



*MCC Comforter Blitz in Hospitality Hall*

## Sunday Worship Themes



### **Feb. 2 - What is the Purpose of the Church? *Teacher***

Pastor Phil preaching

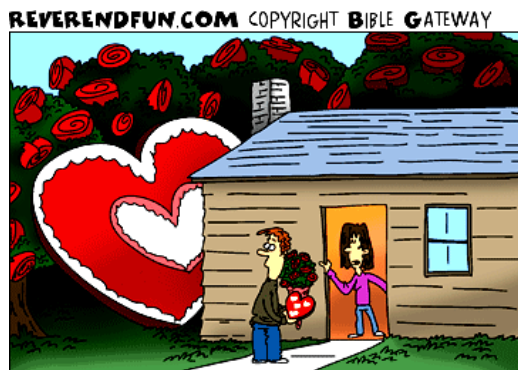
### **Feb. 9 - What is the Purpose of the Church? *Evangelist***

Dan and Kathryn Smith Derksen

### **Feb. 16 - What is the Purpose of the Church? *Shepherd***

Pastor Rosie preaching

### **Feb. 23 - Youth Sunday**



JESUS STOPPED BY AND NOBODY LOVES  
MORE THAN HIM, BUT BEFORE YOU GET  
JEALOUS OR ANYTHING YOU SHOULD KNOW  
THAT IT IS FOR YOU TOO

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# Tabor Church News

February, 2020

## Phil's Ponderings

### Snow Camp Reflections

This past weekend (January 24-26), Michelle Unruh and I had the opportunity to attend Junior High Snow Camp at Rocky Mountain Mennonite Camp along with eight Tabor Junior Highers: Sam Abrahams, Adriana Duerksen, Royser Duran, Trey Gaddis, Chevy Gagnon, Kendal Girard, Viola Schmidt, and Braxton Unruh. In addition to being a Tabor sponsor, I also had the opportunity to be the camp pastor, providing input during four worship sessions throughout the weekend.

Here's a quick summary of our trip: On Friday morning, we boarded a charter bus in Hesston with several other Junior High Youth Groups from Kansas. After arriving at camp, we settled into our cabins before opening worship. Corbin Graber, Executive Director, and Jenelle Roynon, Program Director, welcomed us to camp before Austin Regier led in some worship and music. Our theme that I taught on during worship sessions was "Transformation at the Top: Meeting God on the Mountain." Throughout the weekend, we reflected on the Biblical stories of Moses (Exodus 3), Elijah (1 Kings 19), and Jesus (Luke 9) meeting God on the Mountain and how they were transformed from fear to faith. On Saturday, we had plenty of time for play in the snow, including broom ball, human curling, the tube run, and the MennOlympics. That evening, we played a fun round of Family Feud. After brunch on Sunday, we loaded up the charter bus and headed back to Kansas. If you'd like to hear more stories from the weekend, please feel free to ask any of us who went!

Overall, we had a great time at Snow Camp! The Junior Highers all sang and did the motions to songs in worship, they were interactive during teaching times, and we had a lot of fun in the snow. I was especially impressed that our group sat near the front during every worship service, participated in the reflection questions and prayer practices that I introduced, and was very helpful with loading many people's luggage for the return trip to Kansas. I'm so glad we had this opportunity to attend Snow Camp, and I'm very grateful for much support from the Tabor Church family!

*~Peace, Pastor Phil*





**MDS:**  
**Your Gifts at Work**

In 2019 5,569 Mennonite Disaster Service (MDS) volunteers served 48,035 days, helping 762 households recover from disaster. Volunteers built 68 new homes, repaired 313 homes, cleaned up 352 properties and built 5 new bridges.

On behalf of these homeowners and many others, thank you for the gifts of time, skill and resources that make it possible to respond, rebuild and restore.

Recently, Mennonite Disaster Service sent an investigation team to Puerto Rico to assess earthquake damage and determine the need for recovery assistance. Churches, MDS teams and partners gathered, praying and worshipping together. Temblors keep rumbling and residents are sleeping outside for fear of being inside.

MDS Executive Director Kevin King was able to visit the affected areas and participated in the assessment of the damage. He joined congregants from six Mennonite churches who distributed food and tarps to rural areas in the mountains north of the epicenter.

"It was cathartic for the church members to be doing something positive with their nervous energy," he said.

MDS is accepting donations to support the recovery effort.

