



## *From the Pastor*

It's the most wonderful time of the year!

I wonder if the person who coined that phrase could ever have imagined the holiday

season of 2020. It's been a tough few months, and it looks like we have more pandemic to weather. It's not fair! It's Thanksgiving and Christmas Eve and Christmas Day and New Year's! We are a people who are used to waiting. After all, we Christians have entire seasons dedicated to waiting on the Lord! But this Advent, we get to put our money where our mouth is. Instead of lighting a wreath each week, knowing that the big day will come with all of its bells, whistles, trimmings, and gatherings of family and friends, we have the chance to consider for what we are truly waiting.

That very first Advent, God's people were waiting on a Savior. And not just for four weeks. For a century, God had been virtually silent to God's people. And he chooses a woman, with no power of her own, to break the silence. The Messiah is coming! Jesus Christ, God's Son, Savior, is on the way! The silence was broken for Mary in a way that few people would believe. The silence was broken for lowly shepherds and magi from the East who weren't part of the chosen people to hear God break the silence through angels and a newborn, homeless, baby. There were no signature dishes served. The gifts were grand but odd for a child, and pointed to difficult things to come. And still- each time these strange people heard this strange news, they left rejoicing! They left renewed! They left with hope and a promise for a future.

This Advent and Christmas, we are going to have to zero in on the promise that never changes. The promise of God with us. We will have to be a people who believe and act on the knowledge that God is with us and for us, and somehow that is enough.

We will be creative. We will celebrate and we will make our lives together as the church feel as much like "home" as possible. But no matter what has to change in our festivities this year, we will REJOICE. Because God is with us and that is indeed, enough- in fact, it's more than enough.

I hope you will check out all of the creative ways we are going to seek to offer this same hope to the world around us as a creative community of faith this coming season. While it may not be the usual way of participating, I cannot think of a better time to be unusual. We serve a wonderful, peculiar, miracle working God, after all!

Maybe the person who coined that phrase "It's the most wonderful time of the year" was onto something after all...

*In the hope of Emmanuel,*

*Pastor Christa*



**News you can  
Use...**

**CHRISTMAS AT  
TABERNACLE!**

**Please join us for these  
wonderful events:**



**Advent Bible Study**, 12/2-23, Wednesdays 6:00 p.m.

**Drive-In Movie: A Charlie Brown Christmas**,

12/4, 6:30 p.m.

**Youth Christmas Play and Reception**,

12/13, 11:00 a.m.

**Live Nativity Drive Through**

12/19, 5:00-7:00 p.m.

**Christmas Eve Services (FOUR this year!)**

12/24, 3:00, 5:00, 7:00, 11:00pm

**Winter Shelter:** PIN Ministries is partnering with local churches to provide shelter for people in need during the winter months. As a partner church, TUMC will be housing 30 people overnight in our Fellowship Hall from Saturday, December 19<sup>th</sup> until Wednesday morning, December 23<sup>rd</sup>. We will be providing breakfasts and dinners for those days and will need volunteers to provide the food. We will be asking people to sign up via Sign-Up Genius starting after Thanksgiving. We are excited about this opportunity to serve our community.

**UMCOR Kits**

Thank you to everyone who generously contributed items for the UMCOR kits. We were able to assemble 32 school kits and 20 hygiene kits.

**SAFE Group News**

As 2020 comes to a close, we are grateful to God for His provision of keeping us together and for meeting our needs during these most challenging times. If all goes as planned, our group will celebrate our last meeting of the year on November 21 at Lucky Oyster. Looking back over some of our prayer requests in 2020, a number of our members suffered many serious conditions and were hospitalized—Joanne Madren, Beverly Beirne, Wanda Bissell, Betty Wells and Kathy Caldwell. Three of our members relocated out of the area—Charlotte Holtry, Donna Hobbs and Terri Seese. And, sorrowfully, we lost two of our very dear members. Praise God, we witnessed both Ellen Heim and Ron Wasson's dedicated and faithful service to our Lord and Savior when they were with us.

We have five members who are nonagenarians—all in their 90's. Our senior member, Norwood Land, is 95. He and Wanda Bissell, 91, celebrate August birthdays. The other three share December birthdays. Betty Wells will be 94 on the 7<sup>th</sup>. Betty Owen will turn 92 December 12, and Joan Pool will celebrate her 92<sup>nd</sup> on the 20<sup>th</sup>. Happy Birthday to all!

Our SAFE (Single Adult Fellowship Enjoyment) group is small, but our bond is significant. We continue to enjoy a friendly and abiding fellowship. As we approach the beginning of our third year in January, we look forward with expectation and hope of experiencing God's perfect plan for us.

