



*Parent and Child Dedication  
Phil and Sarahanne Unruh, and Kingsten*

## Sunday Worship Themes

**June 2 - God of Many Names: *Spirit***  
Pastor Phil preaching

**June 9 - Who is My Neighbor?**  
*Learning to Love Like Jesus*  
Bible School Celebration

**June 16 - God of Many Names:**  
*Father*  
Pastor Katherine preaching

**June 23 - God of Many Names:**  
*Camper*  
Michael Unruh preaching

**June 30 - God of Many Names:**  
*Peace*  
Pastor Phil preaching



*Newly Baptized Members  
Serving Communion*

# Tabor Church News

June, 2019

## Phil's Ponderings:

### **Transformation at the Top:** *Meeting God on the Mountain* (Camp WaShunGa 2019)

"Do not conform to the pattern of this world,  
but be *transformed* by the renewing of your mind." (Romans 12:2)

Over the Memorial Day weekend, I had the honor and privilege of serving as camp pastor at Camp WaShunGa 2019! This is a camp for Goessel area 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders, located at Rock Springs 4H Ranch, sponsored by the Goessel Ministerial Alliance, and directed by Laura Unrau and Michelle Unruh. It was such a joy for me to join this camp ministry alongside such capable, organized, and passionate directors, together with many fun and faithful counselors and of course energetic and eager Junior Highers! This year, we had 35 people total at camp, including 25 Junior Highers, 7 counselors, 2 directors, and myself. One of the many joys of the weekend for me was reconnecting with several of the leaders who have Tabor connections, including Michelle and Laura, Mark and Josh Schmidt, Leah Unruh, Austin Unruh, and Olivia Duerksen. It was so neat to see each of these leaders in action, sharing their faith, passion, and energy with the campers.

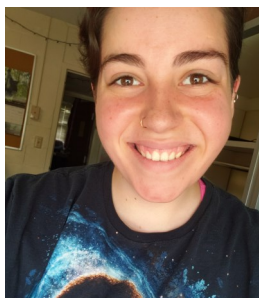
The theme I chose to focus my 6 input sessions on was "Transformation at the Top: *Meeting God on the Mountain*." I chose this theme because I love climbing mountains and because camp can often be a mountaintop experience. Throughout the weekend, we focused on mountaintop biblical stories, including Moses meeting God in the burning bush (Exodus 3), Moses and the people entering into covenant relationship with God (Exodus 19-20), Elijah meeting God (1 Kings 19), Jesus calling Apostles (Luke 6/Mark 3), Jesus' "Sermon on the Mount" (Matthew 5) and Jesus' transfiguration (Luke 9). Each of these biblical mountaintop stories helped reveal to us that God can call, teach, and transform each of us to live more like Jesus in the world, proclaiming and embodying the good news of God's kingdom. I was blessed by leading these input sessions and grateful for the active participation of campers and counselors in the discussions, activities, and small group reflection. Through our time together, I felt a renewed sense of calling, learning, and transformation in my life.

In addition to input sessions, camp was full of many fun and meaningful activities, including singing and worship, meals, crafts, gaga ball, free-time games, recreation, campfire, late-night games, and more! It's amazing how meaningful 72 hours can be! One more highlight from camp was during campfire, each leader shared a "heart song" with the group and talked about why it was important to them. Many different songs and faith testimonies were shared, and it was so neat to see how God has spoken through music to many of us especially in difficult seasons of life.

Thank you for your support for all who participated in Camp WaShunGa this year!

~Peace, Pastor Phil

## Graduates at Tabor



Sarah Booth graduated from Bethel College. Sarah says, "After graduation is still up in the air as of right now. I'm looking for a job in the art field. Hopefully I'll be able to counsel a week or two out at Camp Mennoscah this summer."



Mark Schmidt graduated from the University of Kansas. Mark is hoping to find a position as a weather forecaster with either a private weather firm or the National Weather

Service, or is considering doing weather consulting on his own. In the meantime, he is continuing with his current part time position as the meteorologist for Sporting KC in Kansas City.



Audessi Unruh graduated from Goessel High School. Audessi plans on working at Bethesda home up until she leaves for college. She plans to go to college at

Pittsburgh State University for the two year automotive program.



Adrian Kastner was an Exchange Student at Goessel High. Adrian will enjoy a long summer vacation and then go back to school in Germany. He has two more years before he actually graduates,

and isn't sure what he will pursue at that point. He is intrigued with planes, and is an excellent mechanic, so maybe one of those, but he is undecided.

## Rosie's Reflections

Tabor's rich tradition of Faith Formation for everyone continues throughout the summer months! An exciting week of Vacation Bible School kicks us off during June 3-7. On June 16, Sunday morning Faith Formation classes resume for children and adults. Adults will meet in their usual classes, and the children will gather as one group for an exciting summer of learning how "*JESUS WAS A KID LIKE ME!*," under the direction of Carol Duerksen and Doris Unruh (see schedule below). Please sign-up on the bulletin board to assist in helping make this a great summer, as the children learn more about Jesus.

Our faith continues to be formed even as we fellowship outside the classroom. As in recent years, we will continue our practice of Finger Food Fellowship during the Faith Formation hour on the first Sunday of each month. This has been a good time for fellowship and building community as we share conversation and finger foods with each other. Mark your calendars for June 2, July 7 and August 4, as the Sundays for Finger Food Fellowship. Please bring snack/finger foods to share in our new Fellowship Hall. Everyone is invited!

