



*Community Renewal with  
Bryan Moyer Suderman*

# Tabor Church News

May, 2017

## Phil's Ponderings:

### "Community Renewal with Bryan Moyer Suderman"

These past couple Sundays have been full of joy, first with our wonderful Easter celebration on April 16 and then with our Community Renewal with Bryan Moyer Suderman on April 21-23, which included a Bible Study, a Holy Humor/Child Dedication worship service, a time of Faith Formation, and a community concert for all ages.

I was truly blessed by the Community Renewal.

Around 50 people from Tabor, Alexanderwohl and Goessel Mennonite Churches gathered in the Tabor Fellowship Hall on Friday evening, April 21 and Saturday, April 22. Bryan Moyer Suderman facilitated an interactive Bible Study focused on the Gospel of Matthew in which we sought to "read the Bible with Jesus." During our time together, we studied in depth three passages of scripture, Matthew 11:1-15; 12:1-14; and 21:12-17, which each have several references and allusions to other passages of scripture from the Old Testament. As we studied these passages, it was amazing to see more and more connections with other places in scripture, and it was powerful to see several repeated themes emerge, including: Jesus' care for marginalized people, the importance of Sabbath for all, and God's desire for "mercy, not sacrifice" (Hosea 6:6). During our time together, I recognized the presence of the Holy Spirit as we studied scripture, and I was reminded again how the Bible still speaks powerfully into our world today. I also greatly enjoyed Bryan's presentation style: he incorporated music, teaching, group discussion and personal reflection.

On Sunday, April 23 Bryan participated actively in our morning worship service, playing a couple of special songs for the Parent and Child dedications and then through a musical meditation. In his musical meditation, he invited us to follow Jesus even if it means we "act a little strange," and he encouraged us to be "Detectives of Divinity," searching for God's kingdom all around. During Faith Formation, Bryan shared part of his faith journey and calling into itinerant music/Bible Study ministry. It was powerful to hear both the ups and downs of his journey and to recognize God's calling in his life to be a "red blood cell" in the body of Christ, circulating oxygen to many other people and places. In the afternoon, Bryan blessed around 40 people at Bethesda with his music and then came back to Tabor for a community concert with just over 90 people in attendance. He got us standing, singing, and even stomping and clapping! At the end of the concert, we sang "peace be with you" to each other as a sending blessing.

As I think back on the weekend, I find that I did experience renewal. I found inspiration through Bible Study, music, and fellowship. I found encouragement to look for signs of God's kingdom all around me and to be an active participant in what God is already doing. I was grateful for the people who were able to participate in the renewal weekend. I would have loved for more people to experience Bryan's ministry, but I hope that each person who did participate found renewal and inspiration for continuing to journey with Jesus faithfully. If you have an inspiring story from the weekend to share, I would love to hear it!

~Peace, Pastor Phil

## Sunday Worship Themes

### May 7 -

**Jesus is the Center of our Faith:  
*Praying for the Kingdom***  
Matthew 6:5-15  
Pastor Phil preaching

### May 14 -

**Jesus is the Center of our Faith:  
*Praying Alone***  
Mark 1:35-39;  
6:45-46; 14:32-34  
Pastor Phil preaching

### May 21 -

**Jesus is the Center of our Faith:  
*Praying from the Cross***  
Mark 15:34 / Matthew 27:46;  
Luke 23:34, 46  
Pastor Phil preaching

### May 28 -

**Jesus is the Center of our Faith:  
*Praying for Disciples***  
John 17  
Pastor Phil preaching

### June 4 -

**Jesus is the Center of our Faith:  
*Praying for the Spirit***  
John 20:19-23; Acts 2  
Pastor Katherine preaching

## Parent and Child Dedications



*Eliza Kay Unruh*



*Noah Gabriel Schmidt*



*Elijah Paul Adrian*

## Katherine's Candor

We are beginning a worship series on Prayer that grew out of conversations from our Worship Team. We were especially struck by a verse in Romans 12 (one of Tabor's 12 Scripture passages) that reads: "Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, *persevere in prayer*" (Italics added). What might it mean for our congregation to "persevere in prayer," trusting that God is indeed moving in our midst and that God indeed hears the prayers of our hearts?

This worship series will focus on Jesus' prayers from the Gospels. Each service will also include different psalms and prayers from the Bible as well as faith sharing around the experience of prayer. This series will also include an elective Faith Formation class on different prayer practices.

Here is a brief overview of this series:

- April 30: "Jesus praying in the Garden" (Matthew 26:36-46)
- May 7: "Jesus praying for the Kingdom" (Matthew 6:5-15)
- May 14: "Jesus praying alone" (Mark 1:35-39; 6:45-46; 14:32-42)
- May 21: "Jesus praying from the cross" (Mark 15:34//Matt. 27:46//Luke 23:34, 46)
- May 28: "Jesus praying for his disciples" (John 17)
- June 4: "Jesus praying for the power of Spirit" (John 20:19-23, Acts 2)

This prayer worship series connects us again with the affirmation that Jesus is the center of our faith, and will be a part of a larger worship series that will carry through the summer, focusing on the "Anabaptist Essentials: Jesus is the Center of our Faith, Community is the Center of our Life, and Reconciliation is the Center of our Work."

I leave you with words from the 1<sup>st</sup> letter to the church at Thessalonika: "Always seek to do good to one another and to all. Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." (1 Thes. 5:15-18)

~Pastor Katherine

## Rosie's Reflections

One of the things I treasure at Tabor is our strong desire to meet for Faith Formation, be it in individual classes or in larger group settings for special presentations. Both settings are intentional and essential for our living and growing together as followers of Jesus Christ. We also offer an elective study each quarter which gives you and your class the opportunity to join others that may not be part of your usual class.

