



Tabor Newsletter

TABOR LUTHERAN CHURCH

45 Tabor Drive
Branford, CT 06405
(203) 488-2541
www.taborchurch.net

Spring 2024

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WE WANT YOU AT CHURCH!

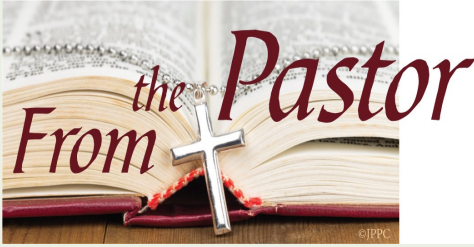


Summer 2024

Tower Deadline Sunday, May 26
Please put submissions into the Tower
Mailbox outside the office or email to:
taborlutheranchurch@gmail.com

A sincere **THANKS** to all
who submit to this publication.





Dear people of Tabor Lutheran Church,

By now, many of you have heard the news that the New England Synod – ELCA has issued for me a ‘Letter of Call’ to serve as your Transitional Pastor! I am so excited to have this opportunity to serve among you as we go out into the world to proclaim God’s love through Jesus Christ.

More than a year ago, your first transitional Pastor, Pastor Maria Hammons, accepted a call to serve as an assistant to the bishop. During her time with Tabor, the congregation completed the transitional ministry tasks needed to prepare you to call a ‘settled’ pastor (Pastor Bud and Pastor Marjo were your most recent ‘settled’ pastors). Unfortunately, at the current time, there aren’t many candidates available in the synod, and this has led to a much longer pastoral vacancy than anyone imagined. Most of you have noticed the pastoral leadership void. While you have had many great supply preachers on Sundays, it’s just not the same as having pastoral leadership present for the remainder of the week. After taking much time in prayer and discernment, I feel ready to re-enter active pastoral ministry as a transitional pastor and, more importantly, as Tabor’s transitional pastor.

What will this new period of transitional ministry look like? In addition to fulfilling the main duties of any pastor (leading worship, preaching, teaching, providing pastoral care through all of life’s twists and turns, joys and sorrows), we will be revisiting some of the transitional ministry themes you worked through with Pastor Maria, just to see how the people of Tabor are doing during this prolonged pastoral vacancy. I call it, “taking the temperature”. I plan to do this by encouraging small group gatherings, where you may share your concerns, your fears, your joys, your dreams. As you share, know that the Holy Spirit guides you and that God mourns and rejoices alongside you and me. I also want to encourage you all to dream. Throughout the Hebrew scriptures, God’s call is revealed to one by way of dreams, like with Jacob, dreaming of the ladder or staircase between Heaven and Earth, angels ascending and descending. Often, our rational, logic-driven, conscious minds prevent us from seeing the plethora of possibilities that the Holy Spirit is placing right in front of us. Many of you have been a part of Tabor’s congregation for many decades. There is a rich history and tradition at Tabor to celebrate. But sometimes, when one’s mindset sits too long in such a joyful past, trying to figure out how to re-create what has passed, one often misses out on what God is doing right now and to where God might be leading Tabor to in the future. During this year with you, as your transitional pastor, I would simply like to encourage you to dream, to vividly imagine the new ways God may be reaching out to Tabor and what doors God may be opening for you.

Tabor Lutheran Church is not alone. Most congregations struggle with declining membership, aging active members, the lack of children, youth, and younger adults. Many other congregations across the ELCA and in all mainline denominations are going through lengthy pastoral vacancies. No doubt, this is a very discouraging time for most churches and those of you who love and serve faithfully, wondering if there even will be a church 10 years from now. However, remember that each Sunday in worship, we proclaim resurrection. We rejoice hearing that “death has lost its sting” and that the tomb could not contain the Son of God. While death and decline is a natural part of life, our faith in Jesus Christ sustains us during times of despair with the promise of new life—something new is coming, just around the corner! Do you not perceive it?

God is doing a new thing, in the world and right here, in Branford, Connecticut! And God is calling YOU to be a part of this new thing? What does this look like? Over the next twelve months, I hope we can all journey together and see how God is calling you to participate in this new 'thing'.

