



Mount Princeton, Colorado

Sunday Worship Themes

Sept. 4 - Community Service Day

Mark 6:6b-13

Sept. 11 - Journey of Faith:

Summitting the Peak

Teacher Dedication Sunday

Mark 6:6b-13, 30

Pastor Phil preaching

Sept. 18 - Journey of Faith:

Descending the Mountain

Mark 6:30-32

Pastor Phil preaching

Sept. 25 - Journey of Faith:

Continuing Onward

Mark 6:30-44

Pastor Phil preaching

Oct. 2 - World Communion Sunday

Mark 6:35-44

Pastor Phil preaching

Join us Wednesday evenings at Tabor Mennonite Church beginning October 5

5:20-6:20 p.m.	Faithful Fitness
5:45-6:30 p.m.	Supper
6:30-6:45 p.m.	Children's Choirs
6:45-7:30 p.m.	Faith Friends (ages 3-grade 2)
6:45-7:45 p.m.	Faith Adventures (grades 3-5)
6:45-8:00 p.m.	Youth Explorers (grades 6-8)
6:45-7:45 p.m.	Adult Bible Study
7:00-8:00 p.m.	Youth Group
7:45-8:45 p.m.	Adult Choir

Parents!

*Join us for orientation on October 5.
Supper at 5:45 p.m.*

Tabor Church News

September, 2016

Phil's Ponderings: "My Son Taught Me to Pray"

This past Summer Sabbatical has been full of many good things, including time for rest, renewal, and rejuvenation. One of the unexpected blessings for me, however, was how my son, Ethan, taught me to pray.

Early on in Ethan's life, we taught Ethan the sign for "more" so that he could ask for more of what he wanted (see picture below). Later, when he started talking, he would sign and say "more" at the same time, usually twice in quick succession: "more more ____ (whatever he wanted)".

This summer, as Ethan started talking more and more, Mary and I started teaching him more words. One word he learned was "Jesus." I don't remember the context in which Ethan learned the word "Jesus," but I do remember him saying, "more more Jesus." When he said that, I thought to myself, now that is how to pray. "More more Jesus!" What if we would simply live our lives saying "more more Jesus" in everything we do and everywhere we go? It seems to me that that prayer would become more and more true the more we prayed and lived that way.

We also taught Ethan some prayer songs before meals, like "God is Great" and "Praise God." Thus, after singing a song before a meal, Ethan, in moments of great wisdom, would request: "More more God is Great" or "More more Praise God." There were some meals that we sang three prayers throughout the meal ☺. And once again, I thought of the power of these simple prayers: "More more God is great." "More more Praise God." Can we ever say it enough? Can we ever sing it enough? Can we ever live it enough?

In the midst of my sabbatical, full of rest, reading, learning, it was my son who taught me to pray more deeply. And I hope that each of us, all of us, can learn to pray in this way with childlike faith: "More more Jesus." "More more God is Great." "More more Praise God." Amen.

*Peace,
Pastor Phil*





Tabor's College Students

Bethel College

Reece Hiebert
Luke Unruh
Natalie Unruh

Hesston College

Sarah Booth

Job Corp in Manhattan

Kylee Unruh

Pittsburg State University

Carson Voth

University of Kansas

Mark Schmidt

Grace's Goodies

served to staff with home made ice cream

Lemon Glazed Lemon Shortbread Cookies

- 2 cups flour
- 1/3 cup granulated sugar
- 1/3 cup confectioners sugar
- 2 tsp. lemon zest (more if desired)
- 1/4 tsp. salt
- 16 Tbs. (2 sticks) butter

Preheat oven to 325 degrees.

In food processor, combine the flour, the powdered sugar, the confectioners sugar, lemon zest, and salt.

Add butter and process until mixture resembles coarse meal.

Turn dough onto floured work surface and gather into rough ball. Roll out to 1/4th inch thickness. Cut into squares or use cookie cutter.

Bake 10 to 15 min. until blond for a softer cookie or to golden brown for a more crunchy cookie.

Glaze with a mixture of lemon juice, lemon zest and confectioners sugar.

“Sabbatical Highlights”

I want to begin my sabbatical reflections by saying a big THANK YOU to you, Tabor Mennonite Church! Thank you so much for your care and support of me, my ministry, and my family by gifting us with a three-month sabbatical. We had a wonderful time traveling, resting, and finding rejuvenation this summer!

Additionally, I want to say a big thank you to all of you leaders in the congregation, especially Pastor Katherine, Pastor Rosie, Kim, Deacons, Church Council, Commissions, and many more for leading so well in my absence. And, I want to say a big thank you to the Trustees and others who did so much good work on the parsonage this summer! Thank you!

Following are some of my sabbatical highlights. If you have questions or thoughts, I would love to visit more with you at your convenience.

