

## Tabor Mennonite Church

Volume LXV

December 20, 2020

No. 51



On this 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent, we remember and place our hope in the promise that God will one day set things right once and for all by creating life in places once thought barren, healing those who have long been afflicted, and providing a way to God's eternal presence where "sorrow and sighing shall flee away." Therefore, "say to those who are fearful of heart, 'Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God.'" May God's presence continue to be revealed in our hearts and our lives throughout the Christmas season and new year.

### WORSHIP

PRELUDE	Marcene Entz
WELCOME AND PRAYER	Carol Duerksen
LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE	Keri, Cory, Boyd and Sawyer Unruh
WORSHIP MUSIC	Corynn Nickel
CHILDREN'S STORY	Kara Swartzendruber
SCRIPTURE READING	Leann Toews
<i>Isaiah 35:1-10</i> <i>The Word of God for the people of God ~ Thanks be to God!</i>	
SERMON	Pastor Katherine Goerzen
CHRISTMAS BRASS	
CONGREGATIONAL SHARING and PRAYER	
OFFERTORY PRAYER	Pastor Phil Schmidt
SENDING BLESSING	
CHRISTMAS BRASS	

## Sunday, December 20

Come together in spirit to worship God and experience God's love. As we unite our hearts, may we be mindful of God's saving grace, especially as we face difficult circumstances through uncertain times.

**10:45 am:** We invite everyone to drive in to the church parking lot for the Worship Service and tune in to FM Radio 107.1 to listen. The service will be Livestreamed and recorded as usual.

### Faith Formation

**9:00 am:** Sharing and breakout rooms via Zoom.

Zoom connection information is below.

-Click this link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7022907372?pwd=Ty9JK0Vvb1ZOLzFnWxdEwyVXRzd09>

-Or, open Zoom and type in the following information:  
Meeting ID: 702 290 7372 , Password: 2020

-Or, call in by dialing the following number: +1 346 248 7799, then dialing the Meeting ID (702 290 7372 ) followed by pressing the # key twice.

Children's Faith Formation link:

[https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLWJe\\_BGI\\_rnJT7IgpIK-NjPF6LG1R8UIU](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLWJe_BGI_rnJT7IgpIK-NjPF6LG1R8UIU)

### This Week

**Office hours for the remainder of December will be irregular. Please submit announcements by 8am Wednesday mornings.**

**Mon. Dec. 21, 7 pm** - Men's Bible Study, Tabor Hospitality Hall.

**Tues. Dec. 22, 10 am** - Staff meeting.

**Thurs. Dec. 24, 6:30 pm** - Christmas Eve Service. Prelude will begin at 6:10 pm. Location, directly east of the Hospitality Hall in from of the nativity scene.

**Fri. Dec. 25** - Christmas Day!

**The church offices will be close December 24 & 25**

### Next Sunday, December 27

**9:00 am:** Faith Formation via Zoom.

**10:45 am:** Next Sunday is the Sunday of Christmas. Scripture for reflection is Isaiah 9:2-7 and Pastor Phil will be preaching.

## Prayer Requests

Remember to Pray for:

- ★ Bonnie Heinrichs who had a fall last week and spent some time at Newton Medical Center. Bonnie is now recovering at Showalter Villa. Lord, hear our continued prayers for both Lowell and Bonnie.
- ★ all in our congregation who are recovering from surgery and are facing health related concerns. Lord, hear our prayer.
- ★ those who are recovering from or have been exposed to COVID and are in quarantine. As people begin to receive the vaccine, may it prove effective with no lingering side effects. Lord, hear our prayer.
- ★ Students and teachers and school staff as they are on Christmas and New Year break. Lord, hear our prayer.
- ★ Christmas celebrations amidst the pandemic. Pray that families may share a meaningful and joyous Christmas in whatever way they find best. Pray especially for our loved ones in nursing homes who are not able to be together with family. May they too find meaning and joy this Christmas season. Lord, hear our prayer.
- ★ Western District Conference: As we celebrate Christmas, give thanks for the gift of multicultural diversity within WDC, and the many different ways congregations embody the presence of Christ.
- ★ Mennonite Mission Network: Join Mennonite Mission Network in praying for the peace witness of the Meserete Kristos Church in Ethiopia amid the conflict between the government of Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed and the Northern Tigray region.
- ★ Mennonite Church USA: "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom His favor rests." (Luke 2:14) Mennonite Church USA staff extends the peace of Christ to you this Christmas, as we work together to bring God's hope, love, joy and peace to the world around us.

Remember to Praise God for:

- ★ The birth of Jesus! The wait that is Advent is drawing to a close as we anticipate Christmas Eve and Christmas Day this week. Thanks be to God for the eternal gift that Christmas brings.