I look forward to reaching out and visiting you, to seeing you each Sunday in worship, to enjoy fellowship with you at Tabor's seasonal dinners, as we "ponder anew, what the Almighty can do"--to quote a line from a hymn we recently sang in worship.

Please email, text, or call me if you'd like to meet for coffee! Feel free to swing by the church, as well. I plan to set office hours in a couple of weeks, as I get a better handle on a regular schedule. And please feel free to 're-introduce' yourself to me. Between my involvement at my husband's church, and due to the fact that I've only been with you on Sundays, I'm having a hard time matching names with faces. Please bear with me, as learning remembering names is a skill that doesn't come to me naturally!

May God's grace and peace be with you, and sustain you all!

Pastor Chad Adamik
chad.adamik@gmail.com
(502) 663-3888



SHROVE SUNDAY BRUNCH

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2024



Please join us after Sunday Worship in ROOM C to celebrate Shrove Sunday with a delicious pancake brunch and lots of Fun & Fellowship!



Did you know?

Quinquagesima (*/ˌkwɪŋkwəˈdʒɛsɪmə/*), in the Western Christian Churches, is the last Sunday of Shrovetide, being the Sunday before Ash Wednesday. It is also called **Quinquagesima Sunday**

Quinquagesima Sunday, being the Lord's Day prior to the start of the Lenten season, is known for its meat consumption as people wished to feast before starting their fast on Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent. Historically Lutheran countries such as Denmark mark Quinquagesima Sunday as the peak of the Fastelavn. After attending the Divine Service on Shrove Sunday, congregants enjoy Shrovetide buns (fastelavnsboller).

Children often dress up and collect money from people while singing. Christians in these nations carry Shrovetide rods (fastelavnsris), which "branches decorated with sweets, little presents, etc., that are used to decorate the home or give to children.

NOON LENT WORSHIP SERVICE
WITH SOUP & SALAD LUNCH TO FOLLOW
FEBRUARY 21ST & 28TH MARCH 6TH & 20TH



Wednesdays
during Lent

Pastor Adamik will be leading a 12 noon LENT Worship Service in the CHAPEL which will be followed by a Soup & Salad Lunch in Room C



Please sign up on the Narthex if interested in hosting a Soup & Salad Lunch

Tabor Lutheran Church invites you to worship and celebrate with us this Lent & Easter Season



Through Giving: TBD by Tabor Church Council

Through Music:

Grace Coolidge - Violin
Tabor Hand Bell Choir
Tabor Choir
March 29th

March 3rd 10:00 a.m.
Feb 18th March 17th March 31st
Feb 14th
7:00 p.m.

With Tabor Choir
(Easter) 10:00 a.m.
7:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service @ Trinity Church *
Good Friday Service @ Tabor Lutheran*

Through Worship and Bible Study:

Ash Wednesday Worship
Distribution of Ashes
Worship Service

Feb. 14th 12:00 noon
1:00 p.m. & 6:00 pm
7:00 p.m.

Tabor Chapel
Branford Green*
Trinity Episcopal Church *

Lent Worship

Sundays
February 18th 10:00 a.m.
February 25th 10:00 a.m.
March 3rd 10:00 a.m.
March 10th 10:00 a.m.
March 17th 10:00 a.m.

Wednesdays
February 21st 12:00 noon
February 28th 12:00 noon
March 6th 12:00 noon
March 20th 12:00 noon

Sunday Bible Study Gospel Lesson 9:00 – 9:45 a.m. Library

Book Study: *WRESTLING WITH DOUBT, FINDING FAITH* by Adam Hamilton

Does your faith make room for questions? Everyone has doubts. Where is God when bad things happen? Does God hear our prayers? Is there a heaven? How can we know? Often, we treat such questions as the enemy of faith. But uncertainty does not mean our belief is lacking. Please join Pastor Adamik who will lead this study during Lent. **Meets Monday @ 7:00 p.m. and Thursday via Zoom @ 7:00 p.m. Runs from February 19th until March 18th. There will be no classes during the week of March 10th – 16th.**