Marny Sanders  
757-426-1204



Tabernacle continues to support the **PiN Ministry's** outreach to the local homeless community. You can serve a hot meal on any Sunday afternoon, donate clothing or other necessities, serve breakfast to recovering addicts or prepare bag lunches. We will be preparing bag lunches on January 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Change is Coming!**

With the change in leadership for the coming new year, an opportunity to change/update Tabernacle's communications exists. A couple of folks are researching the ability to upgrade our online presence, making it more accessible and useful. However, we also want to keep a newsletter presence, for members who rely on that mode of information. **If you are interested in assisting** in this transition, maybe even taking on the new newsletter, please let the church office know. **(757)426-2396**

Tommy Moore

**Although the pandemic has impaired our ability to be the hands and feet of Christ in several ministries, our congregation's continued financial support and heart for ministry has allowed the Council on Ministries to make the following donations. Many of these are charities and ministry that we have supported in the past.**

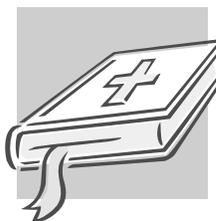
- \$2000 to Zach and Diana Blaine with **Athletes in Action**
- \$2000 to **UMCOR**
- \$2000 to **World Vision** (and additional \$1000 from the Youth for the 30 Hour Famine)
- \$1000 to **CCH**
- \$1000 to **PIN Ministries**
- \$500 to **I Need a Lighthouse**
- \$500 to several **UMC Food Pantries** in our local area (Virginia Beach/Norfolk)

**A sampling from the Thank You Notes from these organizations...**

"Because of your participation and that of others, many folks here in Appalachia have safer, warmer, dryer homes."

"Your church has been so generous, from physically serving in Roanoke and sending in donations, you all have kept REACH thriving. Due to your kindness, we can continue serving our community and finish restoring our fourth abandoned home."

**The Thanksgiving Food Drive for our Holiday Families/Seniors has been a huge success! A BIG thank-you to everyone who volunteered to bring food items for the Thanksgiving Food Bags!**



Join us for a 4-week  
**Advent Bible Study**  
With Pastor Christa Springstead  
**Wednesdays / Dec. 2-23**  
Childcare Provided  
6 p.m. Worship / 6:30-8:00 p.m. Study  
Sign up at [tabernaclevb.org](http://tabernaclevb.org)



The Tabernacle United Methodist Church

December 2020 / January 2021

## What's It All For?

Pastor, author, and missions advocate Oswald J. Smith once said, "The church that does not evangelize will fossilize". It makes sense, right? We need to share the love of Christ with people, and the more we do, the more the church will thrive. But what church are we doing it for? You see, there are a lot of churches that want to increase their numbers. They track the number of people that attend services, how many come to bible study, how many made commitments for Christ, how many were baptized, etc....and for the record, we do all those things for our church as well. But do you know that Christ does not care how many people are coming into the doors of Tabernacle United Methodist Church? He does not care how many people are becoming members; He cares about how many people you are reaching for **Him**. He wants them to join **His** Church, He wants to enter their name into the Lamb's Book of Life.

The body of Christ **is** the church and we have been tasked with going out and making disciples of all nations; not to increase the population in our churches, but to increase the population in Heaven. So, let us not worry about numbers, let us worry about names; the names of those we know that need to know Christ. Share the good news with them and the Church will thrive!

God Bless!  
Shane Lussier

PRAY  
FOR  
PEACE

## *A Need for Peace*

It seems like our peace is attacked on a daily basis today. When we live in peace and harmony we unleash God's anointing. Stay peaceful and calm; be quick to forgive slow to anger, patient and kind.

Protect the anointing in your life

and sow good seeds by helping others do the same. John 14:27 says "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid." The end result of the Holy Spirit's work in our lives is deep in lasting peace. Unlike worldly peace which is usually defined as the absence of conflict, this peace is confident assurance in any circumstance with Christ's peace. We have no need to fear the present or the future. If your life is full of stress, allow the Holy Spirit to fill you with The peace of Christ. Sin, fear, uncertainty, doubt and numerous other forces are at war within us through the work of Satan. The peace of God moves into our hearts and lives to restrain these hostile forces and offer comfort and peace in times of conflict. Jesus says he will give us that peace if we are willing to accept it from him.

Please keep these words in your heart as we experience the turmoil in our world today.

