



*Facilities Fund Supper
at White Owl Barn*

Sunday Worship Themes

June 4 -

Jesus is the Center of our Faith:

Praying for the Spirit

John 20:19-23; Acts 2

Pastor Katherine preaching

June 11 -

Community is the Center of our Life:

Bible School Celebration

June 18 -

Community is the Center of our Life:

Camp Mennoscah

Michael Unruh preaching

June 25 -

Community is the Center of our Life:

Mennonite Church USA

Welcoming New Members

Communion

Pastor Phil preaching

Faith Formation

June 4 - Finger Food Fellowship

June 11 - Picnic in Park

June 18 - Michael Unruh:

Mennoscah Sharing

June 25 - Anabaptist Essentials

July and August Faith Formation:

Finger Food Fellowship:

July 9, August 6

Anabaptist Essentials:

Summer Adult Elective will meet

July 2, 16, 23, 30

August 13, 20, 27

Tabor Church News

June, 2017

Phil's Ponderings:

"Jesus is the Center of our Faith"

I love Biblical numbers. I especially love the number seven. Seven is a Biblical number that symbolizes wholeness and completeness. At the very beginning of the Bible, we read a beautiful poem about how God created all things in seven days and then "God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation" (Genesis 2:3). I love the number seven so much that I even put seven chocolate chips in each of my weekly pancakes ☺.

Recently, I received a wooden shelf from my grandma. I put it up in my office and eventually decided to display several symbols on it that represent the life and ministry of Jesus. But how many symbols to display? It didn't take me long to decide: I needed to find seven symbols that would symbolize the complete life and ministry of Jesus (see picture).

The first symbol is a nativity scene that Pastor Katherine gave to me at a staff Christmas gathering. The nativity symbolizes Jesus' birth, his coming into the world. "The Word became flesh and lived among us..." (John 1:14).

The second symbol is a dove I received as a gift from some dear friends in Fresno. The dove symbolizes Jesus' baptism and the Spirit's empowerment in his life. "Just as [Jesus] was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him..." (Mark 1:10).

The third symbol is an oil lamp that I found in church storage. It, along with a pot, were donated by Bethesda to Tabor in 2006. The lamp symbolizes that Jesus came to reveal God's kingdom on earth as it is in heaven. "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life" (John 8:12).

The fourth and fifth symbols are a communion set that my dad gave to me when I graduated from seminary. They symbolize Jesus' last supper with his disciples. "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty" (John 6:35). "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood" (Luke 22:20).



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Did you know . . .

CIRCLES and Connection

About 5 years ago my husband, Mark Rogers, started getting involved in Circles. Every Thursday evening, he would be gone for the evening and come back excited about the people he was with and the impact of what was going on in peoples' lives. I was glad for him, but to be honest, after a day of teaching I was ready to be home and giving up an evening didn't seem that appealing. Eventually, I decided that if this captured my husband's heart, I needed to get involved too. I started heading to Marion on Thursday evenings and it didn't take long for me to understand why Mark was hooked. The people I've met, the times we've shared, the lives I've seen changed have grabbed my heart too.

To quote from Circles: "We believe that the ultimate responsibility for poverty and prosperity rests not only in the hands of individuals, but with all sectors of our communities." By bringing different parts of a community together, people learn to see each other differently, and think about poverty and how to eradicate it in new ways. In Circles training, people in poverty learn about the effects of poverty and how to become a strong leader in their own lives and in our community. There are weekly meetings that give opportunities for individuals to build relationships across economic and cultural lines. We hope to see our county embrace changes that will increase the possibility for poverty to be eradicated and for everyone to thrive.

The Bible tells us that the most important commandment is to love God, and then to love others. Circles gives me an opportunity to do that. One way to show love is to listen and at Circles we are learning to listen. Listening, it is often the start to finding hope.

Circles is non-religious and open to everyone. But God is definitely at work there and using it to draw people to Himself. We have the opportunity to be His hands and feet in real ways. Volunteers provide and serve a meal each week, others provide child care. Some volunteers come to share their expertise and teach us about relationships or money or little houses. Others become an ally to someone who wants to change their life story – forming deliberate relationships that are powerful and important to bringing change to our community. If you are in the least bit curious, join us some Thursday evening at 6:00 at the Presbyterian Church in Marion.

-Nancy Rogers

Katherine's Candor

Dear Congregation, thank you for your continued prayers and support for our youth! We have such a gifted group of young people in our congregation and I greatly enjoy the opportunities I have to be with them! Thank you for the many ways that you also continue to encourage and nurture them!

