

# TABOR TALK

In this newsletter (as in our weekly bulletins), you'll see lists of Advent activities upcoming for us at Mt. Tabor: worship services, dramatic presentations, mission opportunities, fellowship activities, youth and children's programming, and on and on. It looks like a busy December for our church ... but a really "good busy." I'd like to mention a couple things that will make the "good" part even better.

First, put a star on your calendar next to Sunday, December 10. Preaching for us that morning will be Dr. Preston Davis, Minister to High Point University. To put it simply (though, hopefully, not simplistically), Preston is a rock star in our Annual Conference and in the whole world of ministry to university students. He's so gifted that HPU recently made him a Vice President (so far as I know, he's the first university Chaplain in their history to receive that recognition). He's engaging, personable, and best of all - the guy can preach! I mean, he can really, really preach. You're going to love him. So, as I said, put a star on your calendar for that day. (Long before I knew I would have the honor of serving as your Interim Pastor, I accepted an invitation to preach that Sunday at Highlands UMC where they are using a little Advent book I wrote as a seasonal study guide. You won't mind my being absent that day once you hear Preston. You may even ask me to accept additional invitations!)

Second, as you buy and wrap presents for family, friends, and co-workers, let me ask you to give yourself a gift. Jesus said we should love our neighbors as ourselves. So, practice a little self-care in December. It is arguably the busiest month of the year. Busy-ness requires energy. And energy requires pacing. We move forward by occasionally pulling back. Even race cars have to take pit stops to refuel. Or (and this is a far better illustration), the gospels teach that from time to time "Jesus withdrew to a quiet place." He stepped back from the demanding crowds and all the noise of His life to rest, to pray, to renew and restore Himself. I have a friend in NYC named Nunzio Gubitosa. He trains people to become psychotherapists. Nunzio said he tells them, "If you don't take adequate care of yourself, in time there won't be enough self left to take adequate care of anyone or anything else." Pay attention to that. Add rest alongside work - add leisure activities alongside responsibilities - add "can wait" alongside "must do" - add silence alongside the noise of the season - add prayer alongside service - add something fun to your days so that you can make the season bright for all the others who count on you. Remember: "If you don't take adequate care of yourself, in time there won't be enough self left to take adequate care of anyone or anything else."

December is going to be a really busy month for us at Mt. Tabor. Let's make sure it's good busy. !

Pastor Michael



Christmas is such a special time of year! Children will experience a lot of excitement and wonder. We all do! But as they get older—and as we take time to stop and remember—we hope that the good news that God gave us Jesus will become the MOST wonderful part of Christmas. So get ready because TaborKIDS Junior is hopping aboard the CHRISTMAS TRAIN, and it's carrying the true story of Christmas!

With the busyness of the Christmas season, it's easy to lose sight of why we celebrate in the first place. We forget that at the time of the first Christmas, God's people were anticipating a Rescuer who would come and save the world. That's what makes a countdown like an advent calendar so powerful. It allows us daily moments to stop and reflect on God, who loved us so much and sent Jesus to be our Savior. This December, TaborKIDS are "decking the halls" and taking the whole month to focus on nothing but Christmas by celebrating Jesus, God's greatest gift! We can't wait to shine a spotlight on crucial moments in the story of Jesus' birth as we count down to Christmas. Because of Jesus, it's possible for us to have a relationship with God that will last forever. As we take this month to count down to the fun of Christmas Day, let's take time to remember the reason we celebrate in the first place: Jesus, the greatest gift the world has ever known.

**Advent Devotional Kits** are available for children! We have one kit for TaborKIDS Junior and another for TaborKIDS. Be sure to pick yours up today!

