

The Visitor



Christine Calvin San

Ask the parents of these new TBC babies: How much change does 1 new baby bring?

They'll tell you: Sleep patterns change. Laundry needs change. Little daily chores that didn't take long before get interrupted, and a bowl of cereal poured at 7 a.m. might finally be dumped out as inedible at 10 a.m. Oh, and the crying...!

But, there are good differences, too. A parent realizes how absolutely soft human skin can be. Miniature fingers and toes are recognized as miraculous works of divine art. The baby sucks, the mother's milk flows, and the wonder of God's provision for the new baby bubbles up in both parents' hearts.

One small child...Just the promise of a child sets in motion a lifetime of dreaming—What will this child become? What will this child and I enjoy together? How will I respond to the challenges of caring for the child? One small child is coming, so, beginning on Sunday, December 2, we will observe the season of Advent. Advent means “coming.” In this season, we prepare ourselves to celebrate the birth of the 1 small child, Jesus, who has changed everything for the whole world.



Chloe Say Franco



Alazne Gyi Htoo

As you enjoy the many opportunities for fellowship with family and friends in the Christmas season, take time to consider: What change is my relationship to Jesus bringing in my life today? What part of following Jesus brings me the most joy? How is God calling me to grow in my Christian practice?

May all the joys of Christmas be yours as we wait together and then celebrate together the birth of Jesus—the one small child born to be the Savior of all.

Pastor Debbie

For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ~Isaiah 9:6



Cephas Htoo





2018 Retired Minister & Missionaries Offering

“Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.”
Philippians 2:3-4 (NIV)

Dear Tabernacle Church Family,

“What is the *Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering (RMMO)*?” you might be asking. It is an offering ABC-USA churches take up each year and send to be divided between those servants of God who are retired but who have worked on our behalf.

“Don’t they get a good retirement?” you may also be asking. It is true that lots of our retired pastors and missionaries benefit from a retirement based on a solid income. But, not all of our churches have been able to pay a living wage. Those who served smaller churches or churches with fewer financial resources benefit from the “extra lift” their Christmas “Thank You” check provides.

Also, a portion of the RMMO is reserved for emergency assistance to retired ministers and missionaries. I remember when 1 retired colleague in another city needed some expensive dental work. He had served multiple congregations in part-time positions, and his retirement was small. Through the RMMO, he received a grant to pay for the work that gave him better health and quality of life.

This year’s theme is “Extending our Hands to our Neighbors”. As we extend our hands here in Utica, we also extend our hands across the country to bring joy to our retired servants of God. Our goal for this year is \$2500. An envelope is provided for your convenience in this newsletter and will also be available at TBC. Put your envelopes on the silver tree.

Let us give generously!

Pastor Debbie and the Worship and Witness Ministry Team

Christmas Gifts of Love

During Advent, share your joy by sharing a card and making a contribution to the "Christmas Gifts of Love" project. The money given will provide gifts to our Shut-ins and frail elderly as well as to families in need. Look for the collection box at TBC or mail your gift to the office.



2019 Pledge Update



Thanks to your partnership in TBC, as of Nov. 25, we are at 87.6% of our goal for funding the many ministries of TBC in 2019! We especially celebrate over \$30K in pledges from "New Pledgers." If you've not yet turned in your pledge card, please do that as soon as possible, remembering that we are aiming for a 2.3% overall increase in 2019.

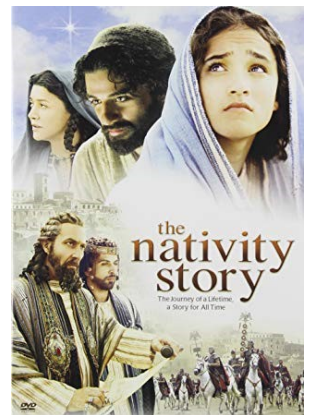
The Stewardship Planning Team

Adult Sunday School

Join us each week, beginning on Sunday, December 2, at 11:30 a.m. in the Conference Room for a video series entitled "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel: Reflection on Four Seasonal Hymns for Adults." All are invited, and Pastor Debbie will facilitate the group as the schedule allows.

