

# AROUND THE MOUNTAIN

March 2025



## LENTEN JOURNEY

*Then Jesus called the twelve together and gave them power and authority over all demons and to cure diseases,<sup>2</sup> and he sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal the sick.<sup>3</sup> He said to them, "Take nothing for your journey: no staff, nor bag, nor bread, nor money—not even an extra tunic. **Luke 9:1-3***

In our daily lives, we often find ourselves overpacking. Perhaps you have packed for a week-long vacation, a weekend trip, or maybe just an overnight business trip. It appears each of these types of trips result in me packing many of the same essentials. What's one more, or even two more, sets of clothing when you have planned to be away just one night?

Yet when Jesus sent the twelve disciples out, he gave them all they needed to have a successful discipleship trip. What? No makeup, hairdryer, hair straightener, 3 oz of approved liquids, no snacks? Note that in these verses, Jesus tells us to not take a walking stick, suitcase, or snacks – or even money – and certainly not that third "light weight jacket" that we are accustomed to packing for those cool nights.

As we prepare for this 2025 Lenten journey, what is it that is excess baggage for you? I don't mean things that fit in a suitcase, but rather, things that fit into your very being – your soul? Things like stress, anxiety, fears, assumptions, etc. How heavy are those for you? How easy are those for God?

Jesus often uses the image of bread in scriptures. During this 2025 Wednesday Lenten Journey, we will focus on bread. We will begin on Ash Wednesday as Jesus stands up in the temptation story to respond, "Not by bread alone." We will journey through bread images all the way to Easter Morning – when we celebrate a Bread for Feasting.

Welcome and travel along with us as we head through the wheat and yeast this Lenten journey. Each Wednesday evening, we invite you to join us for:

- 6:00 PM: Simple Soup & Bread Supper in the Fellowship Hall
- 7:00 PM: Lenten Worship Service

Together, we'll explore how bread nourishes not just our bodies, but our spirits as well, and discover what it means to travel lightly with Christ.

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

# AROUND THE MOUNTAIN

## CHURCH COUNCIL HAPPENINGS

February Motions - no meeting held

### Congregational Council Minutes January 2025

**ATTENDANCE:** Absent – Jennifer Miller

**CARES AND CONCERNS:** Care Groups were assigned for 2025.

**MEMBER CARE:**

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA:** Accepted as presented with the addition of a recommendation from Executive Committee.

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

**REPORTS:**

- Pastor Gina: Report for January 2025 was submitted.
- Treasurer: Balance Sheet Last Month for December 2024, Monthly Budget Comparison Last Year for 2024, and Designated Funds Last Month December 2024 were submitted.
- Financial Secretary: Funds Report for December 2024, Funds Report for October-December 2024, and Funds Report for January-December 2024 were submitted.
- Executive Committee: Executive Committee recommends that a committee be formed for the purpose of long-term planning for our church facilities' needs, improvements, and upgrades.

**PASSED unanimously.**

**Team Reports/Recommendations:**

**Team for Ministry:**

**Care:** No report submitted. Co-Chairs for 2025 are Alyson Price and Sheila Starkey. Council Representatives are Fran Bouknight and Sherwood Garrett.

**Outreach:** Written report submitted. Co-Chairs for 2025 are Bonnie Bouknight and Melanie Jackson. Council Representatives are Wayne Corley and Al Stevens.

**Support:** Written report submitted. Chair for 2025 is Ronnie Fulmer. Council Representatives are Ronnie Fulmer and Danny Scott.

