

www.tabernaclebinghamton.wordpress.com/ email: tabaa@stny.rr.com
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Office Hours 10a-3p Monday-Thursday

The mission of Tabernacle United Methodist Church is to embrace persons of any age, gender expression, race, ethnic background, sexual orientation, economic condition, physical or mental ability as full participants in a loving community of worship, fellowship, study, and outreach.

The vision of Tabernacle United Methodist Church is to grow and be widely known as a reconciling, caring, loving, spiritual community willing to take risks, offering a safe place to explore your spiritual journey.



Return Service Requested

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
PAID
BINGHAMTON, NY
PERMIT NO. 49

Tabernacle United Methodist Church
83 Main Street
Binghamton, NY 13905

TABERNACLE UMC SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER

TAB 4 U!



Tabernacle isn't just a brick-and-mortar building. It's a community of caring people who worship, work — and have fun! — together. Check out these teams and activities, and see which of them are good fits for you!

Book Groups: One meets on Sunday mornings at 9a, the other gathers on the third Tuesday of every month at 1p. (See article on page 11.)

Coffee Ministry provides munchies, drinks and supplies for the Coffee House after weekly worship.

Community Meal on Wednesday night can always use volunteers — and donations of food and money.

Connectors teams up members with shut-ins for mutual support, which can be as simple as sending a card or making a phone call!

Conversations Group meets every Wednesday from 3 to 4:30p in the Parlor. Spread the invitation to anybody with a life-threatening or life-limiting condition.

Finance Committee is responsible for stewardship, income and expenses, and the annual budget.

Fundraising is just that — coming up with ideas and hosting activities to keep Tab's bank account in the black!

Hospitality Crew greets and welcomes all members and guests to worship (and everything else!)

Lay Leadership (aka Nominating) Committee finds people to fill various positions and ministries.

Marketing Team figures out what's unique and special about Tab — and how to encourage people to check it out.

(cont'd on page 2)

CHURCH COUNCIL =
EVERYBODY!

The next meeting is Tuesday, Sept. 11 at 7p. It meets every other month and holds the umbrella over all decision-making and activities. Come and voice your thoughts about how Tab should grow and evolve to stay viable in 2018 and the years to come.

Tab 4 U! *(cont'd from page 1)*



Missions and Outreach Team provides opportunities to be Christ's hands and feet outside of Tab's walls.

Newsletter Crew assembles and prepares the monthly mailing.

Nursery: Jill Zimmerman provides Sunday care, but others could help with cleaning, snacks, supplies, etc.

Prayer Chain Coordinator records prayer requests on Sunday and during the week and forwards them to recipients (ask if you want to join!) through the Internet.

Safe Sanctuary Team tends to policies and procedures for keeping guests and members safe.

Social Justice Committee (formerly Church and Society) is all

about making the world a better place through advocacy and education.

Soup Sunday folks set up for the monthly soup-sharing meal after worship.

Special Funds Committee handles the investments and accountability for certain funds.

Staff-Parish Relations Committee has a multi-page job description: works with pastor and hired staff, sets personnel policies, job descriptions, compensations.

Stepping Stones is the Tab men's group.

Sunday School is in a rebuilding phase. Adults to work with classes are needed!

Trustees have four main responsibilities: investments, insurance, maintenance and use of facilities.

Visioning Team looks to the future: How do we keep faithful to Christ and relevant to the needs of our times?

Worship teams up with Pastor Beth to discuss format and content of worship, special services, seasonal decorating, etc.

Individual Offices:

Financial Secretary handles and records all incoming money, tracking sources of giving.

Lay Leader represents the laity in a variety of functions and committees, provides liaison between pastor and laity, promotes role of laity and provides opportunities for growth and service.

Lay Member has voice and vote at the Annual Conference and interprets the actions and needs of the conference to the congregation.

Treasurer handles and records all outgoing money from the local church.

Tab Readers Reconvene!

Tabernacle's two book groups will resume this month.

