Tabor Talk

December 2021

the monthly newsletter of

Mount Tabor United Methodist Church

3543 Robinhood Road • Winston-Salem, NC 27106 • 336-765-5561

located in the Yadkin Valley District of the
Western North Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church

gather joyfully • grow spiritually • go faithfully

—— GATHER JOYFULLY ——

Worship OPPORTUNITIES

SUNDAYS

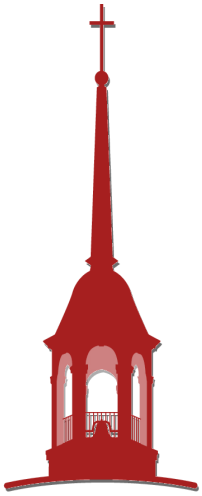
Higher Ground - 9 a.m.
a multi-sensory contemporary service that celebrates and shares God's love in the relaxed worship setting of the Alspaugh Worship Center.

Ignite - 11 a.m.
a contemporary service with emphasis on participatory worship, prayer, community and transformation, in-person and on live stream from the Alspaugh Worship Center.

Traditional - 11 a.m.
a worship service incorporating the traditional hymns of faith and the historic creeds of the church, in-person and on live stream from the light-filled Sanctuary.

Nursery care and a Mother's Room are available in the Children's Building. TaborKIDS Worship is also available by registering your child at the Children's Building before worship begins.

Livestream available at
www.YouTube.com/MountTaborUMCVideoStreaming
and on Facebook Live at
Mount Tabor United Methodist Church



GOOD NEWS!

Christmas is almost here! I cannot believe I am writing those words. Advent has just begun, and we now find ourselves in the great season of anticipation. The songs and carols are playing on loop in the stores and radio stations. The houses in our neighborhoods have lights and decorations. Office Christmas parties will begin soon, and people will travel all over this beautiful country to spend time with loved ones. Yes, Christmas is almost here!

As I write, I understand every person who reads this article will be approaching this holy season in their own unique way. I also understand the anticipation of what Christmas is supposed to mean this year will be different for each of us. The holiday season is already one of the most chaotic seasons of the year, but we all know these last two years have been even more chaotic because of the circumstances. Yet, Advent and Christmas remind us **THE Good News is on the way**!

Indeed, God's Good News is that, in the midst of our normal and messy lives, God is Emmanuel (meaning "God with us"). God gives us hope through the Incarnation that is Jesus Christ. God doesn't wait until the messy circumstances have changed in order to be with us. God chooses to encounter us and to meet us just where we are. No hardship is too great, no soul is too troubled, no suffering is too overwhelming for God to turn away from us. The Good News of Jesus Christ, the reason for our anticipation, is for all people.

Jesus Christ was born in the lowliest of circumstances, lived a normal life, and faced struggles and challenges similar to ours. The story of the birth of Jesus acknowledges the struggles and challenges we face. The birth of Christ gives us hope that in our normal lives we are provided with the opportunity to experience God's love and grace in the here and now. We do not have to believe that all must be perfect in order to experience the joy of Christmas. We do not have to meet all of the great expectations that society places on us this time of year in order to experience the peace that comes with Christ's birth. The greatest expectation of all has already been fulfilled—Jesus Christ was born, lived, died, and resurrected for you and for me. All we must do is have open hearts to receive him for the miracle of Christmas to occur. No pandemic, no civil division, no uncertainties can change that great truth.

So, as we journey through this Advent season together, and eventually approach Christmas, let us never lose track of the great meaning for why we have all of our celebrations and gatherings: **THE Good News of Jesus Christ**. And let us be thankful for how the Good News is the great gift that exceeds all of our expectations. Or, as the Apostle Paul once wrote in his second letter to the church in Corinth, *"Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!"*

Happy Advent and Merry Christmas,
Pastor Lonnie †

GROW SPIRITUALLY

Tabor kids

Marcey Davis, *Children's Ministries Director*
marcey.davis@mttaborumc.org 336-765-5561 ext. 1007
Colleen Carr, *Children's Ministries Associate Director*
colleen.carr@mttaborumc.org 336-765-5561 ext. 1020

