



Mount Hermon Baptist Church



sprout



grow



bearfruit

April 2021

Pastor's Pen

Who Are We?

This month we will begin our very first Mount Hermon 101 course live-streamed and recorded. It seeks to ask three questions: What is a Christian? What is a Baptist? What is a member of Mount Hermon Baptist Church? Those pursuing membership must take the course, but every person is welcome!

I begin the course every time with a different question: Who Am I? We have all asked this question at different times in different ways. We want to understand who we are as a human being, as a person, as an individual. If we want to answer this question, we do not first look within but look to God. God answers this question throughout Scripture, beginning with Genesis.

During Lent, we were reminded that God formed us from the dust of the earth (Genesis 2:7). So, the first thing we learn is that God is our Creator, and we are part of Creation. We cannot confuse ourselves with our Creator God.

On the other hand, we discover that while we are made of dust, God breathed into our nostrils the breath of life, God's very spirit! While we are God's creation, we also are intimately connected to God like nothing else in Creation! We are made in the image of God (Genesis 1:27)!

There is one more identifying marker that makes us human, but we do not discover it until God's Son, Jesus Christ, is born on the earth. Born fully human, Jesus, walked this world as we do. Through his death on the cross, his body was laid in the grave for it to return to the dust. Something new, however, happened. He rose from the dead! All those who follow Christ will participate in his resurrection, for God sees us in Jesus.

Our identity is ultimately found in Christ (Colossians 3:1-4). When we ask, "Who Am I?" God's first answer to us is Christ. God loves you like a Father loves a child. God wants to give you all things. God is cheering you on. And when you stumble and fall in this world, God will always be there to pick you up. - In Christ, Pastor Rich

Mount Hermon 101 Classes 6:00p - 7:30p in the Sanctuary

Wednesday, April 28; Wednesday, May 5; Wednesday, May 12

Weekly Schedule

Sunday:

9:00a Multiply Class Group Study
(Fellowship Hall)

11:00a Worship Service
In the Sanctuary and on YouTube

2:00p Children and Youth

Wednesday:

6:00p Prayer and Adult Bible Study

Thursday:

6:30p Amen Class Group Study
(Event Room)

Each Sunday, we gather for worship in the sanctuary maintaining safety guidelines. We also YouTube Live the service for those that want to join at 11:00a from their home. The service is also available on our YouTube channel later in the week.

Small Sunday School groups are meeting at various other times during the week. Contact your teacher for information regarding your class.

Wednesday Night Adult Bible Study in the sanctuary at 6:00p.

The church office is open 9-11:30a M-F. Please contact the church office with any questions or concerns as we re-gather as a community.

Holy Week

March 28 - April 4

March 28 - Palm Sunday - Service in the Sanctuary and Live Stream at 11:00a
April 1 - Maundy Thursday - Service with the Lord's Supper in the Sanctuary at 7:00p
April 2 - Good Friday - Prayer and Songs at the Cross on the Church Lawn at 7:00p
April 4 - Easter Sunday - Sunrise Service at the cemetery at 7:00a

Worship Service will begin with singing outside at 11:00a
followed by the service in the Sanctuary and Live Stream.



Children and Youth Ministry

March was a good month for the Children and Youth! During Lent, the Children and Youth have been reading through the book of Matthew to follow Jesus' story from His birth to his ascension. We have been reading about 5 chapters every week and then discussing them on Sundays. I have particularly enjoyed reading through the Gospel of Matthew and seeing the kids' perspectives on the assigned reading. In March, the Children and Youth also started meeting in person again and we are grateful to see one another face to face once again. April is an exciting month as well. The Children and Youth Ministry Team will be hosting a virtual

Easter egg hunt, we will celebrate the resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and Compassion International Sunday is on April 25th! For Compassion International Sunday, I would encourage you, if you can, to donate so that Nica is able to continue to get an education in the Philippines! If you feel led, you could donate \$38 to sponsor Nica for an entire month, however, any smaller donations would also be much appreciated! If you do donate to Nica, I would encourage you to write Nica in the memo line of your check or write her name on an envelope if you are donating cash. We are excited to see what the Lord has in store for us in April! ~ John

Discipleship

Alamance Orange Prison ministries has been the recipient of our Easter Offering for the last several years. It has been our privilege to have men in our church involved directly in the lives of the inmates and then our privilege as a church to welcome them into our congregation. We have had the opportunity to interact, fellowship, study God's Word together and share meals. Because of the pandemic, our interactions have been limited but our hearts are still with the inmates. Once the quarantine guidelines are lifted and the possibility to become directly involved becomes possible again, my prayer is that the men of our church will continue to feel the call of the Holy Spirit to be involved in this ministry, to bring the inmates back to the church where we can surround them with acceptance and love. Even though we can't be involved directly right now, we can support the ministry by donating to the offering. Our goal is \$800 and gifts will be received through the month of April.

