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**Mt. Hope Church**

42507 Mount Hope Rd, Ashburn VA 20148

CHURCH PROFILE

***Who are we?***

Mt. Hope Church is a warm and welcoming church, with a long history of people who are dedicated to God’s Word and serving the Lord in the Northern Virginia area. Originally founded in 1835, the church is located on ten acres bordering Beaverdam Reservoir in the diverse, professional, and expanding community of Ashburn, Virginia. Mt. Hope’s ***Vision*** is to cultivate a unified body of believers who *love God* through worship, prayer, and the meaningful study of His Word; who *love one another* by developing authentic, loving relationships*;* and who *live lives of service* by expressing Christ's love through acts of service and the sharing of our faith.

One of the things that makes Mt. Hope unique is the fusion of its historical physical structure with a fresh contemporary worship experience. The inside of the sanctuary maintains a traditional feel but with updated touches, such as pews dating back to the Civil War era alongside a renovated stage with modern sound equipment, lights, and flat screens. Mt. Hope’s exterior comprises a picturesque chapel with newer-construction foyer for gathering before and after services, a two-story brick building with kitchen and multi-purpose rooms, and a large outdoor pavilion for events and special occasions fronting Beaverdam Reservoir.

Mt. Hope is a vibrant church with a family feel. Its congregation comprises a variety of ages with diverse backgrounds and cultures. We engage in regular opportunities for fellowship through special events and social activities. Since the hire of a new Senior Pastor in the Fall of 2021, following a decline during the Covid era, Mt. Hope has experienced an overall momentum. There is palpable enthusiasm among members who are passionate about serving the Lord with their God-given talents. Mt. Hope currently averages a weekly in-person and online attendance of 130 people.

Mt. Hope has opened its facility and property to several smaller churches over the years. Both Alcoholic Anonymous and the Boy Scouts of America currently host regular meetings on our campus. Mt. Hope maintains a community garden, and holds outdoor events with other local churches during warmer months. Mt Hope is a member of the NorthStar Church Network. Mt Hope holds architectural design plans for future expansion, which are being actively pursued as we continue to expand.

***Who is the current pastor?***

Pastor Chris Eads graduated from Indiana Wesleyan University and has been an ordained minister since 1994. He has extensive pastoral, teaching, and church leadership experience serving multiple churches of various sizes in the northern Virginia area, and he has been involved in a wide range of national and international ministries over the years. Pastor Eads was the founding pastor of two local church plants, The Imperfect Church and CrossCurrent Ministries. He is an accomplished author with several books and course materials for discipleship classes under his belt. He also previously worked as a senior director for a national non-profit aviation corporation. Chris and his wife, Sherri, live in Lovettsville, VA, and have grown, twin daughters.

***Who is our current Director of Children and Youth Ministry?***

Sandra Cravens currently serves as our interim Director of Children and Youth Ministry. Her family will be moving to Florida in July of 2023. She and her husband, Will Cravens, have 6 children together. She homeschools their youngest two children and teaches Spanish in both a classroom setting and virtually. Her family is involved in local and global missions through their non-profit organization, Endurance Leadership. Sandra is passionate about children and youth learning how to hear God’s voice, memorizing Scripture, and showing how Biblical truths are relevant and applicable to their everyday lives. Mt. Hope currently averages an attendance of about 18 children and 14 youth.

***What are our plans for the future?***

Our core focus is to grow disciples who love God, love one another, and live lives of service. This is the life that Jesus Christ modeled for us. We believe God will use us for His purposes when we follow His will by pursuing this simple vision. Mt. Hope’s current focus is inspiring the congregation to grow strong habits of studying God's Word daily and living in meaningful community through small groups. Mt. Hope also encourages and supports its body to be the hands and feet of Jesus in service to the community (2 Corinthians 5:20, Ephesians 2:10). As Mt. Hope continues to expand its congregation, Mt. Hope particularly seeks to expand the number of families with children and youth to maintain a healthy intergenerational balance and culture within the church. Mt. Hope is actively pursuing revisions to architectural plans on file with the County to construct expanded facilities on our campus.

***What is Mt. Hope’s vision and mission?***

Mt. Hope’s Vision is to *Love God, Love one another, Live lives of service*.

Mt. Hope’s Mission is to cultivate passionate disciples of Jesus Christ who:

* Love God through worship, prayer, and the reading of His Word, and seek to hear and follow His will (Love God);
* Develop authentic, loving relationships (Love one another);
* Express Christ's love through acts of service and sharing our faith (Live lives of service).

***What ministries do we offer?***

We desire our ministries to be dynamic, changing to meet the needs of the body, however our core ministries include small groups, prayer groups, service opportunities, and mission trips. Mt. Hope is sustained by a culture of strong volunteer service, members who use their gifts and talents to serve the church, to include in the following areas: worship and music, audio/visual, web design, graphics, property maintenance, gardening, children and youth programs, elderly visitation, greeting, hospitality, special events, finance, accounting, and more.

***How is Mt. Hope involved in the community?***

Mt. Hope supports and serves with the following ministries: Tree of Life Ministries, BridgeFeeds, Endurance Leadership missions, NorthStar Network, and various local multi-church efforts. Mt. Hope also has been historically involved with or supported Afghan resettlement efforts, homeless ministries, Samaritan’s Purse Christmas shoeboxes, Food Fight, and more.

***Community Profile: Who are our neighbors?***

Ashburn ranks as the 18th most populous city in Virginia, with rapid, ongoing housing construction that will continue to boost population. Loudoun County is ranked #1 in the U.S. for median household income, averaging more than $125k - $140K annually. In 2018, 23% of County residents were born outside the U.S. The median age in the County is just 36 years old. 49% of the population is between the age of 21 and 54. 61% of residents over age 25 hold at least a Bachelor's degree.

***What are specific needs/challenges in our community?***

* It can be a transitional area for many people, remaining a few years before moving on.
* Both very wealthy and needy households exist within the community.
* The great wealth in Loudoun County can obscure people's awareness of their need for God as well as the increasing families in need within the County.
* Our church body is less diverse than our community, so finding ways to engage and connect beyond our church culture norms is a challenge.
* More than a quarter of households in the County do not speak English in the home.
* The area is highly-professionalized and fast-paced, so people's schedules are packed. and committing time to being part of a church family is a lower priority for many people.

***Please visit Mt. Hope’s website for more info and photos:*** [www.MtHopeLoudoun.org](http://www.MtHopeLoudoun.org)