

Tab Partners with Oak Street Health

Tabernacle Baptist Church is proud to announce that it has established an official partnership with Oak Street Health. It is highly anticipated that this relationship will result in access to resources that encourage healthy living and routine medical care for our senior population. Already, Oak Street Health participated at Tab's "Bring-A-Chair...Bring-A-Lunch" event that was held recently where members were encouraged to come fellowship and eat with one another. The event was an outdoor event held in the parking lot of Tabernacle Baptist Church. Attendees were required to wear masks and practice proper social distancing. Oak Street Health provided medical and program information, snacks, drinks, and games. The event was successful and approximately 40 people attended.

In addition, Oak Street Health selected Tab as the site for their "Fall Festival". This event was held October 15, 2020. This is an event that included a host of information, vendors, food, music, games, fellowship, and giveaways—all of which were catered to the senior citizen population. We are looking forward to working with Oak Street Health.

Sanctuary Worship

Many of you have been anxiously awaiting an update regarding when we might be able to gather again in the sanctuary. Some of you are also very much aware that a few weeks ago we announced that we would attempt to resume "in-person" services on October 25, 2020. However, with the shift in diagnoses, we have opted to amend our plans.

As it stands, we are planning on holding service in the sanctuary one time per month for the remainder of 2020. Services are currently scheduled for 10/25/2020, 11/22/2020, and 12/20/2020. Please note that these dates are not guaranteed, but rather anticipated. All persons that are a part of the vulnerable population (i.e. weakened immune systems, elderly, individuals with respiratory conditions, etc.) will be encouraged to abstain from worship service until deemed absolutely safe. Attendees will be required to wear masks at all times, submit to temperature checks, practice social distancing, sit where assigned, and follow all instructions as given.

Of course, there will be those of you that may not agree with this course of action. Yet, there are others that are upset that we're only gathering one time per month for the remainder of the year and not on a weekly basis. Regardless, we are all experimenting and simply trying to do God's will in the middle of the pandemic.

Calendar

Sun., Oct. 18, 10:45 a.m. – Sunday Worship via Facebook, YouTube, & Prayer-line
Wed., Oct 21, 6:00 p.m. – Midweek Bible Study via Facebook, YouTube, & Prayer-line
Sun., Oct. 25, 10:45 a.m. – Sunday Worship @ 707 Tabernacle Blvd., Social Media and Prayer-line also available.
Wed., Oct 28, 6:00 p.m. – Midweek Bible Study via Facebook, YouTube, & Prayer-line
**Morning Prayer, Mon.-Fri, 6:00 AM
Phone: 1-515-603-3137
Access Code: 468920#

Our Building

Over the course of the last few months, we have been in a constant state of preparation in anticipation of resuming regularly scheduled events at Tabernacle—considering all that must occur in order for our facility to be considered COVID-19 compliant. We've taken the opportunity to place hand sanitizer and disinfectant spray strategically throughout the entire building. In addition, seating has been marked and floor signs placed—encouraging proper social distancing throughout the church.

While safety precautions have certainly been taken with regard to the building, we have also instituted and enforced the wearing of masks by everyone who enters the building. Of course, this is for the sake of everyone's safety and well-being. Other portions of the building have been deemed "restricted"—as we enforce efforts that will prayerfully assist in eliminating potential contamination.

Please note that we have done everything possible to take advantage of the seemingly vacant building—constantly preparing for the return of Tab. All floors have been stripped and waxed, the entrance foyer by the office and the education wing hallway has been repainted, and beautification efforts of the edifice continue—as we prepare to return to our regular schedule.

Of course, these efforts have not been easy and have come with their share of challenges. Repairmen have been summoned to assist with plumbing issues, and we also discovered a few structural issues that resulted in us having to repair to avoid prospective encounters with wild life, as we had when a raccoon tried to join us for worship (the wildlife issue has since been addressed).

All in all, the time that the building has been without regular use has allowed us to be able to address some of that items that had been overlooked in

the day-to-day routine of ministry. With your continued prayers and financial support, we can ensure that Tabernacle Baptist Church remains an essential part of the Youngstown community for many years to come.

Tabernacle Baptist Church Finances

Tabernacle would not be able to do what we do without your generosity and financial support. Thank you for continuing to be faithful throughout the pandemic. While we've experienced a decrease in member financial contributions, we are certainly grateful for your continued support of the ministry.

With that said, Tabernacle Baptist Church is happy to report that we were able to provide our high school graduates and college students with scholarships and stipends with a total of over \$1,800.00 worth of assistance. This would not have been possible without your contributions.

Thus, we encourage you to remain diligent and faithful in your giving. As most of you know, your offering and tithes can be mailed to the church office, dropped between the hours of 10:00 AM and 4:00 PM throughout the week, or made through our secure link on our website (www.ytowntab.com). Offering envelopes are available for pickup at the church office. However, it is highly recommended that you call the office (330-747-9624) before coming.

Finally, Women's Day was scheduled to take place in May, and some of our members may not be aware that they can still submit their \$50.00 assessment in celebration of Women's day. This can be submitted by utilizing one of the giving platforms mentioned above.