The Sunday Morning **Book Group** meets from 9 to 10:15 in the Parlor beginning Sept. 9 and will pick up where it left off— on page 43 of *Reaching for the Invisible God* by Philip Yancey. It is *not* necessary to buy the book; three copies are in the 4CLS*. Also, it's read out loud and discussed in the group. If you haven't sampled it yet, there is also a copy in Tab's library so you can see if it appeals to you — and you can read the first 43 pages to catch up with everybody, if you like!

The **Book Club** meets in the Coffee House the third Tuesday of every month at 1p, starting Sept. 18. These are its current selections and their local (free!) availability:

Date	Title	Author	Holdings in 4CLS*
Sept. 18	The Language of Flowers	Vanessa Diffenbaugh	14 books; also on cd
Oct. 16	City of Thieves	David Benioff	13 books; also on cd
Nov. 20 (or 13?)	Before We Were Yours: A Novel	Lisa Wingate	10 books
Dec. 18 (or 11?)		 Book Exchange and Party 	
Jan. 15	This Is How It Always Is	Laurie Frankel	6+ books; also on cd

*4Cl
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component branches

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Please contact the office at 723.8983 with corrections or additions!

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| 1 Sarah Conlon
Marie Germain | 16 Shirley MacElhone
Gloria Williams |
| 2 Margaret Culver
Walter Williams | 18 Corey Barklow III
Iris Barnes |
| 4 Nathan Cator | Emily Capozzi |
| 5 Derek Gouldin | 19 John Ciurzynski |
| 6 William Richards | 20 Joyce Gray |
| 7 Marilyn Cline | 21 Debbie Serbonich |
| 8 Jennifer Charnetsky | 22 Patricia Gillett |
| 10 Morgan Barrett
Karen Barzman | Susan Kolesinskas |
| Chris Charnetsky | 23 James Iacovelli
Tiquila Cole |
| Corey Serbonich | 25 Hollee Gray |
| 12 Meira Wood | 27 Donald Stocks |
| 13 Glenn Hiser | 28 Molly Nekut |
| 14 Barbara Harvey | 29 Viviene Tabaniag |
| 15 Jill Zimmerman | 30 Erin Perry |

CONGRATS, DALE GITCHELL!

Tab's Stepping Stones Men's Group honored Dale with its 2018 Keeper of the Heart Recognition. Dale is spearheading renovations to the women's restroom, with him and Glenn Hiser using their superpowers to wrestle the heavy partitions out so work could be done. He's also always available to rescue office staff from its computer problems as needed. **Thank you, Dale!**

FABULOUS FALL LUNCHEON!

Saturday, September 29 @ 12:30p

Host or co-host a table for eight at our annual fund-raiser luncheon! 7 tables are reserved, leaving 5 available. Our very own Chef Chris Kuhlman will cater the meal, which will offer two main courses and salads. We will ask Tab's five-star bakers to bring desserts to share! Table hosts may bring in their own china and linens — or use those at the church — and decorate their tables.

Tickets, sold at \$20 (\$15 for age 12 and under) each, will be available in the office or through Roxann (240.6207) or Smuggles (222.8352). Call them to see how you can help OR come to a meeting at 6p Tuesday, Sept. 11 (before Church Council meeting)!



The Carle Irish Dancers will entertain!

Tab 2.0: "The Way"

It's nearly time to launch the program about Christianity in the 21st century espoused by Brian McLaren in his book, "The Way." Beginning in October, four small groups will meet on various days and at different times to discuss the book. We hope you'll sign up for the group that suits you best.

McLaren's program is an extension of what Tab has been doing for some time, calling for service to the community by a congregation that's not bound by a regimen of fixed beliefs. "The Way" is based on his "The Great Spiritual Migration," which spells out his ideas in greater detail. Some of you already know how rewarding it is to be involved in the church's outreach. After we all learn about "The Way," maybe more of us will be inspired to join in these activities to help others.

Sign up to join— or lead! — a group to learn about McLaren's approach, then volunteer to join the efforts. Tab has always been progressive and this will help to lead us to do even better things than we have already been doing. We want everyone to be a part of it.

— Ron Platt, Visioning Committee

Social Justice Committee (formerly Church & Society) HAS BEEN BUSY!