--From *Mennonite Disaster Service Update*

## *Rosie's Reflections*

On Wednesdays this spring, adults meet together for Bible Study. There's still room around the table for more to join in scripture reading, study and prayer. Our study is centered on John's Gospel and our focus is on the seven "I am" statements of Jesus. The writer of John's Gospel invites us into a simple, yet profound understanding of who Jesus is in a different way than the synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark, and Luke) do. John opens with "The Word became flesh and lived among us" (1:14). There is no nativity, no mention of shepherds in the field, no angelic appearances, which differs greatly from the accounts in Matthew, Mark and Luke. What did John want his first century audience (and us) to know about Jesus?

In John's Gospel, we are invited to open our eyes in a new way - to the mysteries of Christ. He calls us to pay attention; to look, listen, contemplate and to experience Jesus as the Bread of Life; the Light of the world; the Gate; the Good Shepherd; the Resurrection and the Life; the Way, the Truth and the Life; and as the True Vine. I love looking at all these dimensions spelled out by the Gospel writers. Each Gospel provides yet another lens for us to look through giving us a deeper understanding of Jesus the Christ, Son of God. I love dwelling in the mysteries of Christ.

Will you consider joining us for study and vibrant conversation? How do you experience Jesus as Bread, Light, Shepherd, and so on?

Come once or as often as you can, and no matter what you do, may "*the light of life*"<sup>1</sup> shine in you as together we strive to build up the Body of Christ in our neighborhoods, communities and in the world.

~ Grace and Peace, Pastor Rosie

### **Spring Bible Study Schedule: 6:30-7:30 p.m.** **Tabor Mennonite Church Conference Room**

February 5	John 10:1-10	I am the Gate
February 12	John 10:11-18	I am the Good Shepherd
February 19	John 11:17-27	I am the Resurrection and the Life
February 26 (Ash Wednesday)	John 14:1-11	I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life
March 4	John 15:1-8	I am the True Vine
March 11	John 17	The Cross

March 18 - Spring Break, no meal or classes

March 25 - Pine Care Derby, no meal or classes

<sup>1</sup>John 8:12



Since 1920, Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) has worked with the church, partner organizations and supporters to share God's love and compassion by responding to basic human needs and working for peace and justice. MCC started by helping families affected by war and famine in southern Russia (present-day Ukraine). MCC now works in more than 50 countries and here at home. For the centennial year, MCC is launching a campaign to refresh the vision and expand its ministry. Your centennial gifts will support displaced people around the world. Watch for special events to celebrate 100 years of giving *in the name of Christ*.

*This year's Kansas MCC Relief Sale will be April 17 & 18*

## *Katherine's Candor*

Friends, you may have noticed that I was out of the office more often than usual during the month of January. This was because I had the opportunity to teach Basic Issues of Faith and Life (BIFL) at Bethel College over Interterm. This was predominantly a discussion based course, so I was able to hear meaningful stories, multiple perspectives, and wonderfully insightful questions from twenty young adults. Together we read and discussed four books. The two texts used for all BIFL courses this year were Walter Wink's *The Powers That Be* and the biblical book of Revelation. I also assigned *The Very Good Gospel* by Lisa Sharon Harper and *An Introduction to Christian Theology* by Justo L González and Zaida Maldonado Pérez. If you'd like to know more about what we talked about, feel free to ask! I'd be happy to have a conversation with you!

I am grateful for the opportunity. Thank you to the Deacons for giving me the "OK" to do this and thank you to my youth sponsors who helped out tremendously on Wednesday nights! And thank you to you as a congregation for your understanding, your prayers, and your support. As always, it is such a blessing to be a part of this wonderful congregation!

*~Grace and Peace, Pastor Katherine*

## *WOW*

The Women's Faith Formation class, now known as WOW (Women of Worth) has taken on the project of learning to be more grateful during 2020, our Tabor Year of Gratitude, and sharing those ideas with the congregation. Here's our first idea:

So here it is, February, and it's time to think about some 2020 goals for our Year of Gratitude. And the OCD in me says "Well what's that about? Why weren't you on top of things and had something going for the first of the year?"

And then I thought, "Why don't you just be grateful rather than worrying about this minor detail?"

And then I thought: "What if, every time I find myself negative, frustrated, or less than happy, I would turn it around into a gratitude moment?"

What if, when I am walking in deep mud chasing a cow that doesn't want to cooperate, rather than being frustrated, I say "Thank you for this cow and for my boots and my legs that aren't falling down."

What if, when my car doesn't start in the morning, I say "Thank you that I have a car and can find someone to help me with it."

What if, when I wonder why I have that extra roll of fat around my waist, I say "Thank you that having too much food is my problem. So many people have the opposite challenge."

You get the picture. We could call it the Practice of Turnaround Gratitude. Let's try it. Remind each other. Just Be Grateful!

