

TABOR TALK

Dear Church Family,

How wonderful it might be to see with a child's eyes the magical mystery of Christmas present. To peer with anxious eyes in early hours seeking the contents of treasures carefully concealed and buried where the angel tree marks the spot! To stand awe-struck at the sight of such a glorious revelation as twinkling lights illumine even the most hidden of Christmas secrets. What a gift it would be to experience the wonder of this Christmas season as if it were our all-time, number one, most favorite Christmas of them all!

You remember the one? Perhaps it was the Christmas that you received the gift that you really wanted, but didn't think you would receive. Or, maybe the Christmas that your whole family came together, and you shared a love for one another and the spirit of Christmas that has remained etched in your memory like a picture-postcard. Or the Christmas that the love of God became a permanent ornament in your heart.... during a worship service, helping a family in need, or simply where you loved, and were loved.

What is it that keeps us from experiencing Christmas as fully as we once did? Is this the first Christmas without a loved one? Have we out-grown Christmas? Are there bad memories of Christmas past? Has Advent ceased to be a time of anticipation and expectation, and become a time of perpetual motion and anxiety, and we count the number of days till its arrival with disdain and sterile cynicism? Sadly, there are all too many reasons why we sometimes find this a most loathsome season, amid financial and other worries. And the wonder, the awe, and the mystery of Christmas with all its Good News comes and goes with a whisper under our breath, instead of a shout from the mountain top.

But hear these simple words, "The people in darkness have seen a great light!" Christ meets us where we are, in whatever brokenness we find ourselves, and offers us comfort and hope, and calls us to help Him celebrate yearly (if not daily) the fact that hell and death cannot contain the grace and glory of a God who would spare no expense to give us the one gift that surprises, fulfills, and saves us to the uttermost...the gift of God's self!

Merry Christmas and may this be the best Christmas ever as we celebrate that "All Heaven Broke Loose!"

—Pastor David

What we're learning about in TaborKIDS Junior and TaborKIDS in December:



December TaborKIDS (2yo – Kindergarten):

Show and Tell is always a favorite. Children have so much fun looking for the most special thing they can find to show their friends, and what each child shares helps teachers and friends get to know them a little bit better by seeing what is most valuable to them. This month, we're taking a look at the ultimate Show and Tell. God showed the world how much He loves us by giving us Jesus. That is what we celebrate at Christmas, and that is what we will continue to show the world through our actions and tell with our words.

December TaborKIDS (1st–5th Grades):

At Christmas, gifts are all around us, but we know the holiday isn't about the toys—it's about the joy of Jesus' birth. We might experience joy from opening up gifts, but God gives us even greater joy through Jesus. In this 5-week series, kids will learn all about the joy Jesus brought into the world. They'll learn that Jesus is the savior God promised, how God sent Jesus at the perfect time, that everyone is invited to worship Jesus because Jesus brings joy to the world, and what it means to say Jesus is God's greatest gift.

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)

TaborKIDS Events & Announcements:

- All families are invited to **Breakfast in Bethlehem on December 7** at 10:00am. This annual advent experience for young families is open for registration now! bit.ly/mtbfast2024
- **TaborTWEENS** will go to dinner and take a hayride through the **Tanglewood Lights on December 19** 5:00-9:00pm. For more information and to register, please visit: <https://bit.ly/tweenhayride>
- It's time to register for the **Nativity!** The Nativity is a re-telling of the birth of Jesus by TaborKIDS during the 2:00pm Christmas Eve service. For more information & to register, please visit: <https://bit.ly/mtumcnativity2024>
- **Moms Fellowship** meets the first Thursday of each month (December 5) 9:15-10:30am in Fellowship Hall. This is a time for mothers of young children to meet for a heartfelt prayer, a short devotion with discussion, and fellowship. Childcare will be provided with registration done by 5 PM the night before the meeting. Register here: bit.ly/mtmomfellowship Questions? Contact Sandy Hauser at SandyLHauser@gmail.com

FUSION

Ahhh November... What a month it has been!

