

Mount Tabor Presbyterian Church

New Albany, Indiana



Words from the Pastor

The Season of Advent has always been a special time of year for me. I'm sure that the beauty of the decorations adds to the atmosphere, but it more than that. I'm sure it is partly the beauty of the haunting, mystic hymns of the season, like "O Come, O Come Emmanuel," but it is more than that. Advent is a deeply spiritual time for me.

Advent moves through time as we journey from the past to the present, and into the future. It begins by looking to the prophets for insight into God's presence in the past, the promises made to the people, and the indicators they proclaimed that later helped people identify Jesus as the Messiah. While we enjoy preparing to celebrate the birthday of Jesus, Advent also calls us to look at our relationship with Jesus today. It is a time to ask ourselves questions about our relationship with God like, "Am I living in the way of Jesus? Am I trusting in him alone? Have I allowed myself to be distracted by selfish cares?" God meets us in our times of honest reflection and walks with us through our journey of faith.

I hope that you will make time during this season of Advent to ask yourself these questions and then ask yourself one more. "Have I considered my life to be part of God's story in this moment of time?" God's work throughout all of time included all kinds of people. Not everyone God chose was a king, a prophet or a priest. Many, like Mary and Joseph, were among the least in society and yet their part of God's story is pivotal in God's salvation story. If it weren't for Mary and Joseph, we might never have seen God's unconditional love for the poor. We would never have seen how God can do miraculous things through the most common people. The first step for us, once we recognize this truth, is to open our lives to God's service.

Advent reminds me that God's story is one of past, present and future, one of promise, prophecy, and fulfillment, one that began long ago yet includes all of us today and those who will come after us. As you reflect on the stories of Advent and Christmas, I pray that you will ask God to reveal how you can live out the story God desires for you.

Rev. Sue



Services every Sunday morning at 10:00

Mt Tabor Staff

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Church Officers Rev. Sue Trigger Moderator

Rob Crosser (2025) Clerk of Session

Joyce Spurgeon (2024) Treasurer; chair, Stewardship

Carol Traister (2024) chair, Foundation Work Committee

Elise Klink (2025) chair, Mission Committee

Judy VanHoff (2026) chair, Care Committee

Tom McCarty (2025) Chair, Faith Formation

Paul Todd (2024) chair, Building and Grounds

Ellie Brown- (2026)- liaison, Fellowship Committee

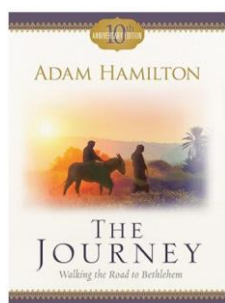
Margo Davis chair, Fellowship

Gavin Spalding; Youth Elder



Christmas Eve Candlelight and Communion Service December 24, 5 p.m.

Few worship services can compare to the beauty of the Christmas Eve service. Bring your family and friends as we celebrate the birth of our savior in story, song, candle lighting, and the Sacrament of Communion.



Advent Sunday Study December 8, 15, 22

Our Advent Study continues in December after worship. Our book is, "The Journey: Walking the Road to Bethlehem" by Adam Hamilton. Through video and reading, we will travel from Nazareth to Bethlehem in a fascinating look at the birth of Jesus Christ. Using historical information, archaeological data, and a personal look at some of the stories surrounding the birth, the most amazing moment in history will become more real and heart-felt as you walk along this road. Study books will be available on the Narthex counter or from Rev. Sue. Suggested donation: \$10 per book.

Send your offering or make a donation to one of our ministries online by using the QR code to the left. Hover your camera over the code, then click on the eservice link on your screen.



CHECK IT OUT!!

Our website is up and running with all the latest news from MTPC! Just Search: taborchurch.org.

Look Ahead

January 1 and 8-No Wednesday Wonderings

January 26-Congregational Meeting

Upcoming Events

December 2 – Building and Grounds- 6:30 pm

December 4– Wednesday Wonderings (Off Site) – 11:30 a.m.

December 8-Advent Sunday Study after worship-Fellowship Hall

December 9 -Session Meeting (New Officers invited)- 6:30 p.m.

December 11- Wednesday Wonderings (Off Site) – 11:30 a.m.

December 12- Sr. Lunch at The Chicken House- 11:45 a.m.

December 15-Advent Sunday Study after worship-Fellowship Hall

December 15– Christmas Dinner- 5:00 p.m

December 18– Wednesday Wonderings (Off Site) – 11:30 a.m.

December 19 – Crafter’s Night- 6:00 p.m. -8:00 p.m.

December 22-Advent Sunday Study after worship-Fellowship Hall

December 24-Christmas Eve Candlelight & Communion Service- 5:00 p.m.



Just a Reminder!

Rev. Sue will be taking two weeks' vacation December 29 - January 11. Andy Traister will be preaching Dec. 29 and January 5 and available for any emergencies. Thank you, Andy!



Poinsettia Contribution Form

Your \$10 donation will help cover the cost of our beautiful poinsettias this year. We will be ordering a limited number of plants; however, we will remember those whom you submit. If you wish to take your plant after the holidays, please contact Judy VanHoff. When purchasing indicate who it is in honor of or in memory of and the persons name and the person that is donating the poinsettia. You may place the form & money found in the bulletins in the offering box, mail or email the information to the church office. Thank you!