Website: **mttaborumc.org/mtumctaborkids**
For TaborKIDS news, email marcey.davis@mttaborumc.org

Tabor kids junior
Children's Ministries of Mount Tabor UMC

for children age 2-year-old—in Kindergarten)

Happy birthday, Jesus! Yes, we know that Christmas is all about Jesus' birthday, but do our preschoolers know? It will be a new idea to some of them. We have the best jobs in the world because we get to share with preschoolers for the first time that Christmas is all about Jesus' birthday! Jesus has a birthday? Yep! He sure does! And, we are going to celebrate it BIG! We also want our preschoolers to know that the reason we celebrate Jesus' birthday is because Jesus is God's Son. God's Son deserves a celebration as big as Christmas and a birthday bash as big as what we're going to give Him this month! He is that special! So, gather up all the birthday celebration you can and prepare to party all month long! It's not just balloons and party hats. We are sharing the true story that God gave us His only Son, Jesus, and HE is worth celebrating!

Kids Worship Sunday mornings @ **9 & 11 a.m.**
Sunday Morning Grow Group @ **10 a.m.**
Pray'n & Play'n /Ms. Colleen **Wed, Dec. 8 & 15** @ **6-7 p.m.**

Tabor kids 252
Children's Ministries of Mount Tabor UMC

(for children in 1st—4th grades)

Who doesn't love a board game? Waiting for the game to unfold is a part of the fun, but it can be frustrating if kids don't know why they are playing or what they need to be a part of it. In, Wait For It, kids will learn how to watch for and put their hope in Jesus. Everyone will meet John, Mary, Simeon and Anna— people who waited for a Savior to change their lives. Kids will learn that everyone needs a Savior, that the Savior will change everything, that God will do impossible things, and that Jesus is the one they've been waiting for!

Kids Worship Sundays **@ 9 & 11 a.m.**
Sunday Morning Grow Group **@ 10 a.m.**
Club 252 Hangouts **Wednesdays, Dec. 8 & 15** @ **6-7 p.m.**

GROW SPIRITUALLY

Tabor Student MINISTRIES

Andy Tuttle, *Student Ministries Director*
andy.tuttle@mttaborumc.org 336-765-5561, 1008
Brian Loper, *Student Ministries Associate Director*
brian.loper@mttaborumc.org 336-765-5561, 1012

GAP *(for tweens in 5th-6th grades)* & FUSION *(for youth in 7th-12th grades)*

FUSION and GAP Families,

It has been a privilege to serve here at Mount Tabor and lead in our Student and Family Ministries. Each of you holds a special place in my heart. I pray that over our time together, in addition to fun, you have deepened your connection with God: that you are able to call Jesus Lord of your life; that you are able to love God and others better than when we started this journey. While people may come and go in our lives, God is constant. As we go through Advent and move into celebrating Jesus' birth, may we fix our eyes on Jesus and see how we can be the hands and feet of God.

Love in Christ,
Andy Tuttle

Confirmation—Calling All 7th and 8th Graders!

Confirmation for all 7th and 8th graders will begin on **Sunday, Jan. 9at 10 a.m.** Confirmation will meet in the Youth Area downstairs below the Family Life Center and run January to March. Please contact Brian Loper (brian.loper@mttaborumc.org) to get more information and reserve your spot today. ✝

Family Ministries

At the beginning of 2021, the Family Ministries team invited you to create a "Blessings Jar." Our hope and prayer is that your jar is full of ways your family has celebrated God at work through acts of service, answered prayers, and happy times. We would like to offer you a clear ball ornament to fill with your families' blessings and hang on your tree. If you would like an ornament, please take one from the basket in the Children's Building lobby, fill it up and snap a picture. We'd love to see how your family was blessed this year! (If you didn't fill a jar, don't worry! Spend some time as a family remembering and celebrating your blessings and fill an ornament now.)

As we begin Advent and this period of preparation for Jesus' birth, we pray that your hearts are open to the true magic and gift of Christmas, Jesus.