We have seen the full shift of the temperatures, watched as the trees lose their leaves, and were able to spend a plethora of time together.

There is no denying that our youth were invested in the recent presidential election. Whether it be for a class, for personal reasons, for the love of politics, or maybe it's just for entertainment — the election was a huge part of our personal lives in November. There is no denying that the 2024 election was an emotional giant that was present in everyone's lives and yet what a beautiful thing it was that we were able to come together as one body of Christ.

We enjoyed our Fall Retreat and shared in a beautiful community that brought us together under one basic principle we *are all wonderfully created in the image of God*. That connection and undeniable truth allow us to continue making strides in holding up our

Youth Ministries at Mount Tabor UMC

end of the deal when we ask in the Lord's prayer "***make it on earth as it is in heaven.***"

We were also able to see these slices of heaven by coming together with three other churches on our Fall Retreat, by experiencing life and creating new memories with those in our church, and by remembering the things of which we can be grateful for and what that looks like in action, all while ending the evening with a big ole potluck dinner as an entire community of faith.

As the semester comes to an end, and the holiday festivities are in full swing, may we continue to remember the ways in which life is made more whole being surrounded by others. May this semester come to a good end, and may all be able to spend this time coming up surrounded by those whom they love.

—Will Busch
Director of Youth and Family Ministries

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

Crop Walk THANK YOU!

We would like to take an opportunity to thank everyone who helped participate in our 2024 CropWalk for hunger on October 20. We had a beautiful day in Old Salem to walk. Your participation helped us raise \$8,000, which topped our goal by over \$2,000. Special thanks to all walkers; we had 29 walk from Mount Tabor UMC. Also if you contributed in any way, we express our appreciation. This could not have been done without your help. ALSO...special thanks to Pastor David for allowing us to hit him with a pie on October 30. What a great sport! We love you Mount Tabor.

—Susan, Denise, and John



Mount Tabor Spotlight

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



Breakfast in Bethlehem
an Advent experience for young families

**December 7
10 AM**

Register now:
bit.ly/mtbfast2024



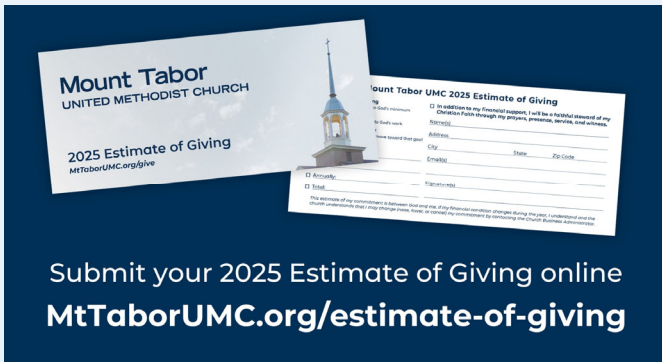

Mom's Fellowship
A MINISTRY FOR MOTHERS OF YOUNG CHILDREN

When: 1st Thursday of Each Month @ 9:15am-10:45am
Where: Fellowship Hall @ Mount Tabor UMC

Come join us for coffee, prayer, a short devotion, and fellowship.

We look forward to meeting you!

Childcare provided for \$5/child.
Please pre-register your child at bit.ly/mtmomfellowship
Questions? Contact Sandy Hauser at SandyHauser@gmail.com

**Mount Tabor
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

2025 Estimate of Giving
MtTaborUMC.org/give

Submit your 2025 Estimate of Giving online
MtTaborUMC.org/estimate-of-giving



Advent Devotionals
NOW AVAILABLE

Options for Both Children and Adults

In the Trinity Welcome Center,
Sanctuary Narthex and Church Office



Dewey's

**FUNDRAISER
SUPPORTING
MOUNT TABOR
PRESCHOOL**

Order November 25 -
December 11

For more information
& to order,
please visit
bit.ly/mtpsdeweys2024




Taber Troupers
for senior adults 60+

FEATURING
"Biltmore Christmas"
with Brian Hawley, Biltmore Scholar

\$6 LUNCH
December 16 at 11:30 AM
in the Fellowship Hall

Please register in your Sunday School class
or at the Connect Corner



**High School
Prayer Breakfast**

December 4 Chick-fil-A
December 11 Bagel Station

Wednesdays before school,
stop by anytime between 6:50 AM - 8:30 AM




DIVORCE Care

Meets weekly on Wednesdays
January 15 - April 26 (except March 5)
6:30 - 8 PM in The Parlor (Room 108)

