

The United Methodist Church at Mount Tabor
5 Simpson Avenue
PO Box 29
Mount Tabor, NJ 07878-0029

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Time Value—Please Do Not Delay



THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH AT MOUNT TABOR

NEWSLETTER—DECEMBER 2016





UMC AT MOUNT TABOR

Pastor's Message

DECEMBER 2016

Rev. Amanda Hemenetz
Pastor

Rev. Carolyn Fagan
Pastor Emeritus

Rachel Caldari-Stroh
Director of Music
Ministry

Nicole Van Hoven - Pianist

Dodi Skovronek
Office Administrator
5 Simpson Avenue
PO Box 29
Mount Tabor, NJ 07878
973-627-4243
Email:
umcmounttabor@verizon.net
Website:
www.umcmounttabor.com

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HOLIDAYS CAN BE HARD

We miss those we love the most around the holidays. Especially Christmas.

In the past year, George and I have personally lost a brother, a grandfather, and a grandmother; and my uncle still hangs on by a very stubborn and grace-filled thread.

We're not the only ones. A number of families in our church have lost people very dear to them. Perhaps you are one of them.

For us, Christmas is still a day of joy; but it is also tinged with sorrow. We approach Christmas with happiness and hope, but also with fear—the fear that sorrow will overshadow the good.

But the angel said to the shepherds—"Fear not! For I bring you tidings of great joy... (Luke 2:10)

The word 'holiday' comes from 'Holy Day'. Holidays are 'Holy Days' and Holy Days are ones of great joy! I imagine that those in heaven are a bit closer to God than we are now. In heaven, perhaps every day is a Holy Day. So maybe, on our 'holidays' (Holy Days), we experience a little bit of heaven here. Maybe, on those days, earth and heaven meet, even it just for a moment.

Perhaps, at Christmas, we so keenly feel the absence of those who have gone before, not because they aren't with us, but because they're so close—they're joining in our Holy Day celebration—or more accurately, WE'RE joining in with THEIRS. On Christmas, as a Holy Day, we tap into a little piece of heaven.

This Christmas, if you are missing loved ones, as we will be, I invite you to celebrate their PRESENCE, not just mourn their absence. The same angel who spoke with the shepherds long ago speaks to us today, to the living and the dead—"Fear not! For I bring you tidings of great joy..."

Merry Christmas,

Pastor Amanda, George and Gregory

PLEASE SUPPORT
THE INTERFAITH
FOOD PANTRY
WITH YOUR
NON-PERISHABLE
DONATION!

DECEMBER'S
FEATURED
ITEM IS:
BABY SUPPLIES



CHOIR REHEARSAL



Rehearsals are
Thursdays,
7:30pm.

Join the Choir &
sing joyously!



WORSHIP INFORMATION SUNDAY SERVICE 10:30am

Advent began November 27th. Please join us for the rest of the Advent Season as we prepare the way of the Lord.



PRAYER FOR DECEMBER





WORSHIP SERVICE INFORMATION



GREETERS/USHERS

December 4 Bob & Nancy Gerardi
 Communion Steward: Karen Kelly
December 11 Barbara Strub & Jill Downing
December 18 Krysta Keller & Bob Newman
December 25 Blake Davis &

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS & ASSISTANTS

	Teacher	Assistant
December 4	Sue McCrostie	Chrissy Weaver
December 11	All	Janet Leonard
December 18	All	Nancy Gerardi
December 25	NO SUNDAY SCHOOL	

ACOLYTES

Want to be an acolyte at Sunday worship? Just let Pastor Amanda know and we will put you on the schedule.

CHILDCARE

December 4 Juliette Parker & Harrison Weaver
December 11 Jamaal Parker & Sarah Lefsyk
December 18 Chrissy Weaver & Harrison Weaver
December 25 NO CHILD CARE



WORSHIP READERS

December 4 George Hemenetz
December 11 Juliette Parker
December 18 George Hemenetz
December 25 Sharon Dickerson

UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES

WORSHIP TIME IS 10:30am

Sunday School for Children and Youth at 9:15am

Adult Bible Study at 9:15am

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES—

4pm—Family Worship: Family friendly service with our Liturgical Dancers and special music.

11pm—Service of Lessons and Carols: with Holy Communion and our Choir.

Candlelight carol sing at BOTH Christmas Eve services.

CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE—

10:30am Celebration Service. Casual, shorter worship service. Feel free to come in your PJ's!

Don't miss our Sunday School Christmas Presentation to be held during worship (10:30am) on Sunday, December 18th. Our Youth Class will be directing the Children's Class in performing 'A Charlie Brown Christmas'. Rehearsals for all Children and Youth will be held during Sunday School (9:15am) December 4th, 11th, and 18th.