Because He is the reason for the season,
The Family Ministries Team *(Colleen Carr, Marcey Davis, Brian Loper & Andy Tuttle)* ✝

GROW SPIRITUALLY

The Art of Worship

Charli Mills
Traditional Worship Arts Director
charli.mills@mttaborumc.org
336-765-5561 ext. 1011

DECEMBER

It's hard to believe it is already December … how the months of this year have flown by! Stores are already playing Christmas music, and capitalizing on the holiday to urge us to spend on decor and presents and anything else you can imagine that comes in green and red. While I love this time of year, Christmas seems increasingly a commercial holiday, rather than a spiritual "holy day."

In contrast to our contemporary commodification, the church has long observed a season called Advent during the month of December. The word "Advent" means coming, and the season of Advent is one in which we anticipate Christ's coming in three ways: We anticipate his first coming in Bethlehem, we anticipate his second coming in glory, and we anticipate his coming in our own hearts.

First, we anticipate Christ's coming in Bethlehem. But wait! How can we anticipate an event that happened over 2000 years ago? We anticipate the past by re-experiencing it in the present, by re-imagining ourselves in the story. We experience this ritually by reading prophetic scriptures and lighting advent candles. In doing so, we affirm that Christ's historical coming is real and present for us today.

Second, we anticipate Christ's future coming in glory. Christ did not only come once in Bethlehem, but will also come again. This meaning of Advent can easily get lost, but Christ's first coming is not his last coming. The season of Advent is a time to remember and hope for the second advent too.

Finally, we look for Christ's coming in our own hearts. We must receive Christ's Advent for ourselves. This is reflected in many of our Advent and Christmas hymns, including in this verse of O Little Town of Bethlehem:

> *"O holy Child of Bethlehem,*
> *descend to us, we pray,*
> *cast out our sin and enter in,*
> *be born in us today.*
> *We hear the Christmas angels*
> *the great glad tidings tell;*
> *O come to us, abide with us,*
> *our Lord Immanuel!"* ✝

GO FAITHFULLY

HAVE YOU 'CONNECTED' AT MTUMC FOR 2022?

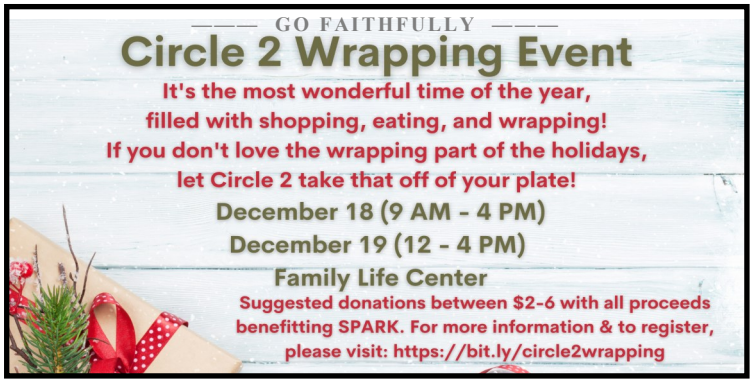
Have you made your "connection" at Mount Tabor UMC for 2022? The continuation of MTUMC ministries to the community, nation and world depends on you and your support. And you still have time to submit a 2022 pledge card if you missed Commitment Sunday on Oct. 17. Cards are available in the Sanctuary Narthex or at the Trinity Welcome Center desk. Or you can save time and paper by submitting your pledge at **https://www.mttaborumc.org/pledge** online. As of **Nov. 29, 225 pledges for a total of $1,004,039 towards a tentative 2022 budget of $1,754,400** has been received. ✝

ANGELS ARE STILL AVAILABLE FOR ANGEL TREE

Angels are still available for the Angel Tree Ministry by either choosing a paper angel hanging on the tree in the Trinity Welcome Center or at **www.mttaborumc.org/angel-tree** online. If you choose a paper angel, please register your choice on the nearby tables using the classroom code on the bottom right of each angel and picking up instructions.

Please return the **Christmas-wrapped gifts bundled together** in a large gift bag with the angel tag securely attached **by or before noon on Sunday, Dec.12**. Gifts may be turned in to the volunteers at the tree starting on Sundays or to the church office during the week. If you want to participate but don't want to shop, Angel Tree volunteers are willing to shop for you. Checks made out to MTUMC may be sent to the church, or you may donate online (**https://www.mt taborumc.org/give**) with Angel Tree in the memo line.

