

SEPTEMBER 7, 2025

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 leave all that which might be a distraction from worship at the doors this day and we prepare our hearts for worship. Peace be with you. *Amen.*

Prelude Medley
Roof

THE GATHERING

We stand and face the baptismal font.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, our maker, our helper, and our keeper.

Amen.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

We turn to the doors of the sanctuary.

As broken children, we begin worship by acknowledging our sinfulness and asking for God's forgiveness.

Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful and loving God,
we are your stiff-necked people.
We trample on the needy.
We grumble about your grace to others.
We turn away from the poor.
Have mercy on us and forgive our sins.
Rejoice over us as ones who were lost and have been found.
Amen.

Even when we are faithless, God remains faithful. Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners. You who were lost have been found. In the name of † Jesus, your sins are forgiven! *Amen*.

HYMN

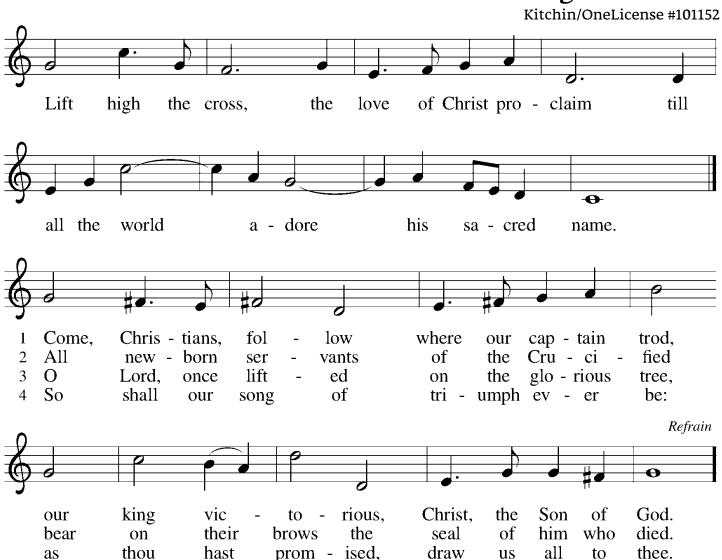
Lift High the Cross

vic - to

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fied

for



GREETING

praise

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

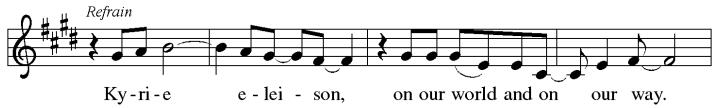
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And also with you.

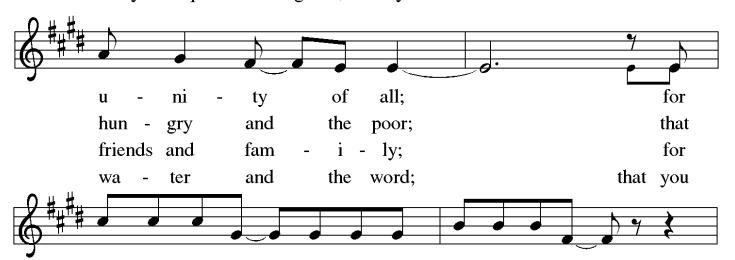
to







- For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the
- 2 That we may live out your im passioned re sponse to the
- For peace in our hearts, . . . for peace in our homes, . . for
- 4 For your Spir-it to guide; that you cen-ter our lives in the



this ho - ly house, for all who we may live out truth and life and for love, for our nour-ish our souls . . . with your

wor-ship and praise, jus-tice and grace, work and our play, bod - y and blood,



PRAYER OF THE DAY

We pray together.

Direct us, O Lord God, in all our doings with your continual help, that in all our works, begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name; and finally, by your mercy, bring us to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

We sit.

THE WORD

DEUTERONOMY 30:15-20

A reading from Deuteronomy.

15 "See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. 16 If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the LORD your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. 17 But if your heart turns away and you do not hear but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, ¹⁸ I declare to you today that you shall certainly perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. 19 I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, 20 loving the LORD your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him, for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the LORD swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob."

The Word of God for the people of God. *Thanks be to God.*

PSALM 1

We read responsively.

¹Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked, nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats of the scornful!

² Their delight is in the law of the Lord, and the meditate on God's teaching day and night.

