TABOR TALK

What To Do After Easter?

By Michael Brown

"Post" any big liturgical day seems anticlimactic. The day after Pentecost, the birth of institutional Christianity does not seem to be a topic on anyone's mind. The day after Trinity Sunday, few people want to discuss the meaning of one God understood in three distinct ways. The day after Christmas has lost almost all touch with theology and has become, instead, a time simply for returning gifts that were too small or too large or neither needed nor desired to begin with. And then, there's the day after Easter.

What do we do with the day after Easter? Or the week after? Or the whole fifty day season till Pentecost, for that matter? Or, to broaden the scope even more, the whole of life as a person of faith? What do we do with Easter?

As Christians, this is the occasion that gave birth to all the others. There would be no Pentecost nor Trinity Sunday nor Christmas without what happened one morning long ago at a borrowed tomb. "He is not here, for He is risen," gave birth to all the rest. In truth, all that we do as Christians exists beneath the umbrella of what's called "Resurrection theology."

We worship the One who rose in victory. We serve the One who calls us to take up our crosses and follow, to love our neighbors as ourselves, knowing that the cross has no ultimate power over Love. We find comfort from the One who said, "Come unto me, all ye who labor and are heavy laden." We survive grief because of a promise made by the One who defeated death, "And I, if I be lifted up, shall draw all others unto myself." We find power from the One who walks beside us day by day, moment by moment, step by step, assuring us, "I will be with you always." None of those promises would have outlived him had it not been for Easter. They would simply have been momentarily helpful words spoken by a maverick Rabbi who was crucified as an enemy of the state. But, because of Easter everything changed. Every word, every promise, every assurance is held sacred (as the old hymn puts it) "Because He lives." Our Faith exists because of the Resurrection.

So, who are we essentially? Author Barbara Johnson was the first to pen the expression, "We are Easter people living in a Good Friday world." It appeared in her book "Splashes of Joy in the Cesspools of Life". She experienced heartache with each of her three sons, her husband endured a long and difficult recovery from a near-fatal accident, and she fought cancer for six years (before succumbing to it in 2007). She knew about the cesspools, the pain, the fear, the tragedy of human existence. She knew about cross-bearing. But, she persevered and found victory through humor and, more especially, through faith. It was her belief in One who overcame death that gave her the strength to endure (and even celebrate) life. His victory caused her to believe that she, too, would be victorious.

"Easter people in a Good Friday world." We are people who experience suffering but trust in His comforting presence, who witness unfairness and oppression but respond with a commitment to justice for all because He died and rose for all, who understand what loneliness feels like but overcome it by surrendering into His loving arms or by becoming His arms of love for others who are alone. We even discover joy in the midst of stress or anxiety (remember, in the Orthodox tradition the word "Easter" means "God's laughter"). There really is no such thing as "post"-Easter. For us, it's always Easter. Every day. Everywhere. With everyone who needs to know what we know: "He is risen. He is risen, indeed. Hallelujah!" So, though the day is behind us, its power is around us, beneath us, before us, and within us. Who we are and what we do depends on that. Therefore, dear friends: Happy Easter!

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

Have you ever been somewhere where it was so dark you couldn't even see your hand in front of your face? No light shining under the door. No stars in the sky. No screen glaring back at you. Just darkness. So much darkness that you have to shuffle slowly, stumbling your way across the room with arms stretched out, hoping, searching . . . and

room

then finally, with the flip of a switch, LIGHT! Light changes everything.

This month, we're talking about light, but not just any light. We're talking about Jesus—the light of the WORLD—and how when we do what Jesus says, we shine. We shine the light of Jesus! After this month, we hope every time you and your preschoolers see a lamp or a star-filled sky, you remember that people were made to shine, and we have Jesus—the light of the world—to show us how. So, let's not hide our light. Let's SHINE and light up the dark so others can see their way to Jesus.