If you would like to volunteer with angel registration and gift processing, sign up at **https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0B4CAAA728A2FF2-angel1** online. If you have any questions, call Becky Pfaff (336-768-5156), or send a text to Michelle Petrich (336-692-2180) or Laura Hill (336-341-9068). †



For those interested in deeper study this Advent, the Spiritual Growth Committee recommends the resources listed below for the season. These books can be found online.

Group Study Recommendations

- **All the Good: A Wesleyan Way of Christmas** by Laceye Warner, Amy Valdez Barker, Jung Choi & Sangwoo Kim (book and companion devotion book)
- **Almost Christmas: A Wesleyan Advent Experience** by Magrey R. Devega, Ingrid McIntyre, April Casperson & Matt Rawle (book and companion devotion book)
- **Simply Wait: Cultivating Stillness in the Season of Advent** by Pamela C. Hawkins (4 weeks of readings)

Individual Study Recommendations

- **The Greatest Gift** by Ann Voskamp (Old Testament stories tracing the family tree of Christ)
- **Jesus Calling: The Story of Christmas** by Sarah Young (50 daily devotions)
- **Jingle and Joy: Praying Beneath the Tree** by Jodie Barrett (25 day Advent prayer journal)
- **Pursuing Christ: Prayers for Christmastime** by Jennifer Kennedy Dean (morning and evening readings for December)
- **The Uncluttered Heart** by Beth A. Richardson (daily devotions)

Children and Family Study Recommendations

- **Come Let us Adore Him** by Paul David Tripp (includes tips for parents to help the family focus on Jesus) ✝

Tabor Table

Wednesdays, 5:15-6:30 p.m. Family Life Center

*Adult age 12 and older **$7**; Child ages 3-11 **$4**; Family same house **$20 cap***
make reservations at **www.mttaborumc.org/tabor-table**

— December 8 —	— December 15 —
Taco salad (beef or chicken) black beans, refried beans, corn, rice	Chicken pie (with or without veggies), mashed potatoes
Kid's option: cheese quesadillas	*Kid's option: chicken nuggets*
Salad	Roll & Salad
Drinks & Desserts	Drinks & Desserts

Following the Christmas & New Year break, Tabor Table will resume on January 12, 2022

— MOUNT TABOR UM CHURCH CONTACTS —

Rev. Lonnie Pittman, *Senior Pastor*:
lonnie.pittman@mttaborumc.org Ext. 1004

Rev. Bob Richardson, *Assistant Pastor*:
bob.richardson@mttaborumc.org Ext. 1022

WORSHIP

Charli Mills, *Traditional Worship Arts Director*:
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Deborah Daniels, *Higher Ground Band Co-Leader:*
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Amy Spencer, *Higher Ground Band Co-Leader:*
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Jim Annas, *Ignite Worship Coordinator*:
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CHILDREN

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Colleen Carr, *Children Ministries Associate Director*:
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Ellen Creasman, *Nursery Coordinator*:
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Kim Saylor, *Weekday Preschool Director*:
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Emily Richardson, *Weekday Preschool Administrator*:
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Jeanna Hagan, *After School Care Director*:
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Jodi Pratt, *After School Care Administrator*:
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YOUTH

Andy Tuttle, *Student Ministries Director*:
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Brian Loper, *Student Ministries Associate Director*:
brian.loper@mttaborumc.org Ext. 1012

ADULTS

Gray Handwerk, *Spiritual Grwth/CmmtyEngmntCoordinator*:
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SUPPORT

Sheri Nebinger, *Church Hostess*:
sheri.nebinger@mttaborumc.org Ext. 1010

Steve Dyson, *Facilities Manager*:
steve.dyson@mttaborumc.org Ext. 1025

Cathy Culver, *Financial Administrator*:
cathy.culver@mttaborumc.org Ext. 1027

Libby Craven, *Senior Church Administrator*:
libby.craven@mttaborumc.org Ext. 1000

GET CONNECTED TO YOUR MTUMC ACCOUNT

Access the church directory, calendar and your giving records anytime at

https://tinyurl.com/MTUMCmemberLOGIN

on any Internet accessible device or from the "ACS Church Life" app on your smart phone. Directions are:

1. Make sure your **current email address** is on file in the church membership records. If you are receiving the weekly "In the Know" email, use that email address in the following steps, or otherwise call the church office (336-765-5561) to update your record.
2. Go to **https://tinyurl.com/MTUMCmemberLOGIN** and either sign in using your email address and previously set password or click on "Need a login? Click here" button (example pictured at right) and follow the instructions. If you can't remember your previously set password, click either the "password" or "user name" words under the green Sign In button.

