TABOR TALK

Our Journey Through Lent

It seems like we just put away the Christmas decorations. Page recently complimented my new sweater (a Christmas gift). At my physical in February, the doctor told me it's time to adjust my Christmas intake of calories. But, "ready or not, here we come" – this month we will celebrate Easter. *Tempus fugit, to be sure.*

One of our temptations is to skip past Lent, land at Easter, and just stay there. I heard a woman say recently that when she was on staff at a megachurch, the senior pastor of the congregation made fun of congregations that observe Lent. Only Catholics do that, he told them. We, instead are all about resurrection.

Well, yes, of course we are all about resurrection. But you never get to Easter Sunday without what went before – without Holy Week, without betrayal, without accusations and suffering and bearing crosses, without fears and tears, without death and grief. There is no miracle of an empty tomb if Someone had not been entombed to begin with. That's why we do at Mt. Tabor what most churches throughout history have done. We journey through Lent. We consider the full biblical narrative. We don't just fast forward to the happy ending of a movie or book. We consider the whole story of pains and problems that preceded it, which is to a great extent what makes endings happy and victorious.

During this season, you are encouraged to read through the Gospel of Mark. Kim Harvey has put the readings together in a study guide (available at the church and on the church website), and Camdyn Davis has done the graphics. We owe a debt of thanks to them both. The readings take us through a gospel written to people suffering indescribable persecutions and the ongoing threat of more such at the hands of Caesar Nero. Ultimate Victory was the hope they held onto that helped them survive the suffering that preceded it. That's what Lent and Easter are about.

We real people in the real world cannot go around "the valleys of the shadow." We can only go through them. Some of you reading this are going through some difficult valleys at the moment: medical, emotional, relational, financial, As the saying goes, "Life happens," and it's not always easy to navigate or to understand. Mark's gospel consistently addresses that theme, often with its boat stories about faithful believers who suffer through horrific storms. Life happens. But when suffering comes, one of two things come with it – either despair or hope. We either surrender as victims of darkness, or we inch forward through the darkness because we find rays here and there, rays of hope shed by "the Light of the World." It doesn't make the pain disappear, but it makes it possible to go through because we know that Light will eventually lead us to Easter, God's divine outcome of victory. So, Mark encourages us to "Hang on," to ride through life's storms confident that Christ is in the boat with us and will not let us go under. In some fashion, Victory will come.

Thanks for being "Easter people in a Good Friday world," for being people whose faith leads you to live faithfully.

—Pastor Michael Brown

What we're talking about this month in TaborKIDS Junior:

Waiting to be picked by a team in school is agonizing. If you're some of the last people chosen by a team, it means while everyone else is cheering, "Go team!" you're probably thinking something like, "They don't want me, and I don't want to be here." The truth is, we don't all have the skills to hit home runs or run really fast. And that's okay. What's not okay is being unwanted. Thankfully, for all of us, Jesus wants EVERYONE on His team! Jesus wants everyone everywhere to follow Him and be His friend forever. No matter what we can do or can't do, what we have done, what we look like, or where we live, Jesus is alive and He wants to be our friend...FOREVER! And that kind of Good News makes us all want to say, "GO TEAM!"

Hey TaborKIDS! We'd love to see you on Sunday mornings in TaborKIDS Worship offered during all worship services. We love our TaborKIDS!

For more information on any of these activities or Children's Ministries in general, check your TaborKIDS Weekly email or please contact Marcey Davis (marcey.davis@mttaborumc.org).



What we're talking about this month in TaborKIDS:

Throughout Scripture, we can see how peace is something near to God's heart. Even though people chose to break their relationship with God, God made a way to fix that relationship through Jesus. And because we reflect God's image, making peace with others should be a priority for us as well. That's why we're taking the first three weeks of March to highlight some passages and stories about peace to help kids understand more about how they can be peacemakers in their world. When we choose to make peace with others, we're demonstrating that God's love can transcend our personal opinions and help us work together in spite of our differences. Choosing peace is a way for God's family to make an impact in the world.

