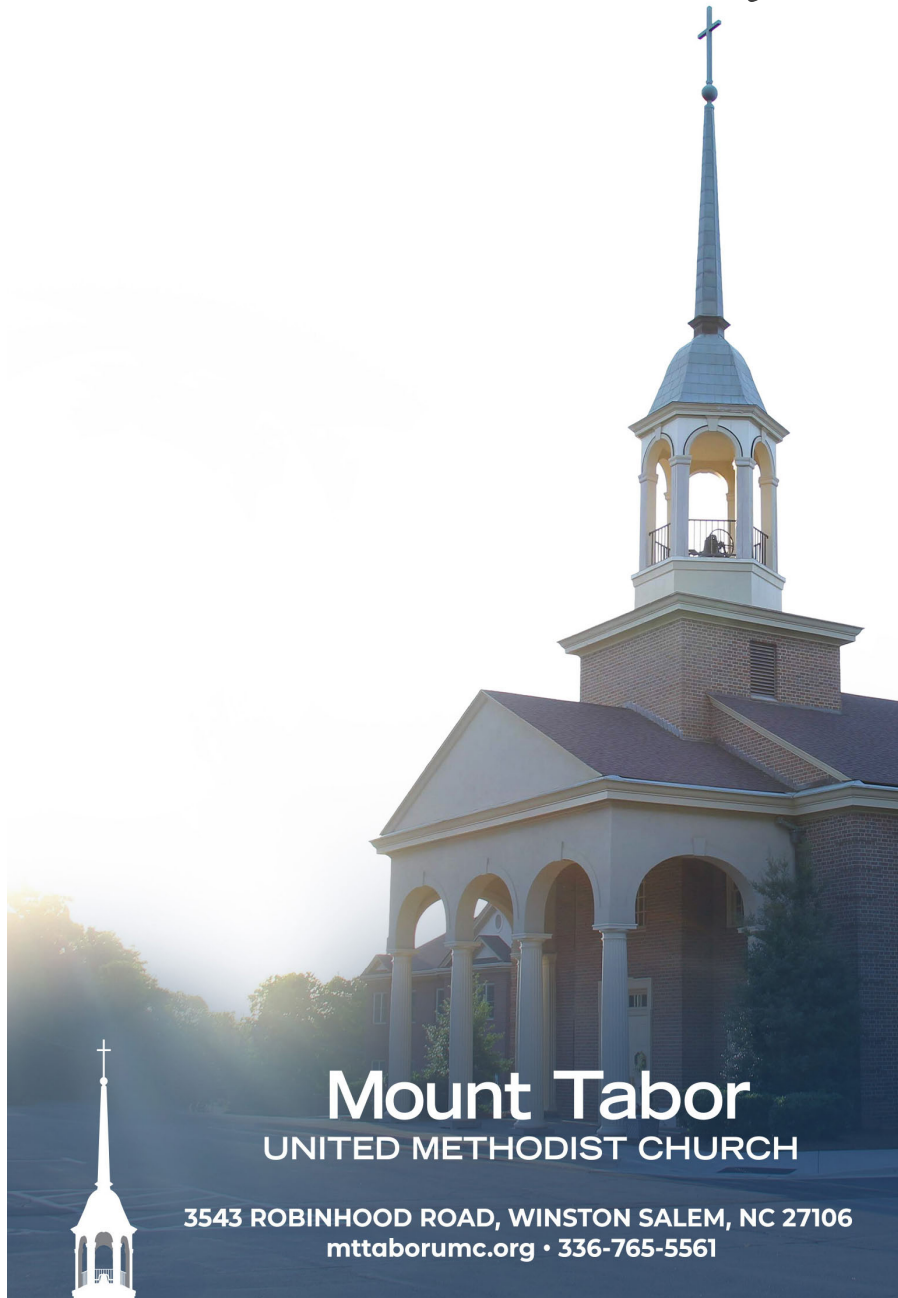


March 30, 2025

*An All Too
Familiar Story*



Mount Tabor
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

3543 ROBINHOOD ROAD, WINSTON SALEM, NC 27106
mttaborumc.org • 336-765-5561

Traditional Order of Worship
4th Sunday in Lent
Sunday, March 30, 2025 — 11:00am

Hearing enhancement devices and large print bulletins are available in the Narthex.

Prelude *The Glory of These Forty Days* Gerald Near

Welcome Bob McHone

New Member Recognition Pastor David Beam

Introit *My Song Is Love Unknown* LOVE UNKNOWN

*** Call to Worship (Psalm 63)**

Come, let us celebrate the forgiving, reconciling love of God.

For once we were lost and felt so far away; now we have been found and welcomed home.

