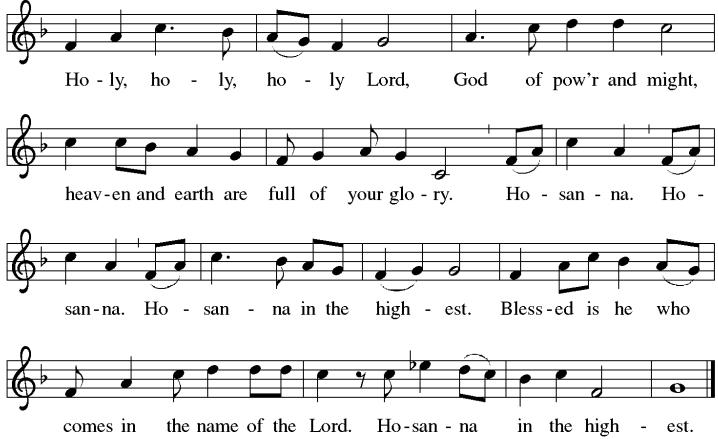
# THE MEAL

*Christ is truly present in the most ordinary and unexpected of places.* The Lord be with you. *And also with you.* 

Lift up your hearts. *We lift them to the Lord.* 

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. *It is right to give our thanks and praise.* 

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn.



# THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

In the night in which he was betrayed...

# We proclaim the mystery of faith. *Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.*

With this bread and cup, we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming. *Come, Lord Jesus.* 

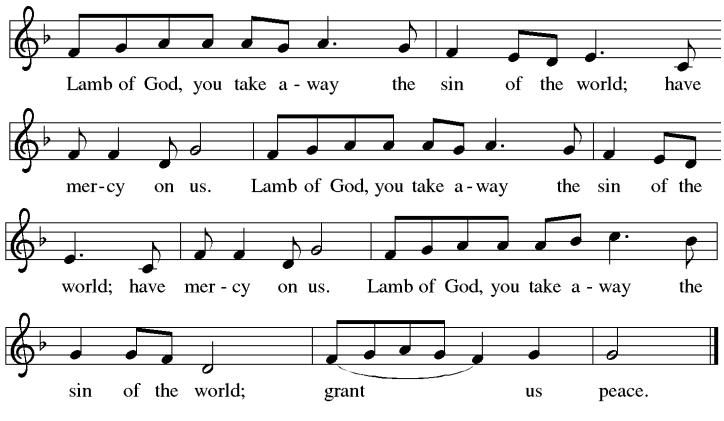
Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. Make your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth. *Come, Holy Spirit.* 

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever. *Amen.* 

# THE LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray. Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

**INVITATION TO COMMUNION** God feeds us with tender mercy. Come to the table.



We sit.

#### COMMUNION

Please come forward using the center aisle to receive communion. You will receive the bread and then you may dip in the first chalice of wine, or in the second challis of grape juice. You may then return to your pews using the outside aisles. Please return to your pews for a time of quiet prayer and meditation.

Music

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Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming
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Praetorius/CCLI #2186546

We stand.

**POST COMMUNION BLESSING** May the Body and Blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in His grace. *Amen.* 

# PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We pray together. Generous God, we thank you for the gift of life, for the bread of salvation. We thank you for coming among us, for leading us into peace. We thank you for showering us with mercy, for sending us into the world. Come, Lord Jesus, and go with us as we feed the hungry in your name. Amen.

# The Sending

# BLESSING God of endings and beginnings, God in the darkness and the light, God, our hope for the journey, the bless and keep you now and forever. Amen.

# Hymn

Even So Come Tomlin/CCLI #7036288

All of creation, All of the earth Make straight a highway, A path for the Lord Jesus is coming soon

Call back the sinner, Wake up the saint Let every nation, Shout of Your fame Jesus is coming soon Like a bride, Waiting for her groom We'll be a church, Ready for You Every heart longing for our King We sing, Even so come Lord Jesus come, Even so come Lord Jesus come

There will be justice, All will be new Your name forever, Faithful and true Jesus is coming soon

Like a bride, Waiting for her groom We'll be a church, Ready for You Every heart longing for our King We sing, Even so come Lord Jesus come, Even so come Lord Jesus come

