



*Paving the way to Tabor!*

# Tabor Church News

September, 2017

## Phil's Ponderings:

“Reflecting Back with Gratitude,  
Looking Forward with Hope”

## Sunday Worship Themes

### September 3 -

#### **Vision: Shared Stories of Future Hope**

##### *The Great Multitude*

Isaiah 2:2-4; Revelation 7:9-12

Pastor Phil preaching

### September 10 -

#### **Vision: Shared Stories of Future Hope**

##### *The Root of David*

Isiah 11:1-9; Revelation 5

Pastor Phil preaching

### September 17 -

#### **Vision: Shared Stories of Future Hope**

##### *Stories of Hope*

TBD

Campout at Camp Mennoscah

### September 24 -

#### **Vision: Shared Stories of Future Hope**

##### *Everlasting Joy*

(Bethel College Sunday)

Isaiah 35:1-10; Revelation 7:13-17

Peter Goerzen preaching

### October 1 -

#### **Vision: Shared Stories of Future Hope**

##### *The Water of Life*

(World Communion Sunday)

Isaiah 55:1-13; Revelation 22:1-5

Pastor Katherine preaching



I am grateful to be a part of a church that seeks to practice hospitality to all, and I am especially thankful for the hospitality that we were able to extend this summer to Jayce Yoder as he participated in the Ministry Inquiry Program. I very much enjoyed working with Jayce, praying with him on a regular basis, reading the book, *Growing Young*, together, seeing his energy and creativity, and helping him experience the life of a pastor. Thank you to each of you for the warm hospitality that you extended to Jayce. Thank you especially for those of you who affirmed his gifts, participated in the worship discussion service that he initiated, and/or prayed for him throughout the summer. I'm so glad we could host Jayce this summer and I hope we get the opportunity to host MIP students again in the future!

I am grateful to be a part of a church that actively supports and participates in our area conference, the Western District Conference (WDC). At the beginning of August, I along with several others from Tabor traveled to Arlington, TX for WDC's Annual Assembly focused on the theme "Rooted and Built Up in Christ" (Colossians 2:6-7). Thank you to all who attended WDC Assembly from Tabor and for your written reflections included in this newsletter. Personally, a few of my highlights from Assembly included the delicious food and wonderful fellowship at the Festival hosted by Iglesia Luz del Evangelio, attending Carol Duerksen's workshop on the *Upsidedown King Bible Study*, and participating in cross-cultural musical worship the first evening. Assembly was a rich experience and I hope that many of you will be able to participate in WDC Assembly 2018, which will be hosted in Kansas July 27-29 and will feature Bryan Moyer Suderman as the keynote speaker!

I am grateful for a church family that desires building deeper trusting relationships with one another, growing in our faith, and pursuing peace and reconciliation. Thank you to the almost 30 Tabor people who attended our recent "Followers (of Jesus) Retreat" this past Wednesday evening. We had an energizing time talking about our commitment to Christ, to the Church, and specifically to Tabor Mennonite Church. As we thought about commitment, we focused on building more trustworthy processes related to inviting people to join commissions and ministry teams, developing a narrative budget, and continuing forward with the building project. I appreciate the energy of conversation and the good feedback received in each of our points of discussion. I hope to send out a more detailed report from our retreat this next week and I look forward to our next retreat together!

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## Did you know?

. . . that the “typical Mennonite” from around the world is a young woman from Congo? Right now, “average Mennonites” are facing trauma, grief and pain. Our global family of Mennonites needs your help now. Mennonites in the Democratic Republic of the Congo are suffering right now at the hands of warring factions who have invaded their communities. Homes, livelihoods and crops have all been destroyed in many cases. Current violence is on the rise in the Kasai regions in the Democratic Republic of Congo, where most of the Mennonite congregations are established. This leaves some Congolese Mennonites abused, others dead, and many in hiding. Consider a gift to help provide emergency food relief, farming tools, and other support. Donation may be made online at <https://www.mennonitemission.net/donate/causes/Congo%20emergency>



**Responding in Kasai region, DR Congo**  
You can help displaced people

## Help Displaced People in Congo DR

Armed conflict in the Kasai region of the Democratic Republic of the Congo has displaced 1.4 million people, including 8,000 Mennonites. A Congolese assessment team visited this summer and found a severe lack of food and increasing malnutrition. Families had to leave their fields and animals when they fled the violence, and food that is available for purchase is very expensive.