**Finance:** Written report submitted. Chair for 2025 is Wayne Corley. The Finance Team recommends that the Contingency Account be established. Use of these funds shall be by a written request with backup information to the Finance Team for their review. Once reviewed, a recommendation from the Finance Team shall be made to the Executive Committee and the Council for approval prior to any funds being distributed. Any interest earned from these funds shall remain in the Contingency Account. **PASSED unanimously.**

**Teach:** No report submitted. Co-Chairs and Council Representatives for 2025 are Mary Koon and Cyndi Leaphart.

**Worship:** No report submitted. Chair for 2025 is Marion Leaphart and Jennifer Miller and Jerry Price are Council Representatives.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

Installation of 2025 Council Members – We installed the Council members who were not in attendance when the Council was installed on December 15.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. None
2. Next Meeting: Sunday, February 9, 2025, at 11:30am
3. Next Month's Devotions and Lock Up – Jennifer Miller

Sheila Eargle, Council Secretary

# AROUND THE MOUNTAIN

## ATTENDANCE REPORT

	<u>In-person</u>	<u>Live Streaming</u>	<u>Total</u>
February 2	80	151	231
February 9	105	142	247
February 16	73	108	181
February 23	104	117	221

## TREASURER REPORT

### ACTUAL INCOME vs EXPENSES

January 2025	Income	Expense	Over (Short)
Current Mission Plan	\$25,002.52	\$18,040.83	\$6,961.69
Building Fund	\$6,822.00	\$4,954.48	\$1,867.52
Bldg Improvement	\$1,160.00	\$55.00	\$1,105.00

We livestream each week to Facebook. Did you also know that we also livestream to YouTube? Like us on Facebook and subscribe on YouTube



@mthermonlutheran3011



Mt. Hermon Lutheran Church,  
West Columbia, SC

# AROUND THE MOUNTAIN

## COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS

Thank you for the prayers, cards and visits during the time of my hip surgery and recovery. Everyone's thoughtfulness was greatly appreciated. I am fortunate to belong to such a caring congregation. Thank you all!

*Randy Clark*

*Thank  
you*



# 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 member and attend the next meeting!*

### Coffee, Food, and Fellowship

Care Team will be hosting a Coffee, Food, and Fellowship on March 2<sup>nd</sup> in the fellowship hall following worship service to honor our new members

Rick & Debbie Duval,  
Eddie & Amanda Robinette,  
Roberta Smith, office admin.

*Please note that we will not have Sunday School classes on March 2*



### He-Brews Supper Clubs

will meet March 8, 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 March 2.

### Care Connection:

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

## 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 Bouknight, Melanie Jackson, or any team member** and attend the next meeting.*



**Outreach Columbia-** The Outreach Team would like to invite anyone who might be interested in helping with the Food Bank on Saturdays to contact Diane Boulware or any member on the Team. 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.

We will be going to downtown Columbia March 29th at 11:00am to distribute backpacks with supplies, gently used clothing and provide a hot dog meal. Supplies are needed for the backpacks and 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, Pop Tarts, Breakfast Bars, 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 into 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, February 08, 2025. Please join us if you can. The next pickup will be on May 17<sup>th</sup>.



## Mt Hermon Travelers

The Mount Hermon Travelers met and came up with several ideas for 2025. The first event will be March 15th. This will be a day trip to Greenville SC for lunch and then to “The Sound of Music” production presented by Bob Jones University at 2 PM. If you are interested, please sign up on the sheet located in the breezeway or contact Frank Bouknight for information.

# 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 member and attend the next meeting.*

- Following the completion of mulching, there were 50 bags of mulch left over that can be used to replenish the upgraded areas. They are being stored in the scout hut.
- A new hot water heater at the parsonage was installed as well as a new drip pan.
- An electric meter was changed out at the parsonage. A Dominion bill needs to be rectified as a result.

## TEACH TEAM HAPPENINGS

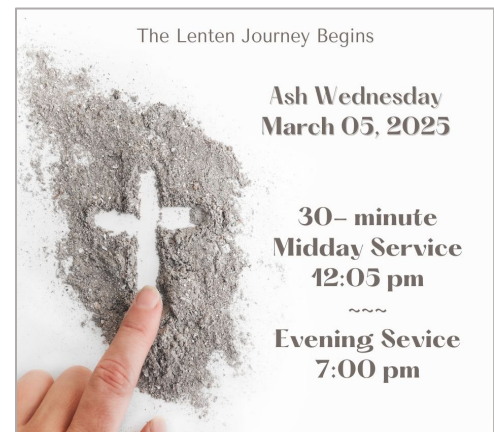
*The Teach Team meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of every month at 11:30am in the conference room. If you would like to serve on this team, please contact **Mary Koon, Cyndi Leaphart**, or any team member and attend the next meeting.*