Cookie



Beginning in April, we are planning on having a monthly church-wide picnic. You bring food for your family and we will gather on the church grounds and fellowship together continuing to follow our Covid guidelines. Our first **picnic will be Saturday, April 10th at 12 noon**. Hope to see you there!



This year's Easter Mission Offering
will be donated to the
Alamance-Orange Prison Ministry.

Church Goal: \$800.00

"The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you
did for one of the least of these brothers and
sisters of mine, you did for me.' Matthew 25:40

Alamance-Orange Prison Ministry exists to provide
and promote spiritual comfort and growth to the men
assigned to Orange Correctional Center through
services rendered by a full-time funded chaplain.
Further, the ministry strives to better prepare OCC
residents with skills, abilities and motivation to
successfully reintegrate into their communities and
families upon release.

Dear Heavenly Father,

Today Lord, I pray for the person that finds Church is hard, hard because they are afraid of being judged, hard because they are broken, hard because they are ashamed of their mistakes or bad decisions. Hard because they are a sinner.

I pray they will find church is a body of imperfect people, a group of sinners, saved by grace. A body of believers, bound by eternal love.

I pray they will find Church is a holy ground where sinners stand as equals before the throne of Grace, Where sin is confronted and hearts are invited to seek restoration. Church is a refuge, a bearer of burdens, a giver of hope. It's where a family comes together, setting aside differences, forgetting past mistakes and rejoicing together in each other's victories.

Church is where God resides and all are welcome in his presence. Today I pray for our church and its people. Amen

*Declare his glory among the nations,
his marvelous deeds among all
peoples. 1 Chronicles 16:24*

Those Needing Our Prayers...

Judith Carrig	Brenda Hartsfield	Betty Jane Poole
Ed Chahine	Bobby Holloway	Marjorie Rand
Bill Clayton	Edith Lee	Patricia Rigsbee
Rachel Clayton	David Lewis	Justin Riley
Bill Dorrity	Laurie Loving	Ridge Riley
Joan Dixon	Barbara Nowell	Sheila Seawell
Linda Ferettino	Jerry Nowell	Brenda Sorrell
Lacey Doar Girouard	Joan Page	Linda Talley
Irene Godwin	Peggy Parker	Art Ward
Judy Hanson	Lisa Parrott	Jay Wilson

OUR SHUT-INS AND HOSPITALIZED

Brookdale - Bonnie Andrews
Friends Home Assisted Living - Betty Fera
Hospice - Jeff Gallimore
The Covington - James Grasty
The Oaks of Alamance - Bob Link (Room 108)

Pray For:

Morgan Sorrell and the Sorrell family for the loss of David Sorrell and Wilma Sorrell
All affected by Covid-19 and Frontline Workers
The Children and the Children's Ministry
The Alamance-Orange Prison Ministry
President Joe Biden
North Carolina Governor Roy Cooper
Unity for our Country

AROUND THE WORLD

Farik Alenov, missionary to Turkey
Tanya Pivovarov, missionary to Italy
Mandy and Brian Davis, missionaries to Thailand
Rev. Gideon Thuam, missionary to Thailand
Roger and Vicki Grossmann, missionaries to Guatemala

Outreach Team

Re-engaging

At the time of this writing some Covid-19 restrictions have been lifted in North Carolina. Not 100% normal but a wonderful sign of hope as we safely move forward. Many thanks to our Mount Hermon staff and others who have worked extra hours making sure that we did not miss a Sunday of worship. Our deacons have worked extra hard connecting with their families and community.

What happens now? Many of our congregation have received the vaccine or at least scheduling for near future. We continue to check temps, distance, wear masks, etc. This is healthy living for the time being.