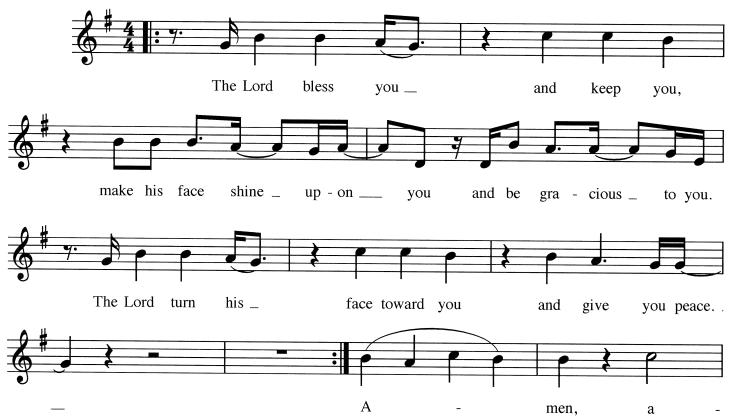
So we wait, We wait for You God we wait, You're coming soon

So we wait, We wait for You God we wait, You're coming soon

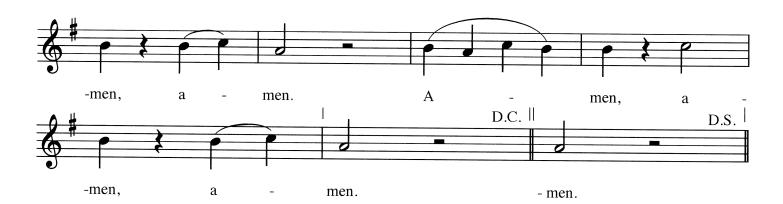
Like a bride, Waiting for her groom We'll be a church, Ready for You Every heart longing for our King We sing Like a bride, Waiting for her groom We'll be a church, Ready for You Every heart longing for our King We sing, Even so come

Lord Jesus come, Even so come Lord Jesus come, Even so come Lord Jesus come, Even so come Lord Jesus come

As the cross passes your pew, turn and face the entrance of the sanctuary. **SENDING** *The Blessing* 



Brown, Carnes, Jobe, Furtick/CCLI #7147007



# SENDING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

We follow the light of Christ into the world. We are God's people on a mission. We have gathered. We have been fed. Now, we go out to make a difference in the world. Amen.

Children are invited to come up to the front of sanctuary for practice,

# **COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The altar flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory of Iva Pearle, Jerry Stephen Price, Barbara & Jimmy Mills, & Thomas McDonald by the Price Families.



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



#### WHILE WE WAIT

6:30 Wednesdays in Advent: 11<sup>th</sup>, and 18<sup>th</sup> will be held in the Fellowship Hall with a meal to follow. The 7:00 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 15<sup>th</sup> 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.





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

# CHRISTMAS SERVICES

<u>December 24</u> 4 pm Family Christmas 7 pm Christmas Eve Service

## He-Brews Supper Clubs

He-Brews Supper Clubs will meet January 11, 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.

How do I participate? Sign-up on the sign-up sheet located in the breezeway or with the online link. All participants will be divided randomly into small groups. A contact person will coordinate with their group to set a time and destination to meet for dinner. The groups will change for each date so that each time you meet you are with a different group of people.

Deadline to sign-up is January 5<sup>th</sup>.

# TITHES AND OFFERINGS 12/1/2024

ln	Person	100 +	Live S	Stream `	Worship	140	0 = 240	

Current & Benevolent	Received	\$3,367.17
Building Fund	Received	\$525.00
Building Improvement	Received	\$290.00

#### Honorariums and Memorials:

Given in memory of **Edwin Shealy** by Lynn Bouknight & Ann Bouknight.

Given in memory of Dot Mathias by Harvey & Jan Mathias

In memory of **Delores Long** by Ann Bouknight.

## 11/24/2024

In Person 99 + Live Stream Worship 108 = 207

Current & Benevolent	Received	\$2,867.18
Building Fund	Received	\$592.00
Building Improvement	Received	\$35.00

#### Honorariums and Memorials:

Given in memory of **Dot Mathias** by the Kairos Sunday School Class.