* Urban League Back to School Backpack Campaign –

Thank you to everyone at Tab for your awesome support of the Back to School Backpack Drive. You donated MANY school supplies and \$257, which we used to buy more supplies for Urban League's special program — and to give \$97 to Centenary-Chenango UMC's school supply campaign. Thank you from Social Justice, the Urban League, and the little Munchkins in need!

* **The Cornerstone Group** is an ecumenical group in the Tri-Cities that addresses Prison Re-entry & the Criminal Justice System. We support Cornerstone as part of Tab's overall commitment to the Prison Re-entry Program and the local Jail Ministry.

This month Cornerstone will sponsor a conference to help employers learn about the advantages of hiring persons who are disadvantaged when trying to enter the workforce. Such people may have physical/mental disabilities, a history of substance abuse, been formerly incarcerated, etc.

We voted to donate \$80 to the conference, in memory of our dear Les Platt. Les was a passionate advocate for the disadvantaged and often hired them. This donation is a meaningful expression of love for Les and his love for others.

Autumn is coming and a number of exciting programs are planned. Some programs are sponsored by Social Justice; some by community organizations. All are designed to provide services and information that will improve our community and ourselves.

Your support is precious to those in our community who may feel excluded or stigmatized, so please mark your calendars and tell family and friends.

Going forward, we may need help as greeters, program folders, with food, etc. We know we can count on you to be there to help – as always!!

(Cont'd on page 5)

CONCERNING WORDS

FROM TAB'S TREASURER

After a hectic summer of activity and visitors, I finally found a few hours to work on my Treasurer's duties for Church this weekend. I'm not sure if I've ever been quite so behind, but I am happy to say that finally everything is entered, most bills are paid, and reports for June and July are done and August started.

**I am sorry to report that as of the end of July, our
BUDGET IS OPERATING AT A DEFICIT OF \$12,410.57.**

This sounds less than last year at this time, but only because I have not paid Conference Expenses for June or July yet. That will add \$6,600 to that figure.

Check the two-sided sheet enclosed with this newsletter to see how all the numbers shake out! Bear in mind that the \$15,531.57 balance in the checkbook reflects a one-time \$10,000 donation from High Street UMC, another \$3,000 from the sale of the church van, and \$1,660 donated in memory of Debbie Gouldin.
Subtract those funds (\$14,660) to get a more realistic sense of Tab's financial situation.

We must initiate fundraisers that generate income from outside our Church in order to sustain our current operating expenses. As September comes flying at us, we will begin the task of wrestling with our budget and asking ourselves how we can realistically continue to operate without making adjustments in our current Church life.

Church is not only lacking the financial support it needs, it is also lacking membership support and participation. Please ask yourself, "How can I help?"

A Church Council meeting is scheduled for September 11th. Plan to come! Let's all talk about this situation, not just sit and listen without giving any input. We each have a voice, and every perspective is needed.

I hope your summer has been restful and fun. I look forward to seeing you soon in Church. God's grace is there for you. Thanks be to God.

— Sharon Kriner



Donuts! Pizza!

Oh, yeah — and some
good, hard labor!

Let's all pitch in to spruce up Tab ...

Pastor Beth invites everybody to come dressed in your best grubby clothes on Saturday, Sept. 15, starting at 8:30a, to dig in and clean up the church, inside and out!

Fun (!) activities will include
**SORTING, TOSSING AND PURGING INSIDE;
WEEDING AND HAULING OUTSIDE.**

Come one, come all — and invite your friends!

2018 AUCTION HEADS-UP!

The Christmas Auction will be held on Saturday, Nov. 17!

Here's the breakdown: Silent auction starts at 6p and lasts until 7:30, when volunteers and guests will take a break to eat fabulous baked goods and sip legal beverages — and then the fun, live auction will begin at 8:15!

What to do now:

1. Set aside new or very gently used donations so you can bring them to Tab starting next month (and with each, please note the approximate value and donor's name).

2. Grab copies of the letter (on the table outside the office) asking local businesses for donations. **Ask at least two** businesses — mail the letters or take 'em in person, especially if you are their customer.

