

MT. TABOR LUTHERAN CHURCH

Growing a deeply connected family of faith

1000 B Avenue · West Columbia · South Carolina · 29169 · 803.796.5948

www.mttaborlutheran.org



9:15 AM - March 15, 2026 - Fourth Sunday in Lent

ALIVE! Worship Service

INTRODUCTION

Baptism is sometimes called enlightenment. The gospel for this Sunday is the story of the man born blind healed by Christ. "I was blind, now I see," declares the man. In baptism God opens our eyes to see the truth of who we are: God's beloved children. As David was anointed king of Israel, in baptism God anoints our head with oil, and calls us to bear witness to the light of Christ in our daily lives.

I'm Going on a Journey

verses 1-3, repeat verse 1



1 I'm go-ing on a jour-ney, and I'm start-ing to-day. My



head is wet, and I'm on my way. Christ's mark is on me;



it's on you, too; it says he loves me, and he loves you, too!



2 I'm be-com-ing this day a saint of God. It



real-ly does-n't mat-ter what roads I trod. Wher-ev-er I go, God's



been there, too. God's love has touched me and will car-ry me through.



3 There are oth-er saints who have said a-men. They'll



keep me faith-ful to my jour-ney's end. A-long the way



I want to be the kind of per-son that God set free.

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

1 I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to
2 I want to see . . . the bright-ness of God. I want to
3 I'm look - ing for . . . the com - ing of Christ. I want to

fol - low Je - sus. God set the stars to give
look at Je - sus. Clear Sun of righ - teous - ness,
be with Je - sus. When we have run . . . with

light to the world. The star of my life is Je - sus.
shine on my path, and show me the way to the Fa - ther.
pa - tience the race, we shall know the joy of Je - sus.

Refrain

In him there is no dark-ness at all. The night and the

day are both a - like. The Lamb is the light of the

cit - y of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

Verse 1

Amazing grace how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me
I once was lost but now I'm found
Was blind but now I see

Verse 2

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear
And grace my fears relieved
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed

Chorus

My chains are gone I've been set free
My God my Savior has ransomed me
And like a flood His mercy rains
Unending love amazing grace

Verse 3

The Lord has promised good to me
His word my hope secures
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures

Repeat Chorus - twice

The Lenten Candles are included as part of our worship to represent the journey of Lent, which is a time of decreasing light leading up to Good Friday. Each week, the extinguished candles signify a deeper reflection of Jesus' sacrifice and the approaching darkness of the cross.

The PURPLE candles symbolize our repentance and preparation. The ROSE candle on the 4th Sunday in Lent, known as the Laetare Sunday, symbolizes a brief moment of joy and anticipation in the midst of Lent. The WHITE candle is the Christ candle, symbolizing purity and holiness.

PEACE

Mt. Tabor Lutheran Church

Growing a deeply connected family of faith

Whether by Blood or Baptism, we are family here. Let us share the peace of Christ with each other.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYERS

KYRIE

Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way, Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.

For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the unity of all; for this holy house, for all who worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord, **let us pray to the Lord.**

Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way, Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.

That we may live out your impassioned response to the hungry and the poor; that we may live out truth and justice and grace, let us pray to the Lord, **let us pray to the Lord.**

Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way, Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.

For peace in our hearts, for peace in our homes, for friends and family; for life and for love, for our work and our play, let us pray to the Lord, **let us pray to the Lord.**

Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way, Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.

For your Spirit to guide; that you center our lives in the water and the Word; that you nourish our souls with your body and blood, let us pray to the Lord, **let us pray to the Lord.**

Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way, Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come among us. By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

CHILDREN'S SERMON

HYMN OF PRAISE

Lord, I Lift Your Name on High

Lord, I lift your name on high; Lord, I love to sing your prais-es.
I'm so glad you're in my life, I'm so glad you came to save us.
You came from heav-en to earth to show the way, from the earth
to the cross, my debt to pay, from the cross to the grave,
from the grave to the sky; Lord, I lift your name on high.

