



*Easter Morning!*

## Sunday Worship Themes

### **April 3 - Second Sunday of Easter**

*Holy Humor Sunday*

Psalm 118:14-29;

1 Corinthians 1:18-2:5;

Romans 15:13; John 20:19-31

Pastor Katherine preaching

### **April 10- Third Sunday of Easter**

Acts 9:1-6; Psalm 30;

Revelation 5:11-14; John 21:1-19

Pastor Rosie preaching

### **April 17 - Fourth Sunday of Easter**

Acts 9:36-43; Psalm 23;

Revelation 7:9-17; John 10:22-30

Pastor Phil preaching

### **April 24 - Fifth Sunday of Easter**

Acts 11:1-18; Psalm 148;

Revelation 21:1-6; John 13:31-35

Pastor Phil preaching

### **May 1 - Sixth Sunday of Easter**

Acts 16:9-15; Psalm 67;

Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5;

John 14:23-29

Pastor Phil preaching

# Tabor Church News

April, 2016

## Phil's Ponderings: "Sabbatical Hopes and Dreams"

Tabor Mennonite Church,

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

Thank you for your generosity to me in gifting me with a three-month sabbatical!

Thank you for your generosity to past pastors who received the gift of sabbaticals!

Thank you for your generosity to future pastors who will receive sabbaticals!

Your generous investment in pastoral sabbaticals encourages the long-term health and vitality of this congregation! As it says in the Mennonite Church USA document, "Sabbatical, Study and Service Leaves for Pastors:"

Sabbatical...leaves for pastors are good for the pastor, good for the congregation, and good for the church. Pastors stay longer and serve with greater enthusiasm...They experience spiritual refreshment, new vision, strengthened skills and wider perspectives. Congregations benefit from a chance to exercise lay leadership gifts...When the pastor returns the congregation experiences better pastoral leadership and longer service. The whole church benefits by having better leadership...A leave is not an entitlement for pastors, but a part of the congregation's and the pastor's strategy for enhancing ministry...

I look forward to this time of spiritual renewal and rejuvenation in order to enhance our collective ministry at Tabor of sharing God's hospitality, healing, and hope with those around us and with the world!

I am excited to travel across the country, reconnecting with God's beautiful creation and with family and friends. I am excited to spend much time on retreat at a family cabin in Colorado, soaking in God's goodness (I've always said it is the best place on earth)! I am excited to attend a Richard Rohr *Conspire* conference in New Mexico in July! And I am excited to have time at home to prepare our house and lives for our second child!

Throughout sabbatical, I plan to spend much time connecting with God, connecting with family, and connecting with friends. I plan to pray, read, hike, and relax. I plan to process my ministry experiences thus far, both the difficult times as well as the joyous times. I plan to reflect on who God has called me to be and how God is calling me to use my gifts in this next phase of ministry. I plan to vision and dream about future ministry opportunities at Tabor and beyond! I look forward to sharing my experiences with you when I return. If you have specific questions about my sabbatical, I would love to visit with you before I leave.<sup>1</sup>

Once again, thank you for your generosity and for your investment into my life, into my family's well being, and into the ongoing ministry of Tabor Mennonite Church!

*-Peace, Pastor Phil*

<sup>1</sup>For more information about my sabbatical plans, please see the March Council minutes as well as Ron Schroeder's article in this newsletter.



Here is our monthly marriage moment: a meaningful memento to married couples to make your marriages marvelous!

John Gottman, marriage researcher, has written a book entitled *The Seven Principles for Making Marriage Work*. (If you would like a copy of this book, I would be happy to give one to you as a gift!) Last month, we focused on Principle 5, "Solve Your Solvable Problems."

Many problems that couple's face, however, are not "solvable." Gottman calls these kinds of problems "perpetual problems." The reason they are not solvable is because they are really conflicts over deeper values and dreams, and are not really about the surface problem of how to squeeze the toothpaste, which family to go to for Christmas dinner, or who is supposed to do the dishes. Principle 6, "Overcome Gridlock," focuses on perpetual problems.

The first step to coping with gridlock is identifying it: Have you had the same argument again and again with no resolution? When you address this issue, do you lack humor, empathy, and affection? Do you feel polarized by the issue? Does compromise seem impossible? If you answered yes to these questions about a specific problem, you are facing a perpetual problem that has reached gridlock. Even if you have reached gridlock, there is hope! Gottman talks about the importance of identifying the deep dreams underlying the conflict. Once these deeper dreams are named, respected, and affirmed, a couple can move past gridlock without needing to focus on "solving" the surface problem.

