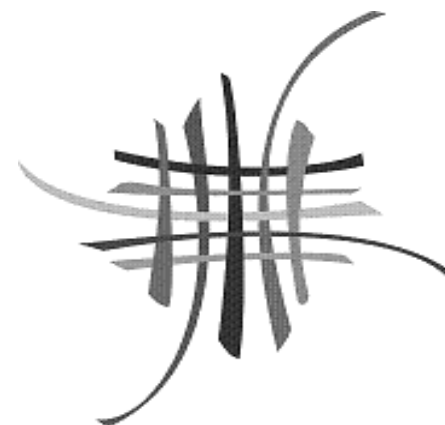


Tabernacle United Church  
3700 Chestnut Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19104

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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September 2016

### Digging Deeper in Bible Study

The Bible study group at Tab will be exploring the seven deadly sins in their weekly study this fall! Join us on Wednesday nights at 5:30 pm. The September themes and texts are below. Contact Jean Erb with any questions: [jeanerb@verizon.net](mailto:jeanerb@verizon.net).

- **September 7:** ENVY & KINDNESS - Genesis 4:1-8 & Galatians 5:16-6:5
- **September 14:** Jeremiah 8:18-9:1; 1Timothy 2:1-7; Luke 16:1-13
- **September 21:** VAINGLORY & HUMILITY - 1 John 2:15-16; Philippians 2:1-11
- **September 28:** GLUTTONY & TEMPERANCE (Scripture TBD)

### About TAB: Staff

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

## September Service & Bulletin Roles

	Sept 4	Sept 11	Sept 18	Sept 25
Preaching	Katie Aikins	Katie Aikins	Dee Dee Risher	Katie Aikins
Prayers	Lucinda Megill Legendre	Mark Rader	Susan Wargo	Lucinda Megill Legendre
Liturgist	Ken Gritter	Meagan McLeod	Susan Wargo	Lynn Lees
Children's Time	Katie Aikins	Todd Koser	Katrina Culley	Nicole Diroff
Sunday School	Summer Holiday	Todd Koser	Katrina Culley	Nicole Diroff
AV Tech	Fletcher Chmara-Huff	Fletcher Chmara-Huff	Katrina Culley	Fletcher Chmara-Huff
Quote	H, Bargeron	Mike Ehling	Dick Fernandez	Susan Wargo

## September Supporting Roles

	Sept 4	Sept 11	Sept 18	Sept 25
Greeters	Mark Rader & H. Bargeron	Ginny & John Rice	J. Culley & Lucinda M. Legendre	Charlene & Vic Compher
Coffee Hour	Jim Thacker & Verona Stern	Deborah Ahrens & Russell Baldwin	Chris Purdom & Ginny Rice	Katrina Culley & Geneva Butz
Counters	Sarah Hill & Deb Ahrens	Deb Burnham & Sarah Hill	Russell Baldwin & Angela Kent	Ken Gritter & Sarah Hill
Recycling	Barbara Purdom	Deborah Ahrens	Sarah Hill	Geneva Butz
Food Pantry	Deb Burnham	Lee Pugh	Mark Rader	Jim Gerhard

## September Communion Rotations

DATE	CO-OFFICIATING	SET-UP	CLEAN-UP	BREAD +
Sept 4	Susan Teegan & Katie Aikins	Sarah Hill	Jessica Culley	Mark Rader

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

## Workshop Opportunity

The Presbyterian Older Adult Ministry Network is hosting workshops on Empowering Older Adults, October 22, 8:30 am to 1:00 pm at Wayne Presbyterian Church, 125 E. Lancaster Ave., Wayne, PA 19087. Registration Fee: \$10 (includes continental breakfast). Registration Deadline: October 15. Brochure: [http://michaelehling.net/empowering\\_older\\_adults.jpg](http://michaelehling.net/empowering_older_adults.jpg).

If you have difficulty with transportation, let me know and we may be able to arrange car-pooling. ~Mike Ehling

## 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 October newsletter will be in Tab mailboxes on **September 30**; send all material for the OCTOBER newsletter to the church office by **MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 19**.

## Prison Ministry

Our next Prison Ministry Meeting is September 20, from 6:30-8pm at St. James UCC in Havertown (135 Myrtle Street). Our primary focus is developing friendship and relationships with people in jails and prisons through letter writing and visitation, and collaborating with others to work for an end to mass incarceration. Our group is beginning a study of the book *A Church of the Second Chance*, by Jens Soering. Consider joining us in this meaningful work! The Prison Ministry is a joint ministry with members of St. James UCC in Havertown. Speak to Pastor Katie for more information or if you are interested in getting involved in letter-writing or visitation.

## Pastor's Corner

September is here and we are making plans to plunge into our Fall theme at Tabernacle- Cultivating *Wholy* Habits. How do we cultivate habits that help us in our journey toward wholeness, toward deeper compassion for God, ourselves, and our neighbor? For seven Sundays we will be exploring this question by ways of the ancients! We will be exploring the seven deadly sins and their corresponding virtues. We will wonder, why were these particular sins of the heart called “deadly”? And how are these heart struggles similar or different for us during this particular time in our history and country?