Text: Rick Founds, b. 1954

Music: Rick Founds

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LORD, I LIFT YOUR NAME

PM

A READING

Ephesians 5:8-14

A reading from Ephesians.

Because we now live in the divine light which is Jesus Christ, we conduct our lives in ways that reflect the light of Christ, so that our activity is truly pleasing to God.

⁸ Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Walk as children of light, ⁹ for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. ¹⁰ Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹ Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness; rather, expose them. ¹² For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly, ¹³ but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, ¹⁴ for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

“Sleeper, awake!

Rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM HYMN

Shepherd Me, O God
verse 4 ALIVE solo

Refrain

All

Shep-herd me, O God, be - yond my wants, be - yond my fears, from
death in - to life. to stanzas 1, 2, 3, 5
life. to stanza 4

Leader or All

1 God is my shep-herd, so noth - ing shall I want, I
2 Gent - ly you raise me and heal my wea - ry soul, you
3 Though I should wan - der the val - ley of death, I
rest in the mead - ows of faith - ful - ness and love, I
lead me by path - ways of righ - teous - ness and truth, my
fear no e - vil, for you are at my side, your

Refrain

walk by the qui - et wa - ters of peace.
spir - it shall sing the mu - sic of your name.
rod and your staff, my com - fort and my hope.

Leader or All

4 You have set me a ban - quet of love in the face of

Refrain

ha - tred, crown - ing me with love be - yond my pow'r to hold.

Leader or All

5 Sure - ly your kind - ness and mer - cy fol - low me all the days of my life;
I will dwell in the house of my God for - ev - er - more.

Final refrain

All

Shep-herd me, O God, be - yond my wants, be -
yond my fears, from death in - to life.

GOSPEL

John 9:1-41

The Holy Gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus heals a man born blind, provoking a hostile reaction that he regards as spiritual blindness to the things of God.

¹ As [Jesus] walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. ² His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” ³ Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him. ⁴ We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. ⁵ As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” ⁶ When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man’s eyes, ⁷ saying to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. ⁸ The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” ⁹ Some were saying, “It is he.” Others were saying, “No, but it is someone like him.” He kept saying, “I am he.” ¹⁰ But they kept asking him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” ¹¹ He answered, “The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ Then I went and washed and received my sight.” ¹² They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.”

¹³ They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴ Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵ Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, “He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.” ¹⁶ Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not observe the Sabbath.” Others said, “How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?” And they were divided. ¹⁷ So they said again to the blind man, “What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.” He said, “He is a prophet.”

¹⁸ The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight ¹⁹ and asked them, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?” ²⁰ His parents answered, “We know that this is our son and that he was born blind, ²¹ but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.” ²² His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. ²³ Therefore his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.”

²⁴ So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, “Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner.” ²⁵ He answered, “I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.” ²⁶ They said to him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?” ²⁷ He answered them, “I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?” ²⁸ Then they reviled him, saying, “You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. ²⁹ We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.” ³⁰ The man answered, “Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. ³¹ We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. ³² Never since the world

began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. ³³ If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.” ³⁴ They answered him, “You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?” And they drove him out.

³⁵ Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” ³⁶ He answered, “And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.”

³⁷ Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.” ³⁸ He said, “Lord, I believe.” And he worshiped him. ³⁹ Jesus said, “I came into this world for judgment, so that those who do not see may see and those who do see may become blind.” ⁴⁰ Some of the Pharisees who were with him heard this and said to him, “Surely we are not blind, are we?” ⁴¹ Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Maria Perez Miller

ANTHEM

Only By Grace

Gustafson/arr. Larson

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Gracious God, have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

OFFERTORY

Create in Me a Clean Heart

F C/E C/D Dm Dm/C B \flat Gm
Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, that I might serve

C⁷_{sus} C⁷ F C/E C/D Dm Dm/C
you; cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, that

Gm F/A C F Am⁷ Dm⁷
I might be re - newed. So fill me and

Am⁷ Dm⁷ Gm⁷ Gm/D C⁷_{sus} C⁷
heal me, and bring me back to you. Cre -

F C/E C/D Dm Dm/C Gm F/A C F
ate in me a clean heart, O God, that I might serve you.