Know that God's love is lavished upon you forever.

We rejoice at the news of forgiveness and hope!

Come, let us celebrate and praise the God of Love.

Let us open our hearts to the peace and joy of God. Amen.

*** Hymn # 384** *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling* BEECHER

*** Affirmation of Faith # 881** *The Apostles' Creed*

*** Prayer of Confession**

Lord, it is easy for us to identify with today's scripture about the "Prodigal Son." Some of us are reminded of our own selfishness and stubbornness when we willfully sought our own way. Some are reminded about how angry we were when others were not held accountable for their actions. Still others can identify with the father who welcomes his son home again. We are no different from the characters in this story; and in God's infinite love, we are forgiven and healed just as they were. We are called to turn our lives back to God's care, which is always extended to us. Forgive us and heal us, gracious God. Open our hearts and our spirits to truly receive the blessings of your healing love. For it is in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ, that we pray. Amen.

*** Gloria Patri # 71** *Glory Be to the Father* GREATOREX

*** Assurance and Time of Greeting** Pastor David Beam

Children (3 years old-5th grades) may leave to participate in TaborKids Worship today. Parents will pick them up in the Children's Building immediately following the service.

Pastoral Prayer and The Lord's Prayer

Anthem *Beneath the Cross of Jesus* arr. Benjamin Harlan

Sharing of Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory *Rescue* Lauren Daigle
Liturgical Dance Team

*** Doxology # 95** *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow* OLD 100th

Scripture Luke 15:1-3; 11-32 (NRSV) Pastor David Beam

Message "An All Too Familiar Story"

*** Hymn # 368** *The King of Love My Shepherd Is* ST. COLUMBIA

*** Benediction** Pastor David Beam

*** Benediction Response** *Lead Me, Lord* LEAD ME, LORD

*** Chiming of the Trinity**

Postlude *Toccata on PICARDY* arr. Gordon Young

**Please stand in body or in spirit*

WORSHIP LEADERS

Senior Pastor: Rev. David Beam
Liturgist: Bob McHone
Acolyte: Lilly & Hallie Long

Dir. of Traditional Worship Arts: Lauren Harris
Organist: Jessica Beitel

Modern Worship
Sunday, March 30, 2025
9:00am

Gathering Song
— *Everlasting God* — Chris Tomlin

**Welcome, Announcements, New Member
Recognition, and Baptism Covenant**

Call to Worship

Praise and Worship
— *Lead On Good Shepherd* — Patrick Mayberry

TaborKIDS Dismissal

Ryan Shoaf Summer Grant Presentation

Congregational & Offertory Prayer

Offertory
— *Forgiven* — Crowder

Scripture
Luke 15:1-3; 11-32 (NRSV)

Today's Message
“An All Too Familiar Story”

Closing Song
— *I Don't Have Much* — Mission House

Sending Forth

Today's Worship Leaders
Senior Pastor: Rev. David Beam
Modern Worship Coordinator: Jim Annas
Worship Host: Wende Rogers
Prayer Leader: Will Busch

WELCOME TO MOUNT TABOR UMC

Welcome to Mount Tabor and please feel at home! If you are a first-time guest, **text the word "Hello" to 336-777-7990**. Also stop by the Trinity Welcome Center Desk or a Welcome Kiosk on your way out to receive a welcome gift. The mission of Mount Tabor UMC is to “Gather Joyfully, Grow Spiritually, Go Faithfully to spread the love of Christ.” **If you would like to explore ways to Gather, Grow, Go, text "Connect" to 336-777-7990**. Prayer requests can be submitted at www.mttaborumc.org/prayer or by contacting Director of Congregational Care & Spiritual Formation Kim Harvey (336-765-5561 or kim.harvey@mttaborumc.org).

GENERAL INFORMATION

Nursery care and Mother’s Room are available for all services. Children interested in participating in TaborKIDS worship may leave the service at the appropriate time. Wheelchairs are available for use while on church property and the church offices are open Mon.-Fri., 9am-NOON and Mon.-Thurs., 1-5pm. See the church website at www.mttaborumc.org for more info.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Submit announcement info at least two weeks in advance to charity.goff@mttaborumc.org.

