

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 - DECEMBER 2023



THE TIDINGS



Pastor Jeannette Zajac
Pastor

Rev. Carolyn Fagan
Pastor Emeritus

5 Simpson Avenue
PO Box 29
Mount Tabor, NJ 07878

Church Office
973-627-4243
umcmounttabor@verizon.net

Tabor's Treasures
973-627-0601
taborstreasuresumc@gmail.com

www.umcmounttabor.com



Dear Congregation,

As we await the joyous celebration of Jesus' birth, my heart is full of gratitude for the warmth and fellowship that each of you has extended to me as your new pastor. Our shared moments in worship, fellowship, and service have deepened my understanding of the unique and compassionate nature of our church family. I've witnessed our congregation's vibrant spirit. Getting to know you better, your stories and your unwavering faith has been a profound experience.

As we prepare to celebrate Christmas, it is vital to remember the true reason for our joy and celebration. It is Jesus' Birthday, not ours. This season offers us a profound opportunity to reflect on the magnitude of God's gift to us in Jesus Christ and to respond with generous hearts. Our giving to Jesus - in time, talents, and tithes - should mirror or exceed the resources we dedicate to our earthly Christmas celebrations.

As we move forward together, I invite you to join me in a shared mission of giving and service. Our Mission Team is ready to guide us in acts of love and charity. By working together, we can make a significant impact, truly living out our call to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Let us embrace the spirit of teamwork, generosity, and selfless giving this Christmas. Our collective efforts in serving Christ and our community can bring light, hope, and transformation, reflecting the love of Jesus in all we do.

May this Christmas season inspire you with peace, joy, and a renewed commitment to living out the Gospel. I look forward to continuing our journey together, serving in Jesus' name, and witnessing the incredible things we can achieve as a united body in Christ.

Peace and Blessings,

Pastor Jeannette Zajac



december

2023

WORSHIP INFORMATION

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

HOLIDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

Please join us on **Sunday, December 24th, 2023** for our regular service at 11:00am & special Christmas Eve worship service in the sanctuary at **4:00pm**.

Services will continue to be live-streamed on Facebook

BELL CHOIR

The Thormaann Bell choir, under the direction of Will Lanza will be announcing their next performance soon!

Practices are Wednesdays 7pm
All are welcome! If you have interest in joining, contact the church office at umcmounttabor@verizon.net - no experience needed.

SEE THE END OF THE TIDINGS FOR MORE UPCOMING EVENTS' FLYERS

RED SCARF PROJECT



We are receiving red scarfs and we know people who are busy working on theirs to donate for the Red Scarf Project. Foster Care to Success is the oldest and largest national nonprofit organization working solely with college-bound foster youth, helping them transition from college to the workforce and into successful adulthood. Handmade red scarves get added in their Valentine's Day care packages and become treasured keepsakes that the students wear for years. Please bring finished scarves to the church by **December 3rd**. Yarn is welcome too, but we'd need that sooner.

HOT CHOCOLATE FOR THE SOUL

Wednesdays 6pm & 8pm
December 6, 13 & 20

Led by Pastor Manuel, join together for group discussions to grow your faith



MISSIONS, FUNDRAISERS & UPDATES



RAISED \$425



**ELECTRONICS
RECYCLING
FUNDRAISER**
RAISED \$494

HOLY RAVIOLI!

RAISED \$784



PASTIES FUNDRAISER
RAISED \$300





We continue to look forward to seeing the garden thru the seasons and having different services in the garden. On September 17 we had a beautiful service where we dedicated two stones to Sharon Kratt and Joe & Deb Scala. 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. If you are interested in volunteering to help with maintenance of the garden, please contact Mike Z at 201-206-6888. We will post the further information about upcoming events on the church website/ Facebook and through emails.

TURNING TO ONE ANOTHER

There is no power greater than a community discovering what it cares about.

Ask "What's possible?" not "What's wrong?" Keep asking.

Notice what you care about.

Assume that many others share your dreams.

Be brave enough to start a conversation that matters.

Talk to people you know.

Talk to people you don't know.

Talk to people you never talk to.

Be intrigued by the differences you hear.

Expect to be surprised.

Treasure curiosity more than certainty.

Invite in everybody who cares to work on what's possible.

Acknowledge that everyone is an expert about something.

Know that creative solutions come from new connections.

Remember, you don't fear people whose story you know.

Real listening always brings people closer together.

Trust that meaningful conversations can change your world.

Rely on human goodness. Stay together.