What we're talking about this month in TaborKIDS:

Waiting is a part of life. Thankfully, we don't have to wait on our own. Through the Holy Spirit, God can help us experience the patience we need to wait well. After all, God is patient with us. God is in control and knows what's best for us. Even though God's people had been waiting for years for the promised Savior, at just the right time, God sent Jesus. Because we're created in God's image, we can reflect God's patience in our lives. We can be patient when we remember what God has done. We can lean on God's Holy Spirit to give us the strength we need to trust God and show patience with the difficult circumstances in our lives.

TaborKids Events and Annoucements...Here's what's coming up!

- ⇒ This month, TaborKIDS on Wednesdays will only meet on Wednesdays, April 10 and April 17 from 6-7 PM. There will be no TaborKIDS on Wednesday on April 3 or April 24.
- ⇒ Pizza & Prayer is April 21 12:15-2:pm. This is an opportunity for children 4 years – 5th grade and their trusted adult to explore way to talk with God. Registration is requested: https:// bit.ly/mtpizzaprayer24

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)

MORE TaborKids Events & Announcements—

- ⇒ TaborTWEENS (4th& 5th Graders) will gather on April 28 3:30-5:00pm in the Loft in the Children's Building. 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 Aug. 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 6:00-8:00pm. Visit bit.ly/mtumcvbs24 for more information and to sign up!
- ⇒ Art Camp registration is now open! 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!

Have you downloaded our NEW Realm Connect App?

Here is **WHY YOU SHOULD** download our New Realm Connect App...

- Stay Connected to our MTUMC friends and family with the online and up-to-date church directory. Everyone's contact information will be right at your fingertips.
- Sign up for events, Bible Studies, and special programs that MTUMC is offering.
- Making contributions to the ministries of MTUMC is easy and secure.
- Paying for a program, event, or for your Weekly Table Tabor meal is easy and secure and can be done at anytime!
- Staying connected with members of your Small Groups couldn't be easier with the message feature within the app. Share important news, prayer requests, and so much more all in one place.
- Our current CHURCHLIFE App will no longer be available starting May 1, 2024.

Here is HOW to be connected to MTUMC with Realm Connect

- Follow the link you should have received in your email that is on file with the church.
- Create a password using the guidelines that are set.
- Download the REALM CONNECT app from your App/Playstore and then Get Started.

If you are having difficulties or questions, please contact Charity Goff in the church office (charity.goff@mttaborumc.org or 336-765-5561.



Eastertide

We have just spoken the words, "Christ is risen. He is risen indeed!" Now we have the opportunity to live those words. The wilderness time of Lent is past but our journey does not end here. Our spiritual journey continues as we enter into the Season of Easter or Eastertide. Eastertide refers to the 50 days from Easter Sunday to the Day of Pentecost which is May 19th this year. As we walk the path from Resurrection to Pentecost we can look for encounters with our risen Lord. We can ask ourselves: Where do I see Jesus in my day to day life? How is He working and moving? Where do I see a glimpse of His goodness in those who reflect His love? As we continue this journey, who do we identify with in the

stories told in scripture? Are we like Mary Magdalene who hearing Jesus call her name, recognized him as the Lord? Maybe we are sometimes like the disciple, Thomas, who doubted and wouldn't believe until he had proof that Jesus was alive. Or like Peter who needed forgiveness and was given it. Jesus shows us abundant grace so that we can live our lives fully. And to live our lives fully we must continue the process of spiritual formation – the process of being open to the work of the Holy Spirit to shape our life into the likeness of Jesus.

Opportunities for Spiritual Formation:

- Sunday School Classes and Small Groups for Adults please let me know if I can help you get connected.
- Nourishment for the Soul: Lunch and Learn with Pastor Michael. Everyone is invited to come and enjoy a light lunch made by Sheri Nebinger and teaching from Pastor Michael as we nourish our body and soul and learn more about who Jesus is. Donations will be accepted to cover the cost of lunch.

Come to any or all of the gatherings from 12:00 - 1:00 pm on the following Thursdays in the Fellowship Hall:

April 11: An overview of the Gospel of Mark & the Nativity story from the gospels.