Holy Week & Easter Worship

| | | | |
|------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Palm Sunday | March 24th | 10:00 a.m. | Sanctuary |
| Maundy Thursday | March 28th | 12:00 noon 7:30 p.m. | Chapel Sanctuary |

| | | | |
|--------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| Good Friday | March 29th | 12:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m. | Stations of the Cross * Sanctuary * |
|--------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|

| | | | |
|----------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| Easter Sunday | March 31st | 6:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. | Church Cemetery * Sanctuary |
|----------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|

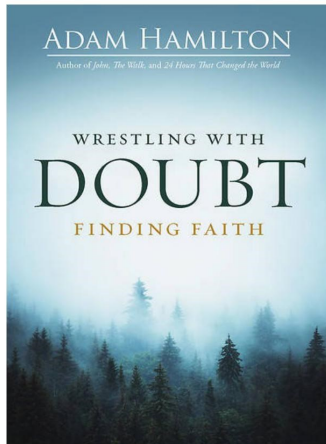
Through Ecumenical Events with Branford Congregations:

| | | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Shrove Sunday Brunch | Feb. 11th | 11:00 a.m. | After Church - Room C |
| Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper | Feb. 13th | 5:30-6:30 p.m. | FCC, Branford * |
| Ashes on the Green | Feb. 14th | 1:00 p.m. & 6:00 p.m. | Branford Green * |
| Soups On Dinner for CDR | March 2nd | 5:00-7:00 p.m. | Tabor Fellowship Hall |
| Swedish Meatball Dinner | March 23rd | 5:00-7:00 p.m. | Tabor Fellowship Hall |

Stations of the Cross Palm Sunday through Easter – Tabor Cemetery *

* Ecumenical Service and/or Activity with other Branford Congregations

LENT 2024 BOOK STUDY



February 19th through March 18th

Mon. @ 7:00 p.m. Thurs. via Zoom @ 7:00 p.m.

WRESTLING WITH DOUBT, FINDING FAITH

Author Adam Hamilton

Does your faith make room for questions?

Everyone has doubts. Where is God when bad things happen? Does God hear our prayers? Is there a heaven? How can we know? Often, we treat such questions as the enemy of faith. But uncertainty doesn't mean our belief is lacking. Please join Pastor Adamik who will be leading this study during Lent.

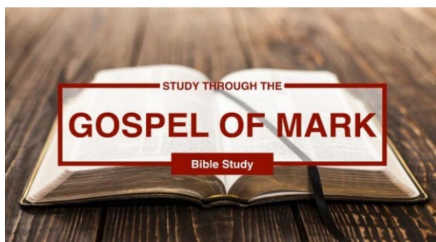
Watch the Book's Promotional Video at <https://youtu.be/GllpBH2rLVg>.

Books can be purchased at www.amazon.com or www.Christianbook.com.

Meets Monday (in person) @ 7:00 p.m. and Thursday via Zoom @ 7:00 p.m. Runs for 4 weeks from February 19th until March 18th. No classes during the week of March 10th – 16th.

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

Please join Pastor Adamik to discuss the Gospel reading of the day which focusses on the Gospel of Mark.



The **Gospel of Mark** tells of the ministry of Jesus from his baptism by John the Baptist to his death, the burial of his body, and the discovery of his empty tomb.

Sunday Mornings 9:00 a.m. - 9:45 a.m.

Tabor Library

WEDNESDAY NOON LENT SERVICE WITH SOUP & SALAD LUNCH TO FOLLOW

Pastor Adamik will be leading a Wednesday Noon Lent Worship Service in the CHAPEL which will be followed by a Soup & Salad Lunch in Room C.

Please sign up on the Narthex if interested in hosting a Soup & Salad Lunch.

WE HOPE YOU ARE ABLE TO ATTEND SOME OR ALL OF THESE EVENTS!

DEVOTIONALS, for January, February & March are available in the Narthex today for a small fee. Take and use these materials to enhance your prayer life.

