



Tabor Church News

July, 2020

Sunday Worship Themes

July 5 - Unexpected: *Daniel*

Daniel 6

Pastor Phil preaching

July 12 - Unexpected: *Beatitudes*

Matthew 5:1-11

Pastor Phil preaching

July 19 - Unexpected

Heidi Regier Kreider preaching

July 26 - Unexpected:

Ezekiel and Dry Bones

Ezekiel 37

Pastor Katherine preaching



In the world
you will have tribulation.

But take heart:

I have overcome the world.

John 16:33

Phil's Ponderings: Black Lives Matter

One of my favorite pages to follow on Facebook is the "Clergy Coaching Network" (<https://www.facebook.com/clergycoachingnetwork>). I find many of their posts to be helpful, encouraging, and challenging. As we continue to navigate a time of heightened awareness of systemic racism in our country, here are several posts from the Clergy Coaching Network that I affirm and have found to be helpful. I invite you to read and reflect on them in a spirit of openness and readiness to learn and grow.

"'Black Lives Matter' doesn't mean that ONLY Black Lives Matter. Instead, it is a lament over the injustice that has been perpetuated against the Black community and an assertion of the dignity of Black people as human beings created in the image of God" (Jemar Tisby, *The Color of Compromise*).

"If my wife comes to me in obvious pain and asks 'Do you love me?', an answer of 'I love everyone' would be truthful, but also hurtful and cruel in the moment. If a co-worker comes to me upset and says 'My father just died,' and a response of 'Everyone's parents die,' would be truthful, but hurtful and cruel in the moment. So when a friend speaks up in a time of obvious pain and hurt and says 'Black lives matter,' a response of 'All lives matter,' is truthful. But it's hurtful and cruel in the moment' (Doug Williford).

"The Vaccine for Racism is Justice, the Cure is Equality, and the Prevention is Love" (Steven Charleston).

"A Prayer for Racial Healing:

God of justice,

In your wisdom you create all people in your image, without exception.

Through your goodness, open our eyes to see the dignity, beauty,
and worth of every human being.

Open our minds to understand that all your children are brothers and sisters
in the same human family.

Open our hearts to repent of racist attitudes, behaviors, and speech
which demean others.

Open our ears to hear the cries of those wounded by racial discrimination,
and their passionate appeals for change.

Strengthen our resolve to make amends for past injustices
and to right the wrongs of history.

And fill us with courage that we might seek to heal wounds,
build bridges, forgive and be forgiven,
and establish peace and equality for all in our communities.

In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen."

(From Catholic Charities USA)

Sisters and Brothers in Christ, I pray that we will all embrace a spirit of listening and learning. If you are interested in joining the book discussion on Drew G. I. Hart's book, *Trouble I've Seen: Changing the Way the Church Views Racism*, please let me know.

~Peace, Pastor Phil



Join us for a socially-distanced Western District Conference Annual Assembly online on August 1-2.

(Note: This replaces previous plans for an in-person gathering).

Webinars, worship, Danny Carroll, our keynote speaker, and some time to talk together will all be part of this grand experiment. What can the times we're living in help us to discover about mission? About God's love for the exile? We hope it will be possible for small groups to host Assembly watch parties together. We'll be together in Spirit and over digital media.

Registration:

Congregational delegates should register at <https://mennowdc.org/2020-wdc-annual-assembly/>.

All others (non-delegates) may attend without registering. **No registration fee!** Congregations and individuals are invited to give a donation, as they are able, to cover Assembly costs. After these costs are met, donations will go into the [WDC Hope Fund](#).

Rosie's Reflections

As I write this article, the wind is blowing and the wheat fields are waving. It's time for wheat harvest. Like clockwork, it happens every year; the fields turn from deep green to yellow-golden. To the person looking on from afar, it's almost magical to watch it happen. However, for the farmer who sows the seed, fertilizes it, and does all he/she can to produce a good crop, it's a different story. It takes hard work, and the rest is up to environmental conditions. Sounds a bit like gambling doesn't it? But we farmers (and gardeners) call it a leap of faith. So how does faith play a part in your life?

During these first months of 2020, our faith has been tested. We've learned there are no guarantees in life; the Covid-19 novel coronavirus has taught us that. We're being challenged to find new ways of being the Church outside the building during these months of social distancing. If we're listening, we hear a call to change our routines, behaviors and practices for the benefit of the most vulnerable among us, and we are being challenged to put Jesus' words into practice – "Love your neighbor as yourself." Wearing a mask is one way to show love for our neighbors.