3. Check your email for information to set your password and to confirm your request.
4. Lastly you are ready to download the "ACS Church Life" app by returning to **https://tinyurl.com/MTUMCmember LOGIN** and clicking on the "Go Mobile" button on lower right side and following the instructions for either your iPhone or Android.

For more assistance, contact Libby Craven or Cathy Culver in the church office (336-765-5561). †

2021 DONATIONS DEADLINE AT MTUMC

Please remember the IRS requires all 2021 donations of cash, checks or online transactions must be received to the church Financial Office Entrance **by 12 p.m. (NOON) Friday, Dec. 31, 2021** or postmarked by **Friday, Dec. 31, 2021**. You can also make 2021 IRA contributions but these must be received by the dates above. For stock gifts, shares must be in the Mount Tabor UMC brokerage account **by 5 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 28, 2021** and **you must notify Financial Administrator Cathy Culver** (cathy.culver@mttaborumc.org) of the transaction. Please allow sufficient lead time for transactions to take place by the deadline. †

2022 OFFERING ENVELOPES IN EARLY JANUARY

For those who wish to continue to use offering envelopes, or who requested them on the pledge card, the 2022 envelopes will be available for pickup in the Fellowship Hall sometime in early January. For those who elected to stop using envelopes and either use the website or online banking, please note your assigned identification number (found on your giving statement) in the memo line of your checks or online. If you have any questions, contact the church Financial Administrator Cathy Culver (cathy.culver@mttaborumc.org). †

CONGREGATIONAL Life

Offer prayers, support & resurrection faith to:

Cindy Parker on the Oct. 27 death of her husband Bob Parker of Winston

Frances Vazquez on the Nov. 8 death of her brother Harvey Dale of Jasper, Ga.

Rev. Gary & Judy Mahathey and family on the Nov. 22 of Gary's brother Mike Mahathey of Winston-Salem.

Congratulations to:

Stephen & Teddi **Mann** on the Nov. 1 birth of their daughter, Saylor Andee Mann. Proud grandfather is **Steve Mann**.

Trip & **Elizabeth Cotheran** on the Nov. 23 birth of their daughter Elle Marie Cotheran. Proud grandparents are **Wes & Linda Perry**.

Welcome new Mount Tabor members:

Pete & Cindy Shearer by transfer from St. Leo's Catholic Church on Nov. 14 during the 9 a.m. Higher Ground service.

Bev Shore by profession of faith on Nov. 14 during the 9 a.m. Higher Ground service.

Blenda Chavis by transfer from Cokesbury UMC, Charlotte on Nov. 14 during the 11 a.m. Ignite service.

Elizabeth Rowe by profession of faith on Nov. 14 during the 11 a.m. Ignite service.

Additional 2021 Confirmation Class members: **Carolyn Kay Binford, Rebecca Reese Binford and Robin Elizabeth Binford**, each by profession of faith on Nov. 14. †

Now Finish the Task

to build and enhance the ministries of Mount Tabor UMC

'NOW FINISH THE TASK'

"Now Finish the Task" 2-year debt reduction campaign funds are still being collected. Prayerfully consider making a donation to reduce the debt on the five-year-old facilities at **https://www.mttaborumc.org/give** or by check to MTUMC. The current loan balance is $725,691.06. †

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MEMORIALS

In Memory of All Saints
by Mary Pitts

In Memory of Hilton Conley
by Barbara Conley

In Memory of Rob Gardner
by Deborah Beitel

In Memory of J.C. Holcomb
by Dianne & Jerry Bell

In Memory of 50th Wedding Anniversary of Jim & Marilyn [living] **Minford**
by their daughter Cynthia Pinno