PRAYER CHAIN For our church family's prayer needs, please reach out to our Prayer Chain Coordinator, Marie Bassett, at 203-483-9147

2024 OFFERING ENVELOPES are available for pickup in the Narthex. Please remember to wait until January 1, 2024 to begin using them. Please note that your envelope number for 2024 will remain the same from 2023, but in 2025, many of these numbers will be changed as we adjust the number of offering envelopes we order next year.



2023 CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS are available for pickup in the Narthex. Pickup your statement for use .

Coffee Hour after Worship has once again become a much-anticipated event each Sunday. We are hoping you will pair up with friends or committees to sponsor coffee hour on the occasional Sunday. We want to continue this amazing fellowship, but we need to relieve the very few people who are sponsoring it each week. Please consider signing up to be the Coffee Hour Sponsor on an upcoming Sunday. We will create an online signup, but in the meantime, please reach out to the church office if you're willing to



take a Sunday and make it yours.

The church has bagged coffee grounds to make it easy for you to just turn on the percolator and start coffee before worship ends. We also have paper goods already here. You and your group just need to provide a small container of half & half and any treat you'd like to bring – juice, cookies, pastries, fruit – any item is welcome and you don't need to bring an entire buffet for masses – the coffee hour group is small and appreciative of anything provided.

OUR STAFF

Minister of Music Charles Stack
Office Administrator Dawn Carafeno
taborlutheranchurch@gmail.com

CONGREGATION COUNCIL & OFFICERS

President Bertie Chuong
Vice President Kiersten Bjork
Treasurer Anthony Kowalski
Council Secretary Kathy Benedict

Nancy Putnam Bob Peterson
 Karen Gordon Lisa Huck
 Peter Harding

Congregation Council



Tabor's Council meets on the 2nd Tuesday of most months, beginning at 7 p.m. Meetings are held in Room C.

Parishioners are welcome to attend Council meetings.

(Please understand there are times when the Council needs to go into Executive Session - if that happens, then only elected Council members can be present.)

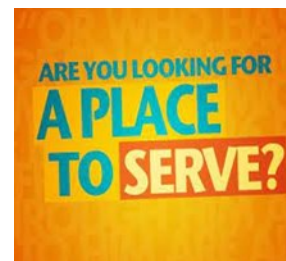
If you would like to address the Council on a particular matter, please speak with Council President bjchuong@comcast.net

Please hold your Officers and Council members in prayer.

Opportunities to Serve at Tabor!

There are so many opportunities to serve here at Tabor and in our local Branford community. Joyful service helps others and warms our heart!

One way you can serve here at Tabor is to volunteer to be a part of our worship services. You can be a greeter, an usher, a lector, or an assisting minister. You can be part of the altar guild ...you can sing in the choir or play an instrument as a special music offering! All of these ministries help to ensure that we have faithful and meaningful worship and the full participation of the congregation in our Sunday morning gatherings.



So consider this as an invitation to serve. It's joy-filled ministry, and it's easy too! After all, you're already going to be here on Sunday mornings, right? If you would like to know more about one (or more) of these ministries, click this link and make your choice: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0B4AA5AB2EAAF58-46966162-tabor>

Listen... God is calling! Blessings!

Christmas Tree Pickup Fundraiser

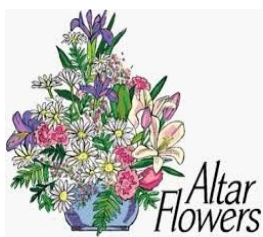


A big thanks to all those who helped out with the John Wilkinson Memorial Christmas Tree Pick-Up this year! We collected about 480 trees over the two weekends, and raised over \$6,600 to split between Tabor and Troop 633. I hope everyone had fun and is looking forward to helping again next year with this awesome fundraiser.

Thanks again

Ken Bjork



**FLOWER CHART FOR 2024 SIGN-UP LIST IS POSTED ONLINE****Sign Up Using the Link Today!!**

You may take the flowers following the 10:00 Service.