Free Christmas Movie

We invite you to join us as *The Nativity Story* by New Line Home Entertainment, will be showing in the sanctuary on Sunday, December 16, at 3:00 p.m.



TBC Hosts Interfaith Matters Service and Fellowship – The Longest Night

Thursday, December 20, 6 p.m.

The holiday season is a difficult time for some people. Whatever our faith tradition, personal loss, depression, or loneliness can combine with the long hours of winter darkness in Upstate NY. Whether you feel blue or want to attend to support those who others in our community who do, you are invited to participate in this service which is open to all. Food will be provided. Please contact Pastor Debbie if you are willing to help her with hosting our community for this event.

Annual Christmas Eve – Monday, December 24 at 7:00 p.m.



Don't miss it! Our annual *Christmas Eve Service at 7:00 p.m.* promises, again, to be a blessing to all who attend. This year's theme is "*One Small Child*" and will feature a dramatic presentation of the Christmas story. The service, under the direction of Karen Dunne, our Minister of Christian Education, will include original dances, vocal performances and music by our children and youth choirs as well as our praise band. Be sure to be here as the wonderful story of Christmas is made new by our youth. Come and be filled with the Light of the new-born King!

Karen Christmas Gift Exchange: will be held on *Sunday, December 23*, after the Karen service. Each family or couple is invited to bring a wrapped useful household gift (for example, towels or pillow cases) worth \$15-\$20 to exchange. All can start to bring their gifts starting next Sunday, December 9. For more information please contact Olive San.

Karen Christmas Day Worship Service and Fellowship Dinner

On Christmas Day, Tuesday, December 25, at 10:00 a.m., there will be a special **Karen Christmas worship service** in the sanctuary. Following the service, all friends and members of Tabernacle (Karen and non-Karen alike) are invited to a Christmas fellowship dinner in Thorn Chapel.

Christmas Break Party for Teens and Youth will be held on Friday, December 28, at 6 p.m. Please bring a wrapped gift, used or new worth less than \$5. Everyone is invited to bring food to share.

Change of Address

Enola "Mickey" Dickson is currently staying at the Masonic Care Community, HP Forestport #281, 2150 Bleecker St. Utica, NY 13501. Please keep Enola and her family in your prayers.

Memorial Poinsettias Order Form

Your Name _____ *Phone* _____

The cost is \$7.25 per poinsettia plant.

I would like to order:



Every year at Christmas time, Tabernacle Baptist Church is decorated with Poinsettias; usually given as memorials. *To place a poinsettia order, complete and return this form, with your payment, to Tabernacle's church office by Sunday, December 9.* After the December 23 service, you may either take your plant(s) home or donate them to a shut-in.



_____ **Number of Red Poinsettias**

_____ **Number of Marbled (red and white) Poinsettias**

I have enclosed \$ _____.

Please include the following name(s) on the Memorial list which will be included in the Christmas bulletins:

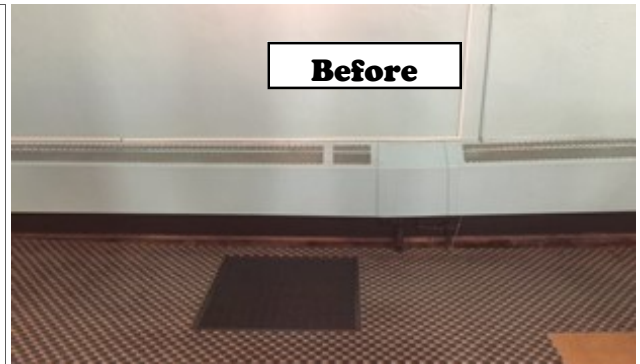
PLEASE PRINT

Names in whose memory flowers are given:

- ☐ *I will take my plant immediately after the December 23 service.*
- ☐ *My plant may be given to a shut-in.*
- ☐ *I will help deliver plants to shut-ins.*

New and exciting ways of giving are popping up here at TBC#Our Giving Story

Lots of people are giving hours of hard work at TBC! As pictured on the right, the front right section of flooring in the sanctuary was noticeably sagging. Led by December Htoo (pictured below) and Pastor Daniel, crews of volunteers—up to 30 at a time—brought in cement blocks and build columns. The floor jacked up and the final blocks will be put in place, permanently raising the front-right area that has been sagging.