DID YOU ORDER PASTIES?

If you ordered Pasties, they can be picked up in Memorial Hall on Sunday, December 4th, from 12n—4pm.

CHRISTMAS BOUTIQUE

At the same time, you can stop by our Christmas Boutique! There will be handmade craft items as well as baked goods. You can pick up your pasties and do a little special Christmas shopping at the same time! Again, Sunday, December 4th, from 12n—4pm.

JERSEY BATTERED WOMEN'S SHELTER DONATIONS

The last day to donate to the Jersey Battered Women's Shelter Holiday Boutique will be Sunday, December 4th. There is a box in the Narthex for gift donations. Any questions, please feel free to call the office.



**SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR
CHILDREN AND YOUTH AT
9:15AM!**

**Sunday School is in full-
swing!**

Children (potty-trained) and
Youth, pre-k through high school
are all welcome to attend.

Come join the fun!

*Thanks
to Our
Sunday
School
Crew*



Just a Moment . . . for Advent, 2016

Scriptures from The New Revised Standard Version of the Bible

Commentary by Rev. Amanda Hemenetz

Wednesday, December 7

“And he came to her and said, ‘Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.’” – Luke 1:28

You are also favored. GOD is with YOU.

Thursday, December 1

“But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, of ancient days.”

– Micah 5:2

Bethlehem was a small, unimportant city. GOD can show up ANYWHERE.

Thursday, December 8

“But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be.” – Luke 1:29

It's ok to question. Let your FAITH guide you.

Friday, December 2

“The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them.” – Isaiah 11:6-7

The Child Jesus is our LEADER in the PATHWAY of PEACE.

Friday, December 9

“The angel said to her, ‘Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.’” – Luke 1:30

Do not be afraid, for we are all favored by God. God LOVES us ALL.

Saturday, December 3

“The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness, on them light has shined.” – Isaiah 9:2

Let the light of the season fill you, and rejoice in it, for our GOD continuously sheds LIGHT on our way.

Saturday, December 10

“And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David.” – Luke 1:31-32

A bit of Jesus resides in each of us. Give THANKS for the GIFT of the LORD.

Sunday, December 4

2nd Sunday of Advent (Worship at the UMC at Mount Tabor 10:30am; Sunday School 9:15am)

“For a child has been born for us, a son given to us . . .” – Isaiah 9:6

Embrace the miracle of the Christ Child. Cradle the gift in your arms, as HE holds YOU.

Sunday, December 11

3rd Sunday of Advent (Worship at the UMC at Mount Tabor 10:30am; Sunday School 9:15am)

“He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.” – Luke 1:33

Allow the Child of the Manger to REIGN in your HEART.

Monday, December 5

“. . . and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” – Isaiah 9:6

Celebrate the names and nature of God. Jesus knows your NAME, and calls you BLESSED.

Monday, December 12

“Mary said to the angel, ‘How can this be, since I am a virgin?’” – Luke 1:34

Do not underestimate the POWER of GOD.

Tuesday, December 6

“In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin’s name was Mary.” – Luke 1:26-27

Anyone, including you, can be visited by a MESSENGER from GOD.

Tuesday, December 13

“The angel said to her, ‘The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God.’” – Luke 1:35

MIRACLES happen. Even TODAY.