TaborKids Events & Announcements—

We love our leaders! TaborKIDS is so blessed by the many folks that give of their time and love to serve in the Children's Building. **All TaborKIDS** leaders and volunteers are invited to a brunch in room 161 of the Children's Building on Sun., March 10 9:30-11:30am. Drop by anytime so that we may say thank you for being a blessing!

Mount Tabor's Afterschool

Program begins registration this month. We'd love to see more of our TaborKIDS during the week! On March 18, open enrollments begins. For more information, call the MTUMC Afterschool Program call 336-760-0363 or visit their website mttaborumcafterschool.org.

MORE TaborKids Events & Announcements—

TaborKIDS Junior are invited to experience **The Last Supper and the events of Holy Week** with Ms. Colleen on Wed., March 20 6-7:00pm in The Clubhouse. Register here: bit.ly/tkjrlastsupper2024

Families are invited to an **EGG-stravaganza** on Sun., March 17 from 12-2pm. This EGG-stravanganza is going to be EGG-stra amazing with:

- Lunch for families
- A fun courtyard Egg Hunt for TaborTOTS and TaborKIDS Junior (4 hunts in 15 minute shifts beginning at 12:30)
- A GLOW in the Dark Egg Hunt and games for TaborKIDS (located in the Youth area; 2 Hunt time options: 12:20, 1:20)
- Inflatables
- Fun Easter games
- Special Treats
- and more

Families should register for lunch (\$5/ person) and their Egg Hunt Times here: bit.ly/mtumcegghunt24 We hope you will be as EGG-cited as we are! Contact Marcey Davis (marcey.davis@mttaborumc.org) with any questions.

TaborTWEENS (4th & 5th Graders) will gather on March 24 4:30-5:45pm at Peace Haven La Caretta. RSVP to marcey.davis@mttaborumc.org.

Start the Party: Celebrate the Good News at Vacation Bible School July 22-25!

Open to children ages 4 as of August 31 through completed 5th grade as Jesus gives us the most amazing reason to party. There is no cost and all are welcome. Snack Supper begins at 5:15pm and the main program is from 6:00-8:00 PM. More details coming soon!

MTUMC Art Camp registration is coming soon!

Camp is June 24-27 from 9:00am-12:00pm each morning. Registration is \$125.

- Children aged 2 through rising Kindergarten should be registered through the Preschool. Forms may be found in the Children's Building Lobby or be downloaded from the Preschool website: mttaborumcpreschool.org
- Children rising 1st grade through completed 1st grade should register here: bit.ly/mtumcart24 Space is limited so sign up now!



The Lenten Journey Continues...

Our observance of Lent continues as we move through these next few weeks, examining our hearts, seeing where confession or repentance is needed, and drawing closer to God as we seek to grow spiritually during this wilderness time. We are reminded that we are not alone on the journey as Jesus himself experienced the wilderness. We are also reminded of God's great love for us, as his children.

It is not too late to join in the church wide study of the Gospel of Mark. Study booklets with a reading plan can be found in the Trinity Welcome Center, the narthex of the sanctuary, the church office, and on the website. For those who are participating in the study, I hope that the spiritual discipline of reading the scriptures together is adding a blessing to your observance of Lent. Whether reading individually or with a class or group, we are connected in spirit as we read God's Word together.

By now, in your reading, you have seen that Mark is fast-paced and full of action, focusing on Jesus' teaching and his accomplishments. We've read of John the Baptist preparing the way, Jesus' baptism, time in the wilderness, and the beginning of his public ministry. We've read of Jesus preaching the good news, and talking about the Kingdom of God, choosing his disciples, casting out evil spirits, healing sickness, and upsetting the Pharisees when harvesting grain and healing on the Sabbath. We've read

some of Jesus' parables in which he uses illustrations from daily living to teach spiritual truths. We see a compassionate Jesus who tries to spend some time alone in prayer but gets interrupted and feeds people who he calls sheep in need of a shepherd. It's been quite a journey already and we still have more road to travel. In the end we will read of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem and cries of, "Hosanna" which will change to cries of, "Crucify him!" in just days, and we will experience sorrow as we read of Jesus' betrayal and brutal death by crucifixion. But the journey does not end there

We will rejoice on March 31, Easter Sunday, when we hear the wonderful words from an empty tomb, that Jesus is not here, he is risen from the dead! As our reading of the Gospel of Mark concludes, I hope the discipline of scripture reading will continue as part of your spiritual journey. The Word of God for the people of God – thanks be to God!