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## Rosie's Reflections

The new year of Faith Formation is here, and it begins on Sunday, September 3! The children will meet in newly formed classes using SHINE's new fall curriculum that focuses on “Being God's People.” We have wonderful teachers, helpers and substitute teachers in place and ready to go!

The youth will continue meeting with leaders, Brandy, Nathan and Michelle. We're excited to welcome Luca Franken and Juanjo Aguilar to the youth group this year. We're so glad you are here and look forward to knowing you better!

We're happy to announce a new class forming for college-age and young adults. Pastor Katherine will lead this class followed by a lunch each week. Les and Cynthia will continue to invite college students for lunch and these dates are October 8 and December 10 this fall. The rest of the Sunday meals will be provided by various Tabor folks. We're looking forward offering this new opportunity for our young adults and college-age students.

The adults will also have a new offering this year. In addition to the usual classes, Pastor Phil will be leading a book study each quarter. Phil's proposed book for this quarter is *Growing Young: Six Essential Strategies to Help Young People Discover and Love Your Church* by Kara Powell, Jake Mulder, and Brad Griffin.

And check out the new listing of all classes on the wall outside Kim's office next to the bulletin board. We hope this helps you and our guests have a better view of our Faith Formation class offerings.

My prayer is that all of us will find meaningful ways to engage with each other and God, as we gather for discussion and conversation during the Sunday morning Faith Formation hour. Let's have a great year!

*~Grace and peace, Pastor Rosie*

## MIP Reflections

It seems like just the other day I walked in the doors of Tabor Mennonite Church to begin the Ministry Inquiry Program, yet somehow the end of my time here has already come. I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know many of you as I worked with the pastors and learned about some of the background work that pastors do during the week. I have had a great time this summer pondering new ideas with this congregation as well as experiencing differences in this church compared to how my home church functions. Some of the experiences I have had while working with the staff here have stretched me, just as I am sure some of my ideas have stretched Tabor. It is my hope that these stretches have been beneficial for Tabor – I know they have been for me.

As I return to Bethel this fall, I hope to attend Tabor whenever possible. My position in the church may be different, but I have no plans of making this a goodbye. Instead, I would like to express my appreciation for allowing me to learn and grow with you this summer. Thank you for all the support you have given me while I continue to discern how ministry fits into my future. You all not only have made me feel welcome here, but you have also made it feel like home for me this summer.

Thank you,  
Jayce Yoder

## Introducing...

We are Jim and Ruby (Chupp) Graber and we live on a farm between Hesston and Newton. Jim is the son of Tony and Alta Graber and grew up in First Church of Christian of Moundridge. Ruby grew up in Oklahoma. Her parents were Bill and Amanda Chupp who grew up Amish and switched to the OM (Old Mennonite) Zion Mennonite Church. We met at EMC (Eastern Mennonite College), now EMU (Eastern Mennonite University) and married Aug 31, 1975.



In the early 80s the Farm Crisis hit, so Ruby went back to work as a Registered Nurse and Jim picked up doing more income tax accounting. We both continued working at our jobs so we could keep on farming. Ruby retired from teaching nursing at Hesston College for 25 years in June 2016. Now she helps out on the farmstead and babysitting our grandson.

We attended Hillcrest Community Church in Newton for 20 plus years, which was great for our family. Our son Troy is married and lives in Wichita. Our daughter Sara has joined us on the farm, and is our farm manager. She married Will Hasty and they have a 2 year old son, Bill. Now with our "empty nest," we were at a point to re-connect to our Mennonite Anabaptist heritage. We affirm Tabor's peace and justice stance and the agricultural background is a comfortable fit with our own personal beliefs. Thank you for your warmth and friendship and allowing us to join you in this life's journey.

*~Jim and Ruby Graber*

Hello my name is Juanjo and I came from Spain specifically from a big town in Malaga, Andalucia in the south of Spain. This year I am staying with Nathan and Brandy Ashley. I'm very athletic because I like to practice many sport such as skiing, surfing in Malaga coast, running, soccer and also like to try new sports such as football here in USA and I'm having a great time.

*~Juanjo Aguilar*



Hello. My name is Luca Franken. I'm from Krefeld in west Germany near Duesseldorf. In Germany, I am in Grade 11. There are 1500 students in my school. I ride the city bus to school with my 14 year old brother, Liam. My sister, Leni, will be 4 on August 31. My parents are Ivonne Franken and Mirco Vetterkind. My mom is a nurse and my father a driving teacher. Here in Kansas, my parents are Lewis and Carrie Unruh. I attend Peabody/Burns High School where I am a Junior. After school, I go to football training. I am making new friends at school. I am happy that I can come to Tabor Church.

