

# The Visitor



It can sound quite morbid: “Remember you are dust and to dust you shall return.” It comes at the end of Genesis 3:19—the end of God’s pronouncements against the man and woman and serpent in the Garden of Eden. While sometimes interpreted to mean that mortality is a result of sin, few people over 40-years-old would affirm that human bodies were created to last forever.

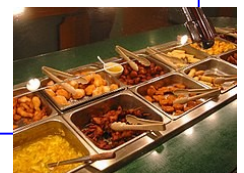
Perhaps you have taken part in an Ash Wednesday service. If so, you know that, in the traditional service, the one imposing ashes on those who come forward says “Remember you are dust and to dust you shall return” while making the sign of the cross with the ashes on people’s foreheads. Too bad the cross usually comes out as a smudge! We run into friends who’ve already attended such a service, and, depending on where our friends spend most of their days (a greenhouse or an office), we mistake the ash for dirt or printer ink. We motion toward our foreheads and say an awkward “You have some...”, and then, on our sharper Ash Wednesdays, our ecumenical memory functions. We continue with an “Ah-uh...” and we pretend we have an itch or we quickly cross of our arms and blink several times as if our hand just got away from us for a second.

How do we come away from such an “in-our-face, on-their-face” reminder of our earthiness? Some people will eat fish every Friday. Some people will give up something they enjoy for Lent. We Baptists hit our favorite fish fries, at the least. At our best, we take a moment to recognize our bodies for the wonderful earthen vessels they are. We mark each of the 40 days of Lent as a gift in which to explore the mystery of the Divine One’s entry into human history. We look toward Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday and open ourselves to the working of the Spirit in our hearts, like the earth yields to the farmer’s implement as it turns the earth to prepare for spring planting.

Remember you are dust and to dust you will return. It doesn’t have to be a downer! God has invested in human history an eternal melody. You write and sing or tap out your verse with the way you walk each day. Embrace your dustiness! You don’t have to prove your worth! Let go of worry about tomorrow! You came from dust and yet your Maker is making a beautiful work in which you have a part. Let’s co-create something beautiful from this dusty density! As we dusty disciples travel the Lenten road, may this be our prayer:

Gracious God,  
out of your love and mercy  
you breathed into dust the breath of life,  
creating us to serve you and neighbors.  
Call forth our prayers and acts of tenderness,  
and strengthen us to face our mortality,  
that we may reach with confidence for your mercy;  
in Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever. Amen.\*

**Don’t Miss It!**  
**March 29th**  
**5th Sunday Fellowship Luncheon**  
provided by the Karen Women.  
Questions & Answers on Karen &  
U.S. Culture afterward to  
enrich our  
fellowship.



*Abbi*

\*From the Book of Common Worship (Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and Evangelical Lutheran Worship (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America)

# America for CHRIST OFFERING 2020

Impacting and Transforming Lives Across America and Puerto Rico:  
The Love Thy Neighbor Campaign

[www.abhms.org/afc](http://www.abhms.org/afc)

What does the U.S. Travel Ban 3.0 mean? It was all in English, but trying to understand its left me perplexed.

Does it affect refugees from Burma in camps in Thailand? Does it prevent us from bringing pastors from Burma to teach this summer, as is TBC's custom? Can people still bring their elderly relatives to the U.S. if they will support them financially?

I knew we have a resource person: I called TBC's friend Rev. Florence Li, American Baptist Home Mission Society (ABHMS) National Coordinator for Asian Ministries. As I expected, Rev. Li had her ear to the ground and had already had a conference call with Church World Service. She was already networking with key ethnic convention pastoral leaders to get translations of the new law available for people like our Karen members. She was already able to tell me "The ban won't effect people coming on temporary religious visas. The ban will effect family reunification cases not in the pipeline prior to the Feb. 21, 2020, deadline."

Yes, the ban is about an international situation, and ABC-USA International Ministries and ABC-USA Office of the General Secretary are active in advocating with our government for changes in the law and better treatment of our brothers and sisters in their home country so that they don't need to come to the U.S. But, because our brothers and sisters, American Baptists from Burma who are here in the U.S., are heavy-hearted about the effects of this ban on their families, we are heavy-hearted, too. And, ABHMS is serving us all through Rev. Li's coordination of the Burma Refugee Commission's work and advocacy.

