

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



THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH AT MOUNT TABOR
NEWSLETTER - MARCH 2023



The Tidings



Rev. Rosario Quiñones
Pastor

Rev. Carolyn Fagan
Pastor Emeritus

5 Simpson Avenue
PO Box 29
Mount Tabor, NJ 07878

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973-627-4243
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The word "Lent" "lengthen" referring to the lengthening days of spring. Spring is a season of restart and renewal. It is the season to shake off the sleepiness of winter and get into shape. For Christians, Lent is a time of self-examination, repentance, and preparation for Easter. The Lenten season gives us the opportunity to grow into a deeper relationship with God and with others, through prayer, "fasting", and giving. The destiny of Lenten is not the "cross", but the joyous celebration of the new life that the Risen Christ offers us. During Easter season we celebrate the good news that in Christ's death and resurrection we, and all creation, are continually made new by God's love and saving grace. But before Easter, there was a cross... and it is in that cross where Jesus carried humanity's sin and where Jesus offers us forgiveness.

The Lenten season give us the opportunity to get closer to God so we can enter with open hearts and minds into preparations is the observance of the high holy days of Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter. On these greatest days of our Church calendar, we are meant to be participants in mind, body and soul. Living in the moment of these celebrations we are blessed by the Lord. Who knows what he desires to share with us this year? Who knows how and when we will experience heartfelt praise and sincere desire to please and praise God?

We can't go into Holy Week unprepared as we can't get unprepared into the new life with the Risen Christ. Professional athletes know the importance of preparation before they start the race for the championship in the regular season. We are athletes called to run the race of faith. Our commitment to renewal this Lent affects our readiness and ability to share in the victories and good news of the crucified and risen Christ. Let us prepare to win the race with Jesus.

Let us make a point to keep coming to church. After all, someone once said that "every Sunday is a little Easter." On the one hand, that's because Jesus rose from the dead on Sunday. But there's more.

Every Sunday the crucified and risen Jesus is among us in our worship. Every Sunday the crucified and risen Jesus speaks to us through our praises and prayers, in the Scriptures and the sermon. Through Holy Communion, he gives us his resurrected living Body and his Blood of the New Covenant, allowing us to participate in his great victory banquet.

May God bless you and your Easter season.

Worship Information

Please join us on Sundays at 11 a.m. for in-person worship in the sanctuary or online via Facebook.

Services will continue to be live-streamed on Facebook

Holy Week Services

Maundy Thursday Service

- Join us at The United Methodist Church at the Rockaways at 7pm
1 Hoagland Ave, Rockaway, NJ

Good Friday Service

- Join us outside in the Garden of Peace at 3pm
- Join us at Teabo UMC located at 47 Teabo Road Wharton, NJ at 7pm

Easter Sunday Services

- Mt. Tabor Country Club Golf Course at 6:30am for Sunrise Service
- Our Sanctuary at 11:00am

Emails are always sent out about all updates & fundraisers and if you would like to receive them, please contact the office at umcmounttabor@verizon.net to be added to the list.



We are looking forward to spring and seeing the garden come to life. We are hopeful to do more Sunday services in the garden this year. We will be doing a spruce up this spring. If you are interested in volunteering to help, please contact Mike Z at 201-206-6888. We will be posting a flyer on the Tabor Bulletin Board inviting our community residents & friends to visit and purchase a space in the garden. The garden is open to all so if you have a family or friends looking for a place to bury a loved one's ashes or even memorialize a loved one who has passed, the garden is a lovely place to do so. Please contact the church if interested. We will post the upcoming events on the church website/Facebook and through emails.

December Cookie Swap



Our Mission Team hosted a Cookie Swap in December to make and deliver cookie platters throughout our community during the holiday season. This gathering was filled with fun and fellowship and was a great way to spread holiday cheer throughout the community. Thanks to all who participated!





Interfaith Food Pantry Network



This January a group of UMC volunteers visited the Interfaith Food Pantry in Morris Plains to get a behind-the-scenes look at what happens to donations after our monthly food drives. These drives are part of our outreach mission to spread God's love to the larger community. We were given a tour of the operation - including the sorting area, the warehouse and the "grocery," which stocks everything from diapers to desserts.



When food donations come in, volunteers check expiration dates and sort into various categories. This is what we helped with...nearly 1,700 pounds of canned goods that morning alone! Then the items go into the warehouse, to be pulled and stocked on the grocery shelves as needed for any of the 20 or so distribution days per month.



