



*Thanksgiving for Healing*

## Sunday Worship Themes

### **Dec. 1 - Hope for Healing:**

*Individual Lives* (Advent 1)

Luke 1:5-25

Pastor Phil preaching

### **Dec. 8 - Hope for Healing:**

*Communities* (Advent 2)

Luke 2:8-14

Pastor Phil preaching

### **Dec. 15 - Hope for Healing:**

*World* (Advent 3)

Luke 1:46-55; 68-79

Pastor Katherine preaching

### **Dec. 22 - Adult Choir Performance**

*Oh Come Let Us Adore Him and*

*Sing His Praise!* (Advent 4)

Adult Choir

### **Dec. 24 - Faces at the Manger**

*Christmas Eve Celebration Service*

Luke 2

### **Dec. 29 - Christmas Carol Sing**

(Sunday After Christmas)

### **Jan. 5 - Hope for Healing:**

*A New Year's Challenge* (Epiphany)

Matthew 2:1-18

Pastor Phil preaching

# Tabor Church News

December, 2019

## Phil's Ponderings

### "Hope for Healing"

*"As God's children and the body of Christ,  
we are called by God to offer  
hospitality, **healing**, and hope  
in the name of Christ"*

(Tabor Church Vision Statement)

Over these past several weeks, we have focused on the theme of healing during our worship services. We have reflected on healing from a variety of perspectives, including physical, mental, spiritual, and relational healing. As we enter into Advent, which is a season of anticipation, we will continue to focus on healing but shift our focus to our hope for healing in our individual lives, communities, and the world. We have all experienced healing in some ways throughout our lives, yet we all continue to long for healing in many ways as well. Thus, as we enter into this season of anticipation, may we anticipate the coming of God's kingdom on earth as it is in heaven, a kingdom that brings healing and restoration to all of creation. As we anticipate celebrating the birth of Christ the King, may we continue to hope for God's healing power to fill us and flow through us to the whole world.

*~Peace, Pastor Phil*

P.S. As we celebrate the season of Advent, Tabor children are all invited to participate in lighting the advent candles each Sunday:

December 1: 6th-8th graders

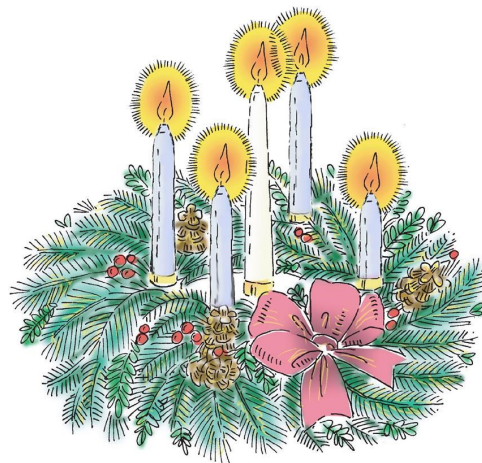
December 8: 3rd-5th graders

December 15: 1st-2nd graders

December 22: Kindergarteners

December 24: Preschoolers

*\*If the assigned date doesn't  
work for your children, please  
have them help another Sunday.*





## Tabor Mennonite Women

Fifteen Tabor Mennonite Women met on November 11 for our annual Sister Care event. Pastors Rosie and Katherine were our featured speakers and shared what sister care means to them and relayed personal stories of when they were in need of receiving sister care. They also invited participants to share of a time when they experienced sister care. Our Tabor sisters are caring people who reach out compassionately in time of need. We feel blessed to have Pastors Rosie and Katherine as part of Tabor's leadership team!

--submitted by Denise Nickel



JOIN OUR COMFORTER-MAKING EVENT  
**JANUARY 18, 2020**

**THE GREAT WINTER WARM-UP**

Tabor Mennonite Church Hospitality Hall  
9am - 4pm

*Something for everyone! Help make comforters for relief! Pin, tie, trim, sew. If you want to make a top for the event, call one of the persons listed for instructions and/or kits. Come for an hour, or stay all day! Lunch provided. Donations accepted to defray expenses.*

Contact: Sharon Adrian (620-877-7239);  
Kim Funk (620-747-0408);  
Ruth Goertzen (620-747-0074)

GREATWINTERWARMUP.ORG

100 YEARS MCC

## Katherine's Candor

Dear Tabor Congregation,

I want to thank you again for the opportunity to take a three month sabbatical this fall! Here are some of the highlights from this time:

I began my sabbatical by writing a youth curriculum for Springs Forth entitled "God Rocks!" It was meaningful to delve more deeply into the accompanying Scripture texts and to think of creative ways to present and help youth connect with God's Story.

