



Wednesday Evenings at Tabor

Tabor Church News

November, 2017

Phil's Ponderings: "I'm Thankful For. . ."

"O give thanks to the Lord, for God is good, God's steadfast love endures forever."
~Psalm 136:1

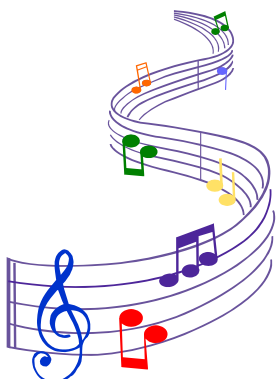
In this season of giving thanks, I am especially grateful to God for:

- 1) my wife and sons. I couldn't have asked for a better life partner. Mary is a source of love, encouragement, challenge, and support for me. She is my best friend. I am so grateful for our marriage of almost ten years and for our two beautiful boys! Even through parenting challenges, Ethan and Noah are a source of joy, love, and hope for me. I pray that you can each find comfort and joy through your family and friends.
- 2) the opportunity to grow in my faith. I have been encouraged and challenged to grow in my faith through reading *The Great Spiritual Migration* by Brian McLaren and *Church Refugees* by Josh Packard, through Adult Bible Study on Wednesday evenings, and through participating in Spiritual Direction and Leadership Coaching. I pray that you will each find ways to grow in your faith as well.
- 3) the gift of community. I am grateful for you, the people of Tabor Mennonite Church, for your encouragement, for your active participation in the life of the church, and for your willingness to grow in your faith. I pray that as we journey forward into a new year with discussion and discernment focused on the building project and other topics, we will listen well to one another and to God's Spirit, we will communicate openly, and we will make "every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace" (Ephesians 4:3).
- 4) the gift of music. I am especially grateful for our current worship series on music and spirituality in which we are singing many heart songs. One of my heart songs is number 580 in the blue Hymnal: "My life flows on." I love the tune and all the words of this hymn, but I am especially challenged and encouraged by the last line: "Since love is Lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from singing?" I pray that we can all turn to our God of Love to lead and direct us through the many challenges in life.

In addition to these, I am grateful for many other things, including good friendships, a wonderful church staff, the beauty of creation, and much more. I invite you also to consider what you are thankful to God for in your life.

"O give thanks to the Lord, for God is good, God's steadfast love endures forever."
~Psalm 136:1

~Peace, Pastor Phil



Sunday Worship Themes

November 5 -

Music and Spirituality:

Psalm 148; Revelation 5:11-14
Pastor Katherine preaching

November 12 -

Music and Spirituality:

Psalm 146; I Samuel 2:1-10
Pastor Phil preaching

November 19 -

Hesston College Sunday

Genesis 6:5-9; 8:15-22
Bel Canto providing special music
Cleo Koop preaching

November 22 -

Music and Spirituality:

Thanksgiving Service
Heart Song Stories

November 26 -

Music and Spirituality:

Psalm 100; 66:1-9; 95:1-7
Heart Song Stories

Tabor Mennonite Women



Twenty Tabor Mennonite Women met October 16 for our Sister Care evening with Evie Schmidt who shared her story, with assistance by Carol Duerksen. We were reminded what our roles are in supporting women who struggle with mental illness. Evie has been a very brave woman who has been challenged by this illness, as well as a number of physical illnesses. She has been cared for by a number of Christian Sisters. We learned it takes a risk to open up to others.