<p>Wednesday, December 14</p> <p>“For nothing will be impossible with God.” – Luke 1:37</p> <p><i>All things are POSSIBLE, because of the GIFT of CHRISTMAS.</i></p>	<p>Tuesday, December 20</p> <p>“In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered.” – Luke 2:1</p> <p><i>So much to do! Such a busy time! BREATHE; and remember that GOD LOVES YOU.</i></p>
<p>Thursday, December 15</p> <p>“Then Mary said, ‘Here I am, the servant of the Lord. Let it be with me according to your word.’ Then the angel departed from her.” – Luke 1:38</p> <p><i>Offer yourself to the BLESSING and LEADING of the HOLY SPIRIT.</i></p>	<p>Wednesday, December 21</p> <p>“All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David.” – Luke 2:3-4</p> <p><i>There’s no place like home at Christmas; but remember, with Jesus in your heart, you are always HOME with GOD.</i></p>
<p>Friday, December 16</p> <p>“In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth.” – Luke 1:39-40</p> <p><i>Spend time with FRIENDS, another GIFT of GOD.</i></p>	<p>Thursday, December 22</p> <p>“He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and was expecting a child.” – Luke 2:5</p> <p><i>Cherish your family. They are also GIFTS from GOD.</i></p>
<p>Saturday, December 17</p> <p>“And Mary said, ‘My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely from now on all generations will call me blessed . . .’” – Luke 1:46-48</p> <p><i>Celebration yourself! For the CHRIST CHILD dwells WITHIN you!</i></p>	<p>Friday, December 23</p> <p>“While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child.” – Luke 2:6</p> <p><i>All things happen in God’s time. Even when things happen at the wrong time, GOD will MAKE a WAY.</i></p>
<p>Sunday, December 18</p> <p>4th Sunday of Advent (Worship at the UMC at Mount Tabor 10:30am; Sunday School 9:15am)</p> <p>“Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary was engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit.” – Matthew 1:18</p> <p><i>God has a plan. TRUST in the workings of the HOLY SPIRIT.</i></p>	<p>Saturday, December 24</p> <p>Christmas Eve (worship at the UMC at Mount Tabor 4pm Family Service & 11pm with Choir and Communion)</p> <p>“And she gave birth to her firstborn son, and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.” – Luke 2:7</p> <p><i>Make room for the Christ Child today. Celebrate the BABY in the MANGER!</i></p>
<p>Monday, December 19</p> <p>“Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, ‘Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.’” – Matthew 1:19-20</p> <p><i>When something is meant to be, GOD will MAKE it HAPPEN.</i></p>	<p>Sunday, December 25</p> <p>Christmas Day (worship at the UMC at Mount Tabor 10:30am; no Sunday School)</p> <p>“And the Word became flesh and lived among us . . .” – John 1:14</p> <p><i>Jesus was born. Jesus lived. Jesus is WITH US ALWAYS. Thanks be to God!</i></p> <p>HAPPY BIRTHDAY, JESUS!</p>

ALISON'S ANGELS

IN CELEBRATION OF THOSE WHO SERVE

Alison Ober served this church humbly and without reservation. This award is presented yearly in her memory and in honor of all those who volunteer their assistance in the life of the church in the name of Christ.



Larry Zeh was this year's recipient of the Alison's Angels Award.



PLEDGE DRIVE 2017

If you have not yet turned in your completed pledge card toward the 2017 budget, please do so before the end of the year.

Thank you in advance.

And thank you to all who have pledged thus far!



**United Methodist Church
at Mount Tabor**

Estimated Giving 2017

This is my financial commitment, guided by the Spirit, to support my church to the glory of God in 2017.

“God loves a cheerful giver”~2 Corinthians 9:8

Name:

Address:

Phone Number:

Email Address:

Member? Yes No

I estimate my gifts to average

\$ _____ per week in 2017

\$ _____ per month in 2017

\$ _____ per year in 2017

_____ *This is a tithe (10% of income).*

_____ *This is an increase over last year.*

Christmas Poinsettias/Donations

2016 Order Form



Christmas flowers and decorations add so much to the beauty of our sanctuary during the Christmas worship and gives us a deeper feeling of the season.

You have two ways of helping beautify the Church:

- 1) You may purchase poinsettias for \$10.00 each. And/or
- 2) You may donate money. Contributions may be in any amount. What a wonderful way to remember someone special. Both options may be given in honor or memory of a person.

Please complete the order form below and place it in the offering plate or mail it back to the Church office by **December 12th**.

1) Please accept a donation in the amount of \$ _____

AND/OR

2) Please order: _____ red poinsettia(s) _____ white poinsettia(s)

Total plant order \$ _____

Given in memory

of _____

Given in honor of

Given by



The Holiday Season is around the corner!

We at JBWS, want to thank you again for your past support. Last year, you made it possible for nearly 200 families, including more than 400 children, to receive holiday gifts and food! As we begin to prepare for the 2016 holiday season, we hope we can count on your support.

A generous local Girl Scout troop will help to transform our conference room into a *Holiday Boutique* filled with donations from our bighearted donors. Moms from our programs stop in to select a few special gifts for each child, plus something for themselves! You can imagine a mother's relief to know that in the midst of very trying times, she will be able to give her children some of the magic of the holiday season.

Our wish list

Our *2016 Holiday Wish List* is attached. Thank you for your new and unwrapped gifts.

We're here to assist you

If you plan to make a donation this year, please contact Lynne Song at lsong@jbws.org or (973) 267-7520 ext. 129. She can help guide you in your selections, assist you in making arrangements for your drop-off/pick-up, and answer any questions that you may have.

Our special needs

We usually receive a sufficient amount of toys, crafts and board games for our younger children but are often in short supply of gifts for our preteens and teenagers. Since teens can be challenging to shop for, please consider donating gift cards to department stores or stores where teens shop (e.g., clothing, electronic, music, etc.). These gift cards are much appreciated by our mothers because it enables them to select appropriate and personal gifts for their children.

