

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Time Value—Please Do Not Delay



THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH AT MOUNT TABOR

NEWSLETTER—NOVEMBER 2016





NOVEMBER 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

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The Miracle of the Trees

“Then shall the trees of the forest sing for joy before the Lord...” 1Chronicles 16:33

Ever notice how gracefully the leaves fall? Each one floats, as if it were dancing, so gently to the ground, as if unseen hands were guiding it downward.

The movement reminds me of God's presence and love, always, everywhere, cradled in the compassionate arms of God.

Autumn is by far, my favorite season, due in large part to the changing leaves. I love trees, and how they change throughout the year, but always lift their branches heavenward.

This past week, I fell in love with the trees, and God, even more.

When I first saw the news headline of the father who jumped to his death off the Wanaque Bridge on Route 287, with his two young sons in tow, I thought I was reading it wrong. All three went off the bridge—the father, and the two boys, ages 1 and 3. The father died. And the boys...survived, with only minor injuries. How was that even possible? I thought, for sure, the story wasn't right.

But the explanation came the next day. The father fell straight down, but the boys fell through the trees. The trees, and God, caught those innocent children and protected them, saved them. Though they fell, they fell gently.

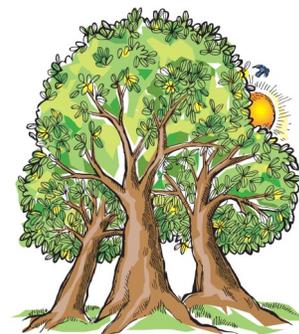
And some say miracles don't happen...

Trust in God. Trust in God's grace and love. We all have times in which we fall, but when we rely on the grace of God to hold us, it happens more gently.

Trust and love those unseen arms that cradle us, always.

Peace,

Pastor Amanda



LIVE ... FOR THE WILL OF GOD.
1 PETER 4:2

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

NOVEMBER'S
FEATURED
ITEM IS:
THANKSGIVING
SIDES



CHOIR REHEARSAL



Rehearsals are
back in ses-
sion!! Thurs-
days, 7:30pm.

Join the Choir &
sing joyously!



WORSHIP INFORMATION SUNDAY SERVICE 10:30am

Advent Begins November 20th. Please join us for the beginning of the Christmas season to prepare the way of the Lord.



November

I AM THANKFUL FOR...

By Nancie J. Carmody

- ...**The mess to clean after a party**
because it means I have been surrounded by friends.
- ...**the taxes I pay**
because it means that I'm employed
- ...**the clothes that fit a little too snug**
because it means I have enough to eat
- ...**a lawn that needs mowing.**
windows that need cleaning
and gutters that need fixing
Because it means I have a home.
- ...**my shadow who watches me work**
because it means I am out in the sunshine
- ...**the spot I find at the far end of the parking lot**
because it means I am capable of walking
- ...**all the complaining I hear about our government**
because it means we have freedom of speech
- ...**my huge heating bill**
because it means I am warm
- ...**the lady behind me in church who sings off key**
because it means that I can hear
- ...**the alarm that goes off in the early morning hours**
because it means that I'm alive
- ...**the piles of laundry and ironing**
because it means my loved ones are nearby
- ...**weariness and aching muscles at the end of the day**
because it means I have been productive



WORSHIP SERVICE INFORMATION



GREETERS/USHERS

November 6 Blake Davis & Jill Downing
 Communion Steward: Linda Hemenetz
November 13 Michael Ververs & Bob Gerardi
November 20 Harrison Weaver & Jamaal Parker
November 27 Sarah Lefsyk & Bruce Downing
December 4 Bob & Nancy Gerardi
 Communion Steward: Karen Kelly

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS & ASSISTANTS

	Teacher	Assistant
November 6	Sue McCrostie	Megan Schulze
November 13	Hilary Ververs	Dale Lennox
November 20	Jessica Zinckgraf	Janet Ryans
November 27	NO SUNDAY SCHOOL	
December 4	Sue McCrostie	Chrissy Weaver

ACOLYTES

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

CHILDCARE

November 6 Dale Lennox & Krysta Keller
November 13 Chrissy Weaver & Nicole Zinckgraf
November 20 Jill Downing & Jessica Zinckgraf
November 27 Danielle Davis & Linda Hemenetz
December 4 Juliette Parker & Harrison Weaver



WORSHIP READERS

November 6 Jill Downing
November 13 Jill Downing
November 20 Bob Newman
November 27 Jessica Zinckgraf
December 4 George Hemenetz

UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES

WORSHIP TIME IS 10:30am

Sunday School for Children and Youth at 9:15am

Adult Bible Study at 9:15am

No Sunday School for Children & Youth and no Adult Bible Study Class on November 27th.