A possible reading list:

- Forgiveness, the Passionate Journey*, nine steps to forgiving through Jesus' Beatitudes – Flora Slosson Wuellner
- Bread for the Journey: meditations and recipes to nourish the soul*
- The Happiness Trap* – Russ Harris
- The Light is Winning* – Zach Hoag
- Heart Whispers* – Elizabeth Canham
- Short Stories by Jesus* – Amy Jill Levine
- The Bible Tells Me So* – Peter Enns
- Everything Belongs* – Richard Rohr
- The Divine Dance* – Richard Rohr
- Atchison Blue* – Judith Valente
- Goliath Must Fall* – Louie Giglio

Rosie's Reflections

Dear Tabor friends,

THANK YOU! Thank you for your kind words, tokens of appreciation, written affirmations, and for your generosity in granting your pastors sabbaticals! I receive this gift of a 3-month sabbatical leave with heartfelt gratitude and humility. I promise to use it well. I'm looking forward to renewal of body, mind and soul. When I return on March 1, 2018, I hope to begin sharing some of my experiences with you. So, as I prepare to leave, I do so with deep appreciation for this opportunity, and I covet your prayers as I go. I will continue to remember and pray for you while I'm away. May God bless you and keep you until we meet again.

~Pastor Rosie

Sabbatical plans for December 1, 2017 – March 1, 2018, include the following opportunities to renew my body, mind and soul.

Body

- develop a regular rhythm of exercise
- breathe in plenty of crisp air on brisk walks
- learn something new, perhaps water aerobics, etc.
- practice mindful eating, try new recipes; consume less sugar, etc.

Mind

- volunteer at Newton Medical Center during January & February
- freedom to visit churches or pursue day trip outings with Kent
- turn off emails and activities related to my work at Tabor church
- limit time on social media (Facebook)
- attend the Anabaptist Vision and Discipleship Series conference February 23-25, 2018, "*Before the Unthinkable Happens: Confronting Our Role in Injustice*"
- do some journaling and writing

Soul

- Begin meeting with a spiritual director
- Attend monthly group meetings (FEED MY SHEPHERDS) for clergy, chaplains, spiritual caregivers and ministers where we focus on "forgiveness," a key theme in Jesus' teaching.
- visit the Sophia Spirituality Center in Atchison, KS during February
- continue to develop a daily rhythm of reading, meditation, scripture and prayer

Body, Mind & Soul

- intentional time with my children and grandson
- entertain friends and family with bountiful food and conversation
- ample coffee & conversations with Kent
- book study with a friend: *The Great Spiritual Migration* by Brian McLaren
- slow down
- cook, bake and enjoy the holidays with family and friends
- carve out time and space to read.

See reading list - side column, this page

Katherine's Candor

We are excited for the opportunity to sing our faith during our current worship series on music and spirituality! Music is one of the most meaningful ways that we encounter God's presence. Music is one of our most powerful expressions of worship, both when we are alone and when we are joined as a congregation. Music allows us to transcend boundaries of race, nation, or language, to join our voices with sisters and brothers from around the world. Music provides us with a way to express our emotions, our praise, or our sorrow when all other words fail. And, as Eunice Nickel observed in one of her recent Children's Stories, music has the ability to continue to speak to us throughout a lifetime and beyond, with cherished songs being passed down from grandparents, to parents, to children, nurturing the faith of generation after generation.

We are grateful for this series when we can seek to sing one another's heart songs, the songs that have nurtured and sustained our faith, and to share our stories why these songs have been so meaningful. We would encourage you to continue to ponder what your own heart songs are and how these songs have impacted your faith journey. We are grateful for this series when we can sing songs from the Bible, songs that have nurtured and sustained God's people for thousands of years, including the songs of Miriam and Moses, the song of Hannah, the song all of creation sings to the Lamb, and the Psalms, which are the ancient hymns of God's people. We are also grateful for the opportunity to sing new songs, songs from new writers or from different cultures, as "God is revealed to us as we open ourselves to language and art forms old and new, from near and far." (from the booklet introducing *The Great Day of Singing* put out by MennoMedia)

May we continue to seek to sing one another's songs so that we may indeed make a joyful noise to the Lord and enter into God's presence with singing, for God's steadfast love endures forever.

~Pastor Katherine



Wednesday, November 22
Supper at 6pm in the fellowship hall.

Service of Thanksgiving with
Heart Song Stories will follow.

Offering will be received for
Mission Partners
Dan and Kathryn Smith Derksen
serving in South Africa.