*~Luca Franken*

## Where are our students?

### **Bethel College**

Reece Hiebert  
Luke Unruh  
Sarah Booth

### **Hutchinson Community College**

Drew Goerzen

### **Kansas State University**

Josh Schmidt

### **Mennonite Mission Network Ecuador**

Karina Brandt

### **Pittsburg State University**

Carson Voth

### **Tabor College**

Olivia Duerksen

### **University of Kansas**

Mark Schmidt



**TABOR  
CHURCH  
CAMPOUT**

*Hospitality, Healing*  
**HOPE**

September 16 & 17  
Camp Mennosciah

*Come and join the fun!!*

*Registrations are due September 10*





*Kids get ready for Tabor Trading Post*

*Did you know? continued*

An Anabaptist response is underway, shaped and implemented by Congolese Mennonite and Mennonite Brethren church-based relief committees, coordinated by Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) and supported by global and Canada and U.S. based Anabaptist organizations. Your gift of money will help provide food, household items and shelter supplies. Make your donation online at [mcc.org/congo-relief](http://mcc.org/congo-relief) or by phone, 1-888-563-4676; mail checks to MCC, PO Box 500, Akron PA 17501. Please keep those who have been forced from their homes, and those hosting them, in your prayers.



Stories & Stuff is back!!  
Thursday, September 14, 10 a.m.  
Paul Graber will demonstrate  
water dowsing.  
Everyone is welcome!

## Remembering Our Loved Ones Who Have Died

Mildred Jean Franzen was born May 5, 1929 in Kansas City, Missouri. She was the only child of Jacob and Marie (Unruh) Schmidt. Mildred attended Sand Creek School from 1st to 8th grades, and graduated from Goessel High School in 1947. After graduation she attend Bethel College and then became a nurse aid at Bethesda Hospital in Goessel, Kansas. Mildred also worked as a baker at Bethel College, head of housekeeping at Schowalter Villa in Hesston, and at Friendly Acres, now Asbury Park, in Newton.



Upon her confession of faith, Mildred was baptized by Rev. H. B. Schmidt at Tabor Mennonite Church on June 9, 1946. She was a lifetime member, teaching Sunday School and Bible School for many years.

Mildred married Melvin Franzen on March 25, 1950 at Tabor Mennonite Church. They lived their entire life on Mildred's home place. They had three children LaVerle, Teresa, and Doyle.

Some of Mildred's childhood memories include working with her Dad in the fields and helping with the milking. She enjoyed going to her Grandma and Grandpa Unruh's house, where there were lots of girls her age. When visiting her Grandpa and Grandma Schmidt's house, she loved to visit with her Aunt Augusta Schmidt and hear stories of her missionary work in India.

Activities were very important to Mildred. She loved bowling and was on different bowling teams with her daughter LaVerle. She also loved doing crafts with her daughter Teresa and visiting with people that stopped at their booth at craft fairs. She also enjoyed The Red Hats Club. Mildred was a very outgoing person. She enjoyed being around people and talking to everyone that she saw.

Mildred spent her last 6 years at Kidron/Bethel where she made lots of new friends, earning her the nickname there as 'The hostess with the mostess.' She was always helping where she could.

Mildred is survived by daughters LaVerle Franzen, rural Newton, Kansas; Teresa Kennedy and husband Loyd, Cedar Vale, Kansas; son Doyle Franzen and wife Nancy, rural Newton, Kansas; grandchildren Jeff and Lane Franzen; Heather, Bethany, Andrew, and Alex Kennedy; two great grandchildren, Sofia Franzen and Jake Kennedy; a sister-in-law Marjorie Janzen; and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

Mildred will continue to live through those of us who knew and loved her.

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### *Phil's Ponderings continued*

I am also grateful for a church that prioritizes worship. Thank you to everyone who participated actively in our *Anabaptist Essentials* worship series these past months! Beginning this Sunday, we will shift our focus to a new worship series entitled "Vision: Shared Stories of Future Hope." Our weekly scriptures for this series will come from Isaiah and Revelation, two poetic prophets who wrote to communities facing difficult times. In the midst of terror and trauma, Isaiah and Revelation offer powerful and hopeful visions of God's future. I hope and pray that we can claim these visions in our own lives and seek to live into them each and every day. May we all be encouraged through this upcoming worship series.

*~Peace, Pastor Phil*