Before



After

December, who has a construction and electrical company, shared that he believes God used his experience of growing up in the jungle to prepare him to serve by doing work like this on God's house!

Thanks to all the others who are giving of their time in this difficult heavy work! The outer walls of the sanctuary's foundation are also being reinforced. Your donations to Preservation and Restoration cover the materials and people donate their labor.

TBC's new projection system allows us to share art work such as the richly colored fall painting (pictured left) by Gerry Walters.

On the same Sunday, outgoing ABY President Thomas Moe and Susie Beal, ABY Youth Convention chaperone introduced TBC to Rico, the bear presented to TBC's Youth as the prize for taking the largest offering to ABY Convention. This year's TBC offering was over \$1700 and will go for hurricane relief efforts in Puerto Rico.

Congratulations are also in order for Maria Htoo, elected ABY President.



Hats off to Sexton Team Supervisor Lew who worked tirelessly to strip the old wax off the Chapel floor and to give it a bright new shine!

Advent and Christmas

Sweet December Schedule

One Small Child

Sunday, December 2

11:30 a.m.

Christmas Gifts of Love Project Begins

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel: Reflection on Four Seasonal Hymns for Adults” begins and continue through Dec. 23

Saturday, December 8

10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Youth Christmas Preparation and Practice

Sunday, December 9

Memorial Poinsettia Orders Due

Sunday, December 9

3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Youth Christmas Preparation and Practice

Sunday, December 16

3:00 p.m.

The Nativity Story by New Line Home Entertainment

Thursday, December 20

6:00 p.m..

Interfaith Matters Service and Fellowship

Saturday, December 22

10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Youth Christmas Preparation and Practice

Sunday, December 23

3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Youth Christmas Preparation and Practice

Sunday, December 23

10:00 a.m.

Worship – Theme

10:15 a.m.

Birthday Cake for Jesus during Sunday School (*Children*)

11:15 a.m.

Birthday Cake for Jesus in Thorn Chapel (*Adults*)

11:15 a.m.

Karen Language Worship Service

12:30

Karen Christmas Gift Exchange

Monday, December 24

10:00 a.m.

Worship

11:15 a.m.

Karen Language Worship Service

7:00 p.m.

Christmas Eve Service & Children's Christmas Pageant

8:30 p.m.

Youth Christmas Concert

Tuesday, December 25 ~ Christmas Day

12:00 a.m.

Karen Christmas Midnight Service

10:00 a.m.

Karen Christmas Day Service followed by fellowship dinner

Friday, December 28

6:00 p.m.