### Children's summer Faith Formation schedule:

- ♦ June 16 is Father's Day. **All fathers are invited to join** that morning so you can help your child(ren) make a special gift for you. We will be talking about how Jesus had an earthly and a heavenly father!
- ♦ June 23 will be the **mom's turn** to join in some fun games to see how well their children know them! We will share how Jesus had a very special mom!
- ♦ June 30 is the **farm adventure** as we talk about how Jesus loved animals. It will be important to have as many parents as possible available to transport the children to Maynard and Carol's farm.
- ♦ July 14 we find out that Jesus **played with rocks**, which gives children the opportunity to see and experience some really special rocks.
- ♦ July 21 we realize Jesus **played in the sand**, and as an adult, he told a story about wise and foolish builders. Children will have fun experiencing the difference between wise and foolish building.
- ♦ July 28 our **taste buds** will find out what Jesus ate!
- ♦ August 11: Jesus had **dirty feet!** Come prepared to discover what happens with dirty feet in the life of Jesus! (Hint: don't wear white clothes)
- ♦ August 18: Jesus had **parents who loved him!** Parents are invited to join us as we hear that Jesus and his parents didn't always agree, but they loved him so much. Time for a party!

We have a vibrant group of children who are eager to learn and experience Jesus. May each one of us catch the vibrancy of the Holy Spirit and recognize its movement among us as we gather for a great summer of Faith Formation at Tabor.

~Grace and Peace, Pastor Rosie



## Katherine's Candor

Well, we've finished up another fun year with the youth group. We had in-depth discussions and participated in service together on Wednesday nights. We had our Lock-in last week, complete with Prairie View Ropes Course. All we have left is the Convention in Kansas City in July. I continue to appreciate and marvel at this amazing group of young people with their depth of insight, their compassion for others, and their passion for following Jesus in their everyday lives!

I also wrapped up teaching "Introduction to Youth Ministry" at Bethel College this past month. The text that we used, *Adoptive Youth Ministry* edited by Chap Clark, continually stressed just how important it is for youth and young people to be surrounded by people who encourage them, pray for them, and journey alongside them. Faith formation isn't simply the job of parents or pastors; it is something that we do as a congregation, whether this is through teaching on Sunday mornings or Wednesday evenings, inviting youth to participate in worship and the broader life of the congregation, showing up for the events that they're involved in, or simply offering them an encouraging comment on a Sunday morning.

I very much appreciate the ways that Tabor has placed such an emphasis on faith formation for children and youth. What a joy it is to serve alongside you! Thank you for all that you do as a congregation to encourage and support the young people in our congregation!

~Grace and Peace, Pastor Katherine

## Baptisms at Tabor



Elizabeth Alderfer



Porclein Unruh



Audessi Unruh



Dawson Duerksen shared his testimony and will be baptized at Camp Mennoscah in September at Church Retreat



**Coming this Summer!**  
**Goessel Community Day Camp**  
**July 2019**

### For:

Children entering 1<sup>st</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> grades

### Sponsored by:

Tabor, Goessel and Alexanderwohl  
 Mennonite Churches

### Purpose:

To provide faith-based opportunities  
 for Goessel area children!

Schedule: 11:45 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.  
 (includes lunch)

### Dates and location:

July 9, 16, 23 -

Tabor Mennonite Church

July 10, 17, 24 -

Alexanderwohl Mennonite Church

July 11, 18, 25 -

Goessel Mennonite Church  
 & swimming pool

*Busing from Goessel Church to the other churches and swimming pool will be provided. Brochures and dates with complete information are on the table in the foyer. This program is offered free of charge to children in the Goessel community.*

## New Members at Tabor

*In addition to the three young ladies baptized on May 19, Tabor received eight more new members. Below are faith stories from two of those individuals. Look for additional faith stories in the July newsletter.*



### John Koehn

I grew up going to Tabor. Went to Sunday morning, Sunday evening, youth group, the works. In 1960 I went to Downey California for 2 years for 1-W service. When I came home I farmed and did electrical work. Jill and I were married in 1974. In 1981 we moved to the Dighton area to farm with Jill's dad. Jill died in 2017. In 2018 I moved to a duplex in Goessel. Back to Tabor, feeling at home.

### Kara Swartzendruber

I grew up in Berne, Indiana. For ten years I spent one week of each summer at Camp Friedenswald in Michigan. Without fail, this week of Music Camp was the highlight of my entire year! I loved it so much that I kept going back to Friedenswald every summer even after my family moved to Topeka, Kansas, when I was 12. We became actively involved at Southern Hills Mennonite Church, where I was baptized when I was 14. Bethel College was a good fit for me and a time of exploring my faith. Every summer during college I returned to Camp Friedenswald as summer staff, which was even more awesome than being a camper.

After college, I taught second graders for four years in Topeka and continued attending Southern Hills Mennonite. I was grateful to be part of an intergenerational women's Bible study. During my first year of teaching, Anthony and I met in September of 2001, when he came to Topeka for a year of voluntary service. In addition to playing softball on the church team, we were venture club and junior youth sponsors and active in a young adult fellowship group. We married in July 2003. In 2005 Anthony and I moved to Wichita to earn our graduate degrees at Wichita State University. We attended Lorraine Avenue Mennonite Church and enjoyed being high school youth sponsors and participating in a small group. For five years I taught second graders.

We moved to Hesston in June of 2011, when Isaac was nearly three and Zachary was eight days old. I had really enjoyed teaching, but now I truly wanted to be a full-time mama. While we attended Whitestone Mennonite Church, I served as an elder and later worked part time as the coordinator of family and children's ministry.

Our family has been attending Tabor regularly for several months, and this will be the fourth summer that the boys and I have participated in Bible School here. I am thankful for Tabor! I like the people, the pastors, our care group, the sermons, the music, faith formation, the fellowship events, the opportunity to be involved, and the way that our boys are included.