## WORSHIP TEAM HAPPENINGS

*The Worship & Music 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.*

We begin to prepare our hearts for Easter on **Ash Wednesday**, March 5<sup>th</sup>. You can receive Ashes during One Body Worship at 12:05pm or at 7:00pm, Worship in the Sanctuary.




**Shrove Tuesday**  
March 04, 2025



**6:00 pm**  
**Pancakes & Sausage**

**6:30 pm**  
**Learning and Burning of the Palms**



**Shrove Tuesday** will be celebrated on Tuesday, March 4th at 6:00 pm. Along with the pancake meal and burning of the palms there will be a time for learning about the origins and meanings of the celebration. We will have a “pancake” walk, a flipping of pancakes in a frying pan race, and some dancing. Plan to attend and enjoy the last festival on the day before Lent begins.

# AROUND THE MOUNTAIN

## SERVING IN WORSHIP

March 2025

	March 02	March 09	March 16	March 23	March 30
Ushers	Ronnie Fulmer	Frankie Jackson	Youth	Joel Price, Jr.	Larry Amick
	Ricky Bouknight	Melanie Jackson	Youth	Cindy Price	Kay Bryant
Crucifer	Brayden Rutherford	Hayden Eargle	Youth	Walker Kinard	Quentin Kinard
Acolyte	Dylan Whitaker	Brayden Johnson	Youth	Adelaide Bryant	Mackenzie Burns
Lector	Jim Whitaker	Kirby Johnson	Youth	Joel Price, Sr.	DJ Plummer
Comm Assts	Brayden Rutherford	Hayden Eargle	Youth	Walker Kinard	Quentin Kinard
	Dylan Whitaker	Frankie Jackson	Youth	Joel Price, Jr.	Mackenzie Burns
	Sheila Eargle	Melanie Jackson	Youth	Joel Price, Sr.	DJ Plummer
	Hayden Eargle Connor Eargle	Kirby Johnson	Youth	Spencer Price	Danny Scott
	Ryan Price Terry Swygert	Daryl Leigh Anthony	Youth	Sherwood Garrett	Jenny Scott
Video	Breanna Metze	Arron Kinard	Blake Allen	Brandon Donaldson	Rick Duval
Audio	Breanna Metze	Quentin Kinard	Breanna Metze	Marie Gardner	Ryan Corley
Nursery	Melanie Jackson	Alyson Price	Cassie Swygert	Kay Bryant	Charlene Corley
	Katie Donaldson	Brittany Allen	Laura Carroll	Larry Amick	DJ Plummer
Flowers	Sheila Frame	<b>OPEN</b>	Sherwood Garrett	Abbey & Emmy	Herb Bucknam

### SERVING IN MARCH

COUNCIL REP: Mary Koon

ALTAR GUILD: Mary Frances Sease, Diane Boulware

TABULATORS: Ann Addy, Mary Frances Sease

USHERS: Marion Leaphart, Dennis Thurman, Susan Busby

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



# AROUND THE MOUNTAIN

## BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES



<b>Mar 02</b>	Sheila Frame
<b>Mar 08</b>	Ann Bouknight
<b>Mar 18</b>	Scarlett Bryant
<b>Mar 20</b>	Larry Amick
<b>Mar 22</b>	Dan Cooper, Lauren Donaldson
<b>Mar 27</b>	Baxley Rawl
	♥ <b>Mar 27</b> Joe & Mary Koon
<b>Mar 28</b>	Joshua Ellisor, Kim Fulmer
<b>Mar 30</b>	Daryl Leigh Anthony, Sherwood Garrett

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*  
Marie Kleckley, *Lex Ext Care*