—Margaret Wheatley, "Turning to One Another," 2002





Christmas —CHEER— FOOD DRIVE

Saturday, December 16 & Sunday, December 17, 10am-12pm

PICTURES WITH SANTA!

REMEMBER!!! THE FOOD PANTRY WILL TAKE FROZEN TURKEYS OR HAMS!! HELP PROVIDE FIXINGS FOR A WONDERFUL HOLIDAY MEAL... AS WELL AS EVERYDAY NECESSITIES

Our monthly food collections have continued to make a significant difference in the lives of those facing food insecurity within our county. Thanks to your incredible generosity, we have been able to provide countless meals to individuals and families in need through the IFPN (Interfaith Food Pantry Network). Let us take a moment to express our deepest gratitude to all the volunteers and donors who have contributed their time and resources to this vital outreach effort. Your kindness and compassion truly embody the spirit of Christ's teachings. An extra shout out to Janet and John Ryans for being our fearless leaders in the fight against hunger.

LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS!

We will be going to the Interfaith Food Pantry in Morris Plains from 9:30am-11:00am on the following days:

Thursday, December 14, 2023

Thursday, February 29, 2024

Tuesday, June 4, 2024

If you are interested, please contact Janet or John Ryans to volunteer at janetery@gmail.com!



EMPTY BAGS WILL BE HANDED
OUT AT THE TABOR POST OFFICE
ON SATURDAY, DEC. 9 TH .
FILL THEM UP AND RETURN ON
ABOVE DATES!!

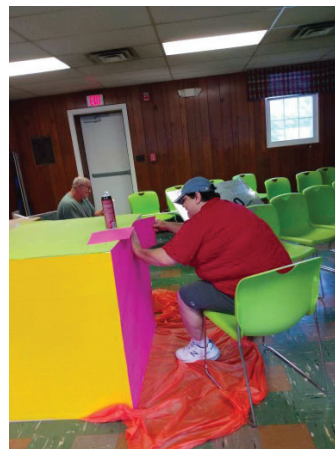
Holiday GIFT DRIVE



The UMC at Mt. Tabor is once again collecting gifts for JBWS. Gift ideas include clothing for boys, girls and women; toys for all ages; beauty accessories, sports equipment, etc. New, unwrapped gifts must be brought to the church **BEFORE OR ON December 3rd**. Gifts will be taken to the shelter on Dec. 4th. For more info call the church office at 973-625-4243 or 973-219-4084. Visit the JBWS website at jbws.org. Click on Help Us, then Donate to JBWS for full list.



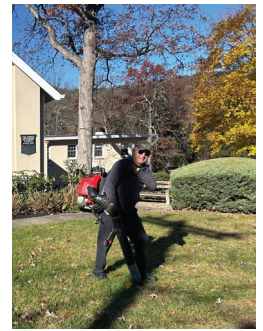
CHURCH FAMILY PICNIC 2023



CHILDREN'S DAY 2023

TRUSTEES

Maintenance & upkeep have been on the agenda of the trustees. Weekly grass cutting, pruning & leaf clean up has been helping keep the outside of the church looking nice. Repairs were done to the educational building roof to seal possible leaks. Some masonry repairs have been done to the side of the church building. Along with checking light bulbs, cleaning windows and anything else that needed repairs. Thank you to the great group of trustees & volunteers for keeping our church clean & functioning. Unfortunately, we can't do it all... 2 new furnaces were needed for the education building. We hired a contractor and they have been installed. We now have a Capital Campaign Fundraiser to help pay for the new furnaces at the cost of \$10,000. We could use everyone's help so please consider making a donation toward our new furnaces. The trustees will continue caring for the church we love & wish you a Merry Christmas!



Roof & shed repairs Russ & Mary Tirpak, Masonry repairs & grounds maintenance by Mike Zinckgraf, Bob Gerardi & Kevin Davis

FINANCE

We are moving forward and keeping up our expenses. Your continued giving has kept us going in the right direction. We hope to end this year on an up note so please remember to give this holiday season. We welcome back Kevin Davis as our finance chair!

Ways to Give:

- Send your check to the church office. Thank you to all those who have sent offering already!
- Set up automatic, recurring gifts through your bank.
- Donate electronically via GIVELIFY (instructions below).