## Thanks

Dear Tabor Church Family, Thank you so much for the meals, cards, texts, emails, and well wishes leading up to and following my surgery. These were deeply appreciated! It is such a blessing to be a part of this church community and to experience and see the many ways that you show care for one another. I continue to be grateful for the opportunity to be a pastor in this wonderful congregation. Thank you!

~ Pastor Katherine

A very heartfelt Thank You to our Tabor Church family for the many prayers on my behalf and expressions of encouragement I have received during my recent successful cancer surgery. I will be continuing with chemo treatments after the Christmas Holidays. Continued prayers are appreciated as I walk my path to recovery.  
~Deloris Schmidt

Thank you, Tabor family, for all your expressions of love and care after my heart bypass surgery. Your cards, phone calls, meals, prayers, and the carolers were deeply appreciated. Words can't describe how helpful and encouraging all of these expressions were and are to me. Much love to you all!  
~ Phyllis & Lee Goertzen

Thank you Tabor Church carolers for coming to my patio door and singing Christmas Carols Friday evening. I enjoyed that very much. Thank you.  
~ Wilma Schmidt

Thank you, Tabor Mennonite Church, for your generous year end gift. Camp Mennoscah's vision to create a sacred space for people of all ages to renew themselves, their relationships, and their connection with God through Jesus Christ is realized only with your help. Your gift will be used to continue our mission to provide a retreat for people of all ages. Thank you for your long and continued support of our camping ministry in so many ways. ~With peace and prayers, Olivia Bartel, camp director

## Congregational Announcements

**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 other settings to help support mothers who lack the supplies they need for a new baby.

### Infant Care Kit Contents (NEW items only, sizes 3-12 months)

- 3 gowns/sleepers (flannel or similar warm, soft material)
- 3 undershirts/onesies (short or long sleeves)
- 1 receiving blanket (lightweight fleece or flannel, minimum 30 in x 30 in, larger sizes preferred)
- 4 large, heavy-duty safety pins
- 1 large bar mild soap (leave in wrapper)
- 1 pair of socks
- 1 cap

*Items can be purchased or sewn. Contact one of MCC's material resources centers for a pattern for hand-sewn gowns.*

**There is a container under the carport to leave items for donation.**

**Wednesday Evening Programming Coordinator Needed** – The Wednesday Evening programming has taken many different approaches over the years with many good leaders. There are many details that go into each evening and so it would be less overwhelming if it was a team. We have 2 people who are interested and we are looking for at least one more person. Please consider this opportunity to serve all age groups in our Tabor and wider community. Please call or e-mail Pam Abrahams with questions or desire to serve.

**Christian Education has been working hard to provide creative and meaningful faith formation experiences for the children** since the pandemic began. We are looking for volunteers who have ideas and energy to work with us in the new year. Please contact Pam Abrahams if you would be willing to provide faith formation through video or zoom. Or, perhaps you have a new idea for how things could be done. We would love to hear from you, even if you want to start by committing to one week!

--Pam, for the Christian Ed. Team  
brentnpam@hotmail.com 620-386-4483

**Calendars are here!** The 2021 “Kansas Scenes” calendars by Emil & Vickie Schmidt are now available. Proceeds will be donated to Camp Mennoscah. Suggested donation is \$15. Make checks payable to Tabor Mennonite Church and note “Calendars” in the memo. You can pick them up at the church (calling first recommended) or contact Emil or Vickie for pick up or delivery arrangements at (620)-367-2343.

**Small Group Gatherings:** If you would like to schedule an in-person or Zoom meeting for your small group, faith formation class, or another gathering, please let church staff know and we will get that set up!

## Conference Announcements

**Western District Conference:** The WDC office and Resource Library remains closed due to Covid-19 precautions, and staff members are working from their homes. Note that staff will take holiday and vacation time December 24 through January 3, 2021, and will be available beginning January 4.

### Mennonite Church USA:

--Looking for a non-traditional pastoral role? Become a unit leader for Service Adventure, a gap-year program for ages 17-20 from Mennonite Mission Network. Unit leaders, who are at least 24 years of age, serve as mentors to the young adults in the Service Adventure household. Learn more by contacting [SusanN@MennoniteMission.net](mailto:SusanN@MennoniteMission.net).

--Mennonite Voluntary Service is accepting applications for the 2021-2022 service term. Serve, learn and grow in faith with a community of your peers! Visit [MennoniteMission.net/MVS](https://MennoniteMission.net/MVS) to learn more!

**Camp Mennoscah:** A Christmas full of light and love to all of you! The Camp Mennoscah staff and Board of Directors prays for you to find Christ's love and joy during this not-as-usual Christmas season. May you find hope, joy, and peace in your celebrations!