**Marriage Challenge:** Become a Dream Detective. Identify your deepest dreams for your life, for your marriage, for your family. Talk about your deep dreams with your spouse so that you can understand one another better and recognize how conflicts over your deeper dreams may be leading toward gridlock in your relationship.

With a little work, you too can make your marriage marvelous ☺!

~Pastor Phil

## Rosie's Reflections

As our Wednesday evening ministries come to a close this spring, I am reminded of how important these weeks have been for me, and for all who gather at Tabor – from sharing a meal, to gathering for classes, to singing and playing games together – these are the very things that help form our faith! Thank you, Tabor Mennonite, for making this a priority for our community!

One of the exciting things for me was meeting with the adult Bible study group. A group of 15-20 people gathered consistently week after week. What was it that brought us together? It was the feast, and I'm not talking about supper, although it was excellent, but a feast of the Word. We gathered, hungry for what God had in store for us, and thirsty for a drink of something new that the Holy Spirit would reveal. There were always questions left unanswered, and the mystery of God was sometimes unsettling; however, there was always a bountiful feast, rich in love and grace as we shared our thoughts and prayed for clarity.

May we continue to eat and drink the Word, and may it nourish and strengthen us as we feast on it together. And may we share its goodness with our families, friends, strangers and neighbors.

***"He said to me, Mortal, eat this scroll that I give you and fill your stomach with it. Then I ate it; and in my mouth it was a sweet as honey."***  
(Ezekiel 3:3)

~Pastor Rosie

## Katherine's Candor

Alleluia! Christ is risen indeed! The fallen powers tried to get rid of Jesus through crucifying him, yet they did not have the final word. God raised Jesus from the dead as a sign that Jesus' way of life was indeed in keeping with God's intentions for humanity and creation. The resurrection is God's "yes" to Jesus and his way of life, and God's "no" to the fallen powers that killed him. God has the final word, the final victory, the final laugh.

This is why we are participating in the ancient practice of Holy Humor Sunday on the Sunday after Easter; it reminds us that God has the last laugh. This practice of Holy Humor Sunday (or *Risus paschalis*, "the Easter Laugh") may be rooted in the musings of early church theologians like Augustine and John Chrysostom, with the idea that God played a practical joke on the devil by raising Jesus from the dead.

In the words of a Presbyterian Pastor, "Easter is the morning when the Lord laughs out loud, laughs at all the things that snuff out joy, all the things that pretend to be all-powerful, like cruelty and madness and despair and evil, and most especially, that great pretender, death. Jesus sweeps them away with his wonderful resurrection laughter."

May we all become "fools for the sake of Christ," as Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 4:10, and take joy in the celebration of the resurrection. For we know that it is God who has the last laugh.

~Pastor Katherine

## From the Deacons

The deacons want to keep you, the congregation, informed on Pastor Phil's upcoming sabbatical. Pastor Phil's last Sunday will be May 15. On May 16, Pastor Phil and family will begin their sabbatical journey. Details of his sabbatical proposal can be found in the March council minutes. Pastor Phil's sabbatical will be a time of prayer, spiritual refreshment, new vision, strengthening of his skills, and gaining a wider perspective. Know that Tabor church will benefit from a recharged pastor and the excitement and learning that has underlined his sabbatical experience. Because this is a well planned sabbatical, it will contribute towards the renewal of family life and be an encouragement to Mary and Ethan as they participate in this journey. Pastor Phil's sabbatical will conclude on August 15. His first Sunday back at Tabor will be August 21.

During his absence the deacons have arranged for Sunday worship speakers, both from within the congregation as well from the broader community. Additionally, Tabor church will continue to be blessed with preaching from our pastors Rosie and Katherine. There will be pastoral care responsibilities. Associate pastors and deacons will minister to these needs.

This is an exciting time for Tabor church and its congregation. As we offer our services to our church and surrounding communities during this summer, may it bring honor and glory to our Lord and make a difference in our relationships with each other. There may be more questions. Please talk with a pastor or deacon as needed.

~Ron Schroeder, Deacon Chairperson, on behalf of the Deacons

## Grace's Goodies

### Pecan Pie

For those of you who weren't at the pie faspas on March 6, you missed out on some really good pies. There were at least 15 or more pies. Here is the recipe for the winning non fruit pie submitted by Barb Banman.