Needless to say, this is just 1 example of the many situations our America for Christ Offering helps address. But, this one hits home for us at Tabernacle!

We remember Jesus' command to love our neighbor as ourselves. Will you give generously this year to the America for Christ Offering so that these who are our neighbors and fellow members can see the important work of Rev. Li and others like her continue?

Thank you for your gift!

Sincerely,



Pastor Debbie



Pastor Daniel

## St. Patrick's Day

Our annual St. Patrick's Day event will take place at the DeSales Center Auditorium on Saturday, March 14th from 8:30 am to 1pm. We are right on the parade route and have a warm place to view the parade, great food and baked goods at affordable prices, shamrock shakes and Karen/Burmese food. There are free activities for the kids and the delightful Irish dance performances by the Butler-Sheehan and Johnson Schools to top off the morning. Hope to see you at 309 Genesee Street for the festivities. Proceeds from the event benefit the children in Thea Bowman House programs. Call 315 797-0748 for more information.

# FILE YOUR TAXES FOR FREE!

**FREE one-on-one tax prep by a Certified Tax Preparer  
Receive 100% of your refund quickly and easily**

If you live in Oneida or Herkimer County and your total household income is \$54,000 or less, trained volunteers will prepare and electronically file your taxes for FREE, and determine if you qualify for special tax credits that increase your return to help you keep more of what you earned!

**FEBRUARY 1, 2018 TO APRIL 17, 2018**  
Please call to schedule your appointment!

To schedule an appointment in Utica at RCIL Supersite or the Mohawk Tax Site call 315-272-1888 or email [eitc@rcil.com](mailto:eitc@rcil.com)

To schedule an appointment at Mohawk Valley Resource Center for Refugees call 315-738-1083

To schedule an appointment in Rome at Mohawk Valley Community Action Agency call 315-624-9930

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**ASSET-BUILDING  
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AFT's of Promoting Financial Security for Families

**RCIL**  
RESOURCE CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING

**United Way**  
United Way  
of the Valley and  
Greater Utica Area

Special thanks to our volunteers and the following Mohawk Valley Asset Building Coalition members:

**MYVCC**  
Mohawk Valley  
Community Center

**BerkshireBank**  
BerkshireBank  
Member FDIC

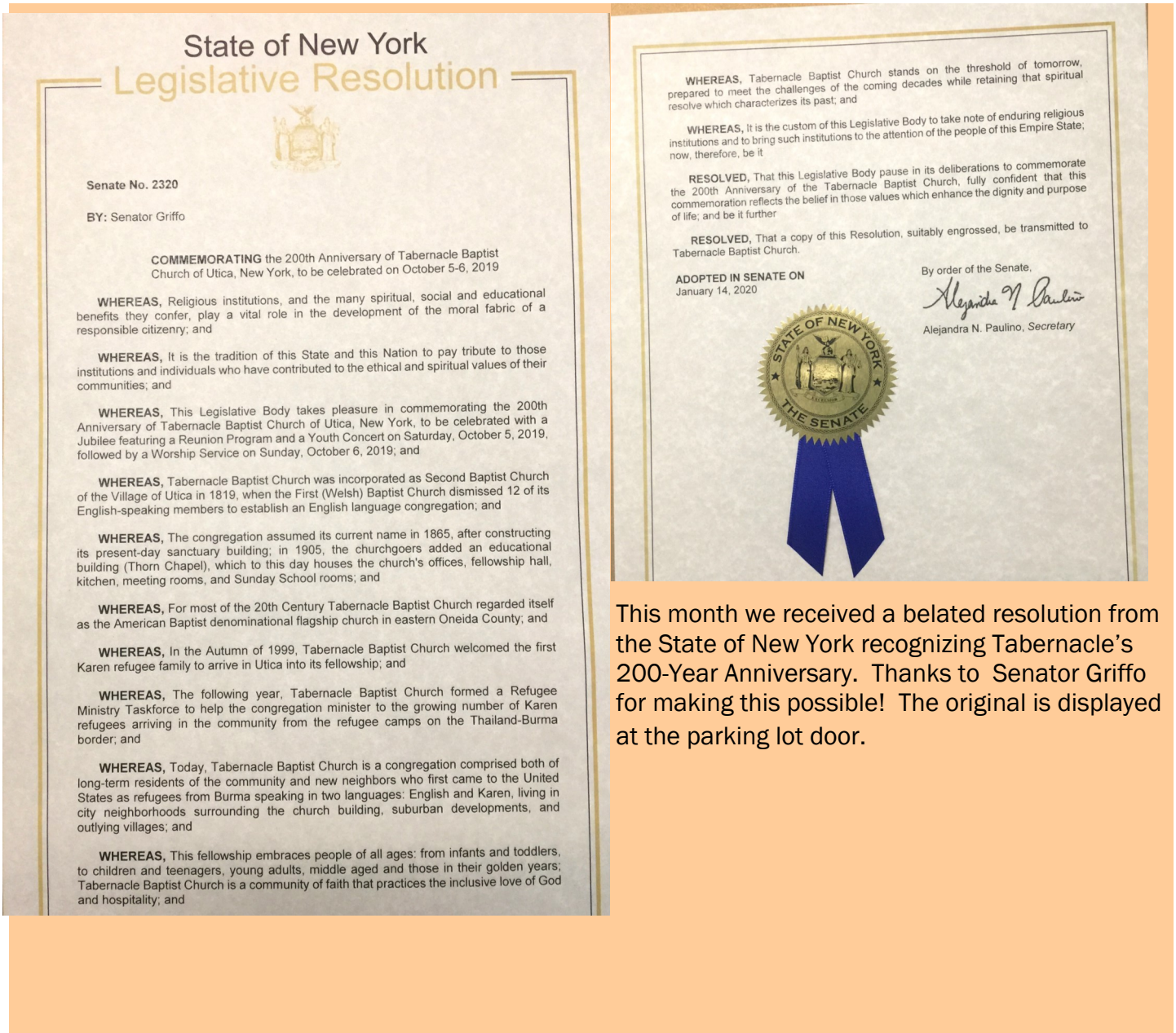
**Hamilton  
THE LIBRARY**

**IRS**  
Internal Revenue Service

**MVRC** MOHAWK VALLEY RESOURCE CENTER  
Department of  
Taxes and Finance  
**ACCESS VNY**  
Vocational Network  
of the Mohawk Valley



Sunday, March 8, we will participate in the **World Day of Prayer for people in Burma**. Please wear red, white, and/or blue as a sign of our concern for our brothers and sisters who are suffering—especially those displaced in recent military raids.



This month we received a belated resolution from the State of New York recognizing Tabernacle's 200-Year Anniversary. Thanks to Senator Griffo for making this possible! The original is displayed at the parking lot door.

Phase 2 Update: Thus far, snow on the roof over the sanctuary side aisles has kept the architect from collecting the final data necessary for completion of his drawings. But, we don't lose heart! Spring is coming! Documents that were required in preparation for the contract with NY State have been submitted. Onward and upward!

The Restoration & Preservation Committee

Plans are in the works and the excitement is building...

Make plans & Save the Date

April 24-26, 2020

## Convention 2020

American Baptist  
**Women's**  
MINISTRIES

NYS

American Baptist  
**G.I.R.L.S**  
Girls In Relationship, Leadership & Service



*Sisters Seeking Wholeness*

2 CORINTHIANS 5:17-21

**RIT Inn & Conference Center  
Rochester, NY**

If you are interested, please contact the church office (315) 735-7534. All completed forms & payments must be submitted by **Sunday, March 15**. See Khinsoe or Gwen Deragon for more information.

**The Deadline to submit an article for the April Visitor is  
Sunday, March 22.**

**Maundy Thursday Potluck and Service  
Thursday, April 9  
Meal—6 PM  
Service—6:45 PM**



### Easter Lilies and Tulips Order Form

Each year on Easter, our church is decorated with tulips and lilies usually given as memorials. To order a plant in memory of a loved one, please place the completed form & payment in the offering plate or the marked envelope in the church office *by Sunday, March 22. The cost is \$9.50 per plant. Checks should be made payable to "Tabernacle Baptist Church".*

I enclose \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for # of White Lilies \_\_\_\_\_  
# of Yellow Tulips \_\_\_\_\_ # of Pink Tulips \_\_\_\_\_

Flowers Given In Loving Memory of

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Given by: *(Your name and phone)*

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*Check one:*

- I will take my plant(s) after the Easter Sunday services.
- My plant(s) may be given to a shut-in after the Easter services.
- I am willing to deliver plants to shut-ins.

