

Tabernacle United Church  
3700 Chestnut Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19104

Address Correction Requested



## Tab Connections

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

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

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August 2016

### About TAB: Staff

Ministers .....TAB congregation  
Pastor .....Katie Aikins  
Youth Pastor.....Meagan McLeod  
Office Manager..... Asha Lindsey-Suggs  
Minister of Music ..... Patrick Ressler  
Sexton ..... Patrick O'Brien

### Welcome Music Minister, Patrick Ressler!

We are pleased to welcome our new Minister of Music, Patrick Ressler. Patrick brings gifts and experience in music education and music ministry and is currently involved in the Philadelphia theatre scene, doing development work and creative projects for nonprofit theatre groups. They also freelance as a composer, writing choral and instrumental works for ensembles in Philadelphia and beyond. Patrick is committed to transgender justice and operating in solidarity with other oppressed and marginalized communities. They see music as a powerful spiritual tool to promote social justice and build strong community connections. We are excited to welcome Patrick Ressler to Tabernacle!

### Excerpt from a Sermon Pastor Katie preached 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.

### August Service & Bulletin Roles

	Aug 7	Aug 14	Aug 21	Aug 28
Preaching	Katie Aikins	Katie Aikins	Nicole Diroff	Katie Aikins
Prayers	L. Megill Legendre	Chris Purdom	Deb Burnham	F. Chmara-Huff
Liturgist	Angela Kent	Jean Erb	Todd Koser	Russell Baldwin
Children's Time	Jessica Culley	Susan Pierce	Katie Aikins	Jessica Culley
Sunday School	Summer	-	Holiday	-
AV Tech	Barbara Purdom	Jessica Culley	Peter Mowen	Chris Purdom
Quote	Todd Koser	Katrina Culley	P. Abernathy	Deborah Ahrens

### August Supporting Roles

	Aug 7	Aug 14	Aug 21	Aug 28
Greeters	Ginny & John Rice	R. Baldwin & H. Barger	Deborah Ahrens & Katrina Culley	Nicole Diroff & Genienne Navarro
Coffee Hour	B. Purdom & G. Navarro	Deb Ahrens & G. Navarro	Ken & Martha Gritter	K. Culley & Geneva Butz
Counters	Jim Gerhard & Sarah Hill	Jean Erb & Ken Gritter	R. Baldwin & G. Rice	Jim Gerhard & Sarah Hill
Recycling	Verona Stern	Sarah Hill	Jim Thacker	Deborah Ahrens
Food Pantry	B. Purdom	Ginny Rice	Jim Gerhard	Sarah Hill

### August Communion Rotations

DATE	CO-OFFICIATING	SET-UP	CLEAN-UP	BREAD +
August 7	Katie Aikins & Nicole Diroff	Todd Koser	Ginny Rice	Barbara Tilley

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

## Council Corner

At its June meeting, Council:

- Voted to receive Lauren Giacconi into membership.
- Received an update from Treasurer Todd Koser on the progress in converting to electronic accounting methods.
- Received word that Maria Rose, daughter of Anne Whiting and Michael Rose, was baptized on Sunday, May 22.
- Received word that the search for a new Minister of Music is nearing completion, with an offer being made to a candidate to begin work on July 17.
- Received word that Bill Simpson has received a call and will be ordained at Tab on Sunday, August 21.
- Received word that Meagan McLeod is in the process of taking her ordination exam with the Philadelphia Association of the United Church of Christ.
- Received word that Katie Day begins a Sabbatical on July 1.
- Received word that Jim Gerhard wrote a letter of endorsement to accompany an application by Heeding God's Call for a Covenant Fund grant from the Presbytery of Philadelphia.

## Bible Study

The Bible study group will meet on Wednesday at 5:30 pm in the community room. **August 10** we will discuss Isaiah 5:1-7, Hebrews 11:29-12:2; and Luke 12:49-56. On **August 31** we will discuss Jeremiah 18:1-11; Philemon 1:1-21 and Luke 14:38-42. If you have any questions, contact Jean Erb.

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.

## Council Corner July 2016

Summer is in full swing here at TAB. There have been a number of gods happenings and updates. Ed Doogan joined our congregation! The Fall Block party is in the planning process. Council is exploring ways to ease the rotation schedule in the summer. ~ *Megan Gibson*

## 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](http://www.tabunited.org/news) and also sent to everyone on the tab-news email list. Please contact the church office at [tabernacle@tabunited.org](mailto:tabernacle@tabunited.org) to submit content. The September newsletter will be in Tab mailboxes on **August 30**; send all material for the JULY newsletter to the church office by **MONDAY, AUGUST 22**.



### **A message from our sister community of Las Anonas**

Dear brothers and sisters,

On behalf of Las Anonas de Santa Cruz community in San Vicente, we send a salute of solidarity to the big family of Sister Cities in United States, especially to our sister community, Philadelphia, hoping that God will bless your efforts towards social development and social justice.

We are infinitely grateful for all these years of unconditional accompaniment from you to our community, as well as to many other sister communities in El Salvador. We feel satisfied for all that has been achieved by our communities and with the international accompaniment during these 30 years.

The 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration is a good time to reflect and remember all of the struggles that we have overcome, in

spite of the difficulties. Nonetheless, we still face other problems that affect the communities that live in the coastal area of our country, for instance San Vicente and Southern Libertad.

Among these issues it is important to mention the harmful practices used in sugar cane production. Those practices are causing major negative impacts in the environment, the health of people and animals.

For example, burning the sugar cane fields generates harmful amounts of pollution in the air, chemicals used on the crop eliminate the nutrients of the soil and pollute the few water resources that our communities depend on, and the unchecked use of water that is used to water the sugar cane fields is drying our underground aquifers.

This is a concerning issue for the people who live close to sugar cane fields, since there are many people suffering from illnesses and even death provoked by those practices. It is with this in mind that we energetically invite the international community to renew your commitment in solidarity to accompany the struggles of the people in pursuit of a better quality of life and social justice.

Thank you for helping us to keep the light of hope alive in a world of solidarity and justice.

Hugs,

The Board of Directors of Las Anonas, San Vicente