

# WEEKLY SPOTLIGHT

December 12, 2021

## Sermon Series: Advent (Lectionary)

Focus: Anticipating the Christ Child's Birth

### WORSHIP SERVICE:

8:15 a.m. Traditional Worship (Sanctuary)  
10:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship (MPR/YouTube)

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: Isaiah 12:2-6

SERMON THEME: "Counting Up Rather than Down"

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### Sunday, December 12

All Day – Christmas Story Reading (TUMC Website)  
4:00 p.m. Fredericksburg Studio Performance of Legally Blond (MPR)

#### Tuesday, December 14

3:00 p.m. Emmaus – 4<sup>th</sup> Day (Library)  
6:00 p.m. Women Encouraged Group (Harry's Ale House)

#### Wednesday, December 15

10:00 a.m. Prayers and Squares (Fellowship Hall)  
6:15 p.m. Adult - Advent Study (Fellowship Hall & 7:00 p.m. Zoom)

#### Thursday, December 16

9:30 a.m. Prayer Group (Library)  
5:30 p.m. Bells Choir Rehearsal (Fellowship Hall)  
6:30 p.m. Choir Practice (Sanctuary)

#### Friday, December 17

7:00 p.m. Youth Lock in and Holiday Extravaganza Field Trip

#### Saturday, December 18

5:30 p.m. Christmas Lights & Love Drive Thru (TUMC lot)

UMM – There will be no Methodist Men's meeting for December.

**TUMC Webpage Has A New Look!** We are pleased to announce the launch of the newly redesigned Tabernacle United Methodist Church website. Come visit at [www.tabumc.org](http://www.tabumc.org).

## Christmas Stories



- Please go to [TABUMC.org](http://TABUMC.org) and look at the Christmas stories as read by our youth at Tabernacle Church. A new story will be posted each Sunday during the month of December.

**GIVING** - If you are giving through Faithlife, we ask that you please move back to Elexio. We will close down Faithlife on January 1, 2022. Elexio is offering a Donor Match Program for all new RE-OCCURRING GIVING. For every new recurring gift that is added between November 1 and December 31, 2021, Elexio will match the gift, up to \$50, with a maximum match of \$1,000. To be eligible for the matching gift, more than one installment must be set-up and the first recurring gift must be transacted by December 31, 2021. Please go to the TUMC website and click the E-Giving button in the upper right corner then click on E-Giving. Mike Reardon, Finance Committee Chairman and Angie Pitzer, Financial Secretary, [finsec@tabumc.org](mailto:finsec@tabumc.org)

**SECA** – Volunteers are needed to help in the office, food room and run the register. If you know anyone looking to volunteer, please send them our way.

**TABERNACLE**  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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540.786.6162  
Pastor Ted Smith

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December 10, 2021

Dear Members and Friends,

Despite the challenges of the past year, our pastor and church staff have diligently worked to support Tabernacle. If you'd like to honor our pastor and staff during the Christmas season, you may wish to contribute a cash gift which will be evenly distributed to all church staff in the last week of December.

If you would like to make a contribution to this special recognition fund, we ask that you send your monetary gift no later than Monday, **December 27th**. Envelopes marked with "Staff Christmas Gift" will be available in the entrance of the Sanctuary and the MPR beginning Sunday, December 11th. Your gift may be left in at the church office, dropped in the offering plate or mailed to the church. Checks should be made payable to TUMC. Please be sure the contribution is marked "STAFF CHRISTMAS GIFT." These gifts are not tax deductible and will not be reported in your annual statement of giving.

Your thoughtfulness serves as a way to show appreciation to our staff for their devotion and work in Christian service. Please accept our gratitude for your participation in this special endeavor.

Peace be with you!

Staff Parish Committee

**UMW and MISSIONS - GIVING TREES** are in the Sanctuary vestibule and in the MPR with tags for giving requests. Some of our gifts this year will be given to our new Resource Closet, serving the needs of our church family and neighbors. Others will be given to our Micah friends. For our SECA friends, we are asking for cash donations marked "SECA" to help with heating costs. We are always amazed by the love, kindness and generosity shown by our Tabernacle family. This year, the needs are greater than ever before. All gifts are greatly appreciated as we share the love of Jesus during the Advent Season.

**SUNDAY CONNECTION GROUPS** - We are excited that Tabernacle is connecting and reconnecting. Sunday Connection Groups started on September 12<sup>th</sup>. Adult groups meeting at 9:15 a.m. - 10:15 a.m. include: the Leon Anderson Discovery Class (Rm 411); the Mary Thomas Class (Rm 412); and the Seekers (Rm 413). Class curriculum will be determined at that time. You are welcome to drop in on any of these groups. If you are interested in facilitating a class, offering a prayer group, or have an idea for another connection group, please contact Eileen David at [eileendavid15@yahoo.com](mailto:eileendavid15@yahoo.com).

**CHILDREN'S SUNDAY CONNECTION GROUPS** - Children's Sunday Connection Groups (grades pre-K- 5) has been suspended. We are looking at other options. If you have any suggestions as to what you would like to see in terms of Sunday School for our children, please let us know. Miss Judy is offering Kids Care at 10:30 - 11:15 a.m. during the Contemporary Service. This is not Sunday school, but rather focused on mission work. We will also be offering a children's ministry program called the Good News Bears beginning in January 2022. Keep reading the Spotlight for more information. If you would like to be on our mailing list for children's worship bulletins, please contact me at [eileendavid15@yahoo.com](mailto:eileendavid15@yahoo.com) and give me your mailing address. We want to hear from you as what we can do in terms of religious education for our children, but also for adults.

