

Why “Tabernacle” Presbyterian Church?

A tabernacle is a tent—a dwelling place. A long time ago, God made a promise to His people that He would put His dwelling place among them (Leviticus 26:11). All of the Old Testament ceremonies and laws were a partial realization of this pledge. Ultimately, God fulfilled that loving promise by sending the Son, Jesus Christ.

In John 1:14 we read, *“The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us...”* This declaration not only describes the Incarnation of God taking on our flesh and blood, but links this miracle with the fulfillment of God’s promise to “tabernacle” among His people.

This is startling news, especially in light of the fact that our sins have separated us from God. Yet because of His love, He sent Jesus to dwell among us, the One who was forsaken for our sins so that we could be brought near to the Father. Now through Christ’s life, death, and resurrection, we rejoice that nothing can separate us from the love of God (Romans 8:35-39)! To symbolize this glorious union, we placed the ancient sign of the Trinity, the Celtic *triquetra*, among the letters of our church logo.

As much as the presence of Christ means to us today, we are still very much aware of the fallen world in which we live. This is why we look forward with eagerness to the day when the Lord will restore all things and bring to complete fullness the blessings of His presence:

Our name reflects certain central themes from Scripture that are apparent through the biblical imagery of the Tabernacle. We seek to be a congregation that never loses sight of these themes as we “watch and pray” for more of God’s Kingdom to come and His will to be done in Waynesboro, Staunton, and Augusta County, as it is in heaven.

We are here because of the grace of God to come and dwell (“tabernacle”) among us.

Leviticus 26:11-12

I will put my **dwelling** place [tabernacle] among you, and I will not abhor you. I will walk among you and be your God, and you will be my people.

John 1:14a

The Word became flesh and made his **dwelling** [tabernacled] among us...

We are here to fellowship with God.

Exodus 40:2

Set up the **tabernacle**, the **Tent** of Meeting, on the first day of the first month.

Exodus 33:9, 11

As Moses went into the **tent**, the pillar of cloud would come down and stay at the entrance, while the LORD spoke with Moses. The LORD would speak to Moses face to face, as a man speaks with his friend. Then Moses would return to the camp, but his young aide Joshua son of Nun did not leave the **tent**.

We are here to fellowship with each other.

Ephesians 2:21-22

In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy **temple** in the Lord. And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.

We are called to bring those who are not yet a part of God's people into this fellowship.

Isaiah 54:2-3

"Enlarge the place of your **tent**, stretch your **tent** curtains wide, do not hold back; lengthen your cords, strengthen your stakes. For you will spread out to the right and to the left; your descendants will dispossess nations and settle in their desolate cities."

We are looking ahead to the day when God will dwell with us in complete, uninhibited fellowship.

Revelation 7:15-17

Therefore, "they are before the throne of God and serve him day and night in his temple; and he who sits on the throne will spread his **tent** over them. Never again will they hunger; never again will they thirst. The sun will not beat upon them, nor any scorching heat. For the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd; he will lead them to springs of living water. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

"Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them.

They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God.

He will wipe every tear from their eyes."

Revelation 21:3-4