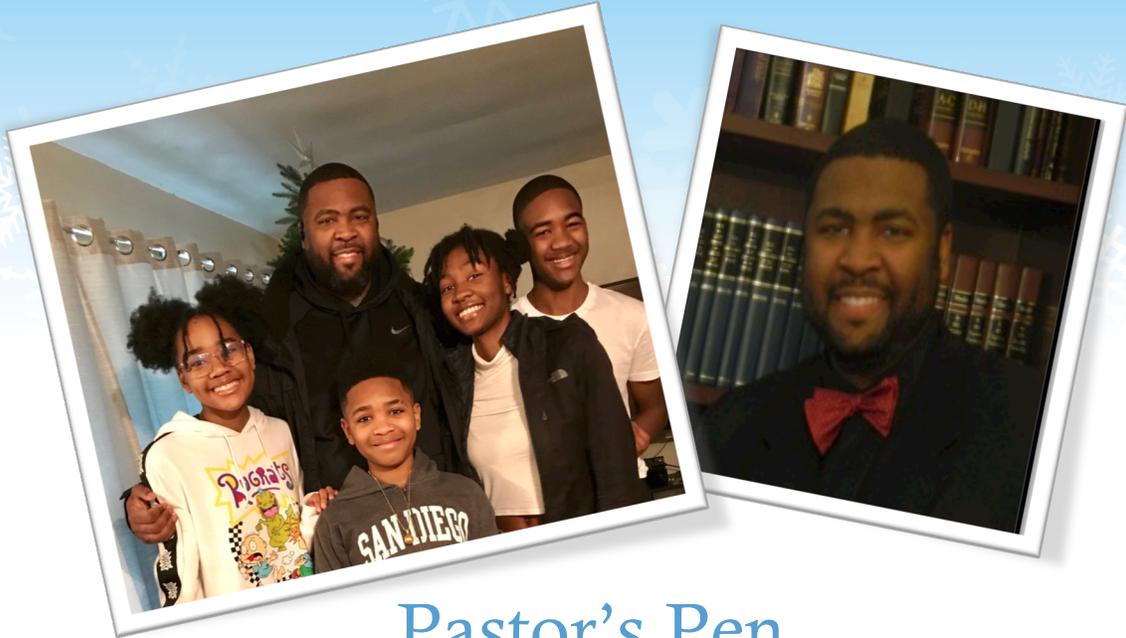


J A N U A R Y 2 0 2 1

The
Tabernacle Times



Pastor's Pen

HAPPY NEW YEARS!!! What a blessing it is to have been graced by God and allowed to enter another year together. As we enter 2021, let each of us keep in mind the fact none of us would be here if it were not for the grace and mercy of God. Let us be mindful that throughout the duration of the year, we will need to continue to rely on the hand of God. May we continue to check in with one another and be the hands and feet of Christ that we were called and created to be.

I'm quite excited about 2021 and what is in store for Tab. Yes, we may have to instill a level of creativity and innovation like never before—even if we haven't been able to gather at the corner of Arlington and Covington Streets since March of 2020. Yet, I will be calling on each of you to assist in these creative opportunities for ministry. Believe it or not, we are all in this together. We have an opportunity to really come together in this season. It is my prayer that we refocus our intentions and efforts on ensuring that God is glorified and Tabernacle is unified.

Grace & Peace,

Rev. Raymond D. Austin, Jr.

Grace To Give

Believe it or not, your giving matters

The great majority of us have no idea how blessed we really are. The idea that God is a constant provider, who ensures that our every need is taken care of can occasionally feel farfetched—especially when we've had our own share of financial difficulties.

Yet, we are all called to do our part in making sure that the Gospel of Jesus Christ goes forth and is prayerfully received by all. In order to fulfill this great mission, it requires that we commit to financially supporting the Church.

While many will argue that the church has no business soliciting funds in the middle of a pandemic—that we ought to be helping more people instead of asking for financial resources. Throughout the course of the pandemic, Tabernacle Baptist Church has depended solely on your obedience, generosity, and faithfulness to ensure that the Gospel of Jesus Christ goes forward—as we simultaneously meet the needs of our community. Without your commitment and financial contribution, none of this would be possible.