For the rest of the month of August, I focused on reading books about Food. These ranged in topics from encountering God in meal preparation and shared meals to thinking about food justice and creation care. Two books that particularly stood out on this topic were *Bringing It to the Table: On Farming and Food* by Wendell Berry and *Eat With Joy: Redeeming God's Gift of Food* by Rachel Marie Stone.

Throughout my sabbatical I tried to cook and bake as much as possible from Herald Press' *Extending the Table*, which includes recipes from around the world. I was reminded again of how one can encounter God's goodness and abundance through intentionally taking time to prepare food and to share meals with family and friends. I also felt a certain level of connection with sisters and brothers from around the world in preparing breads, drinks, and meals from many different countries. Throughout my sabbatical, I also was more intentional about purchasing local foods from local vendors as well trying to ride bike around Newton more often than driving.

During the month of September, I shifted my reading focus to books on lifestyle choices and justice. These ranged in topics from faithful lifestyle choices in *Living More With Less (30<sup>th</sup> edition)* by Doris Janzen Longacre, to peacemaking with *Beating Guns: Hope for People Who are Weary of Violence* by Claiborne and Martin, to racism with *White Awake: An Honest Look at what it Means to be White* by Daniel Hill. I was also grateful for books that offered hope in the midst of so much brokenness. I especially enjoyed *The Very Good Gospel: How Everything Wrong Can Be Made Right* by Lisa Sharon Harper.

During the month of October, I read books that connected with parenting. These included two books with Anabaptist connections, which focused more specifically on gender (in thinking of parenting both a girl and a boy): *Peaceful at Heart: Anabaptist Reflections on Healthy Masculinity* ed. Neufeld and Thomas and *From Risk to Resilience: How Empowering Young Women Can Change Everything* by Jenny Rae Armstrong. I also would recommend the new Herald Press Book *Raising Disciples: How to Make Faith Matter for Our Kids* by Natalie Frisk.

Throughout my sabbatical, I read over 30 books (although I didn't make it through my list in its entirety, partially because I kept adding to it as I would come across more books I wanted to read!). I also had the opportunity to attend different congregations. It was wonderful to be able to hear different friends preach, such as members of my Pastor Peer Group, students from Bethel College, and other pastor friends (as pastors usually can't hear other pastors preach on Sunday mornings!). I also had the privilege of hearing Peter preach twice during this time.

If anyone would like to have further conversations on these or other topics, I am always happy to meet over a cup of coffee!

I am grateful for this opportunity (and will continue reading!). And, I am especially grateful to be back "home" at Tabor!

~Grace and Peace, Pastor Katherine



—1st Sunday in Advent

December 1, 9:00 a.m., Christmas prelude by Jerry Toews  
Advent Theme: “Hope for Healing”

—Parsonage Open House

December 8, 3:30-5:30 p.m. Snacks, drinks and good fellowship for all!

—Community Christmas Brass

December 8, 7:00 p.m. at Alexanderwohl Mennonite Church  
Enjoy an evening filled with Christmas music!

—Tabor Mennonite Women Christmas Breakfast

December 14, 9:00 a.m. All women, girls and guests are invited.

—Night in the Barn

December 21 & 22, 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Come and share in the wonder of the Christmas Story! Enjoy this walking tour of the Nativity as you interact with the characters, animals sights, and sounds of the timeless tale.

—Tabor Adult Choir Program

December 22, 9:30 a.m.

The Adult Choir will present “O Come Let Us Adore Him and Sing His Praise!”

—Christmas Eve Celebration Service

December 24, 6:30 p.m. “Faces at the Manger” *Come early for the prelude.*

—Sunday after Christmas

December 29, 10:00 a.m. Christmas Carol Sing in the Hospitality Hall.  
Faith Formation Hour: Fellowship Time  
*Please bring Christmas goodies to share.*

—Epiphany

January 5, 9:30 a.m.

*For details on all of the above events, please see the weekly announcement page.*

## Christmas Giving Opportunities

### Christmas Giving Tree

The Goessel Ministerial Alliance Christmas Giving Tree project: This year the tree is at the Crossroads Credit Union. If you took a tag to purchase gifts for a child, please have them at the bank by Friday, December 13. The Goessel Ministerial Alliance will deliver gifts on December 23. Here is an opportunity to help everyone have a blessed and happy Christmas!

### Tabor Church Food Pantry

Gift boxes will again be assembled for families that we have assisted throughout the year and for families with children receiving gifts from the Christmas Giving Tree. Your gifts of food and money will go to help fill the boxes and purchase hams, fruit, and gift cards to Keith's Foods to be used for perishable items. If you would like to assist with packing boxes, call the church office for details.