Families are invited to **Breakfast in Bethlehem**, an Advent experience for children, on December 2 at 10:00am. For more information and to register, please visit: <https://bit.ly/mtbfast23> For more information, please contact Marcey Davis [marcey.davis@mttaborumc.org](mailto:marcey.davis@mttaborumc.org)

**TaborTWEENS** (4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Graders) will gather this month on December 17 5:00-9:00pm with dinner and a hayride through the Tanglewood Lights. Register here: <https://bit.ly/mttweenhayride> For more information, please contact Marcey Davis [marcey.davis@mttaborumc.org](mailto:marcey.davis@mttaborumc.org)

All children ages 3 years old through 5<sup>th</sup> grade are invited to participate in the Nativity on Christmas Eve. **Nativity Camp** and rehearsals will be held December 20-22. Register here: <https://bit.ly/mtnativity2023> For more information, please contact Colleen Carr [colleen.carr@mttaborumc.org](mailto:colleen.carr@mttaborumc.org)

TaborKIDS on Wednesdays continues this month! Every Tabor Table Wednesday, children are invited to come to the Children's Building from 6:00-7:00pm for faith, fun, and fellowship. Children must arrive by 6:15pm to participate in programming. TaborKIDS Junior (independent 2 year olds – Kindergarten) should be brought to Ms. Colleen in the Clubhouse in the Children's Building by their parents. TaborKIDS (1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> Grades) will be gathered by Ms. Marcey from the Family Life Center at 6 PM. **There will be no Tabor Table on December 20 and 27.**

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](mailto:marcey.davis@mttaborumc.org).

## Your Help is Needed!

We have babies to rock and hold in the Nursery during worship. If you are interested in showing love to our littlest disciples, please contact Marcey Davis  
marcey.davis@mttaborumc.org

# FUSION Youth Ministries at Mount Tabor UMC

The month of November looked a little different for our Fusion Youth Group. Since we only had one "Fusion Main Event" our gathering space looked different; however, this allowed for our souls to be overflowed with joy and love.

We spent Veterans Day weekend at Camp Tekoa in Hendersonville, NC and enjoyed time for fellowship while learning about being recreated through Christ. This retreat consisted of a giant swing, a zipline over the lake, lots of games, and most importantly time spent together fellowshiping and more importantly, time spent silently reflecting and connecting with Christ. Some may say we spent the weekend "disconnecting to reconnect."

While we are on the retreat, we were visited by the founding pastor and Minister of Social Enterprise of Deep Time. Deep Time is a community of faith for and with people impacted by incarceration. During this visit we spent time engaging in conversation while reflecting and embarking on a spiritual journey. We learned through our discussions about being recreated through Christ and locating the truth of the goodness of which God created us (Genesis 1:31). We heard a story of redemption, grace, sadness, joy, lost, and being found. We heard about the beauty of life when you find the connection with Christ in everyone around you including yourself.

Our time in November ended with us fellowshiping and eating (which we realize Jesus too was a big fan of). We enjoyed a meal with each other and our church family at the Thanksgiving Service and Potluck, then finished off the month around the table with our blood family.

As we embark into the month of December may we not forget the truth that we are exactly what God had in mind when he created us, and let us properly be prepared for the birth that will forever alter life.

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



**FUSION CHRISTMAS PARTY**  
Wear your Christmas Pajamas  
and bring a potluck dish + gift to exchange  
**December 10 from 4-7 PM**  
in the Youth Commons

## What do YOU yearn for during Advent?

Advent comes from the word, Adventus, which means coming or arrival. Advent begins four Sundays before Christmas and ends on Christmas Eve and is a time when we prepare our hearts and minds for the coming of the Christ child. As the author Ann Voskamp says, Advent is a slow unfurling of grace.

What do you yearn for in this season of Advent? This time of year can be very busy, sometimes too busy. In spite of all the joy and wonderful sights and sounds of the season you may find yourself yearning for something ... dare I say it ..... less. Something quieter or less hectic, something that does not rob you of your energy or have you looking forward to it all being over with. As we head into the season of Advent, take some time to think about how you can have a meaningful Advent. What can you do or not do to make this season truly one of hope, peace, joy, and love. You may want to decorate a little less or cut back on all the activities. This may be the year you decide to have an Advent Wreath or try a new daily devotional. It may be that you want to reflect and pray more, and shop less. Whatever you decide, I hope this season will bring you great joy as you

wait with anticipation to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

***Thanks be to God for His  
indescribable gift!  
2 Corinthians 9:15 NIV***

***—Kim Harvey,  
Director of Congregational Care  
and Spiritual Formation***

"In the silence of a midwinter dusk, there is far off in the deeps of it somewhere a sound so faint that for all you can tell it may be only the sound of the silence itself. You hold your breath to listen. You walk up the steps to the front door. The empty windows at either side of it tell you nothing, or almost nothing. For a second you catch a whiff in the air of some fragrance that reminds you of a place you've never been and a time you have no words for. You are aware of the beating of your heart. The extraordinary thing that is about to happen is matched only by the extraordinary moment just before it happens. Advent is the name of that moment."

