THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH AT MOUNT TABOR
NEWSLETTER—DECEMBER 2018
What’s your favorite Christmas memory?  A gift you received?  A gift you gave?  A special service?  Good times with family?

My favorite Christmas memory was a shopping trip that almost didn’t happen.

Mid-December, when I was in middle school, my father entered the hospital with a leg infection.  What we thought would be a day or two of IV antibiotics, turned into a 10-day inpatient stay.  He came home December 23rd.

His greatest concern?  He hadn’t been able to shop for my Mom for Christmas.  So, on Christmas Eve, I ventured with Dad, who was fresh out of the hospital, to the Rockaway Mall.  Though he hadn’t been up much yet, we cautiously navigated the shoppers and the stores to find him something to give my mother.  I’ll never forget walking with my Dad that day, giving thanks over and over again that he was recovering.  The gift itself, purchased and put under the tree, didn’t really matter.  The real gift was that Dad was still around to go searching for one.

That was my most joyful Christmas—just having Daddy home.

This Christmas, cherish each other, as God cherishes each of us.  Give thanks for the greatest gifts we have—family, friends, each other.

As we celebrate the gift of the Christ Child, given to the world out of God’s love, let us also celebrate the gift of the presence of all those around us.

Merry Christmas to You and Yours,

Pastor Amanda
WORSHIP INFORMATION
SUNDAY SERVICE 10:30 AM
Join us in November!

December 2nd — First Sunday of Advent — Hope

December 9th — Second Sunday of Advent — Peace

December 16th — Third Sunday of Advent — Joy

December 23rd — Fourth Sunday of Advent — Love. Children’s Sunday School Presentation of Frosty the Snowman during worship

December 24th — Christmas Eve Services 4:00pm and 11:30pm

December 30th — Welcoming 2019

A Prayer for December

Dear Father, grant that I would be blown away by the gift of your son to me. Grant that this season of “gift-giving” would not blind the eyes of my heart from the one gift that matters.

If not for the gospel, all gifts would be nothing more than bribes and tokens of appeasement. If not for the gospel, there would be no selflessness. If not for the gospel, I would only give to get. If not for the gospel, I would obsess on what I think I deserve and despair over what I do not have.

I pray that your Spirit would illumine the beauty of your word to my needy heart. In Christ, I truly have everything that I need. In Christ, I live in green pastures. In Christ, my soul is at rest. May I give this gift, this one true gift to those you have placed in my life, just as you have given it to me.

Dear Father, my you grant this request in the name of your Son through the power of your Spirit. Amen.

www.shepherdpress.com
### December 2018

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<td>Quilters 10am Office Closed</td>
<td>Welcome 2019!</td>
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**Christmas:**
- **Christmas Boutique:** 11:30-4p
- **Children’s Sunday School Presentation in worship**
- **Christmas Pageant Sunday School:** 9:15a
- **Christmas Eve Worship:** 4p & 11:30p
ADULT BIBLE STUDY
Come experience the Adult Bible Study on Sunday mornings at 9:15am! We will begin our study of “The Christmas Shoes” on December 2nd and will continue through December 23rd. See Pastor Amanda of call the office to sign up. Please let us know if you need us to order you a book or if you will purchase one on your own. Join us in the Upper Room. Everyone is welcome!

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS
Sunday School is in full swing for Children and Youth, Pre-K (potty-trained) thru High School. Come join the fun! New faces always welcome!

The Children will have their Christmas Presentation of Frosty the Snowman in worship on December 23rd.

ALTAR FLOWERS

The following flowers were graciously given in worship during the month of November:

November 4th —Jewel Burns—In memory of her mother, Elsie Babst and her father, Fred Babst.

November 11th— Anne & Bob Newman—In memory of their son David; Bob’s parents, Bill & Mabel Newman; and Anne’s parents, Ella & David Donald.

The McNally Family—In memory of Deb Scala on her birthday. Love Sarah, Bob & Gavin.

November 18th— Sharon & Jeff Dickerson—In memory of loved ones.

November 25th—Kurt Amerman—In memory of deceased members of the Amerman & McCloskey families.
You are invited to the United Methodist Church at Mount Tabor for Christmas Eve worship!

CHRISTMAS EVE — MONDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2018

4:00pm—Family service with our Chancel Choir, Children’s Choir, Liturgical Dancers, candlelight carol sing, a special visitor, and, of course, our Christmas Song.

11:30pm—Short, reflective service to welcome in Christmas with Holy Communion, candlelight carol sing, and a toast to Jesus’ birth.

Candlelight carol sing at BOTH Christmas Eve services.

Spread the good word, bring a friend to help welcome the Newborn King!

The United Methodist Church at Mount Tabor
5 Simpson Avenue, Mount Tabor
Christmas Poinsettias/Donations
2018 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 10th.

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 10th is the absolute deadline, so place your orders early!
CHRISTMAS BOUTIQUE!!!

Come and start your holiday shopping at our Christmas Boutique!

It will be held on Sunday, December 9th, at the church from 11:30am – 4pm.

There will be crafts and baked goods.
Come and see how creative your neighbors are!
All proceeds benefit the church.
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.

This year the award was presented to Bob Gerardi for his selfless service to the church. We pray that Bob’s example will be an inspiration to all of us to serve the church, its missions and each other in the name of Christ.