GATHER JOYFULLY

- * **You can worship at MTUMC** on Sundays at: Modern Worship at 9:00am in the Alspaugh Worship Center or Traditional Worship at 11:00am in the Sanctuary. Both services are also available via Facebook Live and <https://www.YouTube.com/MountTaborUMCVideoStreaming>.
- * **Please remember that this is a meaningful and important moment of worship. In the spirit of this special time with our Lord, we ask that you silence and put away all electronic devices during our worship services.**

GROW SPIRITUALLY & GO FAITHFULLY

- * **Wednesday Tabor Table Fellowship Dinner will meet Wednesday, April 2** from 5:15-6:30pm in the Family Life Center with reservations made either at <https://www.mttaborumc.org/tabor-table> or in the Trinity Welcome Center. Suggested donation is \$10 for adult (age 13 and up), \$7 for child (age 3-12), free for children under 3. For those living in same home, family max is \$30. The menu is: Taco Salad (Beef or Chicken), Black Beans, Refried Beans, Rice, Queso, Salad Bar, Desserts, and Drinks. Children’s option is: Quesadillas.
- * **TaborKIDS Junior** friends that are 2 & 3 years old are invited to Hide & Seek with Jesus: a special Holy Week experience on April 2 from 6-7:15 PM.
- * **Moms Fellowship** meets the first Thursday of each month (April 3) from 9:15 - 10:30am in the Fellowship Hall. This is a time for mothers of young children to meet for a heartfelt prayer, a short devotion with discussion, and fellowship. Childcare will be provided with registration done by 5 PM the night before the meeting. Register here: bit.ly/mtmomfellowship Questions? Contact Sandy Hauser SandyLHauser@gmail.com
- * **Our Methodist Men's Breakfast** will take place on Sunday, April 6 in the Fellowship Hall at 7:30am. All men of Mount Tabor are invited to join us!
- * **Families are invited to the Easter Egg Hunt** on Sunday, April 6 from 12:15-2:00pm. Check in for the Egg Hunt will be in the lower parking lot at the tent. Families should bring a picnic lunch or one prepared by Ms. Sheri. Lunches will be ready at 12:15 PM for pick up from the Fellowship Hall. Register for lunch here: bit.ly/mteggghunt25

- * **Women's Day Away**, "Finding and Practicing Peace Along the Path" will be held on Saturday, April 12th, 9:30 - 3:30 pm at Starrette Farm in Statesville with speaker, Ann Starrette. Cost is \$25 which includes materials and lunch. Registration forms can be found in the Welcome Center, Sanctuary Narthex, Church Office or online at www.mounttaborumc.org
- * **TaborKIDS Junior** friends that are 4 years old - Kindergarten are invited to experience the **Last Supper and the events of Holy Week on Wednesday, April 9 5:45-7:15pm**. Children should eat dinner prior to the event. They will have some snacks as part of the event but not a full meal. Register here: bit.ly/tkjrlastsupper25
- * **On Wednesday, April 9 at 6:30pm** you are welcome to join us for our quarterly Church Council & Charge Conference meeting in the Fellowship Hall. Everyone is invited to join us but only current Church Council members will be able to vote on any action items that may be brought up for a vote.
- * **TaborKIDS (1st - 5th Grades) are invited to make Resurrection Gardens** on Wednesday, April 9 from 6-7:15pm. Register here: bit.ly/tkresgarden
- * **All Children are invited to wave palms and participate in the Palm Sunday Processional on Sunday, April 13** during the Traditional Service. We will practice during Sunday School and remain in our small groups until it is time for the Processional during the service.
- * **TaborTWEENS (4th 5th Graders) are invited to the movies with Ms. Marcey on April 13 at 3:15pm!** We will be seeing King of Kings, an animated film about the King of Kings released by Angel Studios. Register here: bit.ly/tabortweenmovies
- * **Our church-wide study for Lent is, "The Hardest Part"** by Kate Bowler. Everyone is invited to participate in individual or group study. Wednesday Night Gatherings are held from 6:00 -7:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall and also via zoom, through April 16 led by Pastor David and Kim Harvey. Study guides are available at the Welcome Center Desk, in the Sanctuary Narthex, and the Church Office. Contact Kim Harvey at kim.harvey@mttaborumc.org for questions or the zoom link. Spiritual Disciplines for Lent packets are also available in the Sanctuary Narthex, Welcome Center Desk, and Church Office.
- * **Wednesday Women's Bible Study** will study the Gospel of Luke on Wednesdays through May 14 at 9:30 am in the Fellowship Hall and also via Zoom. There is nothing to purchase, just bring a Bible. For questions or the zoom link, contact Kim Harvey at kim.harvey@mttaborumc.org or 336-765-5561.
- * **Registration is now open for kids and volunteers for VBS June 16-19!** All are invited to join the fun at VBS camp where kids (and volunteers!) will "wannastay" all summer! Register here: <https://vbspro.events/p/91a6e7>
- * **Pictorial Directory time is here!** It is time to practice your best family smiles, as we prepare to update our Mount Tabor UMC Pictorial Directory. Portrait appointments are available on April 23-26 and May 7-8. Every family is asked to make an appointment for a FREE photo session - and you will each receive a FREE 8x10 and a FREE printed pictorial directory! Sign-up for a portrait session for your family on Sunday mornings in the Welcome Center and outside the children's building, on Wednesday nights during Tabor Table - or online at bit.ly/MTUMCphotos.
- * **NEW MTUMC Online Business Directory!** We are gathering information for a new Online Business Directory where church members can list their businesses for free. Other church members can look here first when they have a need, thus supporting fellow church members - and our businesses can reach new customers! Listings will be gathered during Pictorial Directory photo sessions, or you can use the website link to submit your business information now. bit.ly/MTUMCBusinessDirectory