~ Frederick Buechner

**In addition to our Advent Devotionals, “A Little Child Shall Lead Them” below are some additional Advent resources to help you slow down and savor the season.**

- ◆ *The Uncluttered Heart* by Beth A. Richardson
- ◆ *The Greatest Gift - Unwrapping the Full Love Story of Christmas* by Ann Voskamp
- ◆ *Jesus Listens for Advent and Christmas* by Sarah Young
- ◆ *Come Let Us Adore Him – A Daily Advent Devotional* by Paul David Tripp
- ◆ *A Long-Ago Birth in a Right-Now World – Reflections about the Christmas Story in our Age and Lives* by Michael B. Brown
- ◆ *Three Wise Women – 40 Devotions Celebrating Advent with Mary, Elizabeth, and Anna* by Dandi Daley Mackall
- ◆ *Jingle and Joy – Praying Beneath the Tree* by Jodie Barrett (An Advent Prayer Journal)
- ◆ *Shadow and Light – A Journey into Advent* by Tsh Oxenreider
- ◆ *An Unlikely Advent—Extraordinary People of The Christmas Story* by Rachel Billups
- ◆ *Unwrapping the Greatest Gift: A Family Celebration of Christmas* by Ann Voskamp
- ◆ *The Wonder fo the Greatest Gift: An Interactive Family Celebration of Advent Calendar* by Ann Voskamp

# Mount Tabor Spotlight

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

Wednesday Women's BIBLE STUDY

## JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM

AN ADVENT STUDY

**December 6 & December 13 at 9:30 AM**  
in the Fellowship Hall and also via Zoom

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

scan to register




## Moms Fellowship

9:15 TO 10:30 AM IN ROOM 268  
FIRST THURSDAY OF EVERY MONTH

**CHILDCARE \$5 • MUST REGISTER IN ADVANCE**  
Register at [bit.ly/mtumcmoms23](http://bit.ly/mtumcmoms23)

Questions? Contact Sandy Hauser at [SandyLHauser@gmail.com](mailto:SandyLHauser@gmail.com)



## Dewey's

FUNDRAISER SUPPORTING MOUNT TABOR PRESCHOOL

Order November 20 - December 6  
For more information & to order, please visit [bit.ly/mtpsdewey2023](http://bit.ly/mtpsdewey2023)

## TaborTWEENS

Festival of Lights Hayride

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17  
DEPART CHURCH @ 5 PM  
RETURN AROUND 9 PM  
BRING MONEY FOR DINNER @ DARIO'S  
DRESS WARMLY & BRING SLEEPING BAGS

Register now: [bit.ly/mttweenhayride](http://bit.ly/mttweenhayride)




**U.M.M.**  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

## Fellowship Breakfast

**Sunday, December 3**  
7:30 AM in the Fellowship Hall

## Breakfast in Bethlehem

an Advent experience for young families

**December 2**  
10 AM

Register now: [bit.ly/mtbfast23](http://bit.ly/mtbfast23)



## Music in December

- December 3 **Advent Worship** with choir, string quartet, and harp
- December 10 **Advent Worship** with choir, violin, cello, and oboe
- December 17 **Advent Worship** with choir and handbells
- December 24 **Christmas Eve Worship at 11 AM and 4 PM** with choir, brass quintet, and harp

Featuring

## I Will Sing with the Spirit: An Exploration of Early Moravian Song

by Guest Soprano, Laura Hutchins

**\$6 LUNCH** Menu: Moravian Themed

**December 18 at 11:30 AM**  
in the Fellowship Hall

Register in your Sunday School class or at the Connect Corner



Recycling Team Volunteers		
Dates	Group 1	Group 2
Dec 10-23, 2023	Judy Miller	Craig Miller
Dec 24, 2023-Jan 6, 2024	Carolyn Miller	Rob Crenshaw
Jan 7-Jan 20, 2024	Don Rhyne	Judy Miller
Jan 21-Feb 3, 2024	Sara Lynn Macy	Cathy Hurd
Feb 4-17, 2024	Barbara Beason	Ed Beason
Additional Volunteer Teams		
Dates	Team	Volunteers
December 2023	Kitchen Committee	Sandra Hartman
December 2023	Altar Guild	<b>All Altar Guild Members</b>
December 2023	Crisis Control Delivery	Jim Graham
Crisis Control Ministry Gift of the Month		
<i>Please place your donations in the Crisis Control wooden bin in the Trinity Welcome Center</i>		
December 2023	Ongoing Gift: Juice	Gift of the Month: Canned Mixed Vegetables