Thank you for your tremendous support this past week during the youth's Russian Pancake Fundraiser Breakfast! Thank you to all of you who came and ate (especially since it was a first attempt for many of us at making these). Thank you also for your very generous donations! We received \$1,385, over half of the amount that we needed to reach our goal. This more than covers the cost of one person to attend Convention this summer.

This summer's Convention in Orlando will be the fourth time that I've had the opportunity to take a group of youth to a Mennonite Convention. In my experience, I have always found that the MCUSA Conventions are beneficial in a number of ways: they tend to generate excitement and curiosity for what is going on in the denomination; they allow for meeting other Mennonite youth and representatives from Mennonite colleges and organizations from around the country; they generate meaningful discussion through their engaging speakers and relevant seminars (in fact, I've planned a number of Wednesday evening lessons around conversations that grew out of Convention); they encourage service and living lives of justice and mercy; they create a strong sense of fellowship in the youth group through opportunities to worship and play together; and, most importantly, they strengthen and nurture the faith of the youth and their journey with God. In my experience, Convention is a meaningful, spiritual experience that helps youth to see the many ways that God is moving in their own lives, in the church, and in the world.

Our youth are looking forward to going to Convention this summer and I am excited to see the ways that this will strengthen their faith and their relationships with God and each other. We have almost reached our goal to make this possible! If you are curious about ways to support the youth and help us reach our goal before Convention, I would encourage you to make a donation on our "Wall to Orlando" and ask the youth what it is they're looking forward to in regards to Convention. While we are at the Convention during the first week of July, I would encourage you to pray for us. And after we return, I would encourage you to ask our youth about their experience and the ways they hope to incorporate what they've gained through their experience there into their daily lives and journey of faith.

Thank you for your continued support, your continued encouragement, your generous donations, and your prayers. These are all deeply appreciated!

~Pastor Katherine

White Owl Barn Facilities Fund Supper

A Facilities Fund supper was held at the White Owl Barn last Saturday, May 20. Fifty-six people attended and enjoyed lovely weather in a rustic country setting. The prime movers for the event were Elaine Unruh and Eileen Schmidt, they had help from Sandra Duerksen, Phyllis Regier, and Bill and Sherry Unruh. All the food and hospitality items were donated and the event raised \$11,960. Just as importantly, we strengthened our bonds of fellowship and love. The Task Force is grateful for everyone's efforts to keep these fund raising efforts going. Please continue to pray for its success.

~Myron Voth

Introducing...

We are very excited to host Jayce Yoder for his Ministry Inquiry Program (MIP) experience this summer! It is energizing for us as Pastors and Staff to have someone join the team who can learn from each of us and also provide fresh insight and energy into our work. We pray for God's blessing on Jayce as he works with us this summer. Below is a brief interview with Jayce so that we as a congregation can get to know him better. If you are interested in learning to know Jayce more, please feel free to converse with him at church, take him out to coffee, or invite him over for a meal!



- Where did you grow up? What is your home church? Tell us about your family.

I grew up in Topeka, KS, where I attended Southern Hills Mennonite Church until the Fall of 2015 when I moved into the dorms at Bethel College. I grew up with my parents, Jerry and Jené, and my older brother, Jevin. I took after mom by coming to Bethel, while Jevin took after dad by attending K-State for architecture.

- What are some of your hobbies and interests? Any fun stories related to these hobbies/interests?

In the small amount of time Bethel gives me to pursue my interests outside of class work, I enjoy writing music and playing guitar. The first song I ever wrote in the seventh grade was called "Mennonite." While it failed to rhyme or have any sort of deep message behind it, it featured these lyrics in the chorus: "I'm a Mennonite, I'm a pacifist, and I don't know when to stop praising the Lord."

- Where are you going to school? What are your majors? Why did you choose those majors? What have been some of your favorite classes thus far?

I recently finished my second year at Bethel College where I am double-majoring in Bible and Religion and Communication Arts. I chose Bible and Religion with the possibility of working at a church - perhaps as a Youth Pastor - after graduating college in mind. The Communication Arts major was a decision I made after taking Intro to Communication and Media Analysis. I found these classes to be very applicable to all parts of my life, so I decided to double-major.

In addition to my majors, I am very involved with the music groups on campus including Concert Choir, Jazz Band, and Jazz Combo. These all hold some of my best memories, but aside from music classes, my favorite class has probably been New Testament Greek. By the end of that class, the two of us remaining students had completed our own translation of 1 John.

