

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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February 2017

### Join Tabernacle in 100 Days of Resistance #100daysofresistance

- **Worship** - Sunday mornings at 10am we gather to worship the God of Life and Liberation, remembering who we are and *whose* we are.
- **Community** - Creating safe spaces for prayer, reflection, and support of one another in community.
- **Action** - Join with the Tab community to live out our faith in word and *deed*.
- **Share** - About what you are doing during these 100 Days of Resistance.

### 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

## Bible Study

Join us Wednesdays at 5:30 pm in the Community Room. Contact Jean Erb (jeanerb@verizon.net) with questions. On February 8 we will study: Deuteronomy 30:15-20; 1 Corinthians 3:1-9; and Matthew 5:21-37. On February 22 we will study: Exodus 24:12-18; 2 Peter 1:16-21; and Matthew 17: 1-9.

## Tab.edu: February 2017

- **February 12 - *Love as a Verb: Interfaith Relationships***

On many Sundays at Tab, a number of Christians are joined by their non-Christian partners, including atheists and Muslims. Still others attend Tab services while their non-Christian partners do not. Interfaith relationships are present—it's time to talk about them. How do partners from different faith traditions handle these differences? Why do so many of us assume there will be challenges? Can some of us actually share more in a spiritual bond with someone outside of our faith tradition than with partners of the same faith? When challenges arise, do you turn to your faiths together or separately? How do you grow individually with God and as a couple when your faith traditions are vastly different? How does queerness complicate or simplify this love experience? In Christianity, couples seek to be "equally yoked." In Islam, a couple is created from "a single soul," with partners serving as one another's "cloak and comfort." One of Tab's queer interfaith couples will lead this session, and hold an open, loving discussion on the issues interfaith couples can face. Come ready to laugh, too! [*Led by Megan Gibson and Raquel Evita Saraswati*]

- **February 19 - *Black Joy as Resistance "Talk"***

The concert Tabernacle hosted to kick off #100daysofresistance was a great success! The images, music and title brought about great conversation among the congregation. Please join us for this honest conversation about the social conditions of the Black community and how we can "Be the Church" God is calling us to be. [*Led by Asha Lindsey*]

## COMMUNITY NEWS

**Feb. 6 - 6:00 - 8:30 pm - POWER** is hosting a Safe Haven Community Gathering at Living Water United Church of Christ (6250 Loretto Avenue, Phila 19111) exploring how we can protect our neighbors from threats and violence.

**Feb. 12, 1-5 pm - Sanctuary in the Streets** - Non-violent action training to disrupt immigration raids, with New Sanctuary Movement. Learn how to sign up: h bargeron@gmail.com

**Feb. 26 - OSCAR PARTY!** - @ Pastor Katie's house. Let's hang out, share snacks, and cheer our fav movies. RSVP to pastor@tabunited.org

## TAB Song-Leaders in 2017

If you enjoy singing with a group and leading the congregation in song, join the TAB Song-Leaders! 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. Thank you for lending your voice!  
~Pax Ressler

## Homeless Outreach

Sunday, March 5 the Tab community is invited to gather during Coffee Hour to assemble sandwiches and other items to distribute to homeless people in the area of our church, as we look to extend Christian hospitality outward to our neighbors in need. If you have any questions, please see Lauren Giaccone.

## Council Corner

The Council will meet February 12 for its annual retreat. The next Council meeting will be February 21.

### Supporting Our City's Immigrants and Refugees

As many of you know, and have contributed to, Al-Bustan and the Friends' Center have hosted 3 lunches for recent Syrian and Iraqi refugees, providing transportation, a meal, and donated food and other goods. As this is not Al-Bustan's direct mission (<http://www.albustanseeds.org/>), they are opening it up for others to get involved and carry on this work. I would like to hear Tab members' ideas about how we, as individuals or as a congregation, could continue to support this important work of helping the refugees connect with the community. There are resettlement agencies and legal advocacy agencies involved, and their volunteers are working hard to keep up with the need, but I think there is a need also for connecting the refugees with community members on a more personal one-to-one basis. I wanted to hear from you about how we can step in and work along-side these other orgs to specifically show the refugees that there are Americans here who care about them and want to welcome them into their communities. If you have ideas please email me at [genienne.navarro@gmail.com](mailto:genienne.navarro@gmail.com), and also let me know if after the service on Feb 5 might be a good time for us to "huddle" and discuss this possibility. Thanks for any ideas or assistance you can offer! ~ *Genienne Navarro*

### 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 March newsletter will be in Tab mailboxes on **MARCH 2**; send all material for the MARCH newsletter to the church office by **MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20**.