³ They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither; everything they do shall prosper.

⁴ It is not so with the wicked; they are like chaff which the wind blows away.

⁵ Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgement comes, nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.

⁶ For the Lord knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked shall be destroyed.

PHILEMON 1-21

A reading from Philemon.

¹ Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,

To our beloved coworker Philemon, ² to our sister Apphia, to our fellow soldier Archippus, and to the church in your house: ³ Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴ I thank my God always when I mention you in my prayers, ⁵ because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith toward the Lord Jesus. ⁶ I pray that the partnership of your faith may become effective as you

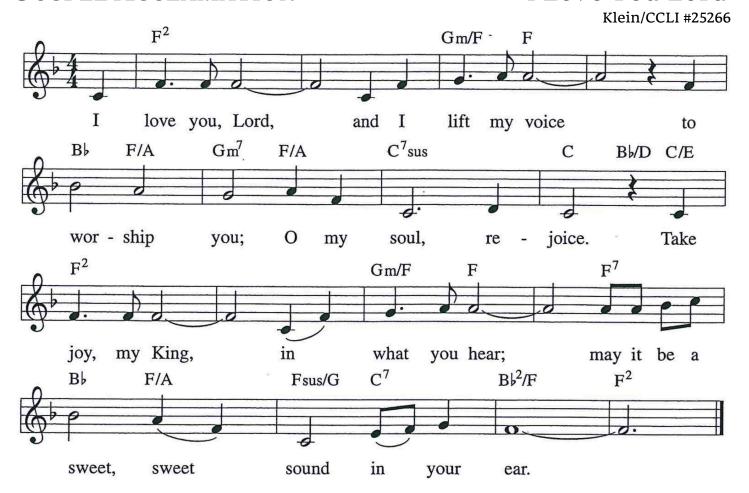
comprehend all the good that we share in Christ. 7 I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother. 8 For this reason, though I am more than bold enough in Christ to command you to do the right thing, 9 yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love—and I, Paul, do this as an old man and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus. 10 I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment. 11 Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful to you and to me. 12 I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you. 13 I wanted to keep him with me so that he might minister to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel, 14 but I preferred to do nothing without your consent in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced. 15 Perhaps this is the reason he was separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back for the long term, ¹⁶ no longer as a slave but more than a slave, a beloved brother—especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

¹⁷ So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. ¹⁸ If he has wronged you in any way or owes you anything, charge that to me. ¹⁹ I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even your own self. ²⁰ Yes, brother, let me have this benefit from you in the Lord! Refresh my heart in Christ. ²¹ Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do even more than I ask.

The word of God for the people of God. *Thanks be to God.*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

I Love You Lord



HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 14:25-33

The holy gospel according to St. Luke the 14th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁵ Now large crowds were traveling with [Jesus], and he turned and said to them, ²⁶ "Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. ²⁷ Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. ²⁸ For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? ²⁹ Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see

it will begin to ridicule him, ³⁰ saying, 'This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.' ³¹ Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? ³² If he cannot, then while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. ³³ So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

We sit.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

follow the leader

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

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.