You know how much this auction means to the bottom line for **Tab outreach**.
Thanks in advance for your support! — Fiona Cleugh

Social Justice Committee *(cont'd from page 4)*

COMING EVENTS

WHAT: *An Evening of Hope and Resilience*

WHEN: Wednesday, September 19, 5:30p to 8:30p

WHERE: Tabernacle UMC

A Resource Night for Mental Wellness and Suicide Awareness: How do we support and promote mental wellness and maintain a healthy balance? The evening's goal is to promote wellness and resiliency, and to provide education on how to support anyone who may be struggling with the challenges associated with mental illness or thoughts of suicide.

The evening will include:

- A panel of experts offering conversation and support
- Community resources on mental wellness
- Support for those struggling with depression and anxiety
- Support for those at risk for suicide

Open to the public. Child care will be provided. A light meal will be served. FREE. To register, call 723.8983 and leave your name, phone number, the number of people attending, and if child care (for how many) is needed.

WHAT: *Mental Wellness Art Program*

WHEN: Saturday, October 13, 11a to 2p

WHERE: Tabernacle UMC

A Program Addressing the Healing and Calming Effects that Art Plays in Mental Wellness.

The event will include:

- Presentations and music
- Art/poetry created by Mental Health Association of the Southern Tier's (MHA) art students
- Mini interactive workshops (how to create a Zen garden, make affirmation magnets, make essential oils)
- Community resources on mental wellness

Open to the public. Light snacks. FREE.

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
September 2018						1 5:30p NA Group DR
2 10:30a Worship Service 2p Jehovah NISI Church Service	3 LABOR DAY 5:15p Yoga MR 7:30p AA It's a Journey DR	4 5:15p Citizens Action N 5:30p NA Women DR	5 1p Lay Leadership L 3p Conversations Group P 6p Community Meal DR	6 7p Jehovah NISI Bible Study AH 7p-9p Irish Dancers CH	7 8a-9a Yoga-Life is Flexible N	8 9:30a-11a Music Together MR 5:30p NA Group DR
9 10:30a Worship Service 2p Jehovah NISI Church Service	10 5:15p Yoga MR 6:45p Finance L 7:30p AA It's a Journey DR	11 5:15p Citizens Action N 5:30p NA Women DR 6p Finance 7p Church Council 6:30p BDTS	12 3p Conversations Group P 6p Community Meal DR	13 10:30a-12:30p Cornerstone L 4p-6p Farm Share DR 7p Jehovah NISI Bible AH 7p-9p Irish Dancers CH	14 8a-9a Yoga-Life is Flexible N	15 8:30a TAB CLEAN-UP! 9:30a-10:30a Music Together MR 5:30p NA Group DR
16 10:30a Worship Service 2p Jehovah NISI Church Service 6:30p-9:30p BDTS	17 5:15p Yoga MR 7:30p AA It's a Journey DR	18 5:15p Citizens Action N 5:30p NA Women DR	19 3p Conversations Group P 5p-8:30p Social Justice CH, AH, P, S 6p Community Meal DR	20 4p-6p Farm Share DR 7p Jehovah NISI Bible Study AH 7p-9p Irish Dancers CH	21 8a-9a Yoga-Life is Flexible N	22 9:30a-10:30a Music Together MR 5:30p NA Group DR
23 10:30a Worship Service 12p Breakfast Club 2p Jehovah NISI Church Service 6:30p-9:30p BDTS <hr/> 30 10:30a Worship Service 2p Jehovah NISI Church Service 6:30p-9:30p BDTS	24 5:15p Yoga MR 7:30p AA It's a Journey DR	25 5:15p Citizens Action N 5:30p NA Women DR	26 3p Conversations Group P 6p Community Meal DR	27 4p-6p Farm Share DR 7p Jehovah NISI Bible Study AH 7p-9p Irish Dancers CH	28 8a-9a Yoga-Life is Flexible N	29 9:30a-10:30a Music Together MR 12:30p Chris Kuhlman's Luncheon Fundraiser 5:30p NA Group DR