The cost of two bouquets is \$30.

*Your gift is an opportunity to honor and/or remember loved ones,
a special occasion or event!*

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0B4AA5AB2EAAF58-46960911-altar>

PORK ROAST DINNER

On November 4th 2023 Tabor held their annual Octoberfest Pork Roast Dinner. We sold 137 meals. Thanks to this community we raised \$1,800.

**SAVE THE DATES!!!**

**MARCH 2, 2024 -
SOUPS ON! DINNER**



**MARCH 23, 2024
SWEDISH MEATBALL
DINNER**



Music Lessons

Guitar with Marc

I use songs we enjoy to show technique & theory in use.

I enjoy the sound and the feeling I get from playing guitar. I also enjoy watching people gain confidence on the instrument as they play their favorite songs. I have the best job in the world! I keep my lessons fun, simple and focused. Hard work comes easy when you don't sweat it!



Piano with Mani

Learning requires focus and repetition that is infused with fun and enjoyment.

Proper technique, ear development, music theory, sight reading, singing solfege, improvisation and composition are all musical abilities that will be developed as we continue to become fluent in the language of music.

For more information about lessons at Tabor, please visit:
<https://www.taborartsbranford.com/teachers>

Community Dining Room

Founded in 1985, the Community Dining Room (CDR) is a private, not-for-profit organization providing food, support and companionship to our shoreline neighbors.

We serve the south-central Connecticut shoreline from East Haven to Old Saybrook including the towns of East Haven, Branford, North Branford, Guilford, Madison, Clinton, Westbrook, and Old Saybrook.

Tabor has committed to prepare and serve a meal at the Branford Community Dining Room on the 1st Sunday every other month. **March 3rd** is the next date Tabor will serve.

We need to arrive at 10:00am and should be cleaned up by 2:00pm.

Please consider signing up and helping with this mission.

Please contact Theresa Ferguson 203-314-1431 for more information or if you are able to volunteer.



Branford Food Pantry, Inc.

The Branford Food Pantry serves the Town of Branford by providing weekly groceries to families in need, and full turkey dinners for Thanksgiving and Christmas.



Feed Branford Kids (Snack Program):

Each week families will receive a bag containing 5 snack items for each child to take to school. Please help to support this new effort by donating the following: pudding/jello cups; fruit cups; raisins (small boxes); cereal/granola bars; small bags of chips/cookies/pretzels; snack crackers; NO NUTS OR PEANUT PRODUCTS. Thanks for your help in this effort.

The Branford Food Pantry has a constant need for routine items also, such as cereal, peanut butter, soup, stew and coffee. Tabor will collect these items and deliver to the Food Pantry.

March Birthdays

| | |
|--------------------|------|
| Dolly Foley | 3/2 |
| Judith Dayton | 3/3 |
| Sandra Park | 3/4 |
| Savannah Romblad | 3/8 |
| Kaitlin Stern | 3/9 |
| Maude Schmidt | 3/13 |
| Caden Dombrowski | 3/16 |
| Rhiannon Cappetta | 3/17 |
| Audrey Foley | 3/18 |
| Carol Auger | 3/19 |
| Erika Sipperly | 3/22 |
| Devin Putnam | 3/22 |
| Michael Ferguson | 3/25 |
| Dawn Carafeno | 3/27 |
| Jane Mahler | 3/28 |
| Leigh-Ann Bayarsky | 3/29 |
| Mimi Myers | 3/29 |
| Katie Scalia | 3/29 |
| Jane Ketterer | 3/30 |
| Cynthia Fitteron | 3/31 |

April Birthdays

| | |
|----------------------|------|
| Susan Saunders | 4/1 |
| Ruth Kramer | 4/3 |
| James Boyd II | 4/6 |
| Kathryn Hagness | 4/7 |
| Lydia Kelleher | 4/7 |
| Erin Kelleher | 4/11 |
| Aidan Loehmann | 4/11 |
| Christopher DeNegre | 4/15 |
| Taylor Romblad | 4/17 |
| Katelyn Anderson | 4/22 |
| Alexander Sturtevant | 4/22 |
| R. Travis Mahler | 4/23 |
| Wendy Whitney | 4/28 |
| Paul Burns | 4/29 |
| Heidi Leatherman | 4/29 |
| John Nilsson Jr. | 4/29 |

