

# The Visitor



## Blanket Sunday ~ January 8th

For many years, our congregation has received a special offering during January to support the work of the **Church World Service (CWS)**. The **Blanket Offering** is one way we respond in Christian care and compassion to the needs and hurts of our neighbors across the United States and around the world.

Because you give to the **Blanket Offering**, CWS can:

- provide **warm blankets** for families who lives have been devastated by a tornado
- provide **warm blankets** to homeless individuals and families in the U.S.
- provide refugees resettling far from their homelands the **gardening tools and materials** to build small raised beds for vegetables
- provide **sewing machines and training for women**, empowering them to earn an income and feed their families
- provide displaced families with **emergency food packages** that will feed a family of five for one month
- provide a dam that gives an entire community a source of **clean water** year round

The **Blanket Offering** is blankets and so much more. Every January, Tabernacle invites friends and members to **contribute to the work of CWS through the Blanket Offering**. We make this sharing opportunity available because every year we see many opportunities around us that call for a compassionate response. We envision a world in which people love and care for each other, and no one walks away from those in need thinking, "someone else can help them." **The Blanket Offering is one way we can step in, step up and find a way to help.** Won't you give generously on **Sunday, January 8?**

The Church Office will be closed on Mondays, January 2 & January 16, 2017

All Annual Reports are due in the church office by Sunday, January 8.

The Deadline to submit an article for the February Visitor is Sunday, January 15.

Meaningful Messages for Today

January 1  
New Years Day  
Communion  
Hebrews 11:1-16  
*In Good Hands*

January 8  
Epiphany Sunday  
Matthew 2:1-12  
*Lessons from the Magi*

January 15  
Second Sunday of Epiphany  
Genesis 12:1-8  
*The Journey Continues*

January 22  
Rev. Dr. John Buskey

January 29  
Karen Dunne



## Pastor's Page

*I thank my God every time I think of you. ~ Philippians 1:3*



As I conclude seventeen and a half years of ministry as Tabernacle's pastor, I am filled with gratitude and thanksgiving. I am thankful to God for the opportunity to serve during such an important transitional time in the life of our congregation. Tabernacle is a very different congregation today than the church I came to in the spring of 1999.

I am thankful for all those friends and members of our church who caught a vision of Tabernacle as a place of welcome to our newest neighbors. This has been a team effort, not the work of one individual. As Tabernacle has welcomed our Karen brothers and sisters from Burma, it has been blessed with renewed strength, a new sense of purpose, and a bright future.

I am thankful for all those who have shared themselves with me and have invited me into their lives during times of both joy and sorrow. I have been privileged to stand with couples as they have pledged their love to each other in marriage, with parents as they have welcomed their babies into this world, and with aged saints as they have drawn their last breaths. I am honored by the faith that has been placed in me as friends and members of this church have shared their secrets, hopes, and fears with me. It has been a sacred privilege to have served as Tabernacle's pastor.

I am thankful for the church staff with whom I have worked. God has assembled a great group of servants in Tabernacle's staff members. Each of them is committed to what God is doing in our congregation. They bring great passion, skill, and energy to their ministries. They work long and hard to make Tabernacle all that it can be. It has been my honor to serve alongside these co-workers in the cause of Christ.

I am thankful for the many kind, generous, and thoughtful acts of Christian caring that friends and members of Tabernacle have showered on Paula, Christine, and me for almost two decades. Many have been patient, forgiving, and gracious to me. I am forever grateful for the loving and generous way Tabernacle has supported my family and me.

In a few short weeks I will conclude my ministry as Tabernacle's pastor. While I no longer will be Tabernacle's pastor, I will always be a friend of the congregation. Please know the great love and affection I have for Tabernacle and each of you. I thank my God every time I think of you!

Grace and peace,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, enclosed in a thin rectangular border.