—Kim Harvey Director of Congregational Care & Spiritual Formation kim.harvey@mttaborumc.org 336-765-5561

Women's Retreat

All women are invited to attend a Women's Retreat on April 26-28 at Caraway Conference enter in Asheboro. The theme will be, "Lean In, Lighten Up, and Let Go" with speaker, Rev. Dianne Lawhorn. Cost is \$241/ person, and includes 5 meals, double occupancy room for 2 nights, and all materials.

Spaces are limited and registration concludes on April 8.

Registration forms can be found in the Welcome Center, in the Church Office, and on the website. Questions? Contact Kim Harvey, Director of Congregational Care & Spiritual Formation at kim.harvey@mttaborumc.org or 336-765-5561 ext. 1021

FUSIA

Youth Ministries at Mount Tabor UMC

February is typically associated with love and I don't think we could have lived into that anymore this past month. As a group we only had one "Main Event," evening and at that gathering we saw nothing but an excess amount of love for one another.

We started the month of February off with a lock-in, where we came together to show our love for each other through fellowship. We expressed our love for our community and neighbors by making blankets for those in need and we participated in Ardmore UMC's "Share the Love event" by writing cards for our community neighbors. We also experienced love for Taylor Swift's boyfriend and I think there was a football game or something we watched together on February 11. This was followed by love on VaLENTines Day, with our "Lent the Journey Begins" program at Tabor Table where there was an outpouring of love put into our Mount Tabor and Winston-Salem communities. At this special Lenten event we came together with all generations and reflected on our Lenten Journey as we offered up ourselves through sacrifice so that we may become closer with God.

On February 18, we were able to express our love for our senior adult church family members who laid the foundation of our church and our Youth Program with their continued support and prayers as we hosted our annual Young at Heart Luncheon. And this year was the largest crowd to date! We were blessed with the opportunity to host this lunch and share our appreciation for our senior adults as well as enjoyed the gift of time and fellowship together. We also tested out our new "Youth Technology Help Center" with more opportunities coming in the future. Our confirmands experienced a weekend retreat together and we came back to Mount Tabor full of love and joy. Here's to another month of love and community -- here's to us embarking on this Lenten journey together – here's to being intentional and inviting God into our space and living for him and his will.

As we take on March we will "Breathe" at our Spring Retreat, prepare for the Andy Burton Memorial Golf Tournament (May 18 wink-wink), and so much more.

As always thank you for your support, prayers, and presence in each of our lives. We are made better through love and community!

Contact Will Busch, our Student Ministries Director at 336-765-5561 ext 1008 or email him at will.busch@mttaborumc.org if you have questions about the Student Ministries of Mount Tabor UMC.



Mount Tabor Spotlight

Here's what is coming up and what you need to know!

















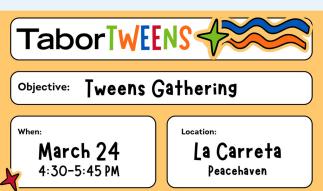
Mount Tabor Spotlight

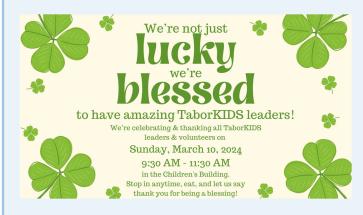
Here's what is coming up and what you need to know!

















Special Offerings in March 2024

Sunday, March 10, for The United Methodist Committee on Relief-UMCOR

As the humanitarian relief and development arm of The United Methodist Church, the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) assists United Methodists and churches to become involved globally in direct ministry of persons in need. UMCOR comes alongside those who suffer from natural or human-caused disasters famine, hurricane, war, flood, fire or other events—to alleviate suffering and serve as a source of help and hope for the vulnerable. UMCOR provides relief, response and long-term recovery grants when events overwhelm a community's ability to recover on their own. UMCOR also provides technical support and training for partners to address emerging and ongoing issues related to disaster relief, recovery, and long-term health and development.