### February Service & Bulletin Roles

	Feb 5	Feb12	Feb 19	Feb 26
Preaching	Katie Aikins	D. Fernandez	Susan Teeegen	L. Giaconne
Prayers	L. Megill Legendre	L. Giaconne	Eloise Chevrier	Deb Burnham
Liturgist	Barbara Purdom	Susan Wargo	Deb Burnham	P. Abernathy
Children's Time	Martha Gritter	Todd Koser	Deb Ahrens	L. Megill Legendre
Sunday School	Geneva Butz	Trudy Kawal	Lucinda Megill Legendre	Verona Stern
AV Tech	n/a	Katrina Culley	n/a	n/a
Quote	Deb Ahrens	B. Purdom	L. Megill Legendre	Susan Wargo

### February Supporting Roles

	Feb 5	Feb 12	Feb 19	Feb 26
Greeters	Ken & Martha Gritter	Angela Kent & Sarah Hill	Lucy Miller & Russ Baldwin	Geneva Butz & Lauren Giaconne
Coffee Hour	Russ Baldwin & Lucy Miller	Deb Burnham & Eloise Chevrier	Deb Ahrens & Geneva Butz	L. Megill Legendre & M. Ehling
Counters	Angela Kent & Deb Ahrens	Don Wargo	Russ Baldwin & Jim Gerhard	Jean Erb & Deb Burnham
Recycling	Deb Ahrens	Sarah Hill	Jim Gerhard	Verona Stern
Food Pantry	Anna Demaree	Lee Pugh	Verona Stern	Ginny Rice

### February Communion Rotations

DATE	CO-OFFICIATING	SET-UP	CLEAN-UP	BREAD +
Feb 5	Katie Aikins & Jean Erb	Todd Koser	Susan Wargo	Anna Demaree

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

## Christian Peacemaker Teams

Dear Tab,

As I prepare to depart on my trip to the US/Mexico border, I wanted to extend my heartfelt gratitude for each of you and your support for this trip and ministry. I would not be able to undertake this journey without your assistance. To all of you who have donated (of which there are so many!), please know that Christian Peacemaker Teams will benefit directly from those funds. As we are all so acutely aware, in this age of Trump and his border wall, the racist and xenophobic policies he has already begun to put into place will have very real consequences for the people fleeing economic despair, violence and the drug cartels in the Global South. I will bear witness to those consequences as I and the other members of my delegation meet with various people, groups and community organizations in the Borderlands. I look forward to learning about the situation, hearing the concerns of those affected, documenting the journey and most importantly, bearing witness to Christ's love for all.

I depart on February 7<sup>th</sup> and return on February 17<sup>th</sup>. I ask you for your prayers as I undertake this journey.

Lauren Giaconne

## Pastor's Notes

My friend Naomi Leapheart reminded me that some of us are immigrants by choice...others by force. And so this post is both a confession and a sharing of gratitude.

Those of us classified as white seem to be most comfortable using phrases that include the word "all". For example: "All of us are immigrants". And without realizing it, just like the phrase "all lives matter", these phrases have the power to erase the particularity of black, brown and Native American identity, culture, suffering and struggle. I should have been more specific in my post to say that I think it's especially important for people classified as white in America to remember that we also came as immigrants to this country and that white Americans for the most part are living on and benefitting from stolen land. We have to

confront this reality in our lives for there ever to be a possibility of real change in our hearts and country. That said, I must be careful in using the term "all" because I really was referring to white Americans like myself, and therefore speaking out of the norm of whiteness with that statement. Of course it was not my intention with that statement to erase other identities, but that doesn't matter. The effect of my words are more important than my intention.

I imagine in these days that God is looking at the world that God created and is both crying and laughing at the borders we have created. Who gets to create a border anyway? Whose land is this land? To whom does our land belong? How can we turn a refugee family away when it is the brown body of Jesus that is seeking refuge? Are white Christians in America remembering at all these days that our savior and liberator was a refugee? And that he is still stuck at airports all across our country crying out - is there still no room in the inn?

I am a white, lesbian, pastor, struggling-to-be a Christ follower in this country. And Jesus says to me, "you who have eyes to see, SEE!" The thing is, my whiteness is the very thing that blinds me. And so being a Christ-follower is about allowing myself to be confronted by the black Jesus who saves people like me from the devastation of my whiteness. And that begins with the ability to see it in the first place.

So I wanted to post this to say thank you to Naomi for speaking truth to me on facebook. And I also want to confess publicly my blindness in that post from yesterday. And maybe finally, I want to remind all of us (myself included) to be careful with our words in these times, especially in a time where it is so easy to make blanket statements in a tweet, the size of 6 words. Our words have power. And what our world needs now are words and actions that will shape a future full of hope, joy and peace for the "least of these", God's beloved children.

Peace and love to you this day.

#100daysofresistance

#resistwhitesupremacy

#blackJesusismypresident

#Jesusisarefugee