The pantry currently serves approximately 2,400 families, along with thousands of individuals, who may shop at the pantry once per month. It also serves local senior living communities, home-bound consumers and even some County College of Morris students. The need has increased exponentially due to Covid-19, according to Jayne Wenner, Volunteer Coordinator. Inflation has also made it much harder to put food on the table. Jayne says it's fairly easy to fill the demand in the holiday season - November and December - as the community is in a giving mood. (Approximately 2,100 turkeys were donated in November alone!) It's much more challenging during the rest of the year, especially in the summer months. What most people don't realize is that food insecurity is a year-round issue for many families. For a list of most-needed items - including peanut butter, baby foods, pet foods and hearty soups - see their website.



Private donations of food and money fund about 40% of the pantry's operations. Corporate partners cover the rest, including a significant amount of food from Wegman's. Interfaith Food Pantry has a paid staff in addition to hundreds of steady volunteers. Construction continues to expand their current space.

In addition to food, Interfaith Food Pantry provides nutrition education and access to essential community resources. Their on-site kitchen has been used in the past for cooking classes - check out their YouTube channel - and they hope to be able to offer those in-person again soon.

United Methodist Church at Mount Tabor holds a monthly food drive (usually the last Sunday of the month) from 10am-noon, with supplemental drives in the community throughout the year. It's easy! Just pull up to the front of the church, and volunteers are happy to unload your donations right from your car. Gift cards are always welcome, too.

Look for more volunteer opportunities in the months ahead.





2023 Easter Flowers/Donation Order Form

Easter flowers and decorations complement the beauty of the sanctuary for Easter worship. There are two ways to honor or remember someone special:

1) You may purchase plants for \$10.00 per plant

**Smaller pot, tete-a-tete plant is \$7 each

Please order: ___ Lily ___ Hyacinth ___ **Tete-a-tete \$7/ea
 ___ Tulip ___ Daffodil

Total plant order \$ _____

2) You may also donate. Contributions can be any amount.

Please accept a donation of: \$ _____

Please complete the order form and place it in the offering plate or mail it back to the church office along with your check by **March 26th**.

Given in memory of _____

or

Given in honor of _____

Given by _____

Please make your check payable to the UMC at Mt. Tabor and mark your envelope Easter Flowers.

PLEASE NOTE: March 26th is the absolute deadline, so place your orders early!



We will be saying goodbye to Pastor Rosario this year as she will be retiring in July. We thank her for her hard work and time with our church. We wish her a happy retirement and best wishes for her & Alma moving forward. The conference will be appointing a new local part time pastor as voted on by ad council.

-SPRC

2022 Alison's Angel

Congratulations to our 2022 Alison's Angels award recipient **Jeff Dickerson!**

The annual award - in memory of Alison Ober - recognizes extraordinary service to our church community. We are blessed with amazing people!



AUDIO & VISUAL UPGRADES

The audio & visual system is continuously being updated. Another microphone was added to the system and there are plans to install a new TV screen with grant money from the district conference. Excellent news, our Facebook page read **2,000 views** the last week of January! That is a great sign that people are looking at the UMC Mt. Tabor Facebook page. We will continue to post updates so take a look give our page a like!



Special Olympics New Jersey

Once again, the New Jersey Special Olympics Winter Games were held at Mountain Creek in Vernon, NJ in early February. It was another successful competition for Roger Newman this year. Under cool, cloudy skies, Roger skied to the finish line with the expertise of a true Olympian, capturing the Gold in both the Giant Slalom and the Super G events! Congratulations to all athletes and volunteers on another successful race day!



Finance/Trustees

FINANCE

We welcome a new year with renewed hopes that our finances will continue improving. Through your generosity and by decreasing expenses, keeping a part-time pastor and by making other financial adjustments, our church was able to pay all the bills in 2022. Praise God for this blessing! However, we regret that our church could not pay our share ministry fund (apportionments) in full due to a shortfall of our finances. We are also in need of repairs to the church building and parking. It is our hope and prayer that this year our church can meet all its financial obligations including making necessary repairs, paying shared ministries and continue to be faithful to the United Methodist connectional giving.

We are still in need of a Finance Chair person. Finances are currently being overseen by Ad Council. If you are able to assist in this position it would be not only a huge help but will help us to comply with our Discipline.