Questions Contact David Rigby at
DivorceCare@mttaborumc.org or visit DivorceCare.org

Mount Tabor Spotlight

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

Wednesday Women's BIBLE STUDY

THE WEARY WORLD Rejoices
an Advent Study based on the study by Kate Bowler

Wednesdays at 9:30 AM
November 13
November 20
December 4
December 11

in the Fellowship Hall and also via Zoom

Contact Kim Harvey
(Kim.Harvey@mttaborumc.org)
for questions or to receive the zoom link

TaborTWEENS
(4th & 5th Graders)

FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS HAYRIDE

- THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19
- DEPART CHURCH @ 5 PM
- RETURN AROUND 9 PM
- BRING MONEY FOR DINNER @ DARIO'S
- DRESS WARMLY & BRING SLEEPING BAGS

Register now:
bit.ly/tweenhayride



GriefShare®

Meets weekly on Wednesdays
January 15 – April 9

3:30 – 5 PM in Room 102

GriefShare is a biblical and Christ-centered group that gathers to help each other heal and find encouragement following the death of a loved one.

Register at GriefShare.org or contact Beverly Burton at GriefShare@mttaborumc.org with questions.

CIRCLE 2 Wrapping Event

You did the shopping, let Circle 2 do the wrapping.

December 11 • 5–7 PM
December 14 • 10 AM–3 PM
December 15 • 12–4 PM
in the Fellowship Hall

Suggested donations between \$2-6 with proceeds benefitting local women and children.

For more information, see Jessica Campbell

Beginner Handbells

STARTING JANUARY 2025

A handbell ensemble for BEGINNERS.
Youth and adults welcome!
No obligation, and no experience required.

Questions? Contact Lauren Harris at Lauren.Harris@mttaborumc.org

Nativity

All children 3 years old – 5th grade are invited to help tell the story of Jesus birth in the Nativity on Christmas Eve!

Register now:
bit.ly/mtumcnativity2024



Next Steps Everyone Has One!

Would you like to learn more about the ministries of Mount Tabor or learn about joining our church family?

If so, you are invited to join us on Sunday, December 22 from 10:15-10:45 AM in the Fellowship Hall.

ANGEL TREE

Share the love of Christ with the children in our community!

The final drop off date for all angels is **Sunday, December 15.**

learn more at mttaborumc.org/angel-tree



December 1, 2024: The Beginning of Advent

Advent is the beginning of the Christian year or calendar and begins 4 Sundays before Christmas. It lasts 22 or 28 days depending on the year. The word Advent comes from *adventus* which means coming or arrival. During Advent, we prepare our hearts to celebrate the birth of Jesus, his presence within us, and his return in the future. Below are some opportunities for you to spiritually prepare for the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

- **Advent Devotionals** are available in the Narthex of the Sanctuary, at the Welcome Center Desk on Sundays, and in the Church Office. This year's Advent Devotional is, "**O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.**" In the devotional are Henri Nouwen's thoughts along with daily scripture verses, and reflections and prayers by author Steve Givens.
- **Children and Family Devotionals** will also be in the Narthex, Welcome Center, and in the Church Office.
- **Wednesday Women's Bible Study** continues an Advent Study, "The Weary World Rejoices" based on the study by Kate Bowler, on Dec. 4 and Dec. 11 at 9:30 am in the Fellowship Hall and also via Zoom.
- **Tabor Troupers (Seniors 60+)** will meet on Monday, Dec. 16 at 11:30 am in the Fellowship Hall. The program will be "Biltmore Christmas" by Brian Hawley, Biltmore Scholar. Please register in the Connect Corner in the Welcome Center or in your Sunday School Class.