Mount Tabor at a Glance — Church Calendar

Real-time calendar is available at mttaborumc.org/calendar



Holy Week

at Mount Tabor UMC

The Nursery will be open for infants - kindergarten for each Holy Week service.

April 13 | Palm Sunday
9 AM in the Alspaugh Worship Center
11 AM in the Sanctuary

April 17 | Maundy Thursday
7 PM in the Alspaugh Worship Center

April 18 | Good Friday
7 PM in the Sanctuary

April 20 | Easter Sunday
8 AM in the Sanctuary
9 AM in the Alspaugh Worship Center
11 AM in the Sanctuary

Community Shred Event

Sponsored by Circle 5

Saturday, April 5 | 9 AM – Noon

Lower Parking Lot

Monetary donations will be accepted benefiting food programs serving children in Forsyth County and other missions of Tabor Women.

2025 Farmer Coleclough Concert Series

Elektra Winds

The Triad's Newest Chamber Ensemble

Palm Sunday Concert

Sunday, April 13 at 3 PM

in the Sanctuary

Mount Tabor United Methodist Church
3543 Robinhood Road, Winston-Salem NC 27106

ADMISSION IS FREE

UMCOR SUNDAY

March 30, 2025

Your generous gift today ensures UMCOR responds quickly to disasters.

UMCOR equips local churches, annual conferences and nonprofit organizations to be in mission with their communities, to respond to those left most vulnerable during challenging times. Funds given on UMCOR Sunday join with those of millions of United Methodists to help cover the costs of doing business, from training Conference Disaster Coordinators and Early Response Teams to keeping the office lights on.

Donations accepted payable to Mount Tabor UMC designating "UMCOR Sunday" either online (MtTaborUMC.org/give) or by check in offering plate/basket

Our Response to God's Grace...

BUDGET PLEDGES FOR 2025
as of Jan. 26, 2025

Pledges: 252
for Pledge Total of \$1,318,613

March 23, 2025 ATTENDANCE

Online Worship	101
In-person Worship	443

March 23, 2025 GIVING

Budget Needs Each Week	\$34,811.00
Budget Gifts	\$19,174.17
Sales Tax Refund	\$9,806.82
Event Payments	\$302.00
Other	\$1,872.05
Total	\$31,155.04

Lenten Series: “The Hardest Part”

“An all too familiar story”

The Fourth Sunday in Lent — March 30, 2025

Luke 15:1-3; 11-32 (NRSV)

Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. ² And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “These fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.”³ So he told them this parable:

¹¹ Then Jesus said, “There was a man who had two sons. ¹² The younger of them said to his father, Father, give me the share of the wealth that will belong to me.’ So he divided his assets between them. ¹³ A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant region, and there he squandered his wealth in dissolute living. ¹⁴ When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that region, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵ So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that region, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. ¹⁶ He would gladly have filled his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, and no one gave him anything. ¹⁷ But when he came to his senses he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! ¹⁸ I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.”’ ²⁰ So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. ²¹ Then the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ ²² But the father said to his slaves, ‘Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³ And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate, ²⁴ for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate. ²⁵ “Now his elder son was in the field, and as he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶ He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. ²⁷ He replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf because he has got him back safe and sound.’ ²⁸ Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. ²⁹ But he answered his father, ‘Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command, yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. ³⁰ But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your assets with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!’ ³¹ Then the father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³² But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.’”

Does anything in the parable trouble you?

Do you feel any tension between grace and justice in this story?

Fred Craddock says after hearing this parable, “There is a condition worse than death, to be lost; there is a condition better than life, to be found.” What do you hear?

This is perhaps the most familiar of all of Jesus’ parables. It is commonly called the parable of the prodigal son. How does it affect your hearing to call it the parable of the loving father?

How does the context of Jesus’ telling this story give us insight into its meaning?

What is Jesus telling us through the parable?

With whom do you identify most in the parable?