April 25: The Gospel of Matthew

May 9: The Gospel of Luke May 23: The Gospel of John

• Wednesday Women's Bible Study – "Encounters with the Risen Lord" All women are invited to attend the Bible Study, "Encounters with the Risen Lord" on Wednesdays at 9:30 am in person in the Fellowship Hall and also via zoom from April 10 - April 24. We will look at encounters various people had with Jesus following his resurrection and concluding with his ascension into heaven. There is nothing to purchase to participate. Come and bring a friend.

Kim Harvey
Director of Congregational Care & Spiritual Formation kim.harvey@mttaborumc.org—336-765-5561 ext. 1021

Dear Mount Tabor,

We would like to thank each of you for your outpouring of love and kindness to us since Miller's passing. We appreciate every good thought you have shared about Miller, every call, card, visit, and the many other things you have done in his memory.

—Janice Council and Family



Youth Ministries at Mount Tabor UMC

March gave us that first taste of beautiful spring weather, and provided a wealth of memories. The month started with us having the chance to take a moment and "Breathe," while embarking on our Spring Retreat together.

We finished up our Saint and Martyr series during youth and are about to experience Holy Week together including a Good Friday activity of carrying a cross with other local youth groups.

As we embarked on this journey together, we were able to see the raw pain, and difficulties that may arise by choosing to follow the King of Kings, the Prince of Peace, our Savior Jesus Christ. However, despite knowing the struggles, we also bask in joy knowing that Jesus overcame death. Jesus showed that death no longer gets the last laugh, and that through him we can be made and continue to be made different.

What a beautiful thing it is to be reminded of the fact that Jesus

overcame death just as we celebrate our Ryan Shoaf Memorial Grant winners, and plan for our Andy Burton Memorial Golf Tournament on May 18. We remain grounded in knowing that despite their physical presence not being here — Jesus said "life gets the last word"— their lives continue to live through us, our trips, through our service in the community, and through being in community.

So let us experience this last week of March together in prayer, in community, and even possibly in sorrow remembering that we must muster the strength to visit the tomb and realize that it is empty. Let our tears of sadness be moved to tears of joy, let us lay those difficult tasks at the foot of the cross, and let us take a moment to "Breathe" and rejoice that He is Risen!

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.

2024 Ryan Shoaf Memorial Summer Grant Recipients

Congratulations to the following students who received the Ryan Shoaf Memorial Summer Grant this year:

- Amelia Brown will spend a week at Camp Tekoa.
- Zella Ann Cook will travel with EF Tours to the Galápagos Islands.

Congratulations and may Ryan's exuberant, fun-loving spirit accompany you in your summer activities.

The Scouting for Food drive on Scout Sunday was very successful!

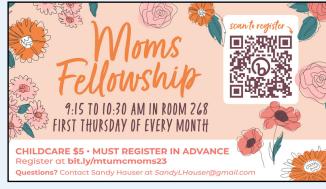
The Scouts delivered 2,092 food items totaling 2,283 pounds of food—a 14% increase over 2023 — with \$75.00 in cash donations to the Maple Springs UMC Food Pantry. Thank you for your steadfast support and generous contributions for this important community project and for supporting the Scouts since 1932.

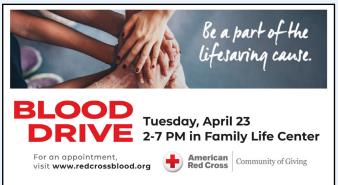


Mount Tabor Spotlight

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!

















Memorial and Honorarium Gifts Given to Mount Tabor UMC

Given in memory of Miller Council by:

- R.E. & Elizabeth Cobb
- Susan Pfaff
- Alice Sweeney
- Ron & Deb Keaton
- Neal & Katie Lineback
- Patrick & Cathy Ober
- Janice Council
- Roger, Shannon, & Ethan Preston
- Ashley and Brody Pearson
- Craig & Judy Miller
- Patricia Beam & Sherrie Harman
- Jo Anne Shouse Todd
- Michael Hendrix
- Mr & Mrs Wayne Kiger
- Bob & Sandra Hartman
- Robert Pitts
- Stephen & Sandra Jones
- Caroline Crist Council
- Billy & Margie Gordy
- Bobby & Judy Macemore
- William Lackey
- Philip & Janette Kelley
- Charles & Shirley Pitts
- Patricia King