No regular Wednesday evening activities.

Karina Brandt: Journey International

Christmas in Ecuador:

The program that Karina Brandt is working with this year in Ecuador is hoping to receive some financial donations to go toward the purchase of toys for children of refugee families and other children connected to the local church. Please consider giving money for this purpose during one of our special offerings that will be collected on Sunday mornings, November 12, 19, and 26.



Tabor Facilities Celebration Smoke-In



TABOR CHURCH CALENDAR

			1 Wednesday Evening Activities	2 12 pm Newton Lunch Bunch 5-7pm Chicken BBQ	3	4
5 9:30 am-Worship 10:45 am-Cong. Mtg. FF for children 11:45 am Meal College Fundraiser Table Conversation	6	7 9:15 am Prayer 10 am Staff Mtg 7pm Deacon Meeting	8 Wednesday Evening Activities	9 7pm Outreach Meeting Christian Ed Meeting	10	11
MCC Meat Canning						
12 9:30 am- Worship 10:45 am-FF 5-6:30pm Community Thanksgiving	13 11am Chapel @ Bethesda 3:30pm Chapel @ Kidron Bethel	14 9:15 am Community Prayer 10 am Staff Meeting	15 Wednesday Evening Activities	16 10 am Stories & Stuff Newsletter Items Due	17	18
19 9:30 am Worship 10:45 am Faith Formation 11:45am Potluck	20	21 9:15 am Community Prayer 10 am Staff Meeting	22 6pm Tabor Church Thanksgiving Meal and Service	23 Thanksgiving DAY Church offices closed	24	25
Pastor Rosie Vacation						
26 9:30 am Worship 10:45 am Faith Formation	27	28 9:15am Prayer 10 am Staff Meeting 11:30 am Tabor Ladies Lunch Bunch	29 Wednesday Evening Activities	30	December 1 - March 1 Pastor Rosie on Sabbatical	



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|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 - Lena Mendoza-Toews | 16 - Brent Abrahams |
| 2 - Daniel Unruh | Darla Funk |
| 4 - Bonnie Gleason | Wyatt Duerksen |
| 6 - Aaron Banman | Hunter Graber |
| 7 - Brandy Ashley | 17 - Logan Duerksen |
| Wyatt Sommerfeld | Richard Drake |
| 8 - Dorothy Unruh | 18 - Patty Seibel |
| 9 - Pete Unruh | Levi Funk |
| 10 - Ilona Abrahams | Shane Denson |
| Lisa Schmidt | 19 - Keith Banman |
| Hannah Adrian | Mark Voth |
| 11 - Eleanor Unrau | Brandon Unruh |
| 12 - Jon Buller | Ron Schroeder |
| Bosten Unruh | 23 - Travis Buller |
| 13 - Elma Goertz | Michael Hall |
| Karen Unruh | 28 - Chevy Gagnon |
| 14 - Bill Unruh | 29 - Phyllis Goertzen |
| 15 - Jody Schmidt | |
| Kathy Voth | |
| Elijah Adrian | |

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| Francisco Mendoza & Annaken Mendoza Toews | November 3, 10 yrs. |
| Shane & Brittany Denson | November 5, 1 yr. |
| Doyle & Nancy Franzen | November 7, 36 yrs. |
| Jim & Kathy Wills | November 8, 14 yrs. |
| Daryl & Brenda Cress | November 9, 26 yrs. |
| Shannon & Carrie Friesen | November 11, 17 yrs. |
| Kevin & Cindy Jantzen | November 11, 28 yrs. |
| Tim O'Leary & Lois Voth | November 12, 34 yrs. |
| Jason & Ashley Chambers | November 17, 5 yrs. |
| Loren & Leona Brandt | November 19, 58 yrs. |
| Van & Brenda Schmidt | November 21, 13 yrs. |
| Ron & Marnette Hatchett | November 28, 53 yrs. |

Bulletin announcements are due on Thursday mornings, 8am.