Make Your First Donation

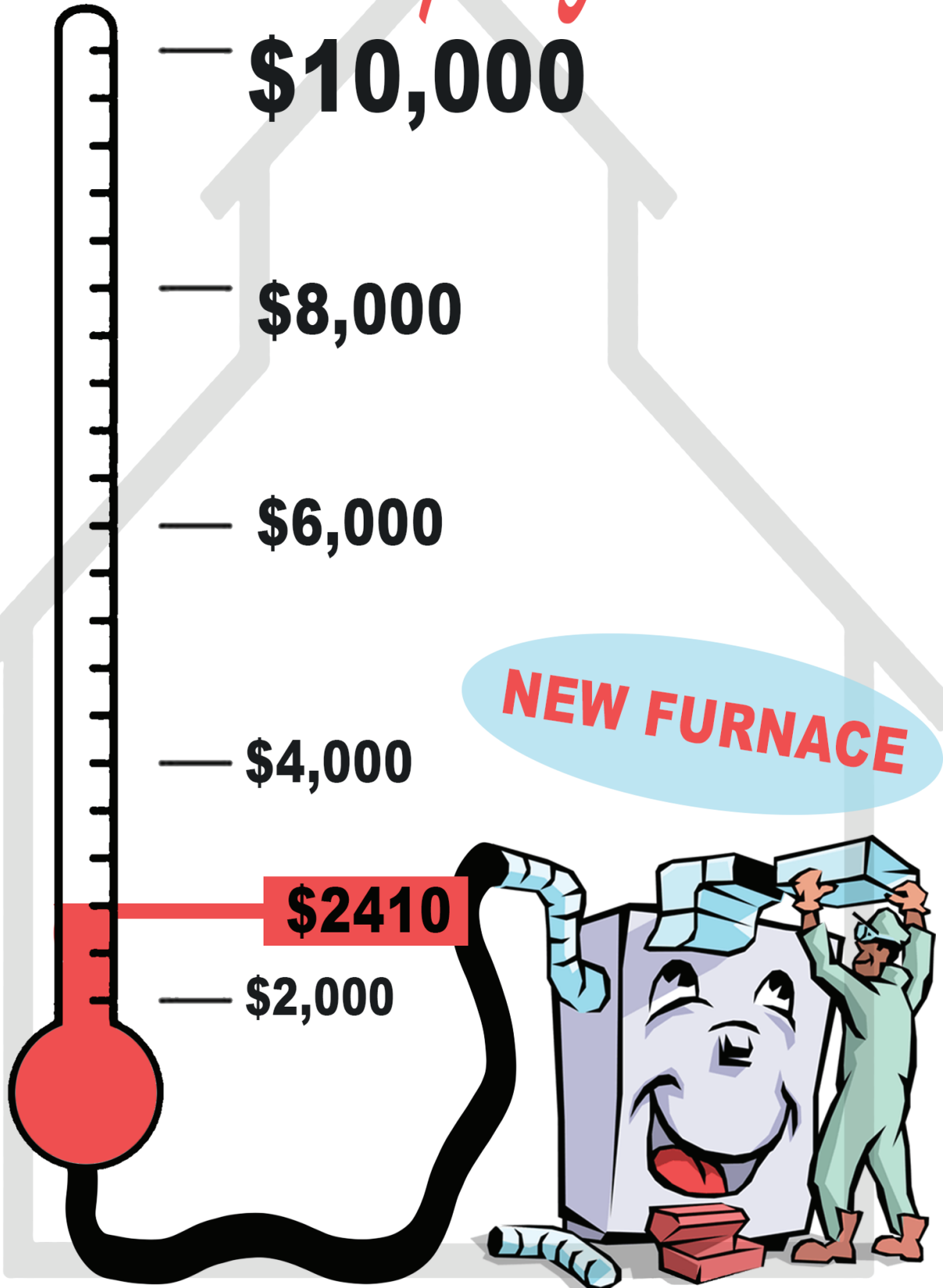
NEW TO GIVELIFY?
START GIVING IN 60 SECONDS!

- 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
- 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.



Capital Fundraising Campaign





THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE

SNOW MISSION

Glen McCrostie continues his mission of helping those in need with snow plowing. If you or someone you know is in need, he offers this service and asks to make a donation to the church if you are able.

Call Glen at 973.945.0872



Beyond these specific events, our church has outstanding mission work and uplifting worship services, we have sought to nourish our souls and strengthen our faith together. We encourage you to continue participating in these meaningful gatherings, as they provide the perfect platform for personal growth and community connection.

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.



ALTER FLOWER DONATIONS

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 the church office if you are interested.