During May, as Katherine indicated, the elective class will focus on different prayer practices. In the summer months, **June, July and August**, we will offer an elective on the book, *Anabaptist Essentials* by Palmer Becker, which follows our summer worship series. We will order books for everyone, so if you and your class are planning to join this discussion, please sign up on the bulletin board no later than May 28. The summer classes begin on Sunday June 18.

Also, during the summer we will gather in the fellowship hall during the Faith Formation for *Finger Food Fellowship*. These dates are **June 4, July 9, and August 6**, and everyone, children, youth and adults are invited to share finger foods as we fellowship. Activities will also be planned. "O taste and see that the Lord is good." Psalm 34:8.

~Grace and peace, Pastor Rosie



## Introducing...

We are Bruce and Nancy Funk, probably not strangers to many of you, since we grew up in the Goessel community. We have lived in Newton & North Newton for about 35 years, where we raised our family. Our children are Michael and Gina, both are married and each have two children.



Bruce is semi retired, and his superpower is making things out of wood! Nancy has worked for the Mennonite Church for nearly 40 years (26 years at General Conference/Mennonite Church USA, and is currently in her 14th year at Western District Conference). We're both dog lovers and have 2 very spoiled Welch Corgi's. We enjoy camping in our RV. In addition to woodworking, Bruce loves to cook and barbeque and bake. Nancy enjoys walking, hiking, and reading. We began attending Tabor in December and enjoy the friendliness and welcoming spirit of this congregation.  
~Bruce and Nancy Funk

## Tabor Mennonite Women

For our April Tabor Mennonite Women gathering, we delighted ourselves with a Salad Supper. After the tasty meal, we were treated to a program by six talented Junior High and High School youth from Tabor and three accompanists. We are so privileged to have a vast variety of gifts in music through Dawson Duerksen on Trombone; Katie Wright, flute; Josh Schmidt, vocal; Elizabeth Alderfer, French Horn; Karina Brandt, cello; and Olivia Duerksen, bass clarinet. They all did a wonderful job!

The Mystery Supper is scheduled for May 17 at 5:30 p.m. Sign up on the bulletin board by May 10. Cost, \$20 payable at the door. ~Denise Nickel, reporting



## In Loving Memory

- Alice Schmidt ~ February 20, 1931  
June 23, 2016
- Ruth Schmidt ~ August 19, 1920  
August 29, 2016
- Art Schmidt ~ February 8, 1918  
December 14, 2016

## Memorial Services

- ☞ Sunday, May 28, 7:30 p.m. ~  
Goessel Mennonite Cemetery
- ☞ Monday, May 29, 10:00 a.m. ~  
Tabor Mennonite Cemetery
- ☞ Monday, May 29, 11:00 a.m. ~  
Alexanderwohl Mennonite Cemetery

## Graduations at Tabor



**Hesston College**  
May 14, 9:00 a.m.

Sarah Booth

**Newton High School**  
May 13, 7:00 p.m.

Karina Brandt  
Drew Goerzen  
Benedetta Conese

**Goessel High School**  
May 6, 4:00 p.m.

Olivia Duerksen  
Joshua Schmidt

**Goessel Middle School**  
May 12, 7:00 p.m.

Dawson Duerksen



## Recognizing our Graduates



Sarah Booth

This summer Sarah will be working at Camp Mennoscah. In the following school year she will attend Bethel College and is planning to major in Art with a focus on photography.



Karina Brandt

Next year Karina will be serving with Journey International through MMN, likely in Ecuador for 11 months working with refugees and after-school programs, among other things. Opportunities will be given to support Karina.



Benedetta Conese

Benni leaves at the end of May to travel with an exchange student group before returning home to Pesaro, Italy in June. She will graduate next year with a language certificate in English, German, and French.



Olivia Duerksen

Next year Olivia will be attending Tabor College and majoring in Early Elementary Education. She will also be playing volleyball there.



Drew Goerzen

Drew's plans after graduation are to attend Hutchinson Community College in Newton to get an Associates Degree. He is undecided as to what his major is at this time.



Joshua Schmidt

Josh is planning to attend Kansas State University in the fall, pursuing a degree in physical education.

## Faith Formation Offering Project

This year our Junior Department Sunday morning Faith Formation offering money will go to Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) for education projects. MCC supports education around the world by helping communities increase access to education, improve the quality of education, support vocational training, and promote peace clubs and other initiatives to develop young people's leadership skills. Thanks for giving generously to MCC for these education projects.



~Pamela Abrahams



## Vacation Bible School

June 5-9, 8:30 - 11:45 a.m.

Celebration Service

June 11, 10 a.m.

with picnic to follow

Listen up! Dig deep! Jesus had a lot to say. And those who listened discovered a treasure in his words.

At first, Jesus' parables seem simple. Of course we know that the type of soil in which seeds are sown is important for plants to grow, but what does that have to do with us? And if someone asked us for food, we wouldn't be rude and give a stone instead! Or, what if we lost something important to us? Of course we would look high and low and celebrate when it was found.

It turns out, however, that the parables have a greater meaning beyond what we first see. So come along, listen, and dig deeper for the treasures of the kingdom of heaven!

"Let us love one another, because love is from God." ~ 1 John 4:7a

~Eunice Nickel

## Join Us!

What: Fundraiser for the Tabor Building Project

Where: Bruce and Eileen Schmidt's The White Owl Barn

When: May 20, 2017 at 6:30 p.m.

Come enjoy a relaxing evening at the White Owl Barn with delicious food and delightful fellowship. Please sign up on the South Bulletin Board by May 14.  
Cost: \$50 per person, minimum donation