### Mennonite Central Committee (MCC):

**--MCC Comforter Blitz update:** Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2021 Kansas Friends of MCC Comforter Blitz in Yoder, KS has been canceled. However, the Blitz committee still has a goal of collecting at least 300 comforters between February and April. We need your help to meet this goal! Fabric kits and comforter sets to tie (top, back, batting) are available to check out from MCC in North Newton. For contactless drop-off of completed comforters the 24-hour donation room is always available. To arrange drop-off or checkout materials, contact Kate at [katemast@mcc.org](mailto:katemast@mcc.org), or 316.804.8432.

**Hesston College** announces an online event for February 20, 2021: What if They Don't Come Back? Pastoring Through the Pandemic Pastors and church leaders have had unprecedented challenges during COVID-19. How do we care for each other when we can't be together? How do we move toward each other in a time of historical division if we can't be in proximity? How do we reach out when we really should stay home? Tensions, divisions and frustrations abound and the Pastor is at the center of it all. But what if in the midst of challenge comes the opportunity for transformative change? More information/registration at:

<https://www.hesston.edu/academics/departments/call-program/weekend-college/what-if-they-dont-come-back/>

*If you plan to attend, please contact the church office. Tabor already qualifies for group registration discount.*

**Bethel College:** Kauffman Museum at Bethel College is partnering with Humanities Kansas to host the Smithsonian traveling exhibit “Crossroads: Change in Rural America” through Jan. 17. Accompanying it is a local companion exhibit, “Of Land and People: Our Community at the Crossroads,” created from the museum's permanent exhibit “Of Land and People.” The museum is open 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Tues.-Fri (early close at 1 p.m. Thurs, Dec. 24, and Thurs, Dec. 31); 1:30-4:30 p.m., Sat.-Sun; and closed Mondays and major holidays (Friday, Dec. 25, Friday, Jan. 1). Admission to the “Crossroads” exhibit is free on Saturdays.

### Change of Address:

Donavon & Deloris Schmidt  
22 Lakewood Circle  
North Newton, KS 67117

Cell Phones: Donavon: 620-386-0651  
Deloris: 620-747-9373

## Gratitude

*I am grateful for....*

~ for the Visual Arts Committee and for the beautiful and meaningful Christmas decorations that they have created. Even though we can't worship in the same ways we have in years past, they have provided some festive holiday cheer to help make this season brighter.

-Pastor Katherine

~ Christmas music, especially the brass ensemble, during the worship service.

-Denise Nickel

~ Pastor Phil's sermon last week, focusing on the image of righteousness. We can be rooted in sturdiness and resilience in these days and filled with hope.

-Denise Nickel

*Please share what you are finding to be grateful for during this time of uncertainty and being apart. Email [kfunk@tabormennonite.org](mailto:kfunk@tabormennonite.org) or call 367-2318. If no answer, please leave a message.*

**Offering December 13, 2020**

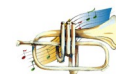
**\$ 3,185.75**



This Advent and Christmas season will be different, and there will be meaningful traditions that we may not be able to engage in this year. And yet, Emmanuel – God-with-us – continues to be revealed in the world in unexpected and miraculous ways. May it be so in our lives and in the world. Amen.



Scriptures for reflection during Advent through Epiphany are from Isaiah. Brass music will be featured throughout Advent. We are grateful to all who will provide brass music as this is such a meaningful part of our Advent and Christmas worship!



Window paintings are a way to share in the joy of Christmas during these unusual times. Thanks to Tabor's Visual Arts Team for their vision and sharing their gifts in this way. Make sure to drive through the church parking lot and take time to step out and view the windows!



The Christmas Eve service this year will be a drive-in service in the parking lot. It will include brass music, Scripture, candle lighting, and luminaries. Recordings with children playing Christmas songs will be played as the prelude and will be made available to the entire congregation. The Advent offering this year is items for MCC Infant Care Kits and may be brought to the Christmas Eve Service. A special offering will be also received at the Christmas Eve Service for the infant kits. *Please make checks payable to Tabor Mennonite Church with 'MCC Kits' on the memo line.* You may also mail your donation to the church.



Tabor Mennonite Church

891 Chisholm Trail, Newton, KS 67114

Phone: 620-367-2318

email: [tabor@tabormennonite.org](mailto:tabor@tabormennonite.org)

Website: [www.tabormennonite.org](http://www.tabormennonite.org)

*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.*

Co-Pastor:

Philip Schmidt

Cell: 620-386-0779

email: [pschmidt@tabormennonite.org](mailto:pschmidt@tabormennonite.org)

Co-Pastor:

Katherine Goerzen

Cell: 316-727-4986

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Deacons:

Carol Duerksen  
Duane Duerksen

Marcene Entz  
Denise Nickel

Emil Schmidt  
John Unruh