*Pastor Mark*



## Stewardship Update

Thank you to everyone who has turned in a completed pledge card. *As of December 18, about 83% of the money needed to fund our 2017 Current Expense and Mission budgets has been pledged. About 75% of the Restoration and Preservation fund has been committed.* If you have not yet returned your completed pledge card, please place it in the offering plate or mail it to the church.

## Worship and Witness Ministry Team Organizational Meeting

The Worship and Witness Ministry Team will be meeting for an organizational Meeting on January 29, immediately following the Annual Meeting.

## Going Away Reception for Pastor Mark

Please join us in Thorn Chapel following the English language service on *Sunday, January 15* as we honor and say good bye to Pastor Mark, Tabernacle's Pastor of 17 1/2 years.

## Offering Envelope Boxes

Offering envelopes for 2017 are available in Thorn Chapel. If you do not find your name, please speak to one of the pastors or contact the church office.

## 2017 Calendars

2017 Calendars are available in Thorn Chapel, thanks to our good friends at the Dimbleby, Friedel, Williams, and Edmunds Funeral Homes. So that everyone can receive a calendar, take only one per family please.



Thank you to all who remembered us during the Christmas season with food, cards and gifts. These tokens of affection are profoundly appreciated and contributed to a most joyous Christmas celebration at the parsonage. ~ *Pastor Mark and Paula Caruana*

I would like to extend a HUGE thank you to everyone in participated and helped during our Christmas Eve production. Many hours of preparation and planning go into to making it a success and we wouldn't be able to do it without so many people giving of their time and talents! We couldn't do it without you!

THANK YOU!! - *From the Faith Nurturing Ministry team. ~ Karen Dunne*

Thank you for the thoughtful and yummy Christmas gifts that were given to me. And a special appreciations to all at Tabernacle Baptist Church who I have the privilege of working with.

~ *Tammy Daly*

Tabernacle Church, I wish to thank you for the lovely poinsettia plant that was delivered to me by Stewart Williams. I have it on my fireplace hearth where I can see it as I sit in my easy chair with a book in my hand. I really can't figure out why you sent it to me but I do appreciate it.

~ *Joyce K. Ebensperger*

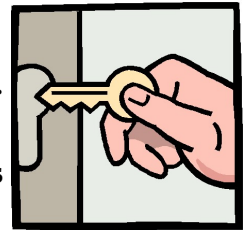
## CHURCH BUILDING USE REMINDER



The beginning of a new year is a perfect time to review our procedures for using the church building. We ask all groups using the church building to help keep the building clean and safe by following these simple rules.

### When leaving the building, please make certain that:

- **The space you have used has been returned to the condition in which you found it.** All books, papers, equipment, and musical instruments should be put away. Any trash is picked up and thrown away.
- **All lights are turned off.** This will help the church save money on our electricity bill!
- **All radiators are turned down to the "snowflake" position.** This will help the church save money on heating costs.
- **All doors in the building are close and all exterior doors are closed and locked.**
- **The alarm system has been properly activated.**



### When planning a meeting or event at the church, please remember:

- **All activities must be added to the church calendar.** Please check with the church office to make certain that your event will not conflict with another, already planned event.
- **The church building is scheduled on a first come, first served basis.** So, please schedule your special events in advance!
- **Outside groups and weddings** must receive approval from the Stewardship Ministry Team to use the church building. Please request a **Building Use Form** from the church office. Please return your complete Building Use Form to the office for approval at least one month before your event's date.

### Use of Church Supplies and Equipment

- **Church supplies and equipment cannot leave the church property without permission** Please contact the church sexton or secretary for permission, before removing any supplies or equipment from the church.
- **Lending of church tables and chairs:** the church lends out old tables and chairs to church members for special events (graduation parties, family celebrations, etc.) To borrow these items, please contact the church office. All tables and chairs must be returned to the church by the agreed upon date and time.