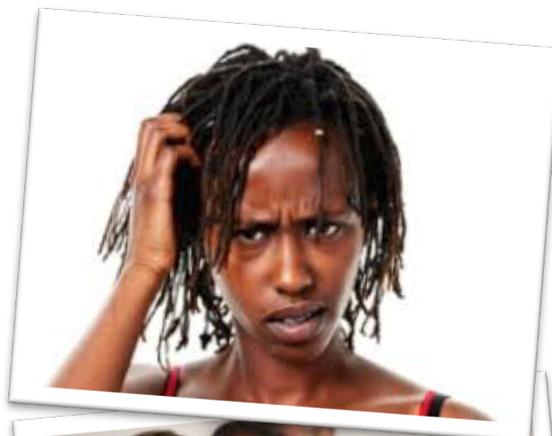
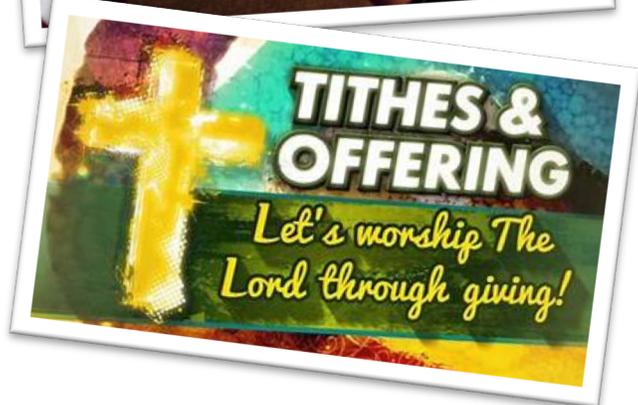
Why give tithes and offerings?

The idea of tithing is biblical and all believers with an income should render a tithe. The word "tithe" literally means "tenth" or 10%. Tithing, or giving ten percent of your income, isn't merely giving something to God. It's giving back what was his to begin with (Lev. 27:30). All that we have, or hope to have, comes from Him.

Throughout the biblical text, there are countless examples of the tithe being the primary means of support regarding the people of God and the expansion of the church. With that said, you are being asked to commit to financially supporting Tabernacle. It is your gift that allows others to experience the unfailing, unconditional, merciful love of God made known through Jesus Christ.

How can I help?

To the tithers—keep tithing! To those that give an offering—keep giving! To the one who doesn't necessarily support the ministry financially, here's another opportunity to join the efforts—as we all commit to sharing the gospel.





Pastor Raymond Austin

The Adjustment

The Difficulties of Pandemic Ministry

By now, the great majority of us has seen the havoc that COVID-19 has wreaked on our families and communities alike. Many of us have seen loved ones and friends infected with the virus. Yet, others have had to plan funerals as their loved one could not be able to overcome the impact of the virus.

Unfortunately, Tabernacle has not been spared either. We've had members that have contracted the virus and been hospitalized. Even, Rev. Austin was infected at one point by the virus. Under normal circumstances—the pastor, associate minister, or one of the deacons might visit members while hospitalized. Yet, the inability to connect personally with our sick and shut-in under these circumstances has certainly been difficult. Nonetheless, we are learning to adjust.

Perhaps the greatest adjustment regarding how we do ministry has come in the form of Sunday morning worship. Since March of 2020, we have started broadcasting our services on multiple social media sites. Initially, this was very much problematic—as the great majority of our congregation at the time were senior citizens without social media accounts.

Nonetheless, the adjustment was imperative if we were going to remain connected and relevant—as shortly thereafter, all public gatherings would be prohibited by state and national governments. Since then, Tabernacle has remained solely on social media as it pertains to our worship gatherings. This decision was met with both praise and major criticism. However, the focus has continued to be on how we keep our members safe.

Shifting to a social media presence and refraining from physically gathering has required a level of dedication, research, and patience like none other. Deacon Perry has had to develop instant cameraman skills and Rev. Austin has become a master producer and audio/visual technician. Most of you do not realize it, but the final production that is viewed and/or listened to every Sunday requires approximately 10-15 additional work hours per week. Of course, this is in addition to normal church obligations. Yet, we endure!

We all have had to make some tremendous sacrifices in order to keep Tab alive and well. A special thanks to each of you—as we are in this together. We all have to make adjustments. *****Please note we welcome all knowledgeable volunteers to the tech team*****

Don't Forget...

