

Tabernacle United Church
3700 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19104

Address Correction Requested



Tab Connections

The newsletter of Tabernacle United Church
37th and Chestnut Streets
Philadelphia, PA 19104
tabernacle@tabunited.org

Office hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday 10 am-3 pm

June 2016

About TAB: Staff

MinistersTAB congregation
PastorKatie Aikins
Youth Pastor.....Meagan McLeod
Office Manager..... Asha Lindsey-Suggs
Interim Minister of Music Kevin Chun
Sexton Patrick O'Brien

About TAB: Mission Statement

*We are called into compassionate community, following Christ,
advocating for peace, justice and reconciliation,
and celebrating God's loving embrace of all creation.*

Celebrate in June!

The Outreach Team invites all Tab members and friends to come out and celebrate Pridefest with us in June. Pridefest is an annual celebration for the LGBTQ community in Philadelphia. Tab has a long history of sharing God's love and inclusive welcome at this event. Join us on June 12. You can march in the parade from 11:30 am to 1 pm; or play and chat at the table from 10:30 am to noon (includes setup); or help us to staff the table from noon to 2 pm, 2 pm to 4 pm, or 4 pm to 5:30 pm (includes taking down).

We will have Tab brochures, fun giveaways & God's love to share. At the event we'll be inviting folks to join us for a fun game of kickball in Clark Park Saturday, June 18 @ 1pm.

Please mark your calendars and plan to join the fun! To sign up for the celebration or if you have questions please email Lucinda at ms.megill@gmail.com.

Council Corner

This month Council celebrated successes and made more exciting plans for the future! The meeting began with discussion about the recent Council-led Pentecost service, in which we announced plans going forward with the Vision report and invited the congregation to join committees to move the work forward. The committee sign-up sheets have been added to a bulletin board in the church lobby, so that this work can continue over the next few weeks.

As a part of our effort to share stories and connect with each other, Donald Wargo shared his personal faith story about his relationship with God and his daily spiritual practices. Katie shared news from the Minister of Music search committee--interviews are to begin soon for a few promising candidates.

Council discussed practices for space rentals, specifically use of the building by groups unknown to anyone at Tab, and making the A/V equipment more accessible for rentals. Council then spent the bulk of the meeting discussing future events, considering the guidance we received from reading *Real Good Church*. The first page event will be a Welcome Back weekend for the fall, including a Block Party! We outlined major plans for the party and determined what should begin happening over the summer in order to make this event successful. We also briefly discussed planning a retreat for the Spring. It is a very exciting time at Tab, full of lots of opportunities and possibilities! ~ Sarah Hill

Tab.edu

If you have ideas or suggestions for future Tab.edu sessions or series, please contact Andy Lees at alees@rutgers.edu.

Bible Study

The Bible study group will meet on Wednesday June 1 and 29 at 5:30 pm in the community room. For June 1, we will study the following scriptures: 1 Kings 17:8-24; Galatians 1:11-24; and Luke 7:11-17. For June 29, the scriptures are: 2 Kings 5:1-14; Galatians 6:1-16; and Luke 10:1-11, 16-20. If you have any questions, contact Jean Erb.

June Service & Bulletin Roles

	June 5	June 12	June 19	June 26
Preaching	Katie Aikins	Katie Aikins	N. Leapheart	Meagan Mcleod
Prayers	Deb Burnham	Katie Aikins	Chris Purdom	L. Megill Legendre
Liturgist	B. Purdom	Ken Gritter	Deb Ahrens	Ginny Rice
Children's Time	Katrina Culley	Katie Aikins	Jessica Culley	Deborah Ahrens
Sunday School	Geneva Butz	Nicole Diroff	N/A	N/A
AV Tech	Jessica Culley	B. Purdom	R. Kalwaic	Chris Purdom
Quote	Katie Aikins	H. Bargeron	P. Abernathy	L. Megill Legendre

June Supporting Roles

	June 5	June 12	June 19	June 26
Greeters	Deb Ahrens & Chris Purdom	Katrina Culley & H. Bargeron	Jim Thacker & Cord Briggs	Sarah Hill & G. Navarro
Coffee Hour	Mike Ehling & Cord Briggs	Geneva Butz & Deb Ahrens	Jim Gerhard & Verona Stern	M. Gritter & G. Navarro
Counters	Jean Erb & Chris Purdom	Ginny Rice & Sarah Hill	Russell Baldwin & Ken Gritter	D. Ahrens & D. Burnham
Recycling	Jim Gerhard	D. Ahrens	Ginny Rice	Ginny Rice
Food Pantry	Lee Pugh	Jim Gerhard	Ginny Rice	Sarah Hill