Text and music: Mary Rice Hopkins
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OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens, and your abundance to the depths of the seas. Bless what we offer to your service: our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts. Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity, now and always. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

BLESSING

Almighty God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

Be Bold, Be Strong

Be bold, be strong, for the Lord your God is with
you. Be bold, be strong, for the Lord your God is with
you. Do not be a - fraid, do not be dis - mayed.
Walk in faith and vic - to - ry,
walk in faith and vic - to - ry, walk in faith and vic -
to - ry, for the Lord your God is with you.

DISMISSAL

POSTLUDE

ALIVE! Musicians

Gale McLeod, Co-Director

Lyndsey Ebener

Ricky Lusk

Irelou Moye, Co-Director

David Moye

Julie Ann Payne

Beth Branham

Erin Hall

Ed Redmond

Leah Conrad

Vaughn Hall

Roxanne Rich

Brett Ebener

Steve Hamilton

Sarah Smith

Clark Ebener

Stephanie Liscusky

Jessica Gibbons

Worship Assistants

Lector Pam Burnett

Greeter Grace Fuson

Ushers Sarah Rybicki, Lauren Matthews

Acolyte KateLynn Parker

Livestream coordinators Pam Hoskins, Kendrick Kerr

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FOR FURTHER STUDY

1 Samuel 16:1-13

Samuel anointed David even though he was the eighth-oldest son of Jesse and did not match his brothers in height or other physical characteristics. With the anointing came endowment with the Spirit of the LORD, designating David as the LORD's chosen successor to Saul.

¹ The LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." ² Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the LORD said, "Take a heifer with you and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.'" ³ Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do, and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you." ⁴ Samuel did what the LORD commanded and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling and said, "Do you come peaceably?" ⁵ He said, "Peaceably. I have come to sacrifice to the LORD; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

⁶ When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely his anointed is now before the LORD." ⁷ But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him, for the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart." ⁸ Then Jesse called Abinadab and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." ⁹ Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." ¹⁰ Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen any of these." ¹¹ Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him, for we will not sit down until he comes here." ¹² He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome. The LORD said, "Rise and anoint him, for this is the one." ¹³ Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and the spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

Psalm 23

¹ The LORD is my shepherd;

I shall not be in want.

² The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures
and leads me beside still waters.

³ You restore my soul, O LORD,
and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

⁴ Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil;
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

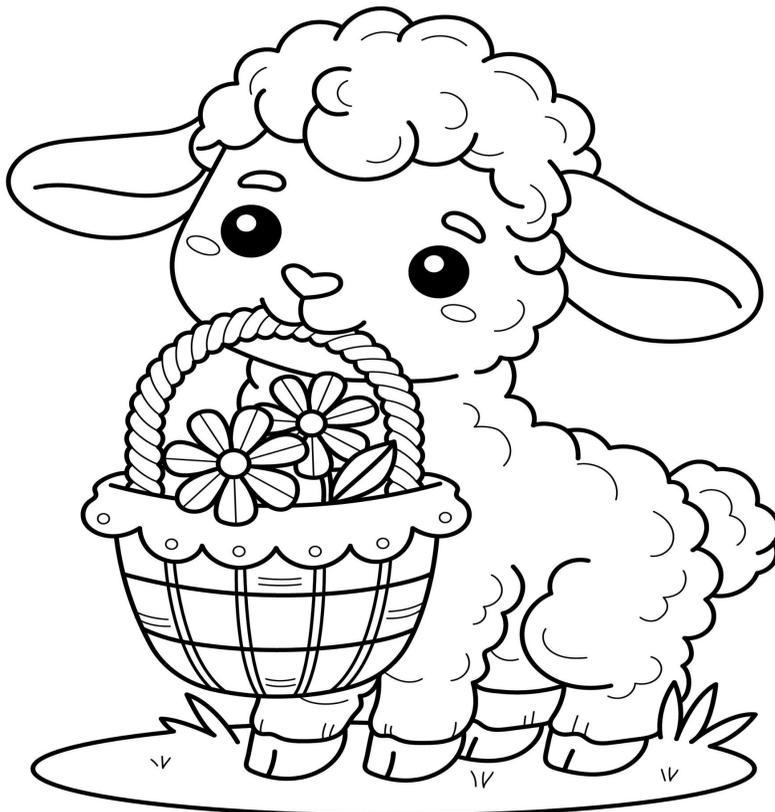
⁵ You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