The Importance of Prioritizing Family & Youth Ministry

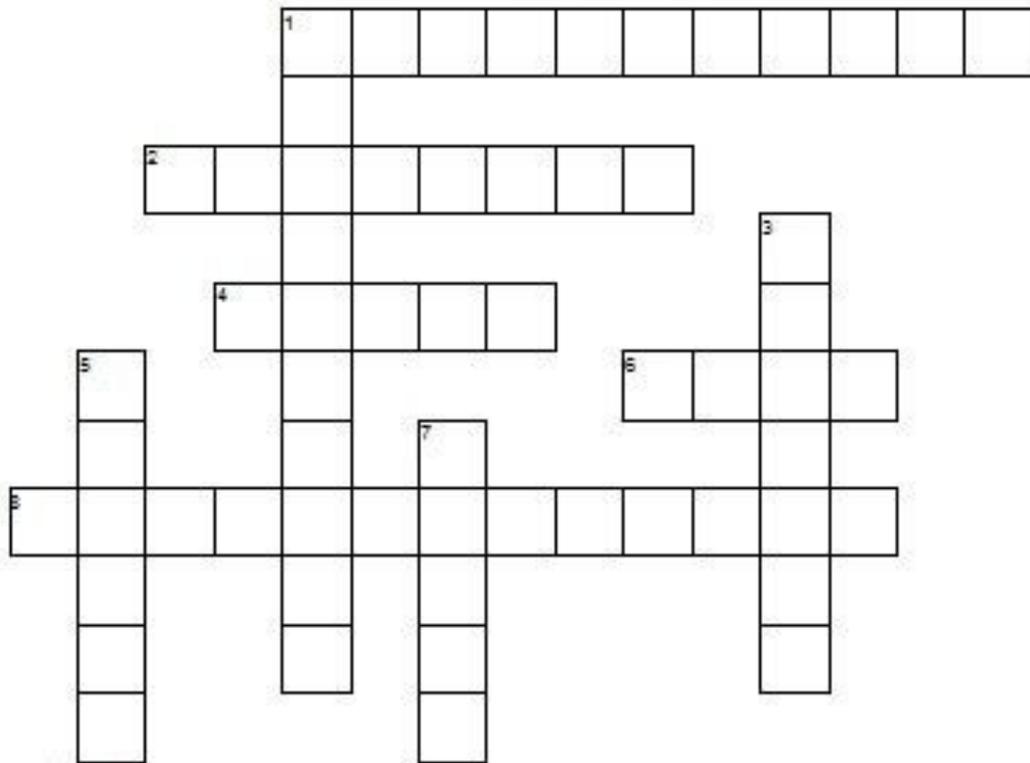
Where did all of the children and families go? Why don't younger families seem to want to be a part of Tabernacle Baptist Church anymore? What can we do to ensure that our church thrives and is prepared to minister effectively to the surrounding community? These are questions that we, along with other churches have been asking all around the world. This is especially true as it pertains to the devastating impact of COVID-19 upon our youth and families.

With the shift from "in-person" worship in March of 2020 to being completely 100% virtual, our youth ministry has definitely struggled to remain engaged with Tabernacle activities and to stay connected. Recently, under the spearheading of Sisters Cynthia Brock and Lynn Britt, our youth were visited and given "care packages" on behalf of Tabernacle Baptist Church. While the token of appreciation was small in gesture—the point was to reassure them that they have not been forgotten.

In the months to come, we will only increase our efforts to reconnect with our youth and families, while creatively reaching out to establish relationships with new youth and families in the area. Tabernacle will begin creating special broadcasts and venues specifically geared toward these efforts. These are exciting times for Tab! Yet, we must begin to engage and prepare for the return to 707 Tabernacle Blvd. with our youth and families as the priority—as they remain a critical piece to what God is doing in this season.



Blessed Beatitudes



www.churchhousepuzzles.com © 2011

ACROSS

- 1 Blessed are the _____: for they shall be called the children of God
- 2 Blessed are the _____: for they shall obtain mercy
- 4 Blessed are the pure in _____:for they shall see God
- 6 Blessed are the _____: for they shall inherit the earth
- 8 Blessed are those that hunger and thirst after _____: for they shall be filled

DOWN

- 1 Blessed are they which are _____ for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven
- 3 _____ are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.
- 5 Blessed are the poor in _____: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven
- 7 Blessed are they that _____: for they shall be comforted

Daily Scripture Readings

| | | | |
|-----------|-----------------|-----------|-------------------|
| 1/4/2021 | Deut. 8:1-11 | 1/18/2021 | Isaiah 57:14-21 |
| 1/5/2021 | Lev. 25:8-17 | 1/19/2021 | 1 Pet. 2:18-25 |
| 1/6/2021 | 1 Kings 17:8-16 | 1/20/2021 | Matt. 15:21-28 |
| 1/7/2021 | 2 Kings 5:1-14 | 1/21/2021 | James 5:13-16 |
| 1/8/2021 | Luke 4:1-13 | 1/22/2021 | Mark 5:21-34 |
| 1/9/2021 | Luke 4:23-30 | 1/23/2021 | Mark 2:13-17 |
| 1/10/2021 | Luke 4:14-22 | 1/24/2021 | Mark 2:1-12 |
| 1/11/2021 | Exodus 3:1-12 | 1/25/2021 | Acts 12:5-11 |
| 1/12/2021 | Judges 6:11-16 | 1/26/2021 | Romans 15:22-33 |
| 1/13/2021 | Isaiah 6:1-8 | 1/27/2021 | Ephesians 3:14-21 |
| 1/14/2021 | Luke 9:57-62 | 1/28/2021 | Matthew 6:7-13 |
| 1/15/2021 | Romans 2:1-11 | 1/29/2021 | Luke 6:22-33 |
| 1/16/2021 | John 21:15-19 | 1/30/2021 | Luke 22:39-46 |
| 1/17/2021 | Luke 5:1-11 | 1/31/2021 | John 17:13-24 |