3 Simple Rules of Giving

Join us in worship as we talk about stewardship with John Wesley's 3 Simple Rules as a guide.

November 6—Rule #1: Do No Harm (Celebration of All Saints' Day, Holy Communion)

November 13—Rule #2: Do Good

November 20—Rule #3: Stay in Love With God (Thanksgiving Celebration & Pledge Sunday)

Advent begins Sunday, November 27th. We will hold a special 'Hanging of the Greens' service in worship at 10:30am. Join us!

We received the following letter from Heart For People

Thank you for your continued support of Josephine Nassizi! Your interest in Josephine's education goes far beyond learning. Because of you, Josephine is able to count on having breakfast and lunch, to be taught by people that care about her wellbeing, and to feel loved by people that she has never met.

This summer, I was able to go to Uganda and see Josephine's school. Though she was not present at the time of my visit, her teachers assured me that she is working very hard in her classes. In addition to her daily studies, Josephine has also been helping maintain the school garden, which supplies much of the food for the school.

Your letter to Josephine was left with her teachers who will make sure that she receives it. This connection means so much more to Josephine than you can ever imagine. I know this, because all of the sponsored students keep every single one of their letters and pictures.

The Sponsorship program is so vital to the students in Uganda. Without you, Josephine would not have had the opportunity to learn, to cultivate her own food, and to connect with people a world away. You should be very proud of Josephine and know that she loves you with all her heart, though she has never met you.

Thank you again for giving of yourself to benefit the lives of others!

Sincerely,
Sarah Harrs
President, Heart For People

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

We have begun another year of
faith-filled learning!

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

Come join the fun!

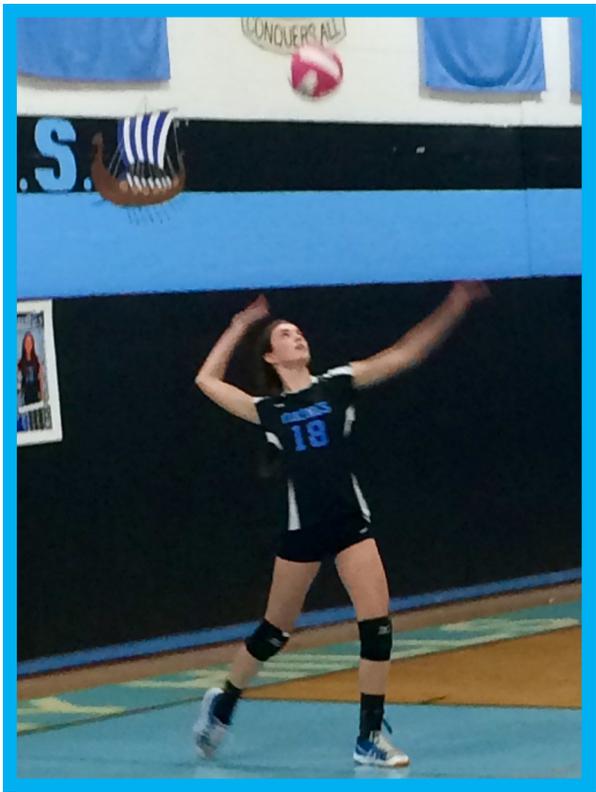
*Thanks
to Our
Sunday
School
Crew*



NEWS AROUND THE CHURCH



On October 2nd, we celebrated 'World Communion Sunday'. Janet Ryans, Ned Stroh, and Taylor Dickerson shared what Holy Communion means to each of them. Thank you to Janet, Ned, and Taylor for sharing your beautiful words and perspectives.



Congratulations to Jessica Zinckgraf on a recent win as Captain of the Girls' Volleyball Team at PHHS!

CHILDREN'S CHOIR



**Our Youth
Choir sang
beautifully
recently!**



VOLUNTEERS AT WORK!

Joe and Mary took down a dead tree at the parsonage!