Pastor Manuel on All Saints Day



Hunter Keller Dancing



Pastor Manuel Preaching



Children's Sermon



Children's Sermon



All Saints Day



Medical supplies donations for Ukraine



2023 Alison's Angel Award to Janet Ryans



Hunter Keller Dancing



Tabor's Treasures

THRIFT SHOP



Dawn Zinckgraf, our thrift store manager, has announced she will be retiring end of April 2024. She has put endless hours of time and dedication into Tabor's Treasures since it opened back in 2014. We thank her for her 10 years of service to our church and wish her happy & healthy years ahead!

HOURS

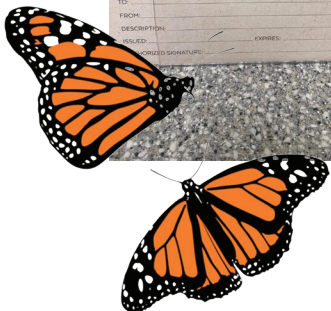
Wednesday	10AM - 2PM
Thursday	4PM - 8PM
Friday	10AM - 2PM
Saturday	9AM - 1PM

Consider a gift certificate to Tabor's Treasures for your friends and family this holiday season!

Upon reopening in August, donations are only accepted by appointment only. Please call or email to set up an appointment.

973.627.0601 OR taborstresuresumc@gmail.com

Dawn Zinckgraf
Manager of Tabor's Treasures Thrift Shop



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: *Pastor Jeannette Zajac*

Cell: 570-269-5182 Email: jeannette.zajac@gmail.com

Pastor Emeritus: *Rev. Carolyn Fagan*

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

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
Treasurer	Michele Hopler	973-479-1535
Office Secretary	Dee Ernst	973-627-4243

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If you take any photos of church special events, fundraisers or missions, please send to Jessica Zinckgraf at jazinckgraf17@gmail.com



Christmas Poinsettias & Donations 2023 Order Form

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

There are 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 11th**

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

AND/OR

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

Total plant order \$ _____

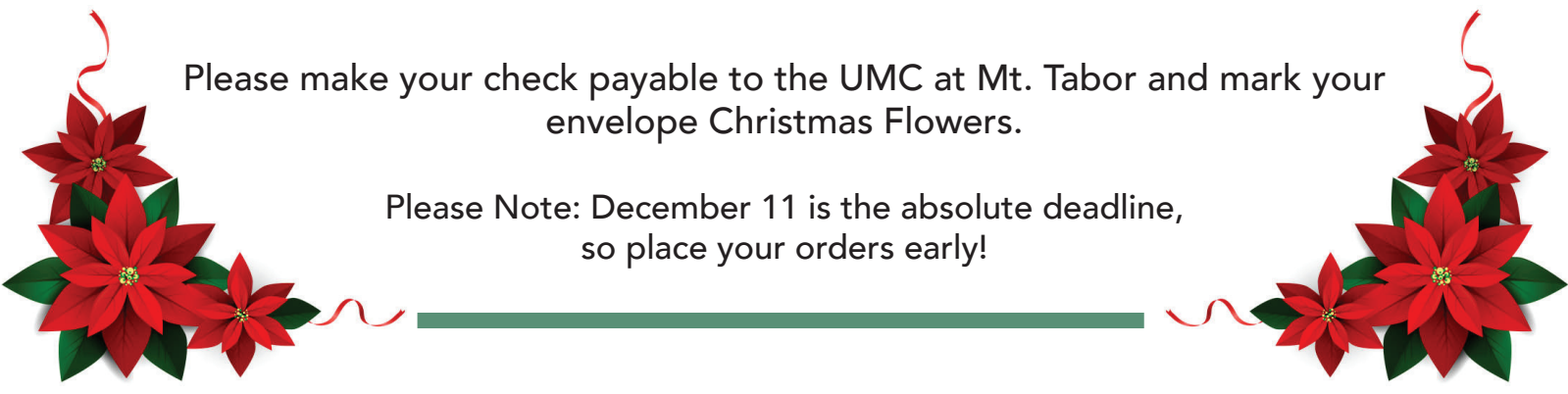
Given in memory of _____

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 11 is the absolute deadline,
so place your orders early!



Join the UMC at Mt. Tabor Mission Team to
spread some Christmas cheer at the
**2nd Annual Christmas Cookies for the
Community Event**
In Loving Memory of Donna Wojick

Saturday, December 9, 2023 at 1pm

*Bake a batch or two fo your favorite Christmas cookies and
come to the church for fun and fellowship while we make
cookie platters to deliver throughout the community.*

Please RSVP:

Michele Hopler at Mhop_77@me.com or 973.479.1535

OR

UMC Mt Tabor Church Office at 973.627.4243

Submit names of community members whose holiday
season would be made brighter by the delivery of some
homemade cookies