⁶ Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

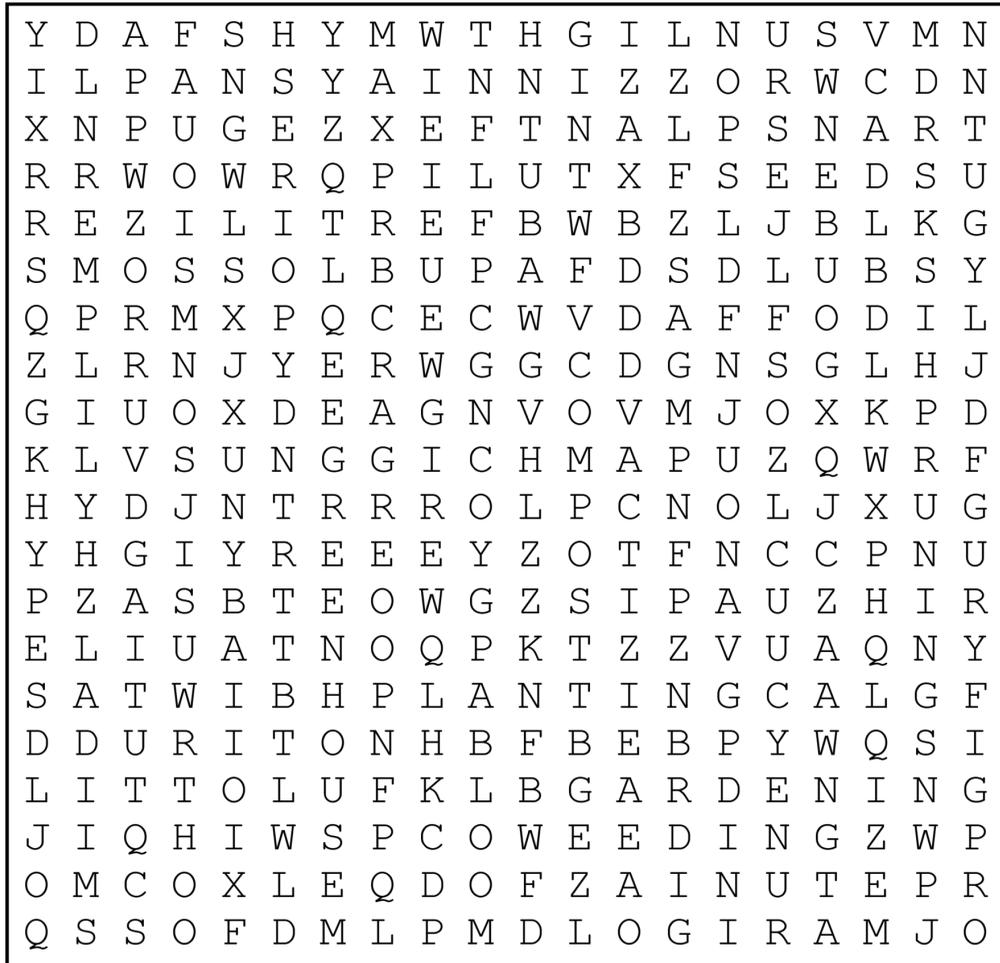


The vases of greenery on the altar are dedicated to the glory of God and in loving memory of Jarvis Klapman, whose birthday would have been March 20th by Randy and Elizabeth Klapman & Janet and Tommy Smith.