The UMCOR Sunday offering on March 10 underwrites UMCOR's administrative costs. This offering allows UMCOR to use 100% off all funds given to humanitarian response and recovery efforts directly to communities in need. These gifts ensure UMCOR can respond swiftly to disasters around the world and are a source of hope and healing for those left most vulnerable.

The Outreach Committee asks that you prayerfully consider a generous gift to UMCOR on UMCOR Sunday, March 10.

Thank you in advance for your generosity. For more information on UMCOR and the work this ministry does around our country and around the world please visit www.umcmission.org/umcor

Easter Sunday, March 31 — Samaritan Ministries & North Hills Elementary

On Easter Sunday, March 31, 2024, a Special Offering will be collected for Samaritan Ministries and the North Hills Elementary Backpack Program.

Samaritan Ministries is located at the corner of Ivy and Northwest in Winston-Salem. Its mission is to provide food, shelter, and hope through Christian love (For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat. . . I was a stranger and you invited me in. Matthew 25:35). Last year they served 101,603 meals to our hungry neighbors and offered 13,285 combined nights of shelter for over 300 homeless men. Cornerstone, their long-term residential recovery program, serves men battling addiction and homelessness, and to date, over 200 men have been served by the program. Many Mount Tabor members have served and continue to serve regularly at Samaritan Ministries.

The **North Hills Elementary Backpack Program** provides nutritious, shelf-stable, weekend meals to 100 students who might otherwise find food scarce. North Hills Elementary School (NHES) is a Title 1 school in northern Winston-Salem, off Indiana Avenue. The NHES neighborhood is a mixture of light industrial and low-income housing (a very high percentage of NHES students qualify for free and reduced lunch). It is the neighborhood that was most effected by the fire at the Weaver Fertilizer Plant. Mount Tabor has a strong supporting relationship with NHES (going back decades), providing volunteers and both academic and non-academic support for the school.

The Outreach Committee asks that you prayerfully consider a generous donation to the Easter Special Offering.

Recycling Team Volunteers					
Dates	Group 1	Group 2			
Feb 18-March 3	Bobby Sharp	Jeff Buchanan			
March 3-16	Lynn Church	Cynthia Grant			
March 17-30	Tex & Anne Leonard	Laura Hill			
March 31-April 13	Cheryl Cassell	John Eller			
April 14-27	Sue Spiegelman	Greg Hale			
Additional Volunteer Teams					
Dates	Team	Volunteers			
March 2024	Kitchen Team	Jean Kelly			
March 2024	Altar Guild	TBD			
March 2024	Crisis Control Delivery	Jim Graham			
Crisis Control Ministry Gift of the Month Please place your donations in the Crisis Control wooden bin in the Trinity Welcome Center					
March 2024	Ongoing Gift: Juice	Gift of the Month: Canned Meats (Canned Tuna, Canned Salmon, Canned Ham, etc)			



Worship with Mt. Tabor United Methodist Church					
Date	Preaching at our 9:00am Modern Service in the Alspaugh Worship Center	Preaching at 11:00am Traditional Service in the Sanctuary	Sermon Title	Sermon Scripture	
During Lent join us for a sermon series from the Gospel of Mark					
Communion Sunday March 3	Dr. Michael Brown		The Wilderness of Loneliness	Mark 14:32-41	
March 10	Dr. Preston Davis		The Wilderness of Fear	Mark 3:20-27	
March 17	Dr. Michael Brown		The Wilderness of Grief	Mark 15:33-41	
Palm Sunday March 24	Dr. Michael Brown		The Wilderness of Heartache	Mark 11:1-11	
Maundy Thursday March 28	Dr. Michael Brown		Nevertheless	Mark 14:32-36	
Good Friday March 29	Dr. Michael Brown		Completed	Mark 15:33-39 & John 19:28-30	
Easter Sunday, March 31 Join us on Easter Sunday at our 8:00am, 9:00am, and 11:00am worship services as we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord and Savior.					