# *ARTIFX MEDIA INSTITUTE*



**Open House ~ Open to the Public**

**Thursday, January 5, 2017**

**7:00 p.m.**

**Beit Shalom**

**48 Franklin Square, Utica, NY 13502**



**New Performing Arts Seminars**

**Come learn about:**

- **The Art of Storytelling**
- **Fundamentals of Video**
- **Principles of Acting**

*Starting in January*

**For more information:**

- **at 315-733-2867**
- **artifxinstitute@gmail.com**
- **www.artifx.org**



### Notice of Annual Corporate Meeting

To all members and qualified voters of the Tabernacle Baptist Church of Utica, notice is hereby given that the Annual Corporate Meeting of the Tabernacle Baptist Church of Utica will be held on Sunday, January 29, 2017 at 12:30 PM in Thorn Memorial Chapel, 13 Clark Place, Utica, New York, for the purpose of:

- Electing successors to those members of the Stewardship Ministry Team (Trustees) whose terms of office expire.
- Receiving financial reports for 2016.
- Adopting the annual Current Expense budget and Missions and Benevolences budget for 2017.
- Conducting such other business that may properly come before the body.

Utica, New York  
January 1, 2017

David Tomidy, Chairperson  
Stewardship Ministry Team

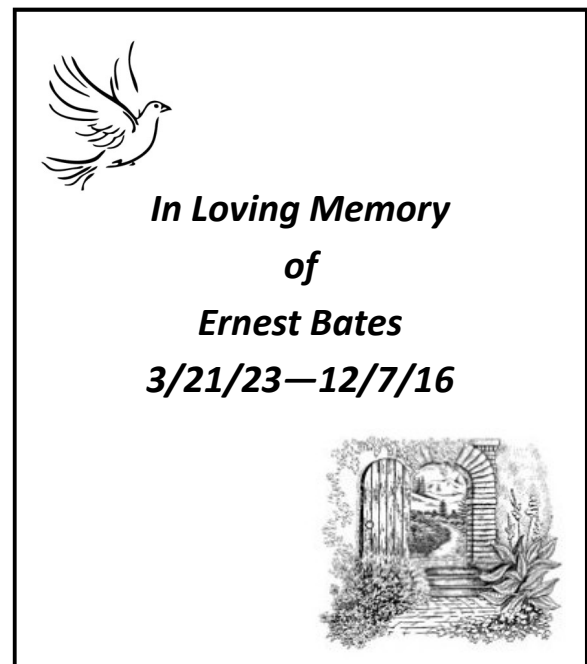
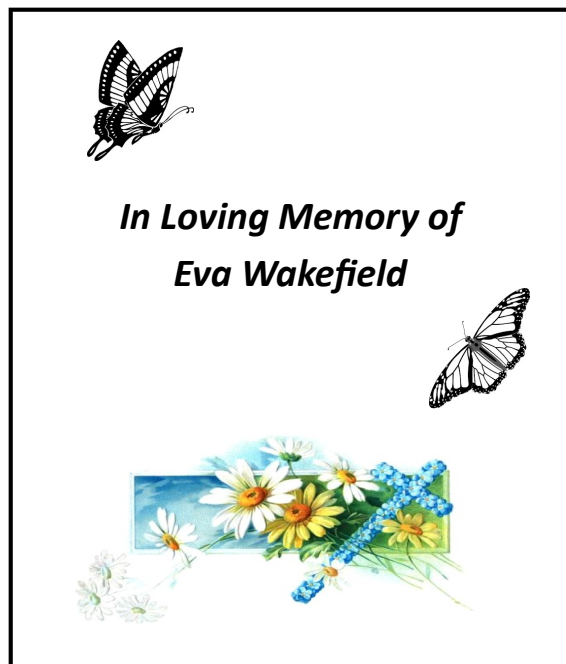
### Notice of Annual Congregational Meeting

To All Members of the Tabernacle Baptist Church of Utica, notice is hereby given that the Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on January 29, 2016 immediately following the Annual Corporate Meeting, for the purpose of:

- Electing Officers and successors to those members of the Ministry Teams whose terms of Office expire.
- Conducting such other business that may properly come before the body.