The worship team would like to ask you to participate in this Fall theme. And there are several ways to do so. We will have opportunities for discussion on these sins/virtues during weekly Bible study on Wednesday nights. In addition, during Sunday worship we would like a brave soul from the congregation to share about their particular struggle as a way of inviting the rest of us into a time of confession. This sounds daunting perhaps, but we want to do this in order to invite honesty and vulnerability as we struggle together toward whole-heartedness. Naming our particular struggles with these sins can help set us free toward the virtue we strive for. So below is the list of the seven. If you feel led to prepare to share a vignette about any of these, please be in touch with Pastor Katie. Looking forward to the Fall!

1. September 11: Envy - Kindness
2. September 25: Vainglory - Humility
3. October 2: Gluttony - Temperance (Lauren Giaccone preaching)
4. October 9: Lust, Purity and Sex!
5. October 16: Wrath – Forgiveness (Meagan McLeod preaching)
6. October 23: Sloth/Apathy - Diligence
7. Nov 6: Greed – Generosity

## Tab.edu Schedule

- **Sept. 4** – Church Potluck (no Tab.edu)
- **Sept. 11** – Sermon Discussion on Cultivating *Wholy* Habits: The sin of Envy and the virtue of Kindness.
- **Sept. 18** - Conversation with guest preacher Dee Dee Risher, author of *The Soulmaking Room*.
- **Sept. 25** – Sermon Discussion on Cultivating *Wholy* Habits: The sin of Vainglory and the virtue of Humility.

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

## 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.

## Food Donations

Don't forget: food donations (NON-PERISHABLE, and with GOOD EXPIRATION DATES) are more needed than ever. Let's bring in something for the food donation basket next to the kitchen door each Sunday and help to keep those pantry shelves stocked! Whenever you shop, buy and put aside a couple of small items for the pantry; if you drive, leave them in your car to bring on Sunday.

Some suggestions: People who are desperately in need of food may not have great kitchen equipment, so consider items for the microwave or stove. People may not have milk, butter or vegetable oil, so include items that can be prepared with just tap water. Single-serving portions mean people don't have to refrigerate leftovers. Single-serving foil packets of potatoes or instant rice can often be bought (store brands) for about \$1 apiece. You can often find sales on instant oatmeal with eight single-serving packets.

Glass can break during transport to the food pantry, so please avoid glass jars. Plastic jars of peanut butter are great.

With even one or two small items a week from everyone who comes to worship, our weekly contribution to the food pantry will increase considerably. ~Mike Ehling

## When did God stop creating?

by Patrick Ressler

This past year, with this question ringing in my ears, I slowly and surely began to name what has always been true for me. In my spirit, mind and body, I have never felt male.

While I was assigned male at birth, my earliest memories include the recognition that I wasn't a boy, even (and especially) when placed in a group of boys. Through study and learning, I have come to name my experience and claim the identity of "third gender" (a gender other than male or female) or "genderqueer," an identity under the larger Transgender umbrella. With lingering fear, I made this part of my reality as public as possible, a decision to be known that has blessed me in more ways than I could have imagined.

At the same time, inviting people into my reality has not been a cure-all remedy for the many ways that I still seek to be more fully known and named in my communities, including church spaces. This requires continued work in asking my friends and family to refer to me with the gender pronouns they, them and theirs and not refer to me as a guy, man, brother or son. In doing so, it didn't take long for me to realize that male and female gender labels unknowingly permeate our everyday speech. In order for me to feel more fully known and named by my communities, I have to speak up to correct loved ones when they misgender me, a task that takes constant energy, courage and shared respect.

While important, the desire to be more fully known and named goes deeper than pronouns and labels; it is a desire to share in the fullness of community life as a genderqueer person. The limitations of our language reflect a societal lack of awareness in allowing and creating space for people who identify outside of the strict "gender binary". Even among my queer communities (pop-

ulated mostly by cisgender gay and lesbian folks), I have to continually create space for myself as a genderqueer person.

What becomes clear is that gender (as we have understood it) is a construct, and an oppressive construct at that. We have given meaning and social capital to concepts of "male" and "female" without allowing for a full array of gender identity and expression. I grew up with a construct of gender that wasn't built for me, nor could it allow space for me as a genderqueer person. Those who identify outside of the binary have to continually create that space for themselves in a society unprepared to understand their experience. This is an exhausting and time-consuming task.

If you're reading this, I encourage you to continue questioning your constructed view of gender. Who are you excluding with gender binary language? Can you commit to asking and using the preferred gender pronouns of the transgender people in your congregation, your family and your communities? How does stretching your view of gender stretch your conception of who God is? Can you open yourself to the possibility that God is still creating on earth, in creation and in you?

## Music Department News

I will be starting choir rehearsals next Tuesday, September 6 at 7 pm for an hour. Because our numbers are slim, I'm hoping to experiment with creative ways to use singers to enhance the music in Sunday worship services. I see this as a great opportunity to "lead by example", perhaps using call and response, counter-melodies or other techniques to bolster congregational singing. We may even change the wording around the "choir" to reflect this--perhaps "songleaders" or something else.

In this first month, I anticipate singing on two Sundays and having two Tuesday rehearsals on September 6 and 20 at 7 pm.

~Patrick Ressler, Minister of Music