Christmas Break Party for Teens and Youth



Services, Meetings, Special Events and Deadlines

<i>Women's Prayer Meeting</i>	<i>Wednesdays, at 4:30 p.m.</i>
<i>Praise and Worship Band Rehearsal</i>	<i>Fridays, at 3:00 p.m.</i>
<i>Karen School</i>	<i>Saturdays, 1:00-3:00 p.m.</i>
<i>Karen Choir Practice</i>	<i>Saturdays, 5:00 p.m.</i>
<i>Adult and Youth Praise & Worship, Bible Study and Song Practice</i>	<i>Saturdays, 6:00 p.m.</i>
<i>Prayer Service</i>	<i>Sunday, 7:00 a.m.</i>
<i>English Worship Service and Sunday School</i>	<i>Sundays, 10:00 a.m.</i>
<i>Karen Worship Service</i>	<i>Sundays, 11:15 a.m.</i>
<i>Women's Worship Service</i>	<i>Wednesdays, 5:00 p.m.</i>
<i>Youth Worship Service</i>	<i>Third Sunday of each month, 5:00 p.m.</i>
<i>Communion Sunday</i>	<i>Last Sunday of each month, 4:00 p.m.</i>
<i>"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"</i>	<i>Sunday, December 2, 10:00 a.m.</i>
<i>Wedding</i>	<i>Sunday, December 2, 11:30 a.m.</i>
<i>January Visitor Article Submission Deadline</i>	<i>Saturday, December 15, 10:00 a.m.</i>
<i>The Nativity Story</i>	<i>Sunday, December 16</i>
<i>Interfaith Matters Service and Fellowship</i>	<i>Sunday, December 16, 3:00 p.m.</i>
<i>Birthday Cake for Jesus in Thorn Chapel</i>	<i>Thursday, December 20, 6:00 p.m.</i>
<i>Christmas Eve Service</i>	<i>Sunday, December 23, 11:15 a.m.</i>
<i>Youth Christmas Concert</i>	<i>Monday, December 24, 7:00 p.m.</i>
<i>Karen Midnight Christmas Service</i>	<i>Monday, December 24, 8:30 p.m.</i>
<i>Karen Christmas Day Service and Dinner</i>	<i>Tuesday, December 25, 12:00 a.m.</i>
<i>Office Closed for Christmas and New Year's Day</i>	<i>Tuesday, December 25, 10:00 a.m.</i>
<i>Christmas Break Party for Teens and Youth</i>	<i>Tuesday, Dec. 25, 2018 and Jan. 1, 2019</i>
<i>Annual Reports Submission Deadline</i>	<i>Friday, December 28, 6:00 p.m.</i>
<i>Annual Meeting</i>	<i>Sunday, January 6, 2019</i>
<i>Faith Nurturing Ministry Team meeting</i>	<i>Monday, January 28</i>
	<i>Sunday February 3, 12:30 p.m.</i>

The Church Office will be closed on Tuesdays, December 25 & and January 1

All Annual Reports are due in the church office by Sunday, January 6.

The Deadline to submit an article for the January Visitor is Sunday, December 16



Mor Chi Soe	2
Eh Knyaw	2
Moo R Too Lu	3
Decenter Sancown	3
Lily Eh	5
Jeffery Moo	5
Brandon Lee	6
Paw Dee Say	6
Serpway Win	6
Wah Nay Moo Kwa	7
Elijah Htoo	7
Wah Nay Moo	7
Kyaw Htoo	8
Ethan Ellis	8
Tamla Wah	8
Adrienne Leuthauser	9
Natalie Sparks	10
Tha Law Gaw	10
Kyi Mi	11
Vinton M. Thein	12
Shar Paw Moo	12
Tee Shee Ler Moo	12
Bway Mue	13
Baby Naw	14
Baby Moo	14



Christina Win	15
Shwe Win	15
Wisdom Htoo	16
Ta Mla Wah	18
Let Win	19
Rachel N.Bennett	22
Hser Bway Htoo	22
Aaron Green	24
Bwae Htoo	24
Ywa Htoo	24
Jaw ley	24
Daw Nay Moo	25
Kee Kie Wah	25
Sha Ra Ya Mu	25
Rev. Debbie Kelsey	25
Ba So Gay Doh	27
Ma La Kee Pyu	27
Htoo Lily	28
Bway paw	28
Lydia Doe	29
Kapru Htoo	29
Stewart Williams	29
Eh Mu	30
Eh Thaw Paw	31
David White	31

If you would like your birthday or a family member's announced in our Visitor, please contact:
Gee Lar at 315-735-7534 or churchoffice@tbcutica.org.



Tabernacle Baptist Church
13 Clark Place
Utica, New York 13501

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**Tabernacle Baptist Church
Sunday Worship**

10:00 a.m. English Service
11:15 a.m. Karen Worship

Office Hours

Monday through Thursday
8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Closed on Fridays

**In case of
emergency,
please contact:**

Church Office
315-735-7534
Pastor Debbie
315-491-6464
Pastor Daniel
315-790-4449

TABERNACLE BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Debbie Kelsey	Pastor
Rev. Daniel Calvin San	Pastor
Rev. Dr. James V. Davison	Pastor Emeritus
Karen Dunne	Minister of Christian Ed.
Say Wah Htoo	Christian Ed. Associate
Gee Lar See	Administrative Secretary
Melody Gay	Organist
Lewis Olivadese	Sexton
Michael Dunne	Asst. Sexton
Tet Net	Asst. Sexton

CONTACTS

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Pastor Daniel	associatepastor@tbcutica.org
	theylar@gmail.com