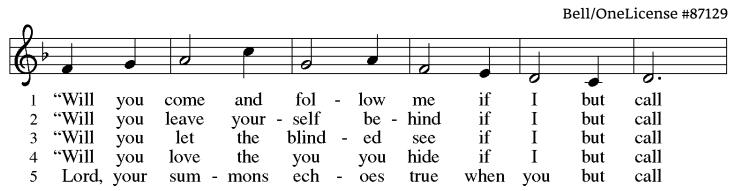
SERMON

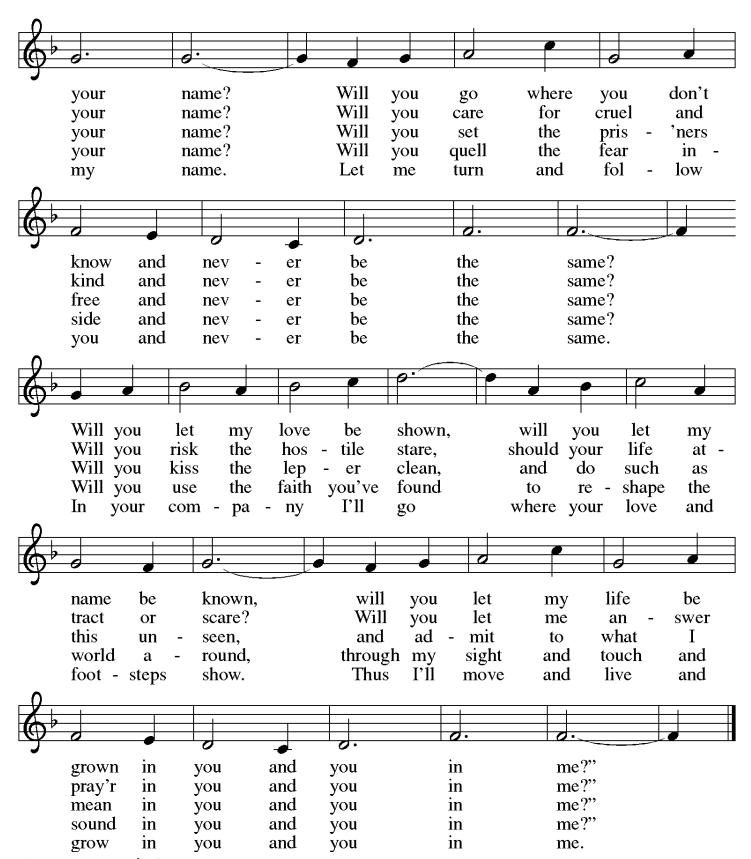
traveling vs. following

We stand.

HYMN

Will You Come and Follow Me





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

Gracious God, we come to you in prayer for the church, the world, and all in need.

Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.

We entrust these prayers to you, O God, in the name of Jesus Christ, our redeemer and friend. *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.

OFFERING

Is He Worthy?

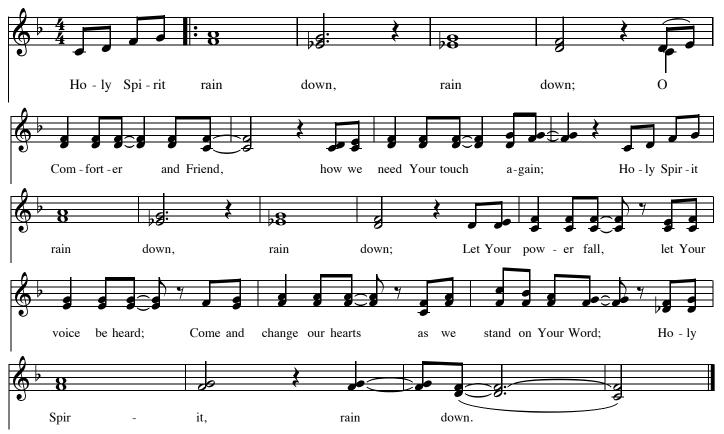
Peterson/CCLI #7108951

We stand.

OFFERTORY

Holy Spirit Rain Down

Frager/CCLI 2405227



OFFERING PRAYER

We give thanks for these gifts and we pray together.

Lord of the harvest,

we return to you a portion of what you have given to us. Turn us to set our hope not on the uncertainty of riches, but on you, who richly provides for us. Multiply what we have gathered to bless all who are suffering and in need, through 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.*

PREFACE

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. who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened the way to everlasting life.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

In the night in which he was betrayed...

With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's Passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith: *Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.*

God, our great provider, the bread of life nourishes and sustains us. Send the Spirit to fill this bread and wine.

Come, Holy Spirit.

This meal fills your people with your abundant mercy and draws us closer to you and with one another. We long to be filled with your bread. Strengthen us in your presence. *Come, Holy Spirit.*

We worship and adore you. We fall at your feet to be near you. Show us your great power and assure us of your mighty presence. *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.

We sit.

Invitation to Communion

The kingdom of God is set before you. Eat and rejoice.

COMMUNION

Please come forward using the side aisles 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 center aisle. Please return to your pews for a time of quiet prayer and meditation. If this is the first Sunday of the month, we also offer communion at the rail. On this Sunday, you may continue through the side doors and an usher will guide you to the altar to receive communion.

MUSIC Medley Roof

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

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

SENDING OF COMMUNION

We invite those who will serve as eucharistic ministers for this month to come forward and receive the communion.