### Tuscarora Partnership Project July 5-11, 2020



American Baptist Churches of New York State is excited to offer a new mission partnership in 2020! You can stay for the full time or go for part of the trip. There will be tasks for those who like to work with their hands (painting, odd jobs, etc.) in the church's Helping Hands Ministry to their neighbors and to help with Vacation Bible School. For more info: <http://www.abc-nys.org/tuscarora-2020.html>

### St. David's Day

March 1<sup>st</sup> is when Welsh people celebrate the birth of their patron saint, St. David. As Tabernacle was founded by people from Wales, and hosted the Welsh Hymn Sing this past October, we are sharing this information.

***Services, Meetings, Special Events and Deadlines ~ March2 020***

<i>Women's Worship Service</i>	<i>Wednesdays, 4:30 p.m.</i>
<i>Karen School</i>	<i>Saturdays, 1:00 p.m.</i>
<i>Karen Choir Practice</i>	<i>Saturdays, 4:00 p.m.</i>
<i>Adult and Youth Praise &amp; Worship, Bible Study and Song Practice</i>	<i>Saturdays, 5:00 p.m.</i>
<i>English Worship Service and Sunday School</i>	<i>Sundays, 10:00 a.m.</i>
<i>Karen Worship Service and English Sunday School</i>	<i>Sundays, 11:15 a.m.</i>
<i>Second Hour Sunday School</i>	<i>Sundays, 11:15 a.m.</i>
<i>Sunday School Teachers' and Assistants' Communion Service</i>	<i>March 1, 9:15 a.m.</i>
<i>Communion Sunday</i>	<i>March 1</i>
<i>Stewardship Ministry Team Meeting</i>	<i>Sunday, March 8, 12:30 p.m.</i>
<i>Caring Corner</i>	<i>Saturday, March 14, 10:00 a.m.</i>
<i>Worship &amp; Witness Ministry Team</i>	<i>Sunday, March 15, 12:30</i>
<i>Faith Nurturing Team Meeting</i>	<i>Sunday, March 22, 12:30 p.m.</i>
<i>Ministry Coordinating Council Meeting</i>	<i>Sunday, March 29, 12:30 p.m.</i>



Silver Moo	3/1	Gilbert Baw	3/6	Wendy Levitt	3/17
Say Ka Paw	3/1	Naw Be Be	3/6	Lanetta Soe	3/17
Karin Reiss	3/1	Simon Win	3/7	Sha Khu	3/18
Deborah Thein	3/1	Enola Dickson	3/8	Moona Sayrose	3/18
Joan Baum	3/1	Keller Nyunt	3/8	Kel Wah	3/20
D. Ardelle Tuckerman	3/2	David Tomidy	3/10	Mu Paw	3/21
Dah Bu	3/2	Ma Aye	3/10	Anthony Jackson	3/21
Mu Dor May	3/2	Saw Eh Lau La Lu Lu	3/10	True Win	3/24
Tha Aye	3/3	Love Gay Moo	3/10	Sunday Htoo	3/24
Phyozaw Htun	3/3	Magadalei Gyi	3/11	La Ehe	3/25
Dah Pyu Nyunt	3/3	Psau Paw	3/12	Victorious Htoo	3/26
Olive San	3/4	Kpru Taw	3/13	Mark Caruana	3/27
Lay Lay Mar	3/5	Lah Ser C Marvel	3/14	Robert Bause Jr.	3/29
Ser Eh Neeey	3/5	Donald S. Baum Jr.	3/15	Maria Htoo	3/29
Say Kwai Paw	3/5	Addison Green	3/16	Ernest Bates Jr.	3/30
				Savior Wah	3/30





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

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*March*



**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**

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