Again, we appreciate all that you do to assist Tabernacle in making a difference in the lives of all that we serve.

We Remember...

Over the course of the last few months, we have lost the lives of some of our members. Let us remember them—as we pay special tribute to them in our next edition of "Tabernacle Times".



In Brief

Hello to all our Tabernacle members. We hope that all of you are keeping safe and well. We were glad to see so many of our friends at the gathering last month in the church parking lot. We practiced social distancing and wore our masks and it turned out very well. This newsletter is to keep our members informed of what is happening here at the church. Even though we have not been having our regular services and meetings there is still life at Tabernacle.

The church building has been prepped for COVID-19. Hand sanitizers have been placed in strategic locations in the church and there are signs encouraging social distancing. **Anyone entering the church must wear a mask** for your safety and the safety of others. Certain areas of the building will be off limits to stop the spread of contamination.

While the church has not been in regular use, the upkeep continues. Floors have been stripped and rewaxed, the entrance hall is being painted, and we continue to make our church home beautiful until we can once again return to our full schedule. Repairs must be made constantly. The floor drain in the big kitchen backed up and a plumber had to be called to solve the problem.

A large raccoon got into the ceiling and fell through onto one of the classrooms and made a horrible mess that had to be cleaned up. The raccoon entered from the roof through a place where the wood has been rotting over the years. This is what has been causing the leaking in the ceiling in the Covington Street entrance. We will have more information in the coming weeks on how the leak will be taken care of after the next Trustee Meeting.

Although Women's Day was in May some of our members were not aware they can still send their \$50.00 assessment if they have not already done so. You can bring it to the church office or mail it to 707 Tabernacle Boulevard, Youngstown, OH 44510. Scholarships were given out to our high school graduates and stipends were given to our college students totaling over \$1800.

Offering envelopes are available for pick up at the church office. Please call in advance 330-747-9624; we will bring envelopes out to your vehicle for your safety and convenience. Offerings, tithes, ministry dues, and other monetary gifts can be dropped off in the church mailbox or mailed in.

Church Mice



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TABERNACLE TIMES



The Monthly Newsletter of Tabernacle Baptist Church

October 2020

Pastor's Message

Greetings Family and Friends!

I hope and pray that this message finds all of you in good health and strength. Let me start by saying how much I miss each and every one of you. Your presence at 707 Tabernacle Boulevard (previously known as Arlington Street) is missed beyond words. I miss hearing the choirs practice their beautiful melodies and harmonies. I miss seeing your faces at bible study and Sunday school. I miss hearing the voices of children fill the hallways and fellowship hall on Thursday evening. Most of all, I miss your presence during our Sunday morning worship services. Who would have ever thought that COVID-19 would have impacted our lives to the level that it has? Yet, God has continued to give us the ability to endure.

While the pandemic has seemingly forced us to make adjustments in every aspect of our lives, how we exercise our faith has also had to adjust. Admittedly, these changes have not been easy for any of us. For example, some of you have been forced to overcome your fears of social media in order to remain connected to your family, friends, and church. Others, have been forced to make financial adjustments—budgets have gotten tighter and we've had to take a closer look at our household's "needs" versus "wants". All of us have been required to make masks, hand sanitizer, and social distancing a part of our everyday lives. Yet, if you are reading this newsletter, it means that somehow you have survived the pandemic thus far. God has been faithful!

With that said, we have been working very hard to keep the Tab family connected. After we disbanded our physical gatherings at the end of March 2020, we had no choice but to quickly ramp up our online and social media existence. Since then, our presence on Facebook and YouTube has gone through tremendous evolution for the better. Our live broadcasts consist of a team effort that involves long hours of rehearsals, impromptu adjustments, visual graphics

and overlays, and experimenting with ever-evolving technology until we prayerfully end up with a product that is pleasing to both the Lord and Tabernacle Baptist Church alike. The truth is that the road hasn't always been easy. We've had our share of "technical difficulties", but yet we endure.

Moving forward, we plan to continue providing access to our worship services and events via social media and our prayer-line. In addition, our church website will also be undergoing some changes in the near to immediate future. Individuals will be able to access our worship services through our website as well. In the rare event that people can't access Tab events through social media, the prayer-line, or the website, we also plan to resume our DVD ministry soon. Understanding that everyone does not have access to the above mentioned, Tab is committed to continuing monthly renditions of our resurrected newsletter (Tabernacle Times). No matter where you are, our prayer is that we can keep you connected.

Finally, I would be remiss if I did not take a moment to thank those of you who went out of your way to share a kind word, show some love, or give a gift of appreciation—as October is "Pastor Appreciation Month". Your kind gestures do not go unnoticed and have been very encouraging during these difficult times.

It is my hope that we will continue to endure and adjust to whatever may come our way. I know that these times are not easy for any of you, but "...may the joy of the Lord continue to be your strength." We will get through this! God will make a way... somehow! Just keep the faith...and endure!

As I put down my pen, then, I leave you with these words: "God be with you till we meet again," as I know, that we will gather soon.



Grace & Peace,
Pastor Raymond Austin, Jr.

Tabernacle Baptist Church

707 Tabernacle Boulevard

Youngstown, OH 44510