Utica, New York  
January 1, 2017

Michael Dunne  
Moderator





***January Services, Meetings, Special Events and Deadlines***

<i>Piano Lessons</i>	<i>Saturdays, at 8:30 a.m.</i>
<i>Violin I Lessons</i>	<i>Saturdays, at 3:20 p.m.</i>
<i>Youth Meeting</i>	<i>Saturdays, at 6:00 p.m.</i>
<i>Violin II Lessons</i>	<i>Saturdays, at 6:00 p.m.</i>
<i>Karen Choir Practice</i>	<i>Saturdays, at 4:00 p.m.</i>
<i>Karen Language Class</i>	<i>Saturdays, at 4:00 p.m.</i>
<i>Chancel Choir</i>	<i>Sundays, at 9:00 a.m., except 1/1</i>
<i>Trumpet Practice</i>	<i>Sundays, at 11:30 a.m., except 1/1</i>
<i>New Year's Day Service</i>	<i>Sunday, January 1, 10:00 a.m.</i>
<i>Office Closed</i>	<i>January 2</i>
<i>Blanket Sunday</i>	<i>January 8</i>
<i>Deadline for Annual Reports</i>	<i>Sunday, January 8</i>
<i>Ministry Coordinating Council Meeting</i>	<i>Sunday, January 8, 12:30 p.m.</i>
<i>Circle 16 Bandage Making</i>	<i>Monday, January 9, 10:00 a.m.</i>
<i>Mohawk Valley Christian Women Meeting</i>	<i>Tuesday, January 10, 9:30 a.m.</i>
<i>Utica Karen New Year Celebration at MVCC Event Center</i>	<i>Saturday, January 14</i>
<i>February Visitor Submission Deadline</i>	<i>Sunday, January 15</i>
<i>Farewell Luncheon for Pastor Mark</i>	<i>Sunday, January 15, after the English Service.</i>
<i>Office Closed for Martin Luther King Day</i>	<i>Monday, January 16</i>
<i>Karen Bible Study</i>	<i>Saturday, January 21</i>
<i>Annual Meetings</i>	<i>Sunday, January 29</i>



Do you have any information regarding yourself or your family members that you would like to share with Tabernacle friends and members in the Visitor? Please let the church office know by calling Tammy, Mon. – Thurs., 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at 735-7534, or emailing [churchoffice@tbcutica.org](mailto:churchoffice@tbcutica.org).



# JANUARY BIRTHDAYS



Saw Kar 1/1  
 Bu Kler 1/1  
 Lay Kler 1/1  
 Eh Htoo Law 1/1  
 Kaw Lay 1/1  
 Tamla Htoo Lea 1/1  
 Ehler Sa Lu 1/1  
 Ehpleh Lu 1/1  
 Heh Tha Lu 1/1  
 Naw Dwe Lu 1/1  
 Lay May 1/1  
 Pee Mee 1/1  
 Mu Mu Meh 1/1  
 Eh Moo 1/1  
 Eh Kaw Moo 1/1  
 Mulah Mulah 1/1  
 Light Na 1/1  
 Saw Na 1/1  
 Bo Kyet 1/1  
 Tin Aye 1/1  
 Win Ban 1/1  
 Bi Bi 1/1  
 Thi Bway 1/1  
 Di Di 1/1  
 Saw Thaw Gay 1/1



