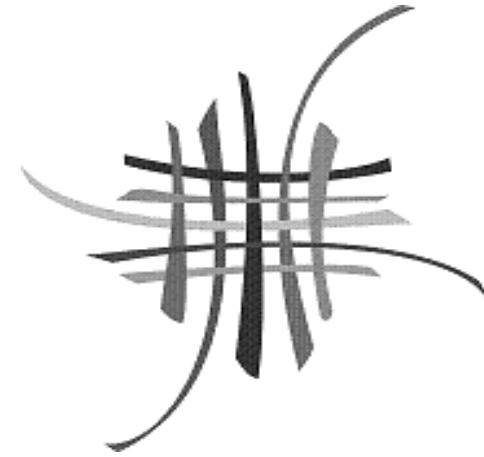


Tabernacle United Church
3700 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19104

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

March 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

MinistersTAB congregation
 PastorKatie Aikins
 Youth Pastor.....Meagan McLeod
 Nursery CaregiverLisa Jacobs
 Office Manager..... Asha Lindsey-Suggs
 Minister of Music Pax Ressler
 Sexton Patrick O'Brien

Tab.edu: March 2017

Lenten Tab.edu Study on White Privilege

There will be a Lenten Study on White Privilege offered beginning on February 26. The curriculum we will be following is offered from the UCC. There will be a bit of preparation for each session. If you'd like to read the curriculum, you may go to <http://www.uccfiles.com/pdf/White-Privilege-Curriculum.pdf>. If you prefer not to print it out a hard copy will be provided. We will also be sharing with you the segments of the curriculum that we will be talking about.

The study begins on Sunday, **2/26** and continues on the following Sundays: **3/12, 3/19, 3/26, 4/9, 4/30 and 5/7**. It would be great to attend all sessions, but it is not necessary. Come when you are able. We are asking that you sign up just so we know the size of the group. To sign up, please either email or call Susan Wargo stwargo@gmail.com or 610-688-7542.

Understanding white privilege is a lifetime process. We look forward to beginning the journey with this study.

Bible Study

On **March 8** we will discuss Genesis 12:1-4a; Romans 4:1-5, 13-17, and John 3:1-17. On **March 22** we will discuss 1 Samuel 16:1-13; Ephesians 5: 8-14; and John 9: 1-41.

We meet at 5:30 pm in the Community Room. Contact Jean Erb with an questions jeanerb@verizon.net.

TAB Song-Leaders

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 **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.

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 April newsletter will be in Tab mailboxes on **MARCH 31**; send all material for the APRIL newsletter to the church office by **MONDAY, MARCH 20**.

Guest Preacher

On **March 26** we are excited to welcome guest preacher, Gibson (Nibs) Stroupe who was the Pastor of Oakhurst Presbyterian Church from 1983 to 2017. He retired in January of this year. Nibs has long been an outspoken voice for racial and social justice within the PC(USA) and nationwide, along with his wife of 40 years, Caroline Leach. He is the author and co-author of four books, leads numerous workshops on race across the denomination, and is a frequent guest speaker on racial issues. In 2013, he was invited to deliver the opening prayer during President Barack Obama's visit to Decatur. Nibs grew up in Arkansas, attended Rhodes and Davidson Colleges, and earned his M.Div. from Columbia Seminary in 1975. He has a grown son and daughter, along with two grandchildren.

Fun fact: Pastor Katie did her seminary internship at Oakhurst in 2006 and served as the Middle School Youth group leader in 2007. She led the Middle School Youth in a "trash drumming" project and the group performed some groovy beats at the church! You can ask her about this. Nibs and Caroline have been important mentors in Katie's life since her time in seminary.

Council Corner

The February meeting of Tabernacle’s Council centered on plans for outreach events, and various projects designed to make the church work more smoothly. Discussion included the following items:

- Todd Koser has researched and purchased a church management system that will track giving, membership and other key statistics.
- Andy Lees has created a comprehensive manual for the Building Team, including information on the various systems and on the use of space.
- Jim Gerhard, our Clerk, reported that both average attendance and membership numbers have been stable for the past two years.
- Don Wargo has created a detailed report on real estate rates and trends in this area to be used in negotiating our lease with Penn.
- A new nursery caregiver has been hired, Lisa Jacobs, and will begin work soon.
- Ken Gritter was accepted as a returning member of Council. He remarked that he continues to see Tabernacle as a haven, and wishes to work toward increasing its membership and its capacity to welcome new people.
- Katie Aikins asked that we pray for a prisoner whom she met through the Tabernacle Prison Ministry. He was sentenced to life in prison when he was seventeen and has been incarcerated for over thirty years. He recently had a hearing that may result in his release.