*Advent Devotionals*  
FOR BOTH CHILDREN AND ADULTS

**Now Available**  
in the Welcome Center

## **Church School Secretaries Needed**

We are in need of another couple to serve as Church School Secretaries once a month or more if needed to sub. The duties include collecting the offering and attendance from Sunday School Classes and recording these in the receptionist's office on Sunday morning. If you would like to serve in this capacity, please contact Kim Harvey, Director of Congregational Care and Spiritual Formation at [kim.harvey@mttaborumc.org](mailto:kim.harvey@mttaborumc.org) or in the church office at 336-765-5561 ext. 1021.

## **BETHESDA WATER EMERGENCY – We currently only have enough water for this week.**

Please help us support those in need in our area by donating bottled water for Bethesda Center.

**100 bottles of water are needed each Wednesday** for the homeless individuals served dinner by MTUMC at the Bethesda Center. You may bring water donations to the church and place on the labeled cart in the Fellowship Hall; or order bottled water to be delivered straight to the church through Amazon online; or give online at [www.mttaborumc.org/give](http://www.mttaborumc.org/give) selecting "Bethesda Benefit" (or make checks payable to MTUMC designating "Bethesda Benefit" and bring to the church).



## **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](http://www.mttaborumc.org/tabor-table)

### **–December 6–**

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

Kids Option: Quesadillas

### **–December 13–**

Egg and Hashbrown Casserole, Sausage, Grits, Biscuits, Pancakes, and Fruit

### **–December 20–**

No Tabor Table Dinner

### **–December 27–**

No Tabor Table Dinner

### **–January 3–**

No Tabor Table Dinner

## **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:

Jan 10  
Jan 17  
Jan 24  
and Jan 31.

# 2024 Pledge Report

AS OF NOVEMBER 19, 2023



Number of Pledges: **160**  
for Pledge Total of **\$777,427**

Pledge cards can be found at the Welcome Desk, in the back of the Alspaugh Worship Center, and in the Sanctuary Narthex, or you can submit a pledge online at [mttaborumc.org/give](https://mttaborumc.org/give)



## 2023 Contribution Deadlines

<b>Cash or Check</b>	deliver to church office* no later than <b>11:59 AM on Sunday, December 31, 2023</b> , or USPS mail, <b>post-mark cancelled no later than December 31, 2023</b>
<b>Electronic Giving</b> (debit, credit or bank transfer)	Complete online no later than <b>11:59 PM on Sunday, December 31, 2022</b>
<b>2023 IRA Contribution</b>	Complete online no later than <b>11:59 PM on Sunday, December 31, 2022</b>
<b>Stock Gift</b>	Shares must be deposited in the Mount Tabor UMC brokerage account and you must send an email to Church Business Administrator, Holly Smith, at <a href="mailto:holly.smith@mttaborumc.org">holly.smith@mttaborumc.org</a> no later than <b>5 PM on Wednesday, December 27, 2023</b>

\*The last week of December, the Mount Tabor UMC office will be open **Tuesday, December 26 – Thursday, December 28 from 10 AM – 2 PM and Friday, December 28, 10 AM – NOON**





CIRCLE 2  
*Wrapping  
Event*

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

**December 13 • 5–7 PM**  
**December 16 • 9 AM–3 PM**  
**December 17 • 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 or Stephanie Griffith

### **A Christmas Memory**

Everyone is invited to attend a dramatic presentation of Truman Capote's "A Christmas Memory" performed by Robin Voiers, on December 9. "A Christmas Memory" was first published in 1956 as a short story and is Capote's tale of his humble childhood and holiday traditions in 1930's, Alabama. Many of you will remember Robin's one-woman adaptation of this beloved classic for many years at Reynolda House. This evening will include a dinner in the Family Life Center from 5:00- 6:00pm (donations accepted for dinner), followed by a skit and Christmas carols in the Alspaugh Worship Center, and then the presentation of "A Christmas Memory." This will be a fun evening you do not want to miss.