- ♦ A major highlight throughout Sabbatical was having so much quality time with Mary and Ethan! It was such a blessing to be able to spend time together as a family and grow in deeper relationships with each other, especially in this special time of Mary's pregnancy and Ethan continuing to grow and learn so many new things.
- ♦ Our first few weeks of Sabbatical was one giant road trip to California and back. Along the way, we camped at National Parks some nights, stayed with friends and family other nights, and also splurged on a couple hotels. Throughout this adventure, it was so good to visit, share food, and fellowship with many friends and family. We saw friends from seminary, we visited our former church, and we had conversations with former professors. It was neat to be reminded of where we came from and the many positive relationships we developed while living in California.
- ♦ Another major highlight for me was having so much time to be out in God's good creation. When Ethan woke up early in the morning on our road trip or during our time in Colorado, I would often strap him into his stroller and go for a nice long walk. Together, Ethan and I saw National Parks, city neighborhoods, the Ocean, and the majestic Colorado mountains. I was blessed to walk in and enjoy creation, and because Ethan was content in his stroller, I was also able to listen to a couple of Audio books while we walked. And, in addition to my walks with Ethan, I had the opportunity and privilege to hike three mountains (Mt. Sherman, Mt. Antero, and Pikes Peak)! These journeys up and down mountains was truly inspiring as I was able to see God's good creation while standing on top of the world.



Yosemite National Park

- ♦ The Conspire Conference I attended in Albuquerque, NM was another highlight.¹ I drove out to New Mexico by myself, listening to a Richard Rohr book along the way. Then I enjoyed fellowship with over a thousand people, thought-provoking presentations, and meaningful worship at the conference. Richard Rohr, along with Christena Cleveland, James Alison, and Mirabai Starr all presented on the topic “Everything belongs.” They talked about the prevalent cycle of scapegoating in our world and society. It is so easy to blame someone else, to turn people who are different than us into the enemy, and thus dehumanize them. But God created all people in the image of God and Jesus came to break the cycle of scapegoating by becoming a victim who offered grace and forgiveness instead of hatred and violence. Thus, Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection presents us with a new way to live, not as people who exclude, scapegoat, label, or dehumanize others, but rather as people who recognize the image of God in all other people, and thus live lives of love toward all.
- ♦ Sabbatical was a time to step out of my regular routine and find rest. Although the road trip wasn’t very restful, it was a great way to do something completely different and begin to decompress. Then, during our time in the mountains of Colorado, I enjoyed a new routine of early morning walks, mid-morning outings, afternoon rest, much good family time, and reading before bed. And finally, when we returned to Kansas in mid-July, Ethan started sleeping in, which gave me an opportunity to rest. As a result of sabbatical, I have begun practicing a more intentional weekly Sabbath, beginning on Saturday evenings and continuing to Sunday evening. This is a continuing opportunity for me to rest, disconnect from routine and technology, and reconnect with God each week. I invite you to join me in this spiritual practice.
- ♦ A final highlight from sabbatical was having time to do projects at home and at my parent’s new home in North Newton. It was great to have time to clean, organize, and paint as we prepare for my parents to move in mid-September and for our second son to be born in early October!

Sabbatical was a good experience. It was stretching at times, especially as I struggled with living life out of the regular routine. Throughout sabbatical, I discovered that I had been carrying more stress and anxiety than I thought. At times, it was painful to discover these areas of stress, but it was so good to have time to let it out and decompress.

As I return to pastoral ministry here at Tabor, I find myself energized! I love you, the people of Tabor! I love the energy of our worship and fellowship! I love the creativity and diversity expressed here! I pray that we can continue growing together as we grow in relationship with God and follow Jesus and the Spirit in God’s work of building God’s upside down kingdom right here and right now.

Peace,
Pastor Phil

¹<https://cac.org/events/conferences/past-conferences/conspire-2016-overview/>

Tabor Church Family Sale - *What's in your attic?*

Do you know what’s in all the boxes in your attic, basement, or “Guest room”? It is an interesting process to intentionally look for things to get rid of. Some decisions are easy and others are difficult. My four Sesame Street muppets from my 1970’s childhood have been spending the last 29 years in my attic and are now considered “vintage”. I haven’t asked Emil if he wants to do puppet shows, but I’m pretty sure I know what the answer would be. I certainly don’t want to put them on display because the stripes on Bert and Ernie’s shirts do not work at all with my decor. There is the sentimental value, but I think I will take a group picture and send them off to a new home. I’ve found it’s really easy to decide what belongings the spouse should part with. Of course that does work both ways and so we have debates.

Hopefully you’ve found some items to donate to the sale (September 10th.) All proceeds go to the Facility Fund. Check the sign up sheet to see what opportunities are still available. By the time you read this, you should have received a copy of the details about the sale in your church mailbox and/or emailed to you. It contains a lot of important information if you are helping or donating anything. If you need a copy, check with the church office.

I retrieved the Muppets from the attic the other day. Bert looked a little upset, Ernie was his usual chipper self, Cookie Monster had that crazed cookie craving look in his eyes, and Oscar seemed, well, grouchy . . . and who can blame him after being stuck in a box for a total of 40 years!

~Vickie Schmidt



“Sabbatical Highlight Snapshots”