~ Deb Burnham

March Service & Bulletin Roles

	Mar 5	Mar 12	Mar 19	Mar 26
Preaching	Katie Aikins	Katie Akins	Susan Teegen	Nibs Stroupe
Prayers	Chris Purdom	Lauren Giaconne	L. Megill Legendre	Katie Aikins
Liturgist	Geneva Butz	Russ Baldwin	Chris Purdom	Angela Kent
Children’s Time	P. Abernathy	Ken Gritter	Katie Aikins	Todd Koser
Sunday School	Trudy Kawal	Lucinda M. Legendre	Geneva Butz	Verona Stern
AV Tech	Fletcher Chmara-Huff	Fletcher Chmara-Huff	Fletcher Chmara-Huff	Fletcher Chmara-Huff
Quote	Katie Aikins	Deb Burnham	Pauline Abernathy	Dick Fernandez

March Supporting Roles

	Mar 5	Mar 12	Mar 19	Mar 26
Greeters	A. Whiting & M. James	Ken & Martha Gritter	S. Wargo & L. Megill Legendre	B. Purdom & S. Teegen
Coffee Hour	Ken & Martha Gritter	Verona Stern & Deb Burnham	Vic & Charlene Compher	Andy & Lynn Lees
Counters	L. Megill Legendre & G. Rice	Jean Erb & Chris Purdom	Ken & Martha Gritter	Lynn Lees & Susan Teegen
Recycling	Deb Ahrens	Ginny Rice	Jim Gerhard	Verona Stern
Food Pantry	Anna Demaree	Verona Stern	Lee Pugh	Barbara Purdom

March Communion Rotations

DATE	CO-OFFICIATING	SET-UP	CLEAN-UP	BREAD +
Mar 5	K. Aikins & D. Fernandez	Ginny Rice	Susan Teegen	Lee Pugh

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

Pastor's Notes

Our Lenten Journey during these 100 Days of Resistance

At Tabernacle, we continue to help one another in our work to BE the church during these 100 Days of Resistance. The season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 1st. We gather to mark the beginning of this season with a Taizé service of prayer and song. We will put ashes on our foreheads in the sign of the cross to remember that we are mortal and that one day we will die. “Memento mori,” the early Christians would say in Latin, meaning “remember your death.” This act is about remembering the truth of who we are –that we are frail and fragile people, that we are broken and always in need of a power and a strength that is beyond ourselves. It is remembering our reliance on our Creator for everything we do. It is remembering that we live so much of our lives by grace and gift. And so we begin our Lenten journey with this reminder literally on our foreheads!

It might seem at first like all this Lenten repentance talk is simply too morbid and depressing! But really, the good news is that repentance and remembering our brokenness is part of our liberation and salvation journey. Our resistance to the death-dealing ways of Empire is connected to our willingness to be people who can walk the journey of repentance. Repentance is about being willing to see where we have gone astray and where we need to turn around and change. Am I willing to see where I have gone astray? Am I willing to look at the areas in need of change in my life? If we are going to be people of the resistance, we have to be willing to be people of repentance too. And this is not easy work!

Some of the hard work we'll be doing in this season of Lent is studying racism and white privilege as an act of repentance and resistance. We want to look at some of the ways that white supremacy has captivated us as a society and captivated our hearts. During our sermons, as well as in our adult education series (Tab.edu), we will be looking at racism and white privilege and how it functions in us and in our society. In our sermons we will be reflecting on the questions, Who is Jesus? Was Jesus Black? We will reflect on why the question of Jesus' Blackness is so important and why we should talk about it! Does the skin color of Jesus

matter? Why? And why talk about it?

The Lenten journey is often about learning to see. And learning to live in repentance of our racism is also about learning to see. How do we see Jesus? Why does it matter? What we may discover is that how we see Jesus says a lot about how we see God. And how we see God says a lot about how we understand ourselves.

We will hopefully discover in this season that this work is not just theological or even primarily political. It is deeply spiritual work. It cuts to the core of who we are. And it can be joyful work, because it is part of our collective journey of liberation. Creating change outside of us means we must also be willing to create change inside ourselves. As is the case with any sin, we have to begin to see it and confess it, in order to then choose an alternative path. Part of the sin of white privilege is that it is so blinding. Meaning that those of us who are classified as white have trouble seeing our privilege in the first place. So repentance begins with learning to see. In our worship and in our study together, we will be working hard to take notice of white privilege in our lives. Will you take part in this journey as we continue in our work of resistance in these 100 days?

We give thanks for the leadership of Susan Wargo and Nicole Diroff who will serve as facilitators for our education series on White Privilege. We also give thanks that we will get to hear our own Rev. Susan Teegen preach on March 19th. We will also hear from another guest preacher who has been a mentor of mine since my time in seminary – the Rev. Nibs Stroupe. Nibs will preach on March 26th and will also lead a workshop on race that same day during Tab.edu. Nibs is recently retired as Pastor from Oakhurst Presbyterian Church in Atlanta, Georgia. Oakhurst Presbyterian is well known in Presbyterian circles for being an anti-racist and multicultural church. Nibs and his partner Caroline helped to create this vibrant community.

Let's continue to stay awake, to dig deep in our faith during these 100 days, and to follow the Black Jesus of Nazareth!

Peace,

Katie