Given in memory of **Tom Roof** by the Kairos Sunday School Class.

In memory of **Delores Long** by Ann Addy.

# SERVING IN WORSHIP

	Today	Next Sunday
Ushers:	Frank Bouknight	Teddy Koon
	Herb Bucknam	Joey Koon
Crucifer:	Mackenzie Burns	Sam Koon
Acolyte:	Brayden Morris	Dylan Whitaker
Lector:	Sherwood Garrett	Sam Koon
Communion Assts:	Mackenzie Burns	Sam Koon
	Brayden Morris	Dylan Whitaker
	Emily Morris	Mary Koon
	DJ Plummer	Joey Koon
	Charlene Corley	Connor Eargle
Nursery:	Leah Rawl	Melanie Jackson
	Brittany Allen	Katie Donaldson
Flowers:	Price Families	Wynne & Mary Price

## SERVING IN DECEMBER

<u>COUNCIL REP:</u> Terry Swygert <u>ALTAR GUILD:</u> Mary Frances Sease, Diane Boulware <u>TABULATORS:</u> Ann Bouknight, Diane Boulware <u>USHERS:</u> Marion Leaphart, Susan Busby, Dennis Thurman <u>AUDIO/VIDEO TEAM</u>: Breanna Metze, Sheila Starkey

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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, *Sedgewood* Linda Waters-Hamilton, *home* 

#### Members in Special Need of Prayer

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

#### 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 Metzes 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 \*Sara Henneman, niece of Kay Bryant

# NEXT WEEK'S EVENTS

#### Sunday, December 15th

9:00 am Worship (Children's Program)

- 10:15 am Children's Choir
- 10:30 am Sunday School
- 11:30 am CR: Teach Team
- 4:00 pm FH: Jazzy Christmas Dinner
- 5:00 pm Youth Christmas

#### Monday, December 16th

6:00 pm CR: Outreach Team

#### Tuesday, December 17th

6:00 pm GR: Grief Group 6:00 pm CR: Finance Team

#### Wednesday, December 18th

Meals on Wheels: Jamie & Nancy Addison 9:00 am Food Pantry (Diane Boulware, Mary Frances Sease, Mary Price)

- 11:00 am Staff Luncheon
- 6:30 pm Advent Worship
- 7:00 pm FH: Advent Meal
- 7:00 pm Handbells
- 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal

#### Saturday, December 21st

9:00 am Food Pantry (Wayne & Charlene Corley)



www.WeAreMtHermon.com 3011 Leaphart Road West Columbia, SC 29169 803.794.6430 / 803.240.3143 cell/text

Rev. Gina D. Metze, *Pastor* Svetlana Royal, *Director of Music* Roberta Smith, *Administrative Asst*  803.951.3784 803.240.3143 cell PastorGina@WeAreMtHermon.com Music@WeAreMtHermon.com Office@WeAreMtHermon.com

#### CONGREGATIONAL OFFICERS

Frankie Jackson, *President* Sheila Eargle, *Secretary* Annette Price/Karen Nicholson, *Financial Secretary*  Terry Swygert, Vice President Frank Bouknight, Treasurer Ricky Bouknight & Terry Swygert, Sextons

# THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

#### Sunday, December 8th

9:00 am	Worship
10:15 am	Children's Choir
10:30 am	Christmas Program Practice
10:30 am	Sunday School
11:30 am	Council Meets
12:00 pm	FH: Reserved by Brittany Allen

#### Monday, December 9th

Gifts for Angle Tree Due

#### Tuesday, December 10<sup>th</sup>

Blankets for Wrap a Child due

6:30 pm Life Group at the Jacksons

#### Wednesday, December 11<sup>th</sup>

Meals on Wheels: Earl & Mary Frances

- 9:00 am Food Pantry (Ann Addy, Ann Bouknight, Sharon Keefe)
- 12:05 am FH: OneBody Service (Bring a wrapped \$5 gift for game)
- 6:30 pm Advent Worship
- 7:00 pm FH: Advent Meal
- 7:00 pm Handbells
- 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal

#### Saturday, December 14th

9:00 am Food Pantry (Swygerts & Carrolls)