

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

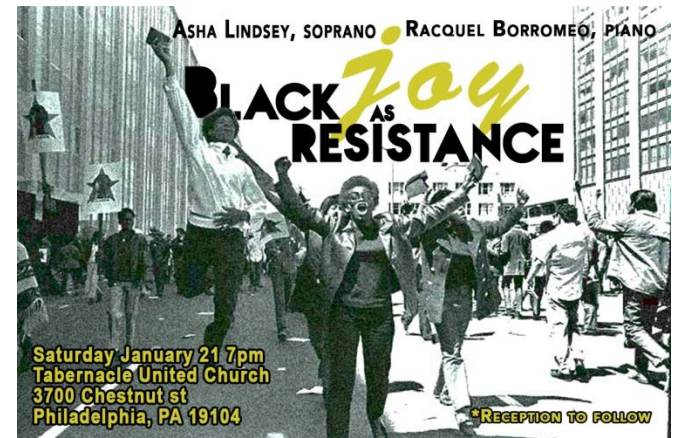
January 2017

### Black Joy as Resistance

Join us at Tabernacle January 21 at 7 pm for a concert by our own Asha Lindsey, **Black Joy as Resistance**. Reception to follow. You don't want to miss this. Mark your calendars and plan to bring friends!

### 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 ..... Pax Ressler  
Sexton ..... Patrick O'Brien



### Council Corner

The January meeting of Tab’s Council covered a considerable range of topics. We began with a prayer circle for Katie Aikins and Heather Bargeron as they face a new step in their adoption efforts. We then discussed the following:

- The contract for the Ark of Refuge, a small inclusive church group who have been using our space since their church burned last year. We plan to include them more intentionally in Tabernacle’s activities.
- Pastor Katie’s wish to focus on visitors during Coffee Hour.
- Ways to implement the **100 Days of Faithful Resistance** agenda.
- Pax’s offer of the music director’s office for the youth group.

We re-elected Angela Kent as Vice Moderator, Jim Gerhard as Clerk and Todd Koser as Treasurer, with deep thanks to them all. Finally, we examined the 2016 Vision Report and evaluated our progress. ~*Deb Burnham*

### TAB Songleaders in 2017

If you enjoy singing with a group and leading the congregation in song, join the TAB Songleaders! We meet to rehearse at 9:15am before select Sunday services to add beauty and leadership to music and worship at TAB.

Join us at 9:15am on January 22, February 5, February 19, March 5, March 19, April 2 and April 16 (Easter). Contact [paxressler@gmail.com](mailto:paxressler@gmail.com). Thank you for lending your voice! ~*Pax Ressler*

### Bible Study

Join us Wednesdays at 5:30 pm. Contact Jean Erb with questions: [jeanerb@verizon.net](mailto:jeanerb@verizon.net). On Jan. 18 we will discuss Isaiah 9: 1-4; 1 Corinthians 1:10-18; and Matthew 4:12-23. On Jan. 25 we will discuss Micah 6:1-8; 1 Corinthians 1:18-31; and Matthew 5:1-12.

### January Service & Bulletin Roles

	Jan 1	Jan 8	Jan 15	Jan 22	Jan 29
Preaching	Katie Aikins	Katie Aikins	M. McLeod	Katie Aikins	Nicolas O'Rourke
Prayers	Katie Aikins	B. Purdom	Susan Wargo	C. Purdom	S. Wargo
Liturgist	Heather Bargeron	Todd Koser	L. Megill Legendre	Jim Gerhard	Ginny Rice
Children's Time	Katie Aikins	Don Wargo	D. Burnham	Nicole Diroff	Susan Pierce
Sunday School	Geneva Butz	Trudy Kawal	Nicole Diroff	Verona Stern	Geneva Butz
AV Tech	n/a	Chris Purdom	Barbara Purdom	Barbara Purdom	n/a
Quote	n/a	Susan Wargo	L. Megill Legendre	Don Wargo	Chris Purdom

### January Supporting Roles

	Jan 1	Jan 8	Jan 15	Jan 22	Jan 29
Greeters	L. Giaconne & Geneva Butz	S. Wargo & D. Ahrens	Andy & Lynn Lees	M. James & A. Whiting	L. Megill Legendre
Coffee Hour	Russ Baldwin & Lucy Miller	V. Stern & S. Teegen	Jim Gerhard & Ginny Rice	B. & C. Purdom	A. Kent & M. Ehling
Counters	Ginny Rice & Jim Gerhard	J. Gerhard & D. Burnham	K. & M. Gritter	P. Abernathy & G. Butz	L. Megill Legendre & L. Lees
Recycling	Ginny Rice	S. Teegen	Andy Lees	Katie Aikins	Lynn Lees
Food Pantry	Jim Gerhard	A. Demaree	Lee Pugh	Verona Stern	J. Gerhard

### January Communion Rotations

DATE	CO-OFFICIATING	SET-UP	CLEAN-UP	BREAD +
Jan 1	Katie Aikins	Chris Purdom	Pauline Abernathy	Lee Pugh

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

## Philly Thrive Snack-Luck

Do you have Inauguration blues? Learn about the environmental justice work of Philly Thrive while enjoying delicious snacks and building community. We're excited for you to be a part of the movement!

On Saturday, January 28 at 1 pm, Pax Ressler and Philly Thrive are hosting a fun, family-friendly "snack-luck" (a potluck for snacks) at TAB. While snacking, we will share about the work of Philly Thrive, a multiracial coalition working for clean air and climate justice in Philadelphia. Philly Thrive is a people-powered organization that uses the energy and skills of its membership to resist fossil fuel infrastructure in Philadelphia, following the lead of those most affected by polluted air from the South Philly PES Oil Refinery.