To the glory of God and with love, Kim and Benjie Smith, Frazier, Cooper and Jensen Redmond & Eric and Natalie Smith dedicate today's bulletin covers in loving memory of Jarvis Klapman, whose birthday would have been March 20th.



Spring Gardening



Word list:

ANNUALS
BLOOM
BLOSSOM
COMPOST
DAFFODIL
DAISY
FERTILIZER

GARDENING
GREENHOUSE
HOE
LILY
MARGOLD
MULCH
PANSY

PERENNIALS
PETUNIA
PLANTING
PRUNING
SEEDS
SOIL
SPROUT

SUNLIGHT
TRANSPLANT
TROWEL
TULIP
WATERING
WEEDING
ZINNIA



Welcome to Mt. Tabor. We are glad that you have chosen to worship with us today! If you are a visitor, please fill out and return the attendance card in your pew rack so we may have a record of your attendance. Our ushers and greeters will be glad to answer any questions you may have about our worship service. We hope that you will experience the presence of the Risen Christ today!

Lord Teach Us To Pray:

As God's people called to love one another, let us pray for the following members of our church family, who celebrate the anniversary of their baptism this week: Brittany Raven, BJ Roof, Betsy Hayden, Jennifer Latham, Rick Maxheimer, Justin Cegelis, Jana Payne, Paula Taylor, Bobby Long, Lucy Scarborough, Paul Carter, Mike Buchanan, Robert Cromer, Jr., Michael Gayden, Hampton Miller, Janice Livingston, Michael Frye, Pierce Taylor, Rebecca McQuillen, Alice South.

Most Recent Prayer Concerns:

Tammy Quarles, Sally Kleber, James Campbell, Earl Macaulay, JoEllen Anderson, Nancy Smith, Jeanie & Paul Jacobs, Grace Kelly, Murray Hoskins, Paul Dufries, Karen Holton

Ongoing Prayer Concerns:

Sandra Baker, Natalie Cook, Carolyn Dufries, Pastor Lavaughn Keisler, John Conrad, Bruce Merchant, Judy Jordan, Luther Swicegood, Alice Pollock, Jimmy Williams, Mona Myers, Sadie Howard, Elmer Sundlie, Emma Lou Easley, Paul Addy, Pastor Jerry & Janice Livingston

Family & Loved Ones of Mt. Tabor:

Beth Franklin, Ronnie Crim, Claudia Medlin, Shirley Spruill, Russell Altman, Tim Hopkins, Eddie Porter, Eddie Broughman, Trace Wingard, Julie Johnson, Lewis Tankersley, Danny Baker, Suzanne Oxner Stello, Dr. Chris Wicker, William & Janet Wood, Judy Lazarczyk, Robbie Burgess, Ronnie Boland, Tonia Boland, Andy Rauch, Peggy Roessler, John Bailey, John Sharpe, Bishop Ginny Aebischer, Bobby Brown, Steve Blake, Zach Wash, Tyler Corbitt, Nancy Waugh, Emily Waugh, Sam Waugh, Laura Ann Merrill, Anne Moye

Members of Mt. Tabor Serving in the Military:

Adam Davis, Samuel Davis, Scott Hash, Alex Morris

Family and Loved Ones Serving in the Military:

Justin Casteel, Cory Fabian, Zachery Gayden, Josh Watson, Jacob Henry Burgan, Caleb Neff

The Family Of:

Crosby Adams

Worship Leaders

Rev. Wade T. Roof, III, Senior Pastor

Rev. Rus Stilwell, Pastor of Visitation

Mr. Kevin Davis, Director of Music