3 SIMPLE RULES FOR GIVING

Yes, it's stewardship time! We are SO GRATEFUL for all the monetary gifts our members and friends provide for our ministries. And we are SO HOPEFUL that these gifts, including your own, will increase in 2017!

Join us in worship as we talk about stewardship with John Wesley's 3 Simple Rules as a guide.

November 6—Rule #1: Do No Harm (Celebration of All Saints Day, Holy Communion)

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November 20—Rule #3: Stay in love with God (Thanksgiving Celebration & Pledge Sunday)



**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.*

Our Celebration of All Saints' Day will take place during worship on November 6th, at 10:30am. Please see the next page to have a loved one remembered who has died within the past year.



ALL SAINTS' DAY

Remembering those who died

November 2015—October 2016

Name of the deceased: _____

Relationship: _____

Your Name: _____

Names will be read during 10:30am worship on November 6th, and listed in the bulletin. Please put this form in the offering plate, return to the church office, or email the information to the church office.

Deadline for submittal: Wednesday, November 2nd.

Report of the Pastor
Church Conference 2016
The United Methodist Church at Mount Tabor

It's been a busy difficult, tiring, but rewarding, inspiring and ever-blessed year at the United Methodist Church at Mount Tabor!

Disciples continue to be made and encouraged here. Since last Church Conference, we have received 7 new members (up from 1 the year before), including the celebration of the re-naming of Nathan Grant Believe (formerly 'Jeanne'). I have had the privilege of baptizing 6 individuals over the past year. One of our goals for this coming year is an increase in discipleship development, especially considering all of our Lay Speakers have left us, either by death or transfer.

We have enjoyed worship experiences centered around many different themes and series. Our Liturgical Dancers and Bell Choir have performed beautifully for us and for God multiple times this past year. Our Choir had returned for a full year now, under the direction of our Music Director. Rachel began her ministry with us last September. We are so very fortunate and blessed to have her on our ministry team. At Christmastime, with her came her niece Nicole, who has taken on the role of our pianist. What an incredible, unexpected blessing this has been!

All of our Sunday School class (children, youth and adult) have grown considerably and continue to do so (18 students on day 1 this year!). This is in large part to the faithful work, love and enthusiasm of our volunteer teachers and assistants. We are so blessed to be part of a church family with so many children, youth, and young families! They teach us much, as we endeavor to share our wisdom, the wisdom of God, with them. Our children are so faithful, and we have a vibrant, active Youth Group. Thanks be to God!

We've participated in a number of mission-related projects over the past year, from collecting money for various causes, to our Bridges Run to Newark last month, where 13 church volunteers and friends fed and clothed the homeless in Newark. We assisted a needy family in town, helping to keep their children in their home and collected gifts for the Batter Women's Shelter at Christmas. Our thrift shop, Tabor's Treasures, continues to serve the community in many ways, including offering items to those in need. We made Flood Buckets for UMCOR and Blessing Bags in worship.

We have responded to crisis in the world by financial gifts and educational opportunities. We tackled the issue of misunderstandings regarding the Islamic religion by holding an informational session with The Islamic Society of Morris County. In turn, Pastor Amanda spoke at an event hosted by Muslims at Parsippany Hill High School, representing Protestant Christianity. We are proud of this forged relationship, and we hope to continue to build bridges between us in the future.

We've also had fun! We enjoyed participating in Children's Day again this year, with our giant statue of Christ The Redeemer and the theme "The World Gathers at the Feet of Christ—Summer Olympics 2016". Of note was our 'rhythmic gymnast', Gracie, who hula-hooped the entire parade route, TWICE! We may have established a new Good Friday tradition of film-going, as 18 of us joined together at the theater to watch 'Miracles From Heaven'. Our Annual Church Family Picnic was a success. We celebrated accomplishments of church members in their own lives, from graduations and sharing of joys in worship, to Bruce Downing receiving a special award from Rotary, to medals awarded to Roger Neumann at the Special Olympics and Danielle Davis at the National Solo Ice Dancing Competition, to Dawn Zinckgraf successfully coming through surgeries and her chemo. God is good, and God's goodness shines in so many ways around us!

The outside of the church received a beautiful 'face-lift' this past spring. In the form of refurbishing and repainting. The Trustees have done, and are doing, an excellent job. Our R&R Capital Campaign (Rebirth and Renewal) continues. Special giving opportunities and fundraisers held over the past year included our 'SuperBowl Challenge' and our Spiritual Medium visit with Gina Marie DeLuca at the Tabernacle, which was wonderfully received and attended by the community. We have currently received 2/3 of what is needed financially, and hope to close out this campaign over the next year. A huge thank you to all who have donated thus far, and plan to donate in the near future.