May Birthdays

| | |
|---------------------|------|
| Patrick Day | 5/1 |
| Heather Stanish | 5/2 |
| Ava Dombrowski | 5/3 |
| John Foley | 5/3 |
| Douglas Latham | 5/5 |
| Christine Daley | 5/6 |
| Karen Pemberton | 5/9 |
| Kenneth Downing III | 5/11 |
| Ryan Connell | 5/13 |
| Brenda Graminski | 5/13 |
| Lisa Huck | 5/13 |
| Amy Leatherman | 5/13 |
| Carter Silvia | 5/13 |
| Justin Silvia | 5/18 |
| Christian Bjork | 5/19 |
| Doug Shoemaker | 5/21 |
| Katie Knickelbein | 5/25 |
| Michael Youmell | 5/28 |
| Keri Hagness | 5/31 |



PARISH RECORDS

DEATHS

Stephen Pemberton
Austin Colburn
Denise Kovecses
Joe Kovecses
Leo Bosek

BAPTISMS

Anthony Michael Humble
Charlie David Sabetta

Spring Anniversaries

| | |
|--------------------------------|------|
| Peter Harding & Lorraine Doyle | 4/14 |
| Fred & Carol Auger | 4/16 |
| Michael & Dawn Carafeno | 4/24 |
| Michael & Theresa Ferguson | 4/24 |
| Don & Carol Brueggemann | 4/29 |
| William & Susan Devlin | 5/6 |
| Arthur & Diane Cappetta | 5/11 |
| Robert & Kathryn Fadel | 5/20 |
| Bob & Betty Sparks | 6/3 |
| Jerry & Brenda Graminski | 6/4 |
| Bob & Ruth Davis | 6/8 |
| Jamie & Keri Hagness | 6/11 |
| Michael & Meghan Youmell | 6/11 |

EASTER PLANTS –ORDER SOON

Please fill out the order form, and mail to church office by **Sunday, March 10, 2024**.
The plants can be picked up after the 10:00am Easter Service or delivered to a shut in.
Thank you for helping to create our beautiful Easter Garden.



EASTER PLANTS 2024
(Order Form)

Orders are now being taken for Easter Plants which will grace our Sanctuary on Easter Sunday. You may place your order by completing this form and returning it, along with payment, to the Church Office, by **Sunday, March 10th**. Checks may be made payable to: Tabor Lutheran Church. **We suggest that you pick up your Easter Plant to either decorate your home, plant in your garden, or to share with a friend, relative, or shut-in of your choice. Plants may not be picked up until 11:00am following the 10:00am Easter Worship Service.**

Plants Available: \$12 per plant for Easter Lilies
 \$14 per plant for Daffodils or Hyacinths or Tulips

| How Many | Type of Plant | <i>Please select:</i> In Honor Of: or In Memory Of: | Given By: | <u>Pick-Up</u> Yes or No |
|----------|---------------|--|-----------|-----------------------------|
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Mail/drop your check to the church office or pay via Venmo @TaborChurchandPreschool or Paypal (taborlutheranchurch@gmail.com).





Be sure to keep the Church Office updated with your current phone number and email address. Just call Dawn in the Church Office at 203-488-2541 or send an email to: taborlutheranchurch@gmail.com



Sunday Worship Service
10:00am
and FACEBOOK LIVE



Church Staff:

| | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------------------|----------------|
| Rev. Chad Adamik..... | Transitional Pastor..... | 502-663-3888 |
| Dawn Carafeno | Church Office | (203) 488-2541 |
| Charles Stack | Organist, Music Director | |
| Diane Swartz | Director, Preschool Director | (203) 488-9302 |



Address Service Requested
TABOR LUTHERAN CHURCH
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Branford, Connecticut 06405-5225
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