*~ Carol Duerksen*

## **Save the Date:**

Joint Faith Formation on March 8 with Kara Hartzler (see bio below)

"Kara Hartzler is an appellate attorney at the Federal Defenders of San Diego, Inc. Prior to joining the Federal Defenders, she served as the Legal Director and Criminal Immigration Consultant at the Florence Immigrant and Refugee Rights Project in Arizona, where she specialized in the immigration consequences of criminal convictions. She has authored numerous books, articles, and resources for defense attorneys, including *Surviving Padilla: A Defender's Guide to Advising Noncitizens on the Immigration Consequences of Criminal Convictions*. Kara also served as an adjunct professor at the University of Arizona College of Law and testified in front of the U.S. House of Representatives Subcommittee on Immigration on the detention and deportation of citizens and other due process violations in the immigration system. She is the recipient of the 2018 E. Stanley Conant Award, the 2017 Outstanding Assistant Federal Defender award, the 2013 David Carliner Public Interest Award, the 2013 Randy Tunac Courage in Immigration Award, and the 2010 Robert J. Hooker Award for service to the defender community."

## **Camp Tawakoni**

There will be a change for the Community Junior High group next summer. Rock Springs 4-H Camp has made the decision to shut down Camp WaShunGa due to expensive upkeep of aging buildings and low registration to stay at this part of their facilities. We spent the fall researching and looking into other summer camp options for our youth. We have booked Camp Tawakoni for Summer 2020. This is a camp that is associated with the Disciples of Christ Christian Church located between Andover and Augusta. We will continue to host our camp on Memorial Day Weekend. It is bittersweet to think that we will not be returning to Camp WaShunGa after almost fifty years, but we are looking forward to continuing old traditions and creating new memories at Camp Tawakoni.

*Over the years, Tabor and the community has generously supported our Junior Highers by helping fund their camp experiences. Continue to do so on March 1 at the Camp Tawakoni Fundraiser. Watch for details in the bulletin.*



# TABOR CHURCH CALENDAR

						1
2 9:30am Worship 10:45am FF 11am Chapel @ Bethesda	3	4 10am Staff Mtg 6:45pm Council+	5 Wednesday Evening Activities	6 12pm Newton Lunch Bunch	7	8
9 Mission Partners 9:30am Worship 10:45am FF 3pm Cookie Decorating Fellowship Event	10	11 10am Staff Mtg	12 Wednesday Evening Activities	13 6pm MCC Sale Meeting	14 1pm Worship Planning Team Meeting	15
16 9:30am Worship 10:45am FF 12pm MCC Fellowship Meal	17	18 10am Staff Mtg 7pm Deacon Meeting	19 Wednesday Evening Activities	20 Newsletter Items Due 10am Stories & Stuff	21	22
23 Youth Sunday 9:30am Worship 10:45am FF 12pm Fundraiser Meal	24 23-Hesston/Bethel Concert @ Alexanderwohl	25 10am Staff Mtg 11:30am Tabor Ladies Lunch Bunch	26 Ash Wednesday Wednesday Evening Activities	27	28	29 WDC/SCC Youth Lead Now

Bulletin announcements are due on Thursday mornings, 8am.



1 - LeRoy Goertzen,	21 - Barb Abrahams
2 - Stan Schmidt	David Wedel
Dora Unruh	22 - Chris Schmidt
3 - Roman Chiappetti	Van Schmidt
4 - Leah Unruh	23 - Tara Duerksen
6 - Richard Voth	Nancy Ediger
9 - Jerry Voth	Tara Coopridner
10 - Vatiken Unruh	Jerry Graber
13 - Erica Stoltzfus	Carol Schroeder
14 - Dwight Schmidt	Laura Goerzen
16 - Rodney Franz	24 - Lynette Johnston
17 - Katherine Goerzen	Nash Pugh
Isabelle Alderfer	25 - Jenny Goertzen
18 - Kristin Schmidt	Emma Coopridner
Sharon Unruh	26 - Dora Goerzen
Aubrielle Francis	28 - Marcene Entz
Lydia Nickel	Stanley Ediger
19 - Kevin Nickel	Kindra Goertzen
20 - Jessica Wulf	Brody Schmidt
Adriana Duerksen	



Fred & Brenda Schmidt	February 3,	47 yrs.
Richard & Sharon Schroeder	February 21,	50 yrs.
Patty Wiens & Tim Bechtle	February 23,	38 yrs.
Elmer & Lynne Voth	February 26,	43 yrs.



Coming March 1st

~ Camp Tawakoni Fundraiser Meal  
~ Camp Menno's Hymn Sing and  
Dessert Auction