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




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

Karly Addy	Bonnie Bouknight	Chris Carroll
Randy Clark	Debbie Duval	Debbie Fulmer
Michelle Gantt	Joye Haygood	Mary Frances Sease
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*  
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*  
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*  
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*  
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*  
Mary Duffie, *mother of Alyson Price*  
Thelma Moyer, *mother of Diane Boulware*  
Michael Tucker, *friend of Michelle Gantt*  
Kaiden Howell, *friend of Jacquelynn Hawlik*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					28	1 9:00am Food Pantry (Youth & DJ Plummer)
<b>2 Transfiguration Sunday</b> 9:00am Worship 10:15am Coffee Food & Fellowship 11:30am CR: Teach Team 3:00pm Confirmation Class 5:00pm FH - Youth Meeting	<b>3</b> 5:30pm CR: Care Team	<b>4 Shrove Tuesday</b> 5:00pm Executive Team 6:00pm GR: Grief Support 6:00pm Shrove Tuesday Meal 6:30pm Shrove Tuesday Activities	<b>5 Ash Wednesday</b> 9:00am Food Pantry (Fran Bouknight, Angie Hydrick, Sherwood Garrett) 10:00am Staff Meeting 12:05pm Ashes/Midday Worship 7:00pm Ash Wednesday Worship	<b>6</b>	<b>7 World Day of Prayer</b>	<b>8</b> 9:00am Food Pantry (Kinard family) 6:00pm Hebrews Dinner 
<b>9 Daylight-Saving Time Begins</b> 9:00am Worship 10:15am Children's Choir 10:30am Sunday School 11:30am Council Meets 	<b>10</b> 6:30pm Lutheran Men & Women	<b>11</b> 6:30pm LIFE Group at Jackson's	<b>12</b> 9:00am Food Pantry (Ann Addy, Ann Bouknight, Sharon Keeffe) 12:05pm OneBody 6:30pm Lenten Worship 7:00pm Handbells 7:00pm Lenten Meals: Care 7:30pm Choir	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 9:00am Food Pantry (Swygerts & Carrolls)
<b>16</b> 9:00am Worship-Youth Sunday 10:30am Sunday School 11:15am Children's Choir 11:30am CR: Teach Team 3:00pm Confirmation Class	<b>17 St. Patrick's Day</b>	<b>18</b> 6:00pm CR: Finance Team 6:00pm GR: Grief Support	<b>19</b> 9:00am Food Pantry (Mary Price, Mary Frances Sease, Parker Boulware) 10:00am Staff Meeting 6:30pm Lenten Worship 7:00pm Handbells 7:00pm Lenten Meals: Teach 7:30pm Choir	<b>20 First Day of Spring</b> 6:00pm CR: Outreach Team 	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 9:00am Food Pantry (Wayne Corley, Charlene Corley)
<b>23</b> 9:00am Worship 10:15am Children's Choir 10:30am Sunday School 11:30am CR: Worship Team	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 6:30pm CR: Support Team 6:30pm LIFE Group at Jackson's	<b>26</b> 9:00am Food Pantry (Debra & David Butts, Debbie & Rick Duval) 12:05pm OneBody 6:30pm Lenten Worship 7:00pm Handbells 7:00pm Lenten Meals: Worship 7:30pm Choir	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 9:00am Food Pantry (Koon Family)
<b>30</b> 9:00am Worship 10:15am Children's Choir 10:30am Sunday School	<b>31</b>					



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

WeAreMtHermon

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



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

803.951.3784  
  
 803.240.3143

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

***Lenten Journey..... 1***

***Church Council Happenings..... 2***

***Attendance Report..... 3***

***Treasurer Report ..... 3***

***Community Happenings..... 4***

***Care Team Happenings ..... 5***

***Outreach Team Happenings..... 6***

***Support Team Happenings..... 7***

***Teach Team Happenings..... 7***

***Worship Team Happenings..... 7***

***Serving in Worship..... 8***

***Birthdays and Anniversaries..... 9***