June Communion Rotations

DATE	OFFICIATING	SET-UP	CLEAN-UP	BREAD +
June 5	Nicole Diroff & Katie Aikins	R. Baldwin	J. Culley	Barbara Tilley

+ Bread donated by Four Worlds Bakery, 47th & Woodland.; it should be picked up the day before.

PASTOR'S NOTES / Sermon Excerpt*by Pastor Katie on May 22 (based on Psalm 139)*

A phrase I used to hear a lot when we lived in Georgia, was the phrase “being called out of my name.” I heard this phrase often in Bible study discussions at the church where I worked at the time, where people shared stories of being locked in the hell of poverty and addiction, stories of broken families and hurtful words hurled at them from a young age. I would hear people say, “I was called outta’ my name, called everything BUT a child of God.”

Being called out of your name presupposes that your true identity is a child of God, but being called out of that name means that your experience is one in which that true identity is not affirmed or nurtured. I learned through those Bible studies that if you were living in poverty, if you didn’t have stable housing, if you had dark skin color, if you were anything other than “straight” in terms of sexual orientation, the more likely it was that you had experienced being called out of your name.

Being called out of our name brings with it internalization—we can learn easily to call ourselves out of our name. Which is maybe the strongest demon we will ever fight. One of the demons I discovered when I was coming out to myself in my early twenties was my own internalized homophobia—the hatred I had for myself that I had internalized. I had learned to call myself out of my own name.

Little did I know the meaning these words that I memorized as a kid from Psalm 139 would have on my life when I was coming out to myself: *You have searched me and you know me, you know when I sit down or when I stand... I praise you for I am fearfully and wonderfully made, wonderful are your works, that I know very well.* These words have helped me to live more deeply into the truth that I am a child of God, beloved by God just as I am. This is one of the most difficult things that we will ever grasp in our lifetime. Very few of us know that we are loved without conditions or limits.

We are children of God. AND, we must continue to *become* children of God. We must nurture this truth in ourselves and we must nurture this truth in one another – especially those who are frequently called out of their name, whether it be on an individual level or through the structures and the culture of our society.

We continue to need the voices of the poets like in Psalm 139 who proclaim to us and to others over and over again: God knows you. She has formed you in your mother’s womb. You are fearfully and wonderfully made.

May we allow this truth to permeate our lives today. We give thanks for the witness of Jesus from Nazareth, who lifted up the lowly, the children, the despised, the disinherited and called them children of God. Thanks be to God. Amen.

About TAB: Join us for worship!

Sunday Worship is at 10 am, ALL YEAR ROUND! Children and youth attend Sunday School during the service; childcare for children under 6 is provided. Worship is followed by Coffee Hour.

About TAB: e-newsletter

The Tabernacle e-newsletter is published monthly around the first of the month. It is available at www.tabunited.org/news and also sent to everyone on the tab-news email list. Please contact the church office at tabernacle@tabunited.org to submit content.

The JULY newsletter will be in Tab mailboxes on JUNE 27; send all material for the JULY newsletter to the church office by **MONDAY, JUNE 20.**

Presbytery Proceedings

Upcoming Meetings:

- The Southeast Regional Commission will next gather on Tuesday June 14th, 6:00pm to 8:30pm, at Christ’s Presbyterian Church (South Philly, 1020 South 10th Street).
- Meeting of the full Presbytery is scheduled for Saturday July 30, 9am to Noon, more precise time and place TBA. Highlighted will be reports and experiences from the 222nd General Assembly in Portland, Oregon from the Philadelphia delegation.
- The Presbytery’s Older Adults Ministry Network will present, on Saturday October 22, 8:30am to 1:00pm, a program at Wayne Presbyterian on “Empowering Older Adults.”

United Church of Christ Spring Meeting

The Pennsylvania Southeast Conference UCC is **June 10-12, 2016** at West Chester University of Pennsylvania. Registration is available at: <https://spgmg2016.eventbrite.com>