In Memory of John Sherrill
by Ellen & Steve Pfaff, Shirley Brown

HONORARIUMS

In Honor of Harold & Laura Beaty
by Tony & Beth Tedder

In Honor of Janie Livengood
by Martha Holt

In Honor of Sheri Nebinger
by Bob & Linda Reddick

In Honor of Lonnie Pittman
by United Methodist Women Circle 5

In Honor of Andy Tuttle
by Bobby & Sharon Sharp, United Methodist Women Circle 5

*Memorials or Honorariums may be made online at **https://www.MtTaborUMC.org/give** or by check payable to Mount Tabor UMC and designating Memorial or Honorarium along with the person's name. You may also request a church-approved ministry to benefit.*

MOUNT TABOR UMC MILITARY PRAYER LIST

Please keep these service men and women in your prayers:

Matthew Blue Matthew Burris Adam Clapp Audrey Clapp Jason Clapp Christopher Fisher Lee Gray Robert Hines Adam Johnson Sebastian Lambert Jennifer Penley Josh Richardson Carmen Roberts Ryan Smith Jonathan Sullivan Brian Temas Trey Wheeler William Wilson Edward Wolfe Matthew Young

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

MTUMC Staff Parish Relations Committee Invites You to drop-in to celebrate and send off

Student & Family Ministry Director

Andy Tuttle

Sunday, December 12

10:15-10:45 am

in the Fellowship Hall

You won't want to miss showing appreciation for his ministry and wishing him all the best in his next chapter!

Shop with amazonsmile at You shop. Amazon gives.

https://smile.amazon.com/ch/20-4072222

and EARN MONEY for Mount Tabor UMC on your purchases at no additional cost to you!

Mount Tabor
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Worship IN DECEMBER

— ADVENT WORSHIP SERIES
***"From Heaven Above"* CONTINUES —**

Sunday, December 5, 2021
with the Sacrament of Holy Communion
"From Heaven Above"
Scripture: John 1:1-5, 14; Isaiah 40:1-11

Sunday, December 12, 2021
"Sent with a Message"
Scripture: John 1:1-5, 14; Isaiah 61:1-4

Sunday, December 19, 2021
"Sent as the Good News"
Scripture: John 1:1-5, 14; Zechariah 2:10-13

Friday, December 24, 2021
"The Light"
Scripture: Luke 2:1-20; John 1:45

Sunday, December 26, 2021
"We Get to Carry the Light"
Scripture: Matthew 5:14; Proverbs 4:12

Nursery care available for Sunday services.

CRISIS CONTROL MINISTRY

Ongoing Gift
JUICE

Gift for DECEMBER
Beef Stew

Please place your donations in the wooden bin in the Trinity Welcome Center.

RESPONSIBILITIES DECEMBER

Altar Guild	All Altar Guild Members
Kitchen Committee	Michelle Petrich
Crisis Control Delivery	Jim Graham

RECYCLING VOLUNTEERS

	Group 1	Group 2
Nov28-Dec11	Don Rhyne	Rob Crenshaw
Dec12-25	Lynn Church	Cynthia Grant

DECEMBER PREACHING SCHEDULE

Date	Higher Ground *(9am)*	Ignite *(11am)*	Traditional *(11am)*
December 5	*Drama*	Bob Richardson	Lonnie Pittman
December 12	Lonnie Pittman	Bob Richardson	*Cantata*
December 19	Lonnie Pittman	Lonnie Pittman	Bob Richardson

December 24 **2pm** *Nativity -Alspaugh Worship Center* **4pm** *Lessons/Carols -Sanctuary*
6pm Lonnie Pittman *-Alspaugh Wrshp. Ctr.* **8pm** Lonnie Pittman *-Sanctuary*

December 26 *One Blended Contemporary service,* **10 a.m.** *in Alspaugh Worship Center* with Bob Richardson preaching

Traditional and Ignite 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** online.

Please submit newsletter contributions to the appropriate ministry leader for approval
or Senior Church Administrator Libby Craven (libby.craven@mttaborumc.org) by **Dec. 15, 2021** for the **JANUARY 2022 *Tabor Talk.***