Our timeline

To be sure that your gifts will be included in our *Holiday Boutique*, which opens on December 14th for our clients, we will be accepting all donations on December 7th – 13th.

Please be aware that we will not be able to receive any gifts once the boutique closes on Monday, December 19th. However, we are happy to accept gifts once again in the New Year and will use these to celebrate our families' birthdays throughout the year.

Your support is appreciated!

You make the season brighter for women and children hurting from domestic violence. Here is just one message from the many thank you letters that we received after last year's. ***"Please know that your generosity and thoughtfulness touched our hearts. I cannot thank you enough!"***

The Wish List is in the church office. Since it is several pages, we won't post it here. Please call and a copy will be forwarded to you. It will also be posted in Memorial Hall.

CHRISTMAS BOUTIQUE

On December 4th, we will be holding a 'Christmas Boutique' fundraiser!

Come and support all of our crafters and bakers during this unique sale.

All proceeds to benefit our church. It's a great opportunity to purchase some craft items for Christmas presents and benefit the church at the same time!

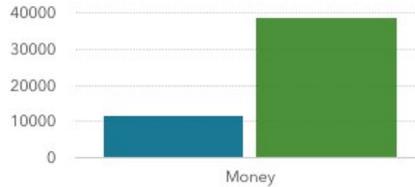
Boutique hours are 12n—4pm.



Rebirth & Renewal



■ Received ■ Goal



Capital Improvement Campaign 2014-2017



OUR GOALS

Completed:

- **Renovation of church exterior**
 - Repair rotten wood / new soffits
 - Repair crack and paint
 - 2 new doors (kitchen / thrift shop)
 - Enclose storage area for thrift shop
 - Total cost: \$19,315.00
- **New furnace at parsonage**
 - Total cost: \$2,500.00
- **Tree work at church/parsonage**
 - Total cost: \$2,700.00
- **Plumbing repairs**
 - New hot water heater / repair water main shutoff
 - Total cost: \$1,000.00

Projects to be Completed:

- **Parking lot repairs**
 - Repair holes and cracks/commercial grade seal coating and line painting
 - Total estimated cost: \$4,945.18
- **Fire Alarm Panel updated**
 - Estimated cost: \$5,500.00
- **New carpet for sanctuary**
 - Estimated cost: \$2,500.00

We need your help to reach our goal:

\$38,460

With the help of our church family, we can complete the projects of our capital campaign.

Goal per Year: \$12,820.00

UPDATE

Total Donations

\$25,530.24

Total Needed:

\$12,929.76

60 Families

\$450.00 per family

2 Year Plan:

\$225.00 per year

\$20.00 per month

\$5.00 per week

LESS THAN \$1.00 A DAY

Make the commitment!

Dec. 3rd Denise & Jeffrey Luca
 Dec 9th Wilbur & Jill Downing, Ned & Rachel Stroh

NOVEMBER



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Dec. 4th Elva Neumann
 Dec 7th Krysta Keller
 Dec. 12th Ian Miller
 Dec. 15th Charles Taylor, Jr., Laura Lemanowicz
 Dec. 18th Donald McKeand,
 Dec. 19th Jessie McCrostie
 Dec. 21st Ian Corcoran, Stan Wojcik



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

Dec. 3rd Denise & Jeffrey Luca
 Dec 9th Wilbur & Jill Downing, Ned & Rachel Stroh

Members and Friends In The Military

Erin Parker, *US Air Force*, former church member and son of Kathy & Chris Parker
Michael O'Neil
Drew Greenlees, *US Navy*, serving in Iraq, Graduate of PHHS, grew up in Glacier Hills
Mike Sgambati, *US Air Force*, living in New Mexico, Husband of Melissa Meyers
Alex Degrosky, friend of the Scala Family



Tabor's Treasures

THRIFT SHOP

HOURS

Wednesdays 10am—2pm

Thursdays 10am—2pm & 4pm—8pm

Saturdays 9am—1pm

Volunteers are needed. Join the fun! To volunteer call Nancy Gerardi.

For church members bringing donations—please place them OUTSIDE the back closet in Memorial Hall.

Clothing can be left in the box on the stage. Thank you! Furniture must be scheduled for inspection through the church office prior to donation. We allow ONE BAG of donations during shopping hours. At this time, we are not accepting puzzles and board games.

We no longer accept VHS Tapes. If you have more, please contact the church office at 973-627-4243 to make arrangements.