Gracious God, loving all your family with a mother's tender care: As you sent the angel to feed Elijah with heavenly bread, assist those who set forth to share your word and sacrament with those who are *sick or homebound*. In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those who will receive this sacrament, and give us all the comfort of your abiding presence through the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. *Amen*.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We pray together.

O God, through this meal you have strengthened us and appointed us to be your servants.

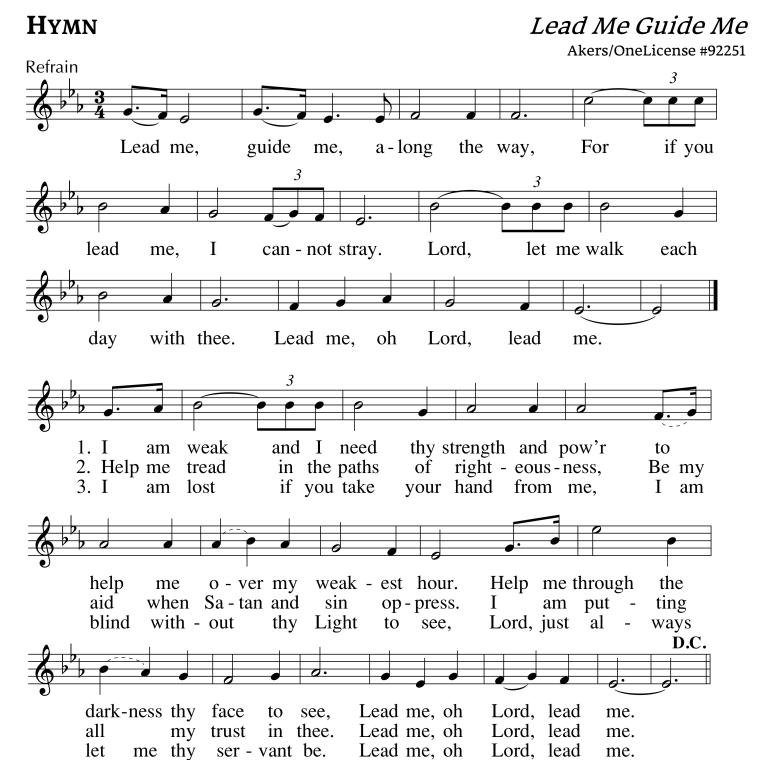
Send us to do good and to share our possessions with all in need. We ask this in Jesus' name.

Amen.

THE SENDING

BLESSING

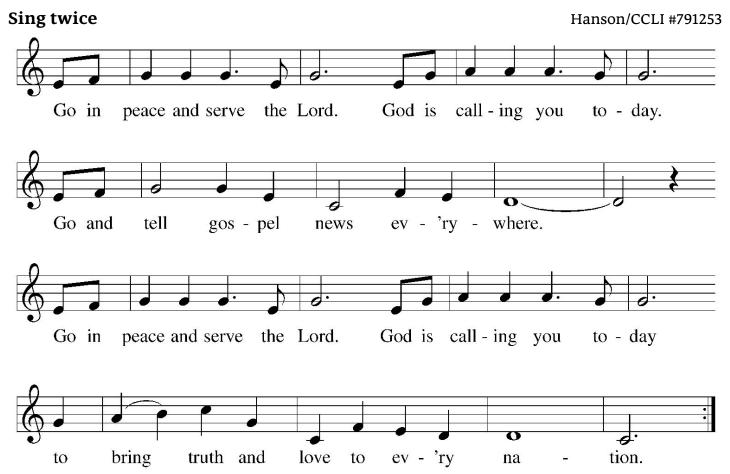
The God of righteousness, Who gives justice to the oppressed, Who gives food to the hungry, Who sets the prisoners free, † bless you now and forever. *Amen.*



As the cross passes your pew, turn and face the entrance of the sanctuary.

SENDING

Go in Peace and Serve the Lord



As the cross passes your pew, turn and face the entrance of the sanctuary.

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

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

The altar flowers are to the glory of God and in honor of our 28th Wedding Anniversary on September 6th by Andy and Beth Jordan.