Report of the Pastor (continued)

Our first annual "Alison's Angels" award was presented this past year in memory of Alison Ober. The award is given to a lay member of the church who has demonstrated love for the church community by consistently volunteering their time. In honor of her service, and in memory of Alison, the first 'Alison's Angels' award went to Kay Hutchinson.

The most important thing I have learned about this faith community in the past year, and about faith in general, is that whatever is thrown our way, we handle it, with the grace of God. The 'flood' this past spring was devastating to our thrift shop, and yet, we're up and running now just fine (a huge thanks to all who helped, including our insurance company). We've said 'good-bye' to too many since our last Church Conference, through death and through transfer, none a fault of our own, but difficult just the same. Deb Scala is missed tremendously on a daily basis by us all, but I know she's still our cheerleader, even from "The Tabor in the Sky". And though she is no longer an official member, we are all so relieved that Carly Dickerson has healed following her injury.

I am personally so grateful for this church, and how it continually reaches out to the needs of the world, the community, and the church members. When George's brother died so unexpectedly last month, I knew I could leave the worship service in capable hands of wonderful volunteers to go be with our family. The church members have been incredible in their support, not only through our grief, but through my continuing health difficulties as well.

That being said, I'm still here! And I've still got energy! And God's calling this church! So hold on and get ready, because we're far from done yet. :O)

Peace and love,

Pastor Amanda

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 _____

Please make your check payable to the UMC at Mt. Tabor and mark your envelope Christmas Flowers. **PLEASE NOTE: December 12th is the absolute deadline, so place your orders early!**



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.

ATTENTION ALL CRAFTERS, BAKERS, ETC!!!

In early December, we will be holding a 'Christmas Boutique' fundraiser!

Use the month of November to craft items of your choice that are gift-worthy, and donate them to be sold to shoppers.

All proceeds to benefit our church. Pastor Amanda is in charge of this one, so please let her know what you will be making, quantities, etc.

Looking for crafts and baked goods.



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

THRIFT SHOP: Volunteers are needed in ALL AREAS!!! Assist with sorting, pricing, putting items in the shop, working the shop, and organizing/ tidying up the shop. Please contact the church office if you are interested!



MUSIC: Join the Chancel Choir! No experience necessary. Our singers meet on Thursdays, 7:30pm, in the sanctuary beginning in September. The Chancel Choir contact is Rachel Caldari Stroh. We would love to have you! Think about a fall ministry.



Sing With Us

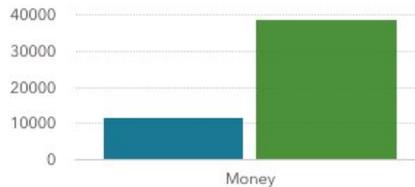
CROP SHARE: We are once again hosting Alstede Farms Crop Share program. We are looking for volunteers to distribute produce to the CSA Members on Wednesdays, from 3pm—7pm, from the church kitchen. Volunteers receive a personal size share of produce for their time. Sign-up sheet is located on the table in Memorial Hall.



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!

NOVEMBER



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| November 3rd | Debra Duncan |
| November 7th | Alice Grant |
| November 9th | Ronald Anzalone, Sr |
| November 10th | Paula Spille, Zaron Spector |
| November 15th | Eloise Margus, Bobbi Humphreys |
| November 17th | Sarah Scala, Cindy Scala |
| November 22nd | David Ober |
| November 25th | Jan Atkinson, Denise Rothman,
Tori Rothman |

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

- | | |
|--------------|-----------------------|
| November 1st | Chrissy & Jeff Weaver |
| November 5th | Wendy & Lester Dagner |
| November 7th | Bonnie & Larry Zeh |

Kay Hutchinson has a new Suite number, 125. Please address cards to this number and advise staff that you are visiting her here.

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.

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
Steven Masker, US Army, Kuwait, friend of the Dickerson Family

JJ Yososoegito, US Marines, Middle East



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.

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
The Simonson Family	Kathleen Dooley
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	
Bill Visakay	Jaxon Maas

Today's Chuckle



Thank you to Ken Lemanowicz for 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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