- Why did you decide to do Ministry Inquiry Program (MIP) this summer?

As I consider the possibility of working at a church, the MIP program seemed like a good way to get a taste of what it is like to be a leader in a church.

- What are you excited about in your MIP experience? What are you nervous about? What are one or two hopes that you have for this experience?

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Tabor Mennonite Women

The Tabor Mennonite Women enjoyed a mystery evening on May 17 that began by taking a tour through Goessel to view ten barn quilts throughout town. After the tour they drove to the White Owl Barn (owned by Bruce & Eileen Schmidt) where they ate a catered meal and enjoyed some shopping by local vendors. Sharon Adrian and Janna Duerksen gave a presentation about the history of barn quilts as well as a demonstration on how they are made. There were 52 women present for this delightful evening.

~Janna Duerksen, reporting

Interview continued

I am excited to gain a more educated sense of how church may fit into my future. As a part of the program, I am being thrown into many new experiences during the worship service that push me slightly outside of my comfort zone. While the thought of preaching or being responsible for a group of children during story time tend to make me nervous, I also realize those experiences will help me grow and learn whether a position at a church is right for me - and answering that question is my main hope for the summer.

- What else would you like Tabor people to know about you?

I am excited to be immersed in the culture of Tabor Mennonite Church at least temporarily and I hope that this experience provides growth for all of us.

- If you were going to go on "America's Got Talent," what would be your talent?

I would be a singer-songwriter with a guitar and would aim to make a difference in the world through lyrics that challenge society to end cycles of injustice and discrimination.



Summer Faith Formation begins
Sunday June 18

Children:

We have exciting things planned for you that you don't want to miss! Carol Duerksen will be telling the Bible stories in creative ways. I've heard something about a talking donkey! Really? Krista Graber and Pam Abrahams are heading up activities, arts and crafts that reinforce these stories of faith in our daily lives. We hope to see you there!

Adults:

"Jesus is the center of our faith;
Community is the center of our lives;
Reconciliation is the center of our work."
What does it mean to live out these "Anabaptist Essentials" in our daily lives? This will be the topic of our conversation in the elective class offered this summer. Some books have already been ordered as we anticipate your attendance. Please sign up on the bulletin board by June 4, to reserve your book! The books are paid for by the Christian Education Commission. Will you join us this summer?

Finger Food Fellowship:

Once a month the Tabor community (children and adults) will join for finger foods and fellowship during the Faith Formation hour. The first date is Sunday, June 4, followed by July 9 and August 6. Bring finger foods (fruit, veggies, crackers, trail mix, etc.) to share. Everyone is invited to gather for food, fun and fellowship.



Vacation Bible School

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

Celebration Service

June 11, 10 a.m.

with picnic to follow

Rosie's Reflections

What better way to head into summer than gathering for a week of Bible school; and what better way to head into Bible school than to dig for treasure on the first day? I love digging, but it isn't always an easy task. Sometimes the ground is hard and won't budge without some prior preparation. Just as the ground needs tilling for seeds to have the best chance of survival and growth, so we too need preparation to dig beneath the surface for the hidden treasure in Jesus' parables. I'm looking forward to team teaching the Bible story each day with Pastor Phil. May we prepare ourselves to dig deep for the treasure buried in each parable, and may each child gain new understanding of God's Word as they dig and interact with each other.

Let's start digging for treasure!

~Grace and peace, Pastor Rosie

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The sixth symbol is a glass bell that was given to me when I began pastoring at Tabor. On the bell is Psalm 23 as well as praying hands. This bell symbolizes Jesus' life of prayer, as well as his ministry as the good shepherd. "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me; yet, not my will but yours be done" (Luke 22:42). "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep" (John 10:11).

The seventh symbol is a stained glass cross that was made and given to me recently by Paul Graber. The empty cross symbolizes Jesus' death and resurrection. The cross was a symbol of terror that Jesus' resurrection transformed into a symbol of hope. "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? ... God heard when I cried to him... All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord... For dominion belongs to the Lord, and he rules over the nations" (Matthew 27:46; Mark 15:34; Psalm 22:1, 24, 27, 28).

One thing I love about symbols is that they can have multiple deep meanings. Next time you step into my office, I invite you to pause and reflect on the powerful life and ministry of Jesus as reflected through these seven symbols. And, as we reflect on Jesus' story, may we also always seek to follow Jesus faithfully and truly be the Body of Christ in the world.

~Peace, Pastor Phil