God Bless,  
Craig Zeigler



JOL

*Jesus Offers Love Today!*



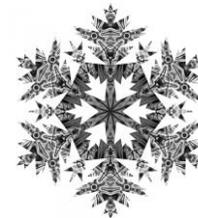
I want to thank everyone in our Tabernacle family for the love you have given the youth and children of our church. Your continued interactions and support have provided terrific opportunities for young people to learn more about Christ. Thanks for blessing them and being blessed by their youthful embrace of their Christian faith.

**Thanks to the Zeiglers!** What a great bonfire event in November. Twenty youth (and 35 people) attended and enjoyed a cookout, fellowship, a little singing and a roaring fire. It was a blast!

**Christmas Program:** We will be presenting the Christmas play on December 13<sup>th</sup> at the 11am service. Please join us as we celebrate the season with our children and youth. The practice schedule will be provided by email. Caroling will be on December 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Youth Bible Study:** Join us on Wednesday nights when middle and high school students worship and fellowship together each week. It is always a fun-filled time with food, games and study. Bring a friend and have some fun. We will start again after the new year.

**Wintergreen:** We are looking at a return to Wintergreen in January or February. It can either be a long day or an overnight stay, but either way we will need chaperones. Please let Tommy know if you are interested.



**Youth Supporting Local Missions.** The youth will prepare a breakfast for the PiN missions later this month. Please let Mary Hall or Tommy know if you want to help.

**2021 Calendars** are on sale for \$7 apiece or 3 for \$20. Pocket calendars are available for \$5 each. Pick them up in the back of the sanctuary.

**Local Missions:** Do you know of a local mission that our youth could help with? Maybe a member of our church needs some cleaning or repair done. The youth are looking for opportunities to support our church family. Mission projects play an important role in our DNOW and 30 Hour Famine weekends as well.

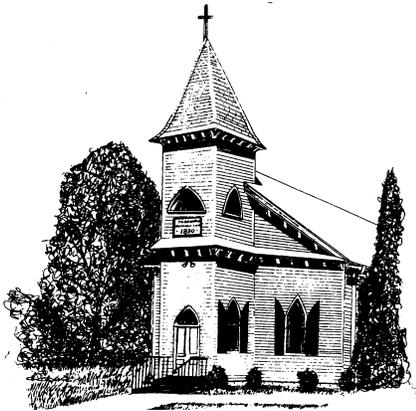
***BIRTHDAYS***

Byers, David	12/1	Strong, Nathan	1/1
Pilger (Karsen), Christine	12/1	Loftis, Ronda	1/2
Dowdy, Phyllis	12/3	Calvin, Dianne	1/2
Calevas, Jeffery	12/3	Hayashi (Ackiss), Sarah	1/4
Flade, Jody	12/5	Colley, Marlon	1/4
Beck, Dana	12/7	Foy, Rebecca	1/6
Mitchell, Maureen	12/9	Douglas, Isaac	1/6
Cayo, John	12/9	Fentress, Bobbye	1/7
Buyserie, Janice	12/10	Cox, Dawson	1/8
Oyler, Dean	12/11	Graves, Taylor	1/8
Owen, Betty	12/12	Russell, Donna	1/10
Russell, Paul	12/14	Schweers, Caitlin	1/10
Almberg, Kyle	12/14	Davis, Sharon	1/12
Cunningham, Melissa	12/16	Rechkemmer, Roy	1/14
Bouley, Eric	12/17	Pearson, Ron	1/21
Pool, Joan	12/20	Senti, Wes	1/21
Kash, Robert	12/20	Fisher, Paul	1/22
Powers, Josh	12/20	Willett, Kim	1/22
Beck, Steve	12/20	Windsor, Ann	1/22
Norton, Jill	12/21	Everett, Alan	1/22
Shelton, Sarah	12/21	Melvin, Bess	1/25
Fisher, Ian	12/22	Strong, Rachael	1/25
Schweers, Shannon	12/23	Lannom, Todd	1/25
Durkee, Linda	12/24	Emery, Chelsea	1/26
Shook-Roland, Candace	12/24	Park, William	1/27
Lannom, Lochlan	12/24	Zeigler, Austin	1/29
Raehl, James	12/27	Kwiatkowski, Emily	1/30
Powers, Lisa	12/30		
Inderlied, Steph	12/30		
Miller, Kevin	12/30		

The  
**Tabernacle Friend**

Tabernacle United Methodist Church  
1265 Sandbridge Road  
Virginia Beach, VA 23456

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*This Newsletter Prepared Especially For*



***Tabernacle  
United Methodist Church***

*Where faith can be found  
and  
friends become family!*

Worship Hours  
8:30am Contemporary Service  
9:30am Sunday School  
11:00am Traditional Service



Phone 757 . 426 . 2396

[www.tabernaclevb.org](http://www.tabernaclevb.org)