Weekly Worship Opportunities

Sun., Jan. 3, 10:45 a.m. – Sunday Worship via Facebook, YouTube, & Prayer-line
 Wed., Jan. 6, 6:00 p.m. – Midweek Bible Study via Facebook, YouTube, & Prayer-line
 Sun., Jan. 10, 10:45 a.m. – Sunday Worship via Facebook, YouTube, & Prayer-line
 Wed., Jan. 13, 6:00 p.m. – Midweek Bible Study via Facebook, YouTube, & Prayer-line
 Sun., Jan. 17, 10:45 a.m. – Sunday Worship via Facebook, YouTube, & Prayer-line
 Wed., Jan. 20, 6:00 p.m. – Midweek Bible Study via Facebook, YouTube, & Prayer-line
 Sun., Jan. 24, 10:45 a.m. – Sunday Worship via Facebook, YouTube, & Prayer-line
 Wed., Jan. 27, 6:00 p.m. – Midweek Bible Study via Facebook, YouTube, & Prayer-line
 Sun., Jan. 31, 6:00 p.m. – Sunday Worship via Facebook, YouTube, & Prayer-line

**Morning Prayer, Mon.-Fri, 6:00 AM

Phone: 1-515-603-3137

Access Code: 468920#



January Birthdays

- January 1 Annie Pearl Pearson
- January 3 Leann Jones
- January 6 Ray'mon Sims
- January 8 Leland Bennett
- January 9 Carolyn Harris
- January 16 James Thomas
- January 18 Karen Davis
- January 19 Tizjai Ward
- January 22 Eugene McMullen
- January 24 Adelle Clinkscale
- January 26 Randolph Cousin
- January 27 Mattie Pearl Lightfoot
George Richard
- January 30 Shelia Cooper
- January 31 Victor Harris

Future Announcements & Articles

In the event that you have announcements or articles that you would like to have considered for the February 2021 edition of the Tabernacle Times, please call the church at 330-747-9624. In addition, if there are persons that are interested in assisting with the church newsletter, please email Rev. Austin at pastor@ytowntab.com

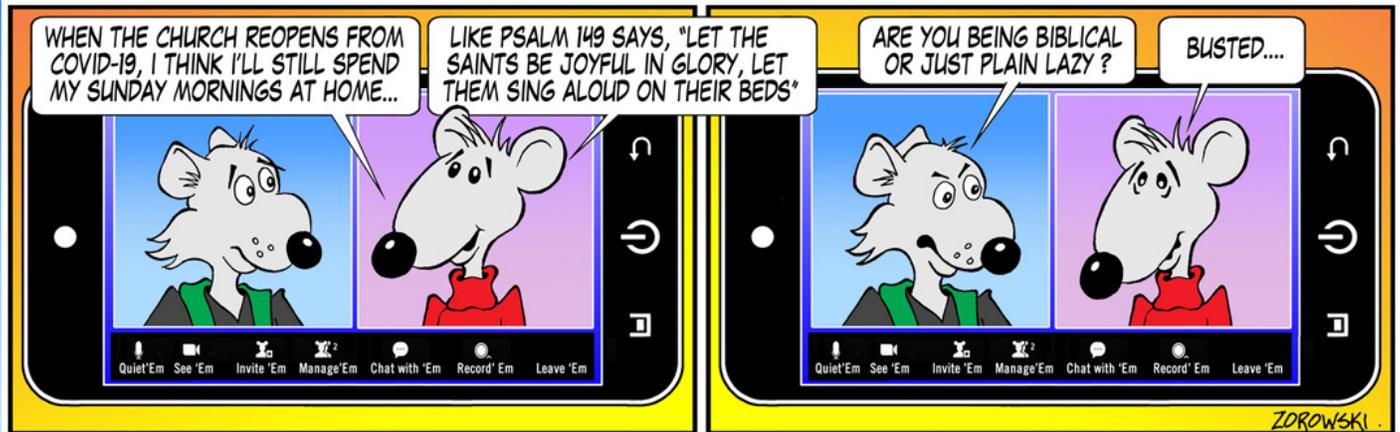


Future Plans

Every month we reassess the possibility of returning to “in-person” worship. As you can imagine, this is not a decision that is taken lightly. Please know that your health and safety are of the utmost importance and Tab will do everything that we can to ensure such. Nevertheless, we will get through this! God willing, we will be able to offer some form of “in-person” worship in the near future. May the Lord be with each of you.

Church Mice

Karl Zorowski



Tabernacle Baptist Church

707 Tabernacle Blvd.
Youngstown, OH 44510