(Did you know that Philadelphia is home to the largest oil refinery on the East Coast? Find out more at the snack-luck!)

Join us, bring a snack and invite your friends to learn more about how you can take action to give all Philadelphians the right to breathe clean air.

## 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 February newsletter will be in Tab mailboxes on **FEBRUARY 3**; send all material for the JANUARY newsletter to the church office by **MONDAY, JANUARY 30**.

## Tab.edu: January 2017

- **January 1 – No TAB.EDU**
- **January 8 – Transgender Q & A - Chris Paige** of Transfaith will lead a discussion of gender, while sharing perspectives on transgender issues, lived experience, and etiquette. Chris is an OtherWise-identified (<http://2BOtherWise.WordPress.com>) organizer who has called Philadelphia home for more than 20 years. Chris is executive director and co-founder of Transfaith (<http://www.TransfaithOnline.org>), a multi-tradition, multi-racial, multi-gender advocacy organization now based in Mt Airy. However, in a former life, they worked for nearly 10 years at the Germantown-based and award-winning *The Other Side* magazine, including time served as Publisher. Chris is a long-time member of Tabernacle United Church, but worships regularly with Living Water United Church of Christ in Oxford Circle with their 11 year old child.
- **January 15 – Transgender and the Bible** - Chris Paige will return to help us celebrate gender diversity in the Church and scripture.
- **January 22 - Parenting Conversation, Part 2** - We'll gather for continued conversation around these questions: What are we hoping for our children in bringing them to Tab? What are we hoping for ourselves? For the community? What are we doing at home to continue to nurture the spirituality they're developing at church? All are welcome! ~Led by Nicole Diroff
- **January 29 – Nick Lordi of Redemption Housing** - The nonprofit startup in West Philadelphia seeks to offer faith-based programming and community support to people coming out of incarceration and homelessness. **Mr. Lordi** will share the organization's mission/vision and invite you to partner in this much needed work.

If you have ideas or suggestions for future Tab.edu sessions or series, please contact Deb Ahrens at [bookwoman\\_da@Msn.com](mailto:bookwoman_da@Msn.com).

## Pastor's Notes

### Joining the Resistance: The First 100 Days

When the church has been most faithful to the gospel of Jesus Christ throughout history, it has been a church at odds with the Empire. When the early Christians proclaimed “Jesus is Lord” they were making a spiritual claim. They were also making a deeply political claim. “Jesus is Lord” means Caesar is not! “Jesus is Lord” means Herod is not! “Jesus is Lord” was a courageous and bold proclamation which moved people to do things that the Empire did not believe in doing: welcome refugees and strangers, feed the poor, cloth the naked, set prisoners free.

It is no different today. If the church is to be faithful to the gospel of Jesus Christ *today*, we will inevitably be at odds with the Empire and its ways. There is just no way around it.

We are nearing the time of a new presidency when “Emperor” Trump’s agenda will unfold before our eyes. The one who used misogyny, racism, and greed for his own advancement and built his campaign around a vow to build a wall to keep out foreigners, will soon take the seat of the President of the United States.

The same people already most vulnerable to violence, harassment, prejudice and poverty will be even more vulnerable in the days to come. Though it has always been a good and right time for the church to take a stand, we need to renew our commitment to take a stand *now*. Can we proclaim “Jesus is Lord” today? What will it mean for us?

I was inspired when I read a short article by Rev. Cory Sanders, a Baptist minister, who is calling his church community to “join the resistance” and commit to a 100 day counter-agenda for the church. I thought to myself, Tab is gonna’ do this too! We are going to join the resistance and call for a 100 day counter-agenda for the church. During the first 100 days of the Trump presidency we are going to worship, work and witness to a counter-movement. It is the counter-movement of God’s reign.

During these 100 days we will commit to being vigilant, to staying awake. We will be prayerful, we will practice our faith by deepening our spiritual practices, strengthening our relationships and support of one another, stepping out to offer welcome and hospitality to others who feel threatened, and engaging in bold political action. We will point to the world as it should be (God’s reign) not *as-it-is*, or as the Trump administration will call for it to be.

## Tabernacle!! *Are you in? Are you in this with me?*

Here are some of our initial plans (more details to come):

### Saturday, Jan. 21:

The Women’s March on Washington, DC and Philadelphia. Tab folks will be going to both! Then we will kick-off the 100 days on this evening with the amazing Asha Lindsey in concert at Tabernacle 7 pm. (*See page 1.*)

### Sunday January 22:

Official kick-off the **100 Days of Resistance** in worship at Tab. Join us at 10am!

The 100 days will then take us through the season of Epiphany, Lent, Easter Sunday and two Sundays after Easter. We will be exploring themes of sanctuary (Epiphany), anti-racism and reparations (Lent) and Resurrection-as-resistance (Easter) in worship. We will conclude the season with a “Sing-Off” worship service and a Block Party in the late spring!

Every week we will put out an invitation for you to join the church (and the resistance) in the following ways:

1. **Worship** with us on Sunday mornings! Every Sunday at 10am we will be gathering together to worship and draw strength from the God of Liberation.
2. Deepen your connections with the Tab **community** – we will offer weekly opportunities to engage with the community through prayer, study, conversation, or just hanging out.
3. **Take action** – we will offer weekly opportunities to take political action and to serve through practicing welcome and hospitality.
4. **Share!** We will be encouraging you to share about what you’re doing in your life or with the church in the work of resistance. Use the hashtag **#100DaysofResistance** on social media and share with us about what you’re doing.

Let’s stay strong together in love in this new season. Our God is with us.

*In hope and peace,*

*Pastor Katie*