Additional Advent Resources:

- *A Long-Ago Birth in a Right-Now World – Reflections about the Christmas Story in our Age and Lives* by Michael B. Brown
- *Pauses for Advent* by Trevor Hudson
- *The Uncluttered Heart* by Beth A. Richardson
- *The Greatest Gift* by Ann Voskamp
- *Jesus Listens – for Advent & Christmas – Prayers for the Season* by Sarah Young
- *Come Let Us Adore Him – a Daily Advent Devotional* by Paul David Tripp
- *Jingle and Joy- Praying Beneath the Tree* by Jodie Barrett. (An Advent Prayer Journal)
- *Shadow & Light - a Journey into Advent* by TSH Oxenreider

Circle 7 is sponsoring the new addition of a library shelf dedicated to "Beam's Book Recommendations" in the church library. Circle 7 will purchase and maintain copies of the books that Pastor David references in his sermons. The church library is located in the hallway at the top of the stairs if you are coming up from the Fellowship Hall. Many thanks to Circle 7 for their generosity in making these books available.

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



The Chancel Choir and B.E.L.L.S. are excited to share some beautiful Christmas music with you over the course of December. Please join us on **December 15 at 4:00pm** for the Chancel Choir Christmas Celebration with an orchestra.

As we make our way into a new year, I hope you'll consider joining one of our ensembles. We are always looking for more voices in the Chancel Choir, and we need bell ringers, too. In fact, our handbell ministry is expanding to include a beginning handbell ensemble and an advanced one. Whether you are at a beginning, intermediate, or advanced level, we have a place for you. Youth and adults welcome!

A repeat from last month...Adult and youth instrumentalists, I would love to hear from you! If you play an instrument and you would be interested in playing during a worship service...solo, small ensemble, etc....please contact me at Lauren.Harris@mttaborumc.org. Even if you are "rusty" and your instrument is collecting dust in the attic, I still want to hear from you!

—Lauren Harris
Director of Traditional Worship Arts

A dark, atmospheric background with a lit candle in the lower-left corner. The candle's flame is bright and casts a warm glow. The text "OUT OF DARKNESS..." is written in a white, serif font on the left. To its right, the word "Light!" is written in a large, elegant, glowing white script font. Below the script, the text "with the Mount Tabor United Methodist Church Chancel Choir and Orchestra" is written in a smaller, white, serif font. At the bottom, the date and time "Sunday, December 15 at 4 PM" is written in a large, white, serif font.



**Join us at Tabor Table from
5:15-6:30pm in the
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**

**Drinks and Desserts are available at each Tabor Table meal.*

—December 4—

Taco Salad (Beef or Chicken), Black Beans, Refried Beans, Rice, Queso, Salad Bar with Quesadillas as a kids option.

—December 11—

Egg Hash Brown Casserole, Sausage, Biscuits, Pancakes, and Fruit.

**—December 18 —
No Dinner**

—December 25—

No Dinner — Merry Christmas

—January 1—

No Dinner—Happy New Year

—STARTING on JANUARY 8, 2025—

Due to the rising cost of goods and ingredients, the cost of our weekly Tabor Table Suggested Donation is increasing.

Our NEW suggested donations for 2025 are Adult(s) (age 13-older) \$10; Child(ren) (ages 3-12) \$7; Family in same house \$30 cap.



End of Year Giving Deadlines

Cash or Check Postmarked or delivered to the church office no later than **Sunday, December 31, 2024**

Online Giving Submitted no later than **Sunday, December 31, 2024**
(debit, credit or bank transfer) at mttaborumc.org/give

Stock Gift Shares sent by **Wednesday, December 24 2024** and notify Holly Smith of the stock name and number of shares by email at holly.smith@mttaborumc.org



Christmas
AT MOUNT TABOR UMC

Tuesday, December 24

2 PM Family Service & Nativity
*a retelling of the birth of Jesus by TaborKIDS
in the Alspaugh Worship Center*

4 PM Lessons & Carols
*with Candlelight Communion
in the Sanctuary*

6 PM Modern Worship
*with Candlelight Communion
in the Alspaugh Worship Center*

8 PM Traditional Worship
*with Candlelight Communion
in the Sanctuary*

Thank you to everyone that joined us on Sunday, October 20 for our Consecration Sunday. This great group of God loving followers of Christ is what makes Mount Tabor such a special place to belong!