We apologize if you were not included on our list. If we have not listed your birthday, please contact the church office so we can include you in future editions.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BITS & PIECES

Do you have something to announce? The deadline for the **weekly bulletin** is Wednesday at 9:00am. The deadline for the **monthly Tidings** newsletter will be the 20th of each month. Please feel free to contribute!!

PRAYER CHAIN

Our church has an active prayer chain whose members regularly receive requests for prayers for specific needs. Although most often it concerns health, the need may be in other areas as well. To place a request for prayers, please call the church office at 973-627-4243 or email the office at umcmounttabor@verizon.net.

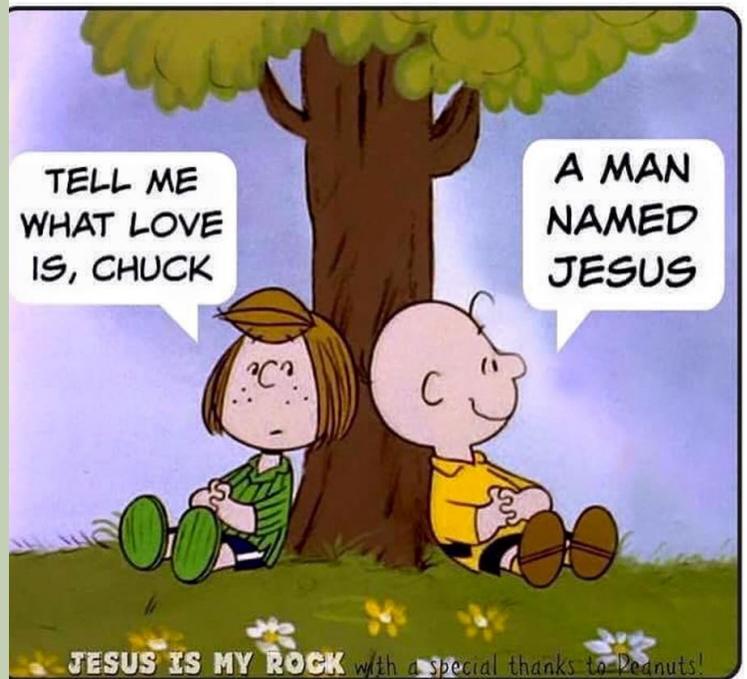


PRAYERS NEEDED

Please keep the following people in your prayers:

David Ober, Jr	Terry Ober
Kathleen Dooley	The Visoskas Family
LeRoy "Smitty" Smith	John Harrison
Dawn Zinckgraf	Denise Parker
The Family of Margie Little	Michael Smith
The Family of Richard Hemenetz	
The Family of Audrey Phillips	
The Family of John Walek	
The Family of Jeanne Apgar	
The Family of Christiane Roekaert	
Our Nation at this time of transition	

Today's Chuckle



WELCOME

The United Methodist Church at Mount Tabor is a community of faith-filled friends who seek to grow closer to God through the ministry of Jesus Christ and by the guidance of the Holy Spirit. We celebrate the history of Mount Tabor, and look with hope toward the future. Everyone is welcome here; everyone is cherished here; for everyone is a child of God. All are welcome to participate with us in our journey of faith, regardless of background, theological stance, or personal characteristics. We rejoice in God creating us to be a diverse family; and we strive to follow the Spirit's leading as one, while maintaining and upholding our individuality. Because of the current official stance of The United Methodist Church, we feel it is important to state a welcome to those of all sexual orientations and gender identities—You are welcome here.

God loves you just the way you are; and so do we.

OUR TEAM IN MINISTRY

Pastor: Reverend Amanda Hemenetz
Parsonage: 973-784-3758

Email: AmandaHemenetz@gmail.com

Pastor Emeritus: Reverend Carolyn Fagan
Home: 973-285-3965

Email: Fagancarolyn@aol.com

Church Office Administrator: Dodi Skovronek

Office: 973-627-4243 Fax: 973-627-0601

Email: umcmounttabor@verizon.net

Church Council	John Ryans	973-625-3660
Finance	Kevin Davis	973-971-9927
Church Lay Member to Conference		
Church Lay Leader	Bob Newman	973-627-2494
Ministry of Art	Dawn Zinckgraf	973-538-5039
Mission Outreach	Sarah Lefsyk	973-234-5111
Music/Worship	Rachel Caldari Stroh	973-876-9846
Pianist	Nicole Van Hoven	
Staff Parish Relations	Bob Newman	973-627-2494
Sunday School	Hilary Ververs	973-625-7310
Treasurer	Ken Miller	973-539-8231
Trustees	Mike Zinckgraf	973-538-5039

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