Thank you Bob, for all you do!
The 2018 Bridges Run

This year’s Bridges Run was a huge success! Bagged lunches were prepared, warm clothing was donated and we had a good turn out for the distribution! Thank you to Sarah Lefsyk for chairing the event. And thank you to everyone who participated to make this Run great!
A Letter From Tina Miller

I guess the holidays get you thinking. I can't believe how much I miss my church. I don't just mean The United Methodist church. I mean "MY" church. The UMC At Mount Tabor & I don't just mean the building. I mean the people in it, who make it what it is. The people who make you feel at home even when it's your 1st time there. The people who remember your name & truly smile when they see you. The amazingly beautiful Christmas Eve service. Watching my daughter & all "our" girls dance. Being given the privilege to read. Without these people my little family wouldn't have made it this far. I would have been lost without them & their amazing hearts & help.
As it says in the poem "Footprints" when there was 1 set of footprints is when the lord carried you. For me that 1 set of footprints was the UMC at Mount Tabor. They carried me when I couldn't carry myself. They held me up. I couldn't say enough about them. I guess this is a long overdue thank you.
Pastor Amanda Hemenetz Laura Taylor Lemanowicz Sharon Abney Dickerson Rachel Caldari-Stroh Nancy Gerardi Just to name a few. I'm sure I'm leaving people out, sorry.
THANK YOU, Thank you, Thank you!
I love & miss you all.

Tabor’s Treasures

During the month of November, Tabor’s Treasures was offering 25% off of everything in the shop. This was greeted with much enthusiasm from our customers. Our profits reflected how well the sale was received.

New Christmas items are being added to the Holiday Room. Come in and take a look!

New merchandise is being added on an ongoing basis. There is always something new to see.
Mount Tabor’s Menorah and Tree Lighting

Join your friends and neighbors on Sunday, December 2nd, for the Annual Menorah Lighting at 4:15pm in Trinity Park. A Winter Festival will continue in Trinity Park. Stay for the Annual Christmas Tree Lighting at 7:00pm. Start the countdown to Christmas by singing carols and watching the tree lighting.

Enjoy hot chocolate and cookies in the Bethel afterward.

Sponsored by the CMA.

There will be a Church Clean-up this Saturday, December 1st, beginning at 10:00am. We will be sprucing up the inside and outside of the Church as we prepare for Christmas. Please come and help out—many hands make light work!
We received an invitation from Parsippany’s Mayor Michael Soriano.

“This Sunday the Jewish Community of Parsippany and the Township of Parsippany will be celebrating the first night of Hanukkah. In the spirit of interfaith dialogue we would also like to invite you and your congregation to be in attendance.

Please see the attached invitation for our Hanukkah Ceremony this Saturday. We hope to see you in attendance!”

Sunday, December 2nd, at 7pm, at Town Hall.

The Township of Parsippany

And the

Jewish Community of Morris County

Invite you to Celebrate

HANUKKAH

And the

Lighting of the Menorah

1001 Parsippany Boulevard, Parsippany, NJ
December 2nd, 7 PM
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  Jesse McCrostie
Dec 21st  Ian Corcoran, Stan Wojcik

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

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

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, Germany, friend of the Dickerson Family
Melissa Pier, US Marines
Danny Antolos, friend of Ruth Blazure

Tabor’s Treasures
THRIFT SHOP

HOURS
Tuesdays 10am—2pm
Wednesdays 10am—2pm
Thursdays 4pm—8pm
Fridays 10am—2pm
Saturdays 9am—1pm

One bag of donations will be accepted in the thrift shop during store hours. For larger donations or furniture donations, please contact Dawn Z at taborstreasureumc@gmail.com or call the Church Office.
ANNOUNCEMENTS

BITS & PIECES
Do you have something to announce? The deadline for the weekly bulletin is Wednesday at 10:00am. 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
- Donna Wojcik
- The Family of Eloise Margus
- Pastor Amanda
- Clare Ramaglia
- Mindy Kemp
- Ryan Mayer
- Our Neighbors in Dover
- Those Affected by Hurricanes & Wildfires
- The Family of George Johnson
- The Family of Betty Humphreys

COFFEE HOUR VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!
There are sign-up sheets in Memorial Hall for volunteers for Coffee Hour (set-up, prepare food, and clean-up).

Thank you to all of our Crop Share Volunteers!
The season is finished for 2018. Your service was a great way to greet the community and show them our loving, caring Church Family!
Your dedication is greatly appreciated!

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

**Manager, Tabor’s Treasures:** Dawn Zinckgraf  
Home: 973-538-5039  
Email: taborstreasuresumc@gmail.com

**Church Office Administrator:** Dodi Skovronek  
Office: 973-627-4243  
Email: umcmounttabor@verizon.net

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<th>Church Council</th>
<th>John Ryans</th>
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<td>Finance</td>
<td>Kevin Davis</td>
<td>973-971-9927</td>
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<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>Adam &amp; Trish Caravaglia</td>
<td>973-903-9082</td>
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<td>Ministry of Art</td>
<td>Dawn Zinckgraf</td>
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<td>Mission Outreach</td>
<td>Sarah Lefsky</td>
<td>973-234-5111</td>
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<td>Music/Worship</td>
<td>Rachel Caldari-Stroh</td>
<td>973-876-9846</td>
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<td>Staff Parish Relations</td>
<td>Bob Newman</td>
<td>973-627-2494</td>
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<td>Stewardship</td>
<td>Jill Downing</td>
<td>908-852-6026</td>
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<td>Hilary Ververs</td>
<td>973-625-7310</td>
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The United Methodist Church at Mount Tabor publishes Tidings monthly. Please address correspondence to:

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