**CONNECT AND RECONNECT** - We are making every effort to Connect and Reconnect with our college/trade school students and active duty military members and friends. Please send Active Military and college/trade school contact information to [SPleasants@tabumc.org](mailto:SPleasants@tabumc.org).

**Paul Study** - Let's begin the New Year with a new understanding of letters from the apostle Paul that were controversial 2000 years ago and remain controversial even today. Together we'll examine what Paul said and why Paul said things that could seem hurtful, harsh, and judgmental. Our study begins Wednesday, January 5th with a light supper at 6:15 p.m. for in-person participants. The study for Zoom and in person participants begins at 7:00 p.m. Contact Matt Kapus at [kapus72@gmail.com](mailto:kapus72@gmail.com) for further information, for the Zoom link, or to get a copy of the book.

**CHILDREN BLESSING CHILDREN!**

Our new Kids Care ministry that takes place during the 10:30 a.m. worship has always focused on hands-on mission activities. The TUM congregation wishes to say Thank You to the Kids Care group for their new prayer blanket project. The next Kids Care blankets will go to children who have experienced the death of a parent. When the Kids Care group has completed their work, we need you to help with the final step by tying strings that symbolize our love into the blankets. The Kids Care blankets will be available soon for your final touch.

**YOUTH NEWS** - December is upon us and the Youth have been buzzing! After Rake and Run, the Youth were mentors to the younger children during ornament making after church. On the 19th, the group began their Advent study. What an amazing start to the season!!!! We had 15 youth turn out for the study - several from other churches joined us. After the wonderful discussions, a few of the youth travelled to Hillcrest UMC for a Friendsgiving and Lock In. What a blast! Then it was time to gear up for the auction. The smells of Peppermint Bark filled the church as the group made donations for the Thanksgiving Auction. Keep an eye out for our December activities...Lock In, performances, caroling, service projects, and so much more! EPIC meets on Sundays at 9:15 a.m. and Youth Group meets on Sundays at 11:30 a.m. If you would like to join the Youth group for activities or meetings, and if you have questions, please contact Melissa Keylor at [needingserenity@gmail.com](mailto:needingserenity@gmail.com). Also, she can be reached by text at 703-201-4795 or visit us at #tabumcyouth. If you know a Youth who would like to attend, please feel free to invite them as well.

**YOUTH ADVENT STUDY** - During the season of Advent, the Youth will be studying, The Heart That Grew Three Sizes by Matt Rawle. This study looks at the Christmas classic, How the Grinch Stole Christmas. Could it be the thing we hate the most is the thing that will change our lives? Matt Rawle's study utilizes humor and concepts for young people to understand. Each session consists of music, discussion, activities, and snacks. We meet on Fridays at 7:00 p.m. in the Senior High Room at TUMC. No need for a book...just come!!!



Calling all Bears!!! We are going to have a Holly Jolly Holiday Hangout on December 19 from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. in the MPR. At our party we are going to play games, watch a movie, have movie snacks and participate in a Bible lesson about the Birth of Jesus!! So, get ready to have some fun! See you there!!!!



**THE RESOURCE CLOSET** as always, thank you for stocking the shelves to make this a success. It will be closed in December due to Christmas day. However, if anyone knows of a family in need, PLEASE take whatever the family needs. It is in Room 101, the former preschool area. It will reopen in January. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Vedi Ellis at [vediellis@comcast.net](mailto:vediellis@comcast.net) or 540-455-6076.

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**TREASURER'S REPORT FOR NOVEMBER 2021**

Budget Donations \$ 29,560.91  
 Budget Expenses \$ 27,503.72  
 Budget Balance for November \$ 2,057.19  
 Budget Balance to Date \$ 15,879.27  
 Other Donations – partial list  
 Building Fund \$ 215.00  
 SECA \$ 1,600.00  
 YWAM \$ 300.00  
 Abukloi \$ 1,425.00  
 Thanksgiving Offering \$ 2,900.00  
 Blessings Fund \$ 550.00  
 Micah Ministry \$ 700.00  
 Communion Offering \$ 100.00  
 UMCOR \$ 220.00  
 Community Drive Through \$ 320.00  
 Memorial Endowment \$ 100.00

**Whoever is kind to the needy honors God. Proverbs 14:31 (NIV)**

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**Attendance for December 5, 2021**

In Person	71
Livestream	60

**Counter Schedule**

December 12 – Vedi Ellis/Anita O'Toole  
 December 5 – Wendy Brooks/Margaret McIntosh

**CHRISTMAS LIGHTS & LOVE.** Come and experience the joy of Christmas at our newest community event in December. This evening family drive-thru will host a display of hundreds of Christmas lights along with music, a Nativity, special gifts, a hot chocolate warm-up, and a visit by Santa himself! The program, in the Tabernacle parking lot, will run from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, December 11th and again on December 18th. We look forward to sharing love and joy with each other and with our community as we celebrate the Christmas season!