- Katherine Garner
- Harold & Sylvia Gritton
- Stacey & Joe Rich

Given in memory of Mary Pitts by:

Harold & Sylvia Gritton

Given in memory of Bob Reddick by:

- Susan Pfaff
- Harold & Sylvia Gritton

Given in memory of Paula Tuttle by:

Craig & Judy Miller

Given in memory of Oneita & Frank Lineback by:

Judy & Don Lineback

Given in honor of Suzie Haley by:

Jane Caldwell

Given in honor of Lisa Meadows by:

Jane Caldwell

Given in honor of Lawren Thach by:

Jane Caldwell

Given in honor of Bob McHone by:

Tabor Troupers

Join us for an Upcoming UMC Briefing with Kim Ingram

Please make plans to join us on **Sunday, April 14, 2024 at 10:00am in the Alspaugh Worship Center** as we welcome Kim Ingram, Director of Ministerial Services and Conference Secretary. Kim will provide an up to date briefing on the upcoming UMC conference on April 23-May 3 in Charlotte. Kim began her role as Conference Secretary in 2008. Among her duties is to work with the Bishop and other WNC Conference Leaders on conducting annual conference sessions. We are looking forward to having her insight and expertise at MT. Tabor.

Information about the conference can be found on their website https://www.ctcumc.org/newsdetail/general-conference-2024-to-convene-april-23-may-3-in-charlotte-nc-17115700

Additionally here is an excerpt from an article titled "Looking ahead to General Conference next year" published on UMnews.org that provides a high level overview of topics for the conference. The lawmaking assembly faces many proposals dealing with topics as varied as the denomination-wide budget, social teachings, ecumenical relations and international structure. All told, General Conference has received 1,100 properly submitted petitions— basically the United Methodist equivalent of bills before a legislature. And just like a bill on Capitol Hill, the first stop for a General Conference petition is in one of the gathering's legislative committees. In 2024, General Conference will have 14 legislative committees.

Recycling Team Volunteers					
Dates	Group 1	Group 2			
March 31-April 13	Cheryl Cassel	John Eller			
April 14-27	Sue Spiegelman	Greg Hale			
April 28-May 11	Ginny C. Martin	Ron Hudnell			
May 12-25	Sara Lynn Macy	Craig Miller			
May 26-June 8	Carolyn Miller	Bobby Sharp			
Additional Volunteer Teams					
Dates	Team	Volunteers			
April 2024	Kitchen Team	Susan Baker			
April 2024	Altar Guild	Shannon Settlemire			
April 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					
April 2024	Ongoing Gift: Juice	Gift of the Month: Pancake Mix and Syrup			

-Sharing our Sympathies, Joys, and Prayers with our church family—

-Extending our Sympathies to-

- Mona Branscomb upon the death of her brother
- Kara Elliott upon the death of her father, Doug Carpenter
- Linda Kearsley upon the death of her mother, Louise Bartley
- Rich Vellucci upon the death of his mother, Josephine Vellucci
- Alex Jarrell upon the death of her father, Jeff Knock
- Sharon Sharp upon the death of her brother, Clark Andrews
- Anne Love upon the death of her husband, Bob Love

—Sharing our *Joys with—*

Matilda Phillips upon the birth of her great-great-grandson, Nash Anthony Phillips

-WELCOME to our NEW MTUMC Family Members-

 Charlie and Cayla Mellis and their children Blakely and Charlie

Message from the Cemetery Committee

A limited number of graves are now available in our cemetery.

If you joined Mt. Tabor UMC between January 1, 1993December 31, 1995
AND you are an ACTIVE MEMBER of the church, you are eligible to request a grave. Requests will be honored based on the date of membership and available space.

Requests must be emailed to cemetery@mttaborumc.org by Thursday, April 30, 2024.