We've also been challenged to face our own racial biases following the murder of George Floyd in Minneapolis. If we're listening, we are being called to sow seeds of love and hope for a new future. If we are listening, we are hearing the cries of "enough" from our black brothers and sisters in the world. In their cries we begin to recognize our own complicity, and the work we must do to dismantle the injustices of systematic racism. What can we do? Recently, my brother asked his black friend that question. His friend answered him saying, "speak up." When we hear a racial joke or a slur, speak out against it. If we see an injustice, speak up. It's risky, but silence is complicity. The Church cannot be silent. We must speak out against these sins that have been covered up far too long.

Brothers and Sisters, let us sow fresh seeds of love and kindness, and do the difficult work of standing up and speaking out for the "least of these." I confess that I have been complicit by being silent. Will you stand with me to be the church Jesus called us to be – to bring good news to the poor, to release the captives and let the oppressed go free? May it be so.

~ Grace and Peace, Pastor Rosie

Katherine's Candor

The Bible often reminds us that God cares deeply for the most vulnerable and marginalized people in society. At the outset of his ministry, Jesus defined the Gospel in this way: "Good news to the poor, release to the captives, sight for the blind, and letting the oppressed go free" (Luke 4:18-19). Jesus was often criticized for eating with, interacting with, and dignifying people whom others tended to avoid: women of ill repute, unclean lepers, greedy tax collectors, lowly servants, smelly fishermen, violent zealots, and so on. The Law (Torah) given by God in the first 5 books of the Bible, has a continued refrain of urging people to care for the widow, the orphan, and the foreigner. Prophets spoke out on God's behalf because God's people

were neglecting to do justice for the poor and the vulnerable among them. The people whom God chose to “be a blessing” to the nations of this world were not the respected and powerful people one might expect, but a lowly group of people who were once slaves in Egypt. And in the very first chapter of the very first book of the Bible, we are told that *all* people are created in God’s very good image.

These are but a handful of reasons why racial justice is so important to me as a follower of Jesus. I have read many books and had numerous conversations trying to educate myself on how I can begin to make a difference given the deeply rooted systems of racial injustice that permeates our world. If you too find yourself asking, “But what can I do?” here are a few things to begin with:

- **Educate yourself.** What has happened in the past to lead us to where we are today? What do people mean by “white privilege?” Why is saying “all lives matter” painful for people of color? WDC Resource Library has numerous, excellent resources available for both adults and children (just email Jennie Wintermote, crlib@mennowdc.org who is happy to help in this regard).
- **Join in conversation with other people.** What are other people doing in response to racial injustice? Why is this important for them? What are the stories that you’re hearing? It has been meaningful for these past few Sundays to discuss topics of racial injustice and how to respond during the Zoom Faith Formation hour. To continue these important conversations, everyone is invited to join in a book study for Drew G. I. Hart’s book *Trouble I’ve Seen* (see announcement from Pastor Phil).
- **Have conversations with children.** Often when I feel bogged down by the enormity of racial injustice, I remind myself that the sphere in which I have the most influence is how I raise my children. We have intentionally exposed them to books and movies where people of color are portrayed in a positive light. We point out places where people of color are being treated or stereotyped unfairly and remind them that this is not okay. After Peter attended a protest in response to the murder of George Floyd, we had a conversation explaining what was happening and why it is important to support people of color.
- **Lament.** None of us consciously choose to engage in racist behaviors, and yet we can lament how we have benefited from systems that give advantages to people of European descent. As people who follow Jesus, we also lament any time a person created in God’s good image is violated, dehumanized, or mistreated.
- **Pray.** I am a firm believer in the power of prayer. And I trust that even in the bleakest situations God continues to be present and work for good.

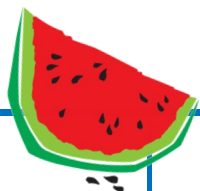
~Grace and Peace, Pastor Katherine



Something Fun

Do You Know Your Hymns?