All services are also available via livestream at www.YouTube.com/MountTaborUMCVideoStreaming and the Mount Tabor United Methodist Church Facebook page.

Worship Bulletins are available at https://www.mttaborumc.org/bulletin.

Photos and videos are taken during Mount Tabor Services and Events for communication and/or historical purposes.

If you want your image excluded, notify the church office at 336-765-5561 ext. 1000.

Memorial and Honorarium Gifts Given to Mount Tabor UMC

Given in memory of Miller Council by:

- Janie Livengood
- Larry, Tina, and Christy Chason
- Patricia Council
- George & Judith Petree
- Rick & Joan Gilstrap
- Barry & Rhonda Burge
- Steve & Ellen Pfaff
- Mount Tabor UMC Ushers

Given in memory of Douglas Cook by:

• Bob & Margaret Holder

Given in memory of George C. Petree by:

· George & Judith Petree

Given in memory of Paula Tuttle:

Barry & Rhonda Burge



Wednesdays, 5:15-6:30pm Family Life Center

Suggested donations are Adult (age 13-older) **\$8**; Child (ages 3-12) **\$5**; Family in same house **\$25 cap**. Make reservations at

www.mttaborumc.org/tabor-table

-March 6-

Taco Salad (Beef or Chicken), Black Beans, Refried Beans, Rice, Queso, Salad Bar, Drinks, and Desserts.

Kids Option: Quesadillas

-March 13-

Chicken Pie with Veggies, Chicken Pie without Veggies, Roasted Chicken, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Rolls, Salad Bar, Drinks, and Desserts

Kids Option: Pancakes

-March 20-

Chicken Enchiladas, Rice, Green Beans, Rolls or Chips, Salad Bar, Drinks, and Desserts Kids Option: Chicken Nuggets

-March 27-

NO TABOR TABLE—Holy Week

You won't want to miss a meal at Tabor Table!

Be on the lookout and make plans to join us for our Upcoming Tabor Table Fellowship Meals on:

April 10 — April 17 — April 24

-Sharing our-

Sympathies and Prayers with our church family

Extending our Sympathies to:

- David Settlemire upon the death of his father, David Joe Settlemire
- Grant Herring upon the death of his grandmother

Please keep these MTUMC service men and women in your prayers:

- Matthew Blue
- * Matthew Burris
- * Adam Clapp
- * Audrey Clapp
- Jason Clapp
- Christopher Fisher
- Robert Hines
- * Jennifer Penley
- * Trey Wheeler
- William Wilson
- * Edward Wolfe

List your active service loved one by emailing office@mttaborumc.org

-Sharing our-Jovs with

Devon and Sandy
Hauser upon the birth
of their son,
Kai Roy Hauser

Now Finish the Task

to build and enhance the ministries of MTUMC

Debt reduction funds are still being collected. Prayerfully consider making a donation to reduce the debt at

https://www.mttaborumc.org/give or by cash or a check made payable to MTUMC and returned to the church.

As of February 25 current loan balance is \$141,711.22.



3543 Robinhood Road Winston-Salem, NC 27106 336-765-5561 www.mttaborumc.org

GATHER Joyfully • GROW Spiritually • GO Faithfully

Worship Opportunities at Mount Tabor UMC

9:00am Modern Worship Service

this is a modern and contemporary worship service that is held in the Alspaugh Worship Center. Join us in-person and online each Sunday.

11:00am Traditional Worship Service

this traditional worship service incorporates traditional hymns of faith and historic creeds of the church from the Sanctuary.

Join us in-person and online each Sunday.

- Nursery care and a Mother's Room are available in the Children's Building.
- Wheelchairs are available for use while on church property and hearing enhancement devices, as well as large print bulletins, are available.
- See an usher for details.

How to watch our services from home or while you are away:

- Livestream the services at www.YouTube.com/ MountTaborUMCVideoStreaming
- Facebook Live at Mount Tabor United Methodist Church