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	
Communion Sunday April 7	Dr. Michael Brown		Did Easter Matter?	John 20:19-23	
April 14	Dr. Michael Brown		Symbols	Exodus 27:1-8	
April 21	Dr. Michael Brown		Divine Illogic	Matthew 5:3-12	
Confirmation Sunday, April 28	Dr. Michael Brown		For the First Time	Acts 11:25-30	

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.



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

-April 3-

No Table Tabor Dinner—Spring Break

-April 10-

Stuffed Shells, Pasta and Sauce, Rolls, Salad Bar, Drinks, and Desserts Kids Option: Corndogs

-April 17-

Chicken Pie no veggies, Chicken Pie with veggies, Mashed Potatoes, Vegetable, Rolls, Salad Bar, Drinks, and Desserts Kids Option: Pancakes

—April 24—

Hamburger Steak, Mashed Potatoes, Vegetables, Rolls, Salad Bar, Drinks, and Desserts

Kids Option: Kraft Mac & Cheese

-May 1 -

Taco Salad—Beef or Chicken, Black Beans, Refried Beans, Rice, Queso, Salad Bar, Drinks, and Desserts Kids Option: Quesadillas

-May 8-

Country Style Steak, Rice, Vegetables, Salad Bar, Cornbread, Salad Bar, Drinks, and Desserts

Kids Option: Kraft Mac & Cheese

May 8 will be the last Tabor Table of the season. Join us again in September for more fabulous meals and a wonderful time of fun and fellowship!

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 March 21 current loan balance is \$121,234.21.

Mount Tabor UMC Job Postings

Director of Traditional Worship Arts

The role of the Director is designed to implement the mission of Mount Tabor United Methodist Church, by crossing musical boundaries, engaging with the entire church and reaching out to the community with comprehensive worship arts, consistent with helping all persons grow in their faith. This is achieved by the oversight, direction and coordination of the Traditional service worship arts ministries and activities. This is a full time 35 hour per week salaried position and reports to the Senior Pastor.

APPLICATION PROCESS AND PROCEDURES - Full job description, details for posting and a Mount Tabor Job Application are located at: https://www.mttaborumc.org/ employment-opportunities The job application can be downloaded, completed, and saved as an attachment for email. A copy of your resume is also required.. Email attachments should include first and last name in any file name you create. Email Application Package (completed application and resume) to: jobs@mttaborumc.org . Application Packages are now being accepted and the posting will remain open until the job is filled.

Coordinator of Family Ministries Worship Arts

The role of the Coordinator is to provide vision, direction, organization and promotion of Worship Arts for children and youth. The position will be working with and coordinating all forms of Worship Arts such as choral music, handbells/chimes, liturgical dance, orchestra and spoken word. The Coordinator will lead some ensembles and recruit volunteers to lead others. This position will offer opportunities for children and youth to take a leadership role in contemporary and traditional worship settings. This is a part time 15 hour per week salaried position and reports to the Director of Children and Family Ministries.

APPLICATION PROCESS AND PROCEDURES - Full job description, details for posting and a Mount Tabor Job Application are located at: https://www.mttaborumc.org/employment-opportunities

The job application can be downloaded, completed, and saved as an attachment for email. A copy of your resume is also required. Email attachments should include first and last name in any file name you create. Email Application Package (completed application and resume) to: jobs@mttaborumc.org . Application Packages are now being accepted and the posting will remain open until the job is filled.

GREAT DAY OF SERVICE - Saturday, April 20

This is our annual church-wide morning of serving community service organizations across Winston-Salem. It's also a wonderful opportunity for new members to build relationships, families to serve together, and longer-term members to re-connect... all while serving community organizations that provide crucial services to those in need throughout the year.

Here's the Great Day of Service schedule: 8-8:45am - Breakfast in Fellowship Hall — 8:45-11:45 - Teams serve on projects 12-1 - Pizza lunch in Fellowship Hall

Projects: Crossnore Children's Home, Riverwood Therapeutic Riding Center, Open Arms, Samaritan Ministries, Sunnyside Ministries, Ronald McDonald House, and more.

Sign-up boards will be in the Welcome Center soon. Please contact Steve Mann with questions.



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 Worshin Sorvice

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