## *Christmas Eve Offering*

ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24

will benefit **Crisis Control Ministry**  
and **Second Harvest Food Bank**

Please use the special envelope in your bulletin or note  
"Christmas Offering" in the memo line of your check and  
place in the offering basket as it is passed to you.

# Christmas Eve

AT MOUNT TABOR

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24

**Modern Worship**  
at 9 AM

*in Alspaugh Worship Center*

**Traditional at**  
11 AM and 4 PM

*in Sanctuary*

**Family Nativity**  
at 2 PM

*in Alspaugh Worship Center*

## December 2023 — Mt. Tabor UMC Worship

Date	Preaching at our 9:00am Modern Service <i>in the Alspaugh Worship Center</i>	Preaching at 11:00am Traditional Service <i>in the Sanctuary</i>	Sermon Title	Sermon Scripture
<b>Communion Sunday, Dec 3</b>	Dr. Michael Brown		<i>MARANATHA!</i>	Jeremiah 33:14-16 and 1 Corinthians 16:22
<b>Dec 10</b>	Dr. Preston Davis		<i>INTRODUCING...!</i>	John 1:6-8, 19-28
<b>Dec 17</b>	Dr. Michael Brown		<i>A Sweet Little Story?</i>	Luke 1:26-38
<b>Dec 24</b>	Dr. Michael Brown		<i>A Baby's Cry</i>	Luke 2:1-20
<b>Dec 31</b>	<b><i>One Service of Worship at 10:00am in the Sanctuary with Dr. Michael Brown</i></b>		<i>A Mother, A Messiah, and A Manger</i>	Luke 1:26-38; 2:1-7

All services are also available via livestream at [www.YouTube.com/MountTaborUMCVideoStreaming](http://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.***

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## Memorial and Honorarium Gifts Given to Mount Tabor UMC

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Given in memory of Bob Reddick by:

- Dallas & Donna Brewer
- Perry & Denise Peterson
- Ronald & Deborah Keaton
- Michael Hendrix
- Robert & Jobeth Holliday
- George & Judith Petree
- Hurley & Mary Thomas
- Wanda Henson
- William & Peggy Dillard
- Miller & Janice Council
- Robert & Barbara Hall
- Western Winnie Tarwheels
- Martha Agnew
- Libby Craven
- Mike & Carol Petree
- Bobby Sharpe
- David & Sonya Long
- Mike Pfaff
- David Hendrix

Given in memory of Mary Pitts:

- Ronald & Deborah Keaton
- Hurley & Mary Thomas
- Martha Agnew

Given in memory of Charles Oliver Clark by

- Hurley & Mary Thomas

Given in memory of Alma Meadows by

- Symposium Sunday School Class

Given in memory of Tom Wise by

- Symposium Sunday School Class

Given in memory of Dorothy Cassel by

- Symposium Sunday School Class

Given in memory of Pauline Jarrell by

- Symposium Sunday School Class

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.

**—Sharing our—  
Sympathies, and  
Prayers, with our church  
family**

### Extending our Sympathies to:

- \* Charles and Larry Pitts upon the death of their mother, **Mary Pitts**
- \* Linda Reddick, Robert Reddick, and Kevin Reddick upon the death of their husband and father, **Bob Reddick**
- \* Selena Ligons, a member of our Service Security Team, upon the death of her father, Douglas W. Ingram
- \* Garry Fisher upon the death of his father, Carl Fisher
- \* Marty Sparks upon the death of his mother, **Paulette Jeffers**

### 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
- \* Carmen Roberts
- \* Trey Wheeler
- \* William Wilson
- \* Edward Wolfe

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### 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](https://www.mttaborumc.org/give)**

or by cash or a check made payable to MTUMC and returned to the church.

**As of November 15,  
current loan balance is  
\$211,796.69.**



# 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 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](http://www.YouTube.com/MountTaborUMCVideoStreaming)
- Facebook Live at Mount Tabor United Methodist Church