Dah Gwae 1/1  
 Pa Hai 1/1  
 Tay Heh 1/1  
 Kaw Paw Htee 1/1  
 Htoo Htoo 1/1  
 Rayni Htoo 1/1  
 Ta K'Taw 1/1  
 Gay Paw 1/1  
 Hser Lah Paw 1/1  
 Khee Lar Paw 1/1  
 Lah Ku Paw 1/1  
 Naw Pay 1/1  
 Lah Kah Phaw 1/1  
 Pi Pi 1/1  
 Baw Po 1/1  
 Gracy Po 1/1  
 Da Poe 1/1  
 Ba Rar 1/1  
 Ka Baw Say 1/1  
 Aung Tun Sein 1/1  
 Su Shae 1/1  
 Eh Soe 1/1  
 Htoo Thaw 1/1  
 That U 1/1  
 Herme Linda Lawrence 1/3

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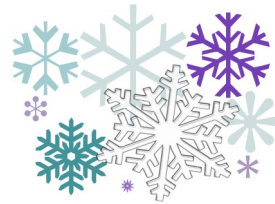




# JANUARY BIRTHDAYS



Isabella Moo 1/3  
 Eh Paw Na 1/3  
 Ser Lay Paw 1/3  
 Wella Ban 1/4  
 Thomas Watkins 1/5  
 Yee Yee Aye 1/6  
 Daniel Beal 1/8  
 Christine Caruana 1/8  
 Htoo Lay Moo 1/9  
 Glo Na Wah 1/9  
 Kali Shee Moo 1/10  
 Hon Moon 1/10  
 Eh Taw Nee 1/10  
 Alan O'Brien 1/10  
 Thea Da Muint 1/12  
 Say Wah Htoo 1/12  
 Eh Blur Wah Win 1/14  
 Darryl Htoo 1/15  
 New Year Htoo 1/15  
 Evelyn Sheen 1/17  
 Thein Than Soe 1/17



Jeason Aung 1/17  
 Carolyn Dalton 1/17  
 Jerry Htoo 1/18  
 Brando Sancrown 1/20  
 Dah Nyunt 1/22  
 Carol Green 1/25  
 Christ Abell 1/26  
 Diane Olivadese 1/26  
 Johnnay Calvin San 1/26  
 Gedeon Win 1/27  
 Thu Lay Paw 1/27  
 Hkee La 1/28  
 Paw Bluet Ser 1/28  
 Paw Ta Shu Wah 1/28  
 Dar Ler Day 1/29  
 That Lo Paw 1/29  
 Caphis Baw 1/30  
 Pur Lun 1/31  
 Paw Ehlar Thart 1/31





**Tabernacle Baptist Church**  
13 Clark Place  
Utica, New York 13501

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january



**Tabernacle Baptist Church  
Sunday Worship**

7:00 a.m. Karen Prayer Service  
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*

**TABERNACLE BAPTIST CHURCH**

Rev. Dr. Mark S. Caruana	Pastor
Rev. Daniel Calvin San	Associate Pastor
Rev. Dr. James V. Davison	Pastor Emeritus
Karen Dunne	Minister of Christian Ed.
Michael W. Moore	Minister of Music
Say Wah Htoo	Christian Ed. Associate
Tammy Daly	Administrative Secretary
David White	Sexton
Lewis Olivadese	Assistant Sexton
Michael Dunne	Assistant Sexton

**CONTACTS**

Mail	13 Clark Place, Utica, NY 13501
Telephone	315-735-7534
Fax	315-734-9030
Pastor's e-mail	<a href="mailto:pastor@tbcutica.org">pastor@tbcutica.org</a>
Office e-mail	<a href="mailto:churchoffice@tbcutica.org">churchoffice@tbcutica.org</a>
Website	<a href="http://www.tbcutica.org">www.tbcutica.org</a>

**The Pastor is just  
a phone call away**

Pastor Mark can be reached by calling him at the church office (735-7534) or at his home (733-4112). Answering machines are at both numbers to take your message when he is unable to personally answer. Please call him when you, or a family member, are anticipating hospitalization, in times of crisis, when you need someone with whom to talk and pray, when a wedding is being planned, or when there is a celebration to be shared. He will also be happy to arrange a convenient time for you to visit with him in his office or in your home. *Remember, the Pastor welcomes your call!*