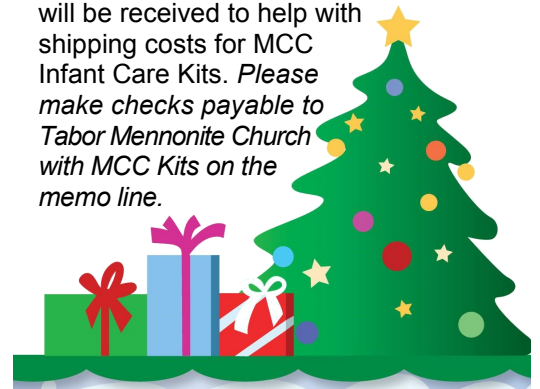
### Advent Giving:

#### MCC Infant Care Kits

Help mothers give their infants a good start. Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) kits are given to families displaced by war or disaster and are used in a number of other settings to help support mothers who lack the supplies they need for a new baby. 10,396 infant care kits shipped last year to Bosnia and Herzegovina, Ukraine, Jordan, Iraq, Burkina Faso, Canada, the U.S.

### Christmas Eve

The Christmas Eve offering will be received to help with shipping costs for MCC Infant Care Kits. *Please make checks payable to Tabor Mennonite Church with MCC Kits on the memo line.*





## KMMC 2020

### We sing that others may live

Please consider joining Kansas Mennonite Men's Chorus (KMMC) for their upcoming season. This is a multi-denominational choir that contains men from Kansas, Colorado, Nebraska, Missouri and Oklahoma. This is your opportunity to make a joyful noise while praising God with 200+ of your brothers.

It is also a way to make a difference in the world through Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) as all of the concert proceeds go to MCC. We have been singing in the states and across Europe for more than fifty years. We have raised over \$700,000 for MCC that has helped many people around the world.

Here are some words from our director Greg Bontrager, "We need to find that passion and belief that we are part of something so special that we want more men of all ages and denominations to join us. It has come from all involved, not just the contact men. Find the courage and invite a friend! I hope that as we journey together this season, we will experience the love and compassion of Christ and generate the vision of KMMC to all - *We sing that others may live.*"

So please consider joining our men as we continue the KMMC tradition of singing that others may live.

Contact Donavon Schmidt or you can contact Aaron Stucky, membership chair, at [stuckya2003@yahoo.com](mailto:stuckya2003@yahoo.com) or (620) 249-1363.

### 2020 Giving Project for Adult Faith Formation

Beginning December 1, Adult Faith Formation offerings will help fund the Wednesday evening fellowship meals. Meals are currently (and will continue to be) funded by a suggested donation from attendees. Christian Ed has assisted with funds from their budget when needed. While funds continue to fall short to cover meal expenses, we still feel that this fellowship time is an important part of our Wednesday evening ministry for all who attend. We encourage all adults to joyfully give to the weekly offering in fiscal 2020 for this outreach opportunity right here in our own community.

## Remembering Our Loved Ones Who Have Died



Paul E. Graber, 83, passed away Sunday, October 27, 2019 at Newton Medical Center, Newton, Kansas.

He was born on October 20, 1936 to Arthur H. and Elda C. (Krehbiel) Graber.

Paul was a lifetime mechanic of cars, boats and tractors. He could fix anything.

Paul was baptized at Eden Mennonite Church on June 1, 1952. He has been a member of Tabor Mennonite Church since 1958.

Paul was united in marriage to Norma J. Thiesen on June 14, 1958. They recently celebrated their 61st anniversary.

He is survived by his wife, Norma; son, Jerry and his wife, Linda Graber; daughter, Sheri Bonnet and husband, Scott; daughter, Diane Unruh and husband Fred. Seven grandchildren--Alex Bonnet, Drew Bonnet and Barbara Haynes, Justin Graber, Jessica Wulf and husband, Adam, Kristin Kaufman and husband, Rene, Michelle Unruh and Luke Unruh; and six great-grandchildren, Christian, Riley and Hunter Graber; Logan, Aidan, and Tristan Wulf.; sisters-in-law, June Graber, Juanita Graber, Valeria Graber, and Anita Warren.

Paul was preceded in death by his parents, one sister, Arlene Schrag, and four brothers, Gene, Leonard, Royce, and Jim Graber.

For many years, Paul helped at Tabor with ushering, chicken barbecue, and building items for the MCC sale. He enjoyed making things for others, some of those being wooden tractors, walking sticks, children's toys and play furniture, step stools, plant boxes, peppernut makers, and stained glass windows, candle holders, and barn quilt window hangings. Paul enjoyed camping and fishing with the family. All of his children called him for help or advice with things that needed fixing.

A private family burial was held at Tabor Mennonite Church Cemetery on October 28, 2019. Memorials may be made to Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) or Tabor Mennonite Church.



### #1 holiday hack:

When you buy your gifts at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com), Amazon donates.

**amazon**smile

Did you know that when you shop for the holidays at <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/48-0877687> AmazonSmile donates to Tabor Mennonite Church?