Annual Christmas Dinner

Sunday, December 15, 5 p.m.



The Fellowship Committee, on behalf of the church, invites you to enjoy Christmas Dinner with us. As in years past, the committee will provide the main course. Sign up in the narthex to bring a vegetable or dessert. Bring the family, bring a friend for this festive evening of fun.

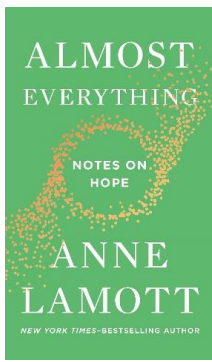
Sign up sheets are located on the welcome desk in the Narthex. Please sign your name, the number of people in your party, and designate what dish you will be bringing. The sign up sheets will be available until 12/15/24.

Come celebrate the holidays with your church family!

Christmas Baskets



It is time to gather the food and donations for 15 community Christmas food baskets for those in need. You can pick up food item slips on the narthex counter and bring the food back on or before **December 15**. To donate for the gift cards, please send a check with "Christmas baskets" in the memo or you may make a donation online using the QR code for giving.



Wednesday Wonderings

Wednesdays in December and January

December 4, 11, and 18

January 15, 22 and 29

Are you interested in gathering with friends for lunch to discuss a good book? Then you will want to join our Wednesday Wonderings group. We are meeting at the home of BJ Brandt. Contact Rev. Sue for more information.

We will begin discussion of the insightful and humorous book, “Almost Everything” by Anne LaMott. She calls for each of us to rediscover the nuggets of hope and wisdom buried within us that can make life sweeter than we ever imagined. We have a couple of copies available, or you can pick up a copy from your favorite book distributor. If you picked up a book from church, a \$10 donation is

Updates from Session

At the last session meeting on Tuesday, November 11 the following items were highlighted:

- The committee reviewed the MTPC Operations Manual. Amendments were made and it was approved.
- The upcoming congregational meeting on November 17 for the election of officers was discussed. (At the time of session there were still 2 open spots the nominating committee was still trying to fill)
- Paul Todd gave a report on behalf of the Building and Grounds Committee about a work day on October 16 to maintain and clean the boiler room. Inventory was taken of needed items for building and grounds committee as well.
- The session voted and approved to designate the funds in the Foundation account as a Foundation Capital Improvement Fund
 - The session voted and approved that foundation building use fees and foundation expenses should roll into the general fund for accurate tracking
- Ellie Brown reported on behalf of the fellowship committee the dates and times of the upcoming Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners
- Joyce Spurgeon and Rob Crosser reported on behalf of the Stewardship committee. They shared about the successful craft fair. The 2025 budget was presented and the Session voted and approved the budget as amended during the meeting.
 - Commitment Sunday was set for November 24. Letters and commitment cards were included in bulletins leading up to commitment Sunday.
 - The 2024 Membership Roll was reviewed and approved



Come to the Sr. Lunch

December 12, 11:45 a.m.

The Chicken House in Sellersburg

All are welcome!



Holiday Crafters Night: Fellowship, Fun, and Creative Arts

**Thursday, December 19 at 6:00
p.m. in Fellowship Hall.**

Join us as we create hats, scarves, mittens and more for the children of New Albany who need them.

Rev. Sue has a selection of hat patterns available. Or, bring another project you can transport. If you would like to learn to knit or crochet, or if you want to hang out with friends; come to our crafter's night on December 19, 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. There are no limits on the kinds of crafts you can bring. **All are encouraged to bring a holiday snack and make it a party!** Please RSVP to Rev. Sue to let her know you are going to attend.

Thanksgiving Baskets



Members of the Mount Tabor congregation gathered after worship on November 17 to put 15 food baskets together to be delivered to local families in the community in need through Hope Southern Indiana. Thanks to all who donated food and money for the baskets! Thanks also to Rikke and Jerry Hopper for helping to organize this event each year!

Thanksgiving Dinner



On Sunday, November at 5:00 p.m. members, friends, and family gathered in Fellowship hall for Thanksgiving Dinner at Mt. Tabor Church. Dinner included turkey, dressing, potatoes, and cranberry sauce. Church members brought a variety of side dishes to share as well. It was a great evening filled with fellowship, fine dining, and time with good friends and family. Thanks to the Fellowship Committee for planning such a successful event!



The Annual Meeting of the Congregation will be held Sunday, January 26 immediately following worship to receive the reports of the Session, committees, staff, and corporation.

Fifth Sunday Offering – December 29

Our next Fifth Sunday offering will be the 1st Sunday of Christmas, December 29. Bring a non-perishable food item for our little food pantry. Items such as canned or boxed meals, snacks, fruit cups, peanut butter, soups, and more are encouraged. If you can't bring food items, consider making a donation to the church. Be sure to label your gift as for the little food pantry. Thank you for your generosity!

Mt. Tabor Craft Fair



Mount Tabor had it's first craft fair on November 9 from 9:00-2:00 in the new community room. There were twelve vendors that had homemade gifts and crafts to sell that included things like jewelry, wreaths, crocheted items, and wall hangings. The church also had baked goods made by church members for sale. A light lunch of chili and hot dogs was available for purchase. The event was very well attended and raised lots of funds for the church.