Spring/Easter Season is always a great time to make some changes or adjustments. Here some things to consider:

- ◆ Worship consistently on Sundays in person and enjoy God's family of believers. Easter Sunday is upon us!
- ◆ Attend one or more of the bible studies that are being taught. Multiply, Amen, Youth/Children, Pastor Rich on Wednesday's (all are welcome to join any of these small groups)
- ◆ Start a new, daily bible study/devotion/meditation time
- ◆ Make phone calls to ones you have not talked to lately
- ◆ Schedule outside patio visits with some of our church family
- ◆ Invite someone to meet you at church this coming Sunday
- ◆ Consider a mission trip. Two NC teams heading to Guatemala in April
- ◆ Attend our upcoming church picnics
- ◆ Intentionally share the Gospel with others and serve diligently with a re-engaged love

God has a plan for us as individuals. What is your focus? How can you live the life that God has in store for you? Let us all commit as a church to re-engage and be stronger than ever before. Our Father in heaven is our strength and guide. 1 John 2:24 "So you must remain faithful to what you have been taught from the beginning. If you do, you will remain in fellowship with the Son and with the Father."

Pastor:
Secretary:
Music Leader:

Rich Goodier
Peggy Mason
Janice Thompson

Church Office

Hours: Monday—Friday 9 am—11:30 am

Phone: 919-383-2982

Email: mounthermondurham@gmail.com

Pastor Rich's Email: pastor.richgoodier@gmail.com

Please keep church office informed of change of address.
Also, if you no longer wish to receive the monthly newsletter,
please contact the office by phone or email.

MOUNT HERMON BAPTIST CHURCH
4511 OLD NC 10
DURHAM, NC 27705

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Birthdays & Anniversaries

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

04/06 Blanca Serrano Gonzalez
04/08 Virginia Pasour 04/10 Skyler Paschall
04/09 Dan Vogel 04/15 Katrina Paschall

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

04/13 Don & Virginia Pasour
04/28 John & Cookie Frederick

MAY BIRTHDAYS

05/01 Brian Tedder 05/07 Stacy Lee
05/04 Terri Anne Darby

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

05/10 David & Lisa Parrott
05/17 Dan & Ethel Vogel
05/18 Gary & Katrina Paschall

Stewardship

2021	February	Year-to-Date
Budget Income	\$18,736	\$31,228
Budget Need	\$15,912	\$35,802
Difference	\$2,824	(\$4,574)

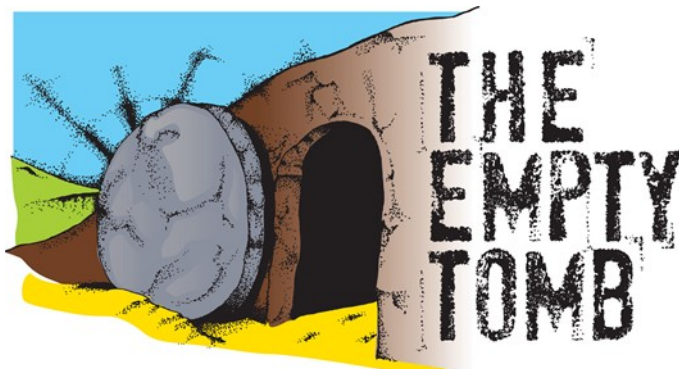
Property Renovation Fund - February 2021

Beginning Balance \$15,823.69
Ending Balance \$16,227.79

\$26,500 has been spent to date on the parsonage kitchen and laundry renovations. The main bath renovation will begin soon.

Continue to pray for the financial health of the Church. Peggy Mason, Treasurer

♪ Music Notes ♪



***For joy awakes as dawning light
When Christ's disciples lift their eyes.
Alive He stands, their Friend and King;
Christ, Christ He is risen.***

***Christ is risen, He is risen indeed!
Oh, sing hallelujah.
Join the chorus, sing with the redeemed;
Christ is risen, He is risen indeed.***

janice

Online Donations are Now Available!

From our website:
MountHermonDurham.org
select the "Give" feature to submit your
offering or gift when you not able to give
at church.

***Memorial received in loving
memory of Marie Andrews by:
Margie Whitfield***

APRIL DEACON MINISTRY
Assisting the Pastor:
Steve Paschall/Peggy Mason

**NO NURSERY
COVERAGE**

OCIM ITEM OF THE MONTH
Canned Meats

OCC ITEM OF THE MONTH
Shampoo

***If we live in the spirit, let us also
walk in the spirit. Galatians 5:25***