Memorial and Honorarium Gifts Given:

In honor of David Beam by:

- Kristina L Myers

In honor of Keith Rogers by:

- Robert Griffin

In honor of Kim Harvey by:

- Robert Griffin

In memory of Ashley Braswell Maynard by:

- Elizabeth Patterson

In honor of the birthday of the US Marine Corps by:

- Herbert Thomas

In memory of Mike Callison by:

- Sue Harris
- Martha Agnew
- Charles & Susan Hauser
- Sara Lynn Macy
- Anne Copenhaver

Memorials or Honorariums may be made online at <https://www.MtTaborUMC.org/give> or by check payable to MTUMC. Please remember to designate Memorial or Honorarium along with the person's name.

Extending our Sympathies to:

- Connie Stockburger and Dan Futrell upon the death of their mother, Bobbie Futrell
- Kent Hamrick upon the death of his mother, Lena
- Jennifer Murphy, Amanda Turner, and Justin Weik upon the death of their mother, Betty Weik
- Linda Kearsley upon the death of her father, Harry Bartley
- The family and friends of Janice Entinghe upon her death
- Gene Walker upon the death of his mother, Dewilla Walker
- The family and friends of Thelma Livengood upon her death

Sharing our Joys with:

- Jim & Suzanne Sarfert upon the birth of their granddaughter, Annie Ruth Cain
- Our newest MTUMC members: Lauren Harris, Mark & Nicole Dricscoll and Joe Serrano
- Brad & Madison Kiger upon their baptisms

The Christmas Eve Special Offering will go to Crisis Control Ministry, Second Harvest Food Bank, and the Backpack Program for North Hills Elementary.

Gifts to these organizations must be put in the special offering envelopes or have "Christmas Offering" in the memo line. All undesignated gifts on Christmas Eve will go to the church budget.

Give Online at [mttaborumc.org/give](https://www.mttaborumc.org/give)

Recycling Team Volunteers

Dates	Group 1	Group 2
Nov 24-Dec 7	Ginny C Martin	Cathy Hurd
Dec 8-21	Barbara Beason	Ed Beason
Dec 22-Jan 4, 2025	Rob Crenshaw	Jeff Buchanan

Additional Volunteer Teams

Dates	Team	Volunteers
December 2024	Altar Guild	—All Team Members—
December 2024	Kitchen Team	Sandra Hartman

Crisis Control Ministry Gift of the Month

Please place your donations in the Crisis Control wooden bin in the Trinity Welcome Center

December 2024	Ongoing Gift: Juice	Gift of the Month: Hot Beverages (Tea, Instant Coffee, Hot Cocoa)
---------------	------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------

Worship with Mt. Tabor United Methodist Church

Date	Preaching at our 9:00am Modern Service <i>in the Alspaugh Worship Center</i>	Preaching at 11:00am Traditional Service in the <i>Sanctuary</i>	Sermon Title	Sermon Scripture
Communion Sunday December 1	Rev. David Beam		<i>Near-Sighted</i>	Luke 21:25-36
December 8	Rev. David Beam		<i>Spiritual Engineering</i>	Luke 3:1-6
December 15 <i>at 9:00am worship</i>	Rev. David Beam		<i>What You See Is Not Always What You Get!</i>	Luke 3:7-18
December 22	Rev. David Beam		<i>Jumping for Joy</i>	Luke 1:39-45
December 29	ONE SERVICE AT 10:30am			

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.*



Mount Tabor

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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 in the Sanctuary.

You are invited to 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