The budget for the upcoming year was set to include a local part-time pastor to start in July, as voted by the Ad Council. As it has been previously informed, our current pastor, Rev. Rosario Quinones will retire in June 30. More news to come.

TRUSTEES

At our last meeting we reviewed the capital expenses for the next few years. There will be the some major repairs that will need to be addressed including a new roof for the church, new furnaces (2) for the education building, updates for the fire alarm system, repairs to a sewer line and parking lot repaving. We discussed selling the parsonage and using a portion of the money for church capital repairs. The balance would be invested and saved for future repairs for the church. There is a process to selling the parsonage which will take some time but we voted and our recommendation is to sell it. This will have to be discussed with congregation and the district before it's approved. So look for more information in the future. Currently we are upkeeping the minor repairs with the help of the trustees and church volunteers. We continue to work hard to keep our church the beautiful home that it is.

-Mike Zinckgraf & the Trustees



Church volunteers working hard to fix a large sinkhole in our church parking lot



Make Your First Donation

NEW TO GIVELIFY?
START GIVING IN 60 SECONDS!

- 1 Download the free Givelify app
- 2 Locate your place of worship
- 3 Tap Give
- 4 Choose your gift amount
- 5 Select an envelope
- 6 Tap Give Now
- 7 Create your account
- 8 Enter your payment information
- 9 Set up recurring giving to your home place of worship by navigating to the home screen, selecting your most recent gift, and selecting [Set Recurring](#).

Leave this slip for the next person to discover, connect, and give.

Givelify





January Hand Bell Performance

The Thormann Bell choir is back under the direction of Will Lanza! Practices are **Wednesdays 7pm**

All are welcome! If you have interest in joining, contact the church office at umcmounttabor@verizon.net - no experience needed.





Tabor's Treasures

THRIFT SHOP

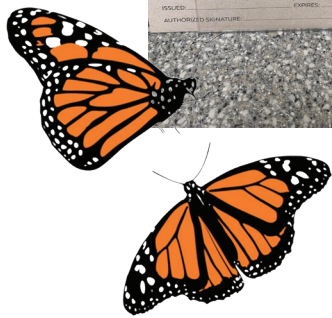


HOURS

Wednesday 10AM - 2PM
Thursday 4PM - 8PM
Friday 10AM - 2PM
Saturday 9AM - 1PM

The shop continues to help with missions and outreach by continuing to donate and collect. They have donated items to Ukraine, clothing to Dominican Republic, collecting donations for the JBWS and much more. The shop keeps busy and is happy to see lots of new customers often!

Consider a gift certificate to Tabor's Treasures for your friends and family this as a gift for any occasion!



We are currently accepting donations by appointment only. Please call or email The Shop to set up an appointment.

973.627.0601 OR taborstresuresumc@gmail.com

Dawn Zinckgraf
Manager of Tabor's Treasures Thrift Shop



ALTAR FLOWER DEDICATIONS

There are many open dates available for altar flower dedications. If you'd like to honor or memorialize a loved one, please consider sponsoring the altar flowers. The cost is \$30.00 and a dedication will be printed in the bulletin (and you can take the flowers home after the worship service!). Please contact Dawn Zinckgraf if you are interested.

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: *Rev. Rosario Quiñones*

Home: 973-627-2940 Cell: 214-636-2644 Email: rosario.l.quinones@live.com

Pastor Emeritus: *Rev. Carolyn Fagan*

Home: 973-285-3965 Email: carolynmayfagan@gmail.com Youth

Manager, Tabor's Treasures: *Dawn Zinckgraf*

Thrift Shop: 973-627-0601 Email: taborstreasuresumc@gmail.com

If you would like to stay up to date with weekly church news & events, please send us your email to be added to the list.

Ad Council Chair	Jeff Dickerson	973-625-2879
Lay Leader	Ned Stroh	973-876-9846
Lay Member to Conference	Bruce Downing	973-627-5424
Ministry of Art	Dawn Zinckgraf	973-538-5039
Mission Outreach	Warren Ververs	973-625-7310
Recording Secretary	Hilary Ververs	973-625-7310
Staff Parish Relations	Rachael Stroh	718-608-4297
Sunday School	Hilary Ververs	973-625-7310
Trustees	Mike Zinckgraf	201-206-6888
Food Drive Coordinators	John & Janet Ryans	973-625-3660
Finance	OPEN POSITION	-----
Office Secretary	OPEN POSITION	-----



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