- 3/4 cup white sugar
- 1/4 cup brown sugar
- 1/2 cup white corn syrup
- 1/4 cup butter, melted
- 3 eggs, well beaten
- 1 tsp. imitation vanilla
- 1 cup pecans
- 1 (9 inch ) pastry shell

Combine sugars, syrup and melted butter. Add beaten eggs and vanilla and pecans to syrup mixture. Mix thoroughly. Pour filling into unbaked pie shell and bake at 375 degrees for 40 - 45 min. Cool and serve.



VBS at Tabor: June 6 - 10

"Surprise! Stories of Discovering Jesus"

Make plans to attend. Information coming soon.

## Conference Resource Library Books

*Joshua* - Joseph F. Girzone  
*Fair is the Rose* - Liz Curtis Higgs  
*June Bug* - Chris Fabry  
*Boo Who* - Rene Gutteridge  
*Lilac Blossom Time* - Carrie Bender  
*River's Song* - Melody Carlson  
*River's Call* - Melody Carlson  
*River's End* - Melody Carlson  
*A Match for Mary* - Lois Y. Wenger  
*The Truce of God* - Rowan Williams  
*Transforming Our Painful Emotions*  
 - Evelyn/James Whitehead  
*Tortured Wonders* - Rodney Clapp  
*Tales of a Seaside Doctor*  
 - Christine Aroney-Sine, M.C.  
*Good God, Lousy World, and Me*  
 - Holly Burkhalter  
*Becoming a Contagious Christian*  
 - Bill Hybels/Mark Mittelberg  
*The Best Thing I Ever Did for My Marriage*  
 - Nancy Cobb/Connie Grigsby  
*Ten Boys Who Used Their Talents* - Irene Howat  
*Peace Locomotion* - Jacqueline Sonnenblick  
*The Summer of Hammers and Angels*  
 - Shannon Wiebsbitzky  
*Peter's First Easter* - Walter Wangerin, JR.  
*What Comes in Spring* - Barbara Savadge Horton  
*The 11th Commandment* - Children of America  
*Stick and Stone* - Beth Ferry/Tom Lichtenheld  
*The Bunny Who Found Easter*  
 - Charlotte Zolotow

**All books must be returned to the Tabor Library no later than May 15.**



## Tabor Mennonite Church

### *Devotional*

12 Scriptures  
Luke 6:31

### Dignity and Value

-by Maynard Knepp

*“Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.”*

In one of my “past lives,” I worked as the manager of a large hog facility near Pratt, Kansas. When I arrived, I found out that most of my employees would be either Hispanic or Asian. Most of them knew no English. There was one guy who could translate for me....at least that’s what I thought. From my perspective, it seemed they were not being treated very well by the owner of the farm, but because most of them were undocumented, he got away with it.

I was brought there to clean things up and figure out what the problem was with the employee situation. I realized the guys were being taken advantage of and not being paid a fair wage. It took me a while to get the owner to buy into the idea that if you pay a person a fair wage, productivity will be much better, and if you help them get their families from their native land, they will also be more productive.

During the year that I was there, we were able to get more work done with 11 employees than they had with 15 before because, for the first time, they were actually appreciated for what they did. We doubled their salaries and gave them nicer mobile homes to live in, and about half of them were able to bring their families here. Instead of working 12 days on and 2 days off, 10 hours a day, plus load hogs at night, we changed it to where I had an expectation of what I wanted them to do that day and when it was done they could go home. That upset the owner at first, because he wondered what they were doing heading home at 4:00 in the afternoon. But the same work that used to take two days, they could now do from 8 – 4 because they knew what the requirements were and that they could go home after that. Also, on Wednesday evenings I refused to load out hogs because there was a Spanish-speaking church service in Pratt and I wanted everyone to be free to go. In fact, there were times when I helped transport them to their church service on Wednesday evening. That upset the owner too, but I felt it brought dignity and value to the workplace.

My experience was that having a relationship with the employees and valuing them and giving them dignity as I would want for myself changed the whole environment of the work place.



THANK YOU Teachers for helping us grow in our faith! All teachers and helpers of Sunday adult and children's Faith Formation, of Wednesday evening Bible study, and of Circle of Grace are invited to a breakfast on Sunday, April 24 from 8:15-9:00 am. Please join us way for us to express our appreciation for all the work you do for Tabor Church.

*Please sign up on the bulletin board by April 17 if you can attend.*