Legacy Planning Seminar – September 28

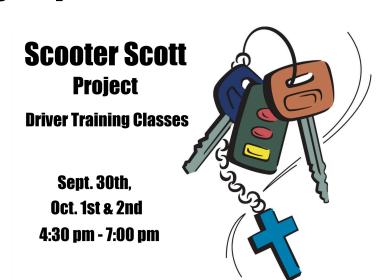
Please join us for a Legacy Planning Workshop with Danny Scott, Attorney on Sunday, September 28 at 3 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

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 (link posted in FB group)

Scooter Scott Project – Outreach in coordination with the Scooter Scott project is going to sponsor another Drivers

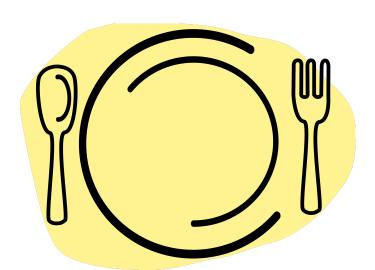
Training class. The dates for the class will be September 30, October 1 and 2. Each night the class will run from 4:30 pm until 7:00 pm. If you are interested in assisting with this, please contact Charlene Corley at 803-636-5352.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

to paint the parsonage kitchen, dining room, great room, and hallway. Also, donations of painting supplies (paint pans, rollers, tarps, brushes, painters' tape, ladders, rags, etc.) There will be a sign-up sheet in the breezeway. Deadline for sign up is Sept 28ths. Please contact Fran Bouknight with any questions.





Hebrews Supper Club September 13th

Please sign up in the narthex or online. Deadline to sign up is September 7th

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



TITHES AND OFFERINGS

08/31/2025

9:00 worship 83 + live stream 127 = 210 Sunday School = 23

Current & Benevolent	Received	\$4,137.55
Building Fund	Received	\$220.00
Building Improvement	Received	\$25.00

HONORARIUMS AND MEMORIALS

n/a



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



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SERVING IN WORSHIP

	Today	Next Sunday
Ushers:	Joel Price, Jr.	Tom Stahl
	Cindy Price	Jamie Addison
Crucifer:	Spencer Price	Mackenzie Burns
Acolyte:	Chanler Coppens	Cameron Bucknam
Lector:	Sherwood Garrett	Jennifer Miller
Communion Assts:	Devona Price	Denise Thurman
	Joel Price, Sr.	Jennifer Miller
	Chanler Coppens	Mackenzie Burns
	Spencer Price Joel Price, Jr.	Cameron Bucknam
	Danny Scott Jenny Scott	Jerry Price
Audio:	n/a	Arron Kinard
Video:	Breanna Metze	Quentin Kinard
Nursery:	Alyson Price	Kay Bryant
	Brittany Allen	Larry Amick
Flowers:	The Jordans	OPEN

SERVING IN SEPTEMBER

COUNCIL REP: Cyndi Leaphart

ALTAR GUILD: Mary Frances Sease, Diane Boulware

TABULATORS: Larry Amick, Angie Hydrick

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 Lauren Addy,

friend of Kathy Cooper and Metzes
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 Dorris Layton,

friend of Earl & Mary Frances Sease Jody Harper, friend of Kelli Goff



www.WeAreMtHermon.com

3011 Leaphart Road West Columbia, SC 29169 Monday – Friday 9:00am – 1:00 pm 803.794.6430 / 803.240.3143 cell/text

Rev. Gina D. Metze, *Pastor*Roberta Smith, *Administrative Asst*

803.951.3784 803.240.3143 cell PastorGina@WeAreMtHermon.com Office@WeAreMtHermon.com

CONGREGATIONAL OFFICERS

Terry Swygert, *President*Sheila Eargle, *Secretary*Annette Price/Karen Nicholson, *Financial Secretary*

Ronnie Fulmer, Vice President Frank Bouknight, Treasurer Ricky Bouknight & Terry Swygert, Sextons

THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

Sunday, September 7th

9:00 am Worship

10:30 am Sunday School

10:30 am New Disciples Class

Monday, September 8th

12:00 pm Hebrews Dinner Signups

5:30 pm CR: Care Team

6:30 pm Lutheran Men & Women

Tuesday, September 9th

5:00 pm GR: Executive Team

6:30 pm Life Group at The Metzes

Wednesday, September 10th

9:00 am Food Pantry

(Ann Addy, Ann Bouknight, Sharon Keefe)

12:05 pm One Body

September 11th – 18th – Pastor Gina on Vacation

Saturday, September 13th

9:00 am Food Pantry (Swygerts & Carrolls)