- ♦ Dentist's Hymn
Crown Him With Many Crowns
- ♦ Weatherman's Hymn
There Shall Be Showers of Blessings
- ♦ Contractor's Hymn
The Church's One Foundation
- ♦ The Tailor's Hymn
Holy, Holy, Holy
- ♦ The Golfer's Hymn
There is a Green Hill Far Away
- ♦ The Politician's Hymn
Standing on the Promises
- ♦ Optometrist's Hymn
Open My Eyes That I Might See
- ♦ The IRS Agent's Hymn
I Surrender All
- ♦ The Gossip's Hymn
Pass It On
- ♦ The Electrician's Hymn
Send the Light
- ♦ The Shopper's Hymn
Sweet Bye and Bye
- ♦ The Realtor's Hymn
I've Got a Mansion Just Over the Hilltop
- ♦ The Massage Therapists Hymn
He Touched Me
- ♦ The Doctor's Hymn
The Great Physician



July

TABOR CHURCH CALENDAR

<p>You are invited to come together for worship every Sunday through the links provided in the bulletin and though weekly mailings.</p>			1 7pm Outdoor Fellowship 50 yrs and older Men's Bible Study	2	3 Holiday Offices Closed	4
5 Worship via playlist 10:30 am Sharing & Prayer Faith Formation via Zoom	6	7 10am Staff Zoom Mtg	8 7pm Men's Bible Study	9	10	11
12 Worship via playlist 10:30 am Sharing & Prayer Faith Formation via Zoom	13	14 10am Staff Zoom Mtg 7pm Deacon Zoom Mtg	15 7pm Men's Bible Study 7:30 pm Worship Planning Team Zoom Mtg	16 Newsletter Items Due	17	18 Goessel High School Graduation
19 Worship via playlist 10:30 am Sharing & Prayer Faith Formation via Zoom	20	21 10am Staff Zoom Mtg	22 7pm Men's Bible Study	23	24	25
26 Worship via playlist 10:30 am Sharing & Prayer Faith Formation via Zoom	27	28 10am Staff Zoom Mtg	29 7pm Men's Bible Study	30 7pm Christian Ed Zoom Mtg	31	August 1-2 WDC Virtual Annual Assembly



1 - Jo-Ann Schmidt Brad Hiebert	18 - Russ Duerksen Stephan Nickel
2 - Ty Buller Sarah Booth Isaac Swartzendruber	19 - Joyce Booth 20 - Katy Schmidt Brittany Chiappetti Miles Banman
3 - Kami Froese 4 - Brenda (Van) Schmidt	22 - Norman Hiebert 23 - Paul Goerzen Ashley Chambers
6 - Richard Neufeld Lloyd Kennedy Joyce Watts Dawson Schroeder	24 - Lindsey Buller Mattison Booth
8 - Harlin Unruh Josh (Fred/Brenda) Schmidt Riley Graber	25 - Twila Bracy Peter Graber David Unruh
9 - Oliver Goerzen Trey Gaddis	26 - John Sperry Caralee Schmidt
10 - Martha Goerzen Logan Unrau	27 - Erlene Unruh Phil Diller
12 - David Brandt	28 - Thurman Entz Jodi Unruh Luke Unruh
13 - Warren Schmidt Luke Schmidt	29 - Pat Schmidt Randy Gehring
14 - Kathie Wills 15 - Doris Unruh Mark Smith	30 - Jerry Toews 31 - Lindsay Banman Susie Schmidt
16 - Ethan Schmidt 17 - Jose Suastegui	

David & Melissa Kalinoff	July 5,	23 yrs.
Luke & Sarah Shorthill Schmidt	July 5,	12 yrs.
Ben & Marie Vajgrt	July 7,	3 yrs.
Andrew & Lavonne Hermstein	July 12,	17 yrs.
James & Karen Unruh	July 14,	36 yrs.
David & April Johnson	July 14,	13 yrs.
Rene & Kristin Kaufman	July 14,	2 yrs.
Josh and Mattison Booth	July 14,	2 yrs.
Richard Drake & Kathy Schroeder	July 15,	43 yrs.
Jim & Diana Schmidt	July 16,	43 yrs.
Cory & Keri Unruh	July 16,	9 yrs.
Russell & Camille Adrian	July 19,	12 yrs.
John & Ruth Peters	July 20,	18 yrs.
Les & Cynthia Goerzen	July 21,	46 yrs.
Nathan & Krista Graber	July 21,	13 yrs.
Darrell & Venita Schroeder	July 24,	44 yrs.
Daniel & Melissa Unruh	July 26,	12 yrs.
Lewis & Carrie Unruh	July 26,	40 yrs.
Anthony & Kara Swartzendruber	July 26,	17 yrs.
JJ & Megan Voth	July 26,	6 yrs.
Dana & Bonnie Gleason	July 27,	51 yrs.
Thomas & Tara Coopriders	July 31,	11 yrs.

Bulletin announcements are due 8am Thursday mornings.