

Tabor Mennonite Church

Volume LXVI

January 3, 2021

No. 1



Arise, shine; for your
light has come ...
Isaiah 60:1, NRSV

Epiphany

“Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice.”

~ Isaiah 60:1-2, 5

WORSHIP

PRELUDE*	Michelle Unruh
WELCOME AND PRAYER	Reece Hiebert
GATHERING HYMN	<i>“Nun ist sie erschienen”</i> No. 52 CS
CHILDREN’S STORY	Janna Duerksen
SCRIPTURE READING	<i>Isaiah 60:1-6</i> Carol Duerksen <i>The Word of God for the people of God ~ Thanks be to God!</i>
SERMON	Pastor Katherine Goerzen
HYMN OF RESPONSE	<i>“Oh, Beautiful Star of Bethlehem”</i> No. 32 SS
CONGREGATIONAL SHARING and PRAYER	
OFFERTORY PRAYER	Pastor Phil Schmidt
SENDING BLESSING	

**The end of the prelude is played on a pump organ belonging to Fred and Diane Unruh.
This pump organ was from the original Tabor Mennonite Church building.*

Words for hymns in bulletin

Sunday, January 3

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.

Worship Service: We invite everyone to watch the worship playlist via YouTube. https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLWJe_BGI_rnltc3m-AmJxUjz1PVCKDYHk

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=Ty9JK0Vvb1ZOLzFnaWxwdEwyVXRzdz09>

-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 are invited to meet together on zoom with Pam Abrahams at the following times:

Preschool-kindergarten--1:00 pm

1st-2nd grade--1:45 pm

3rd-5th grade at 2:30

This Week

Mon. Jan. 4, 7 pm - Men’s Bible Study, Tabor Hospitality Hall.

Tues. Jan. 5, 10 am - Staff meeting.

Next Sunday, January 10

9:00 am: Faith Formation via Zoom.

Worship: We begin a new worship series “Stories that Stick”. The theme for the morning is “Gratitude” and the scripture focus will be Luke 17:11-19. This will be our Ministry Storytelling Sunday via YouTube playlist.

Prayer Requests

Remember to Pray for:

- ★ 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.
- ★ school administrators, teachers, and students as many schools resume this week after the holiday break. Lord, hear our prayer.
- ★ all who work in healthcare and especially those who live and work in nursing homes, including Bethesda, Kidron Bethel, and Showalter Villa. Lord, hear our prayer.
- ★ Western District Conference: Pray for God's strength and peace for pastors in WDC, as they look ahead to ministry in the coming year.
- ★ Mennonite Mission Network: Mike Sherrill, MMN's executive director, begins each week with an all-staff worship and prayer time. During this time, he prays for each one of Mission Network's employees by name. Ask for God's wisdom and strength for Mike as he leads the church in mission.

Remember to Praise God for:

- ★ The gift of a new year and the hope and promise it brings. Look for the light and give thanks to God for sending the Light to be with us!

Thanks

A note to the large group of carolers who surprised us on Sunday night with many carols and an excellent performance. We enjoyed it very much! Thank you also to all those who sent Christmas cards.

~Hildred and Esley Schmidt

Congregational Announcements

Worship in January: Tabor Church Staff and COVID Task Force are recommending that we shift to YouTube Playlist Worship Services in January. We have enjoyed the outdoor worship and fellowship opportunities, but winter weather necessitates a change, and high COVID case numbers do not permit us to gather large groups in the church building at this time. Zoom Faith Formation sessions will continue on Sundays at 9am. We will reassess in mid-January. Please continue to find creative ways to stay connected in healthy ways!

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

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: WDC invites you to share a gift with WDC during this season to help our congregations Witness & invite others to faith in Jesus Christ, Dwell in just & loving relationships, and Connect to God's mission in the world. Your generous gifts are appreciated as we look toward our fiscal year end on January 31 and meeting our budget goal! You may make an online contribution [HERE](#) or send a check to Western District Conference, PO Box 306, North Newton KS 67117. Thank you for your generosity!

Applications for Camp Mennoscah Summer Staff positions are now being accepted! Although there is a chance positions will change to meet the needs of pandemic-impacted summer youth camps, the current summer staff leadership positions are naturalist, crafts leader, lifeguard, grounds/maintenance, music leader, office, and all-round/media. For those 21 years old or older, there is also a Director of Support opening. Find the application and information online at www.campmennoscah.org under Summer Youth Camps!

Mennonite Central Committee (MCC):

--Canner Operator. MCC is looking for new canner operators! This two-year service term is unique and offers the opportunity to travel around the U.S. and Canada, working as a team while meeting new people! Check out mcc.org/canning for details!

--**Area Director for Central Southern Asia.** MCC is seeking applicants for the position of [Area Director for Central Southern Asia](#). The Area Director will be responsible to coordinate MCC's resources in impactful and mutually transformative programming. For more information and/or to apply, please visit [serve.mcc.org](#).

--**MCC Representative for Haiti.** Are you looking for opportunities to use your leadership skills? The [MCC Representative for Haiti](#) provides programmatic direction to the work of MCC in Haiti within the MCC Latin America/Caribbean region. This position provides team leadership and support for all MCC workers in Haiti. For more information and/or to apply, please visit [service.mcc.org](#).

Seeking the Beloved Community: From Racism to Reconciliation

As part of God's reconciling work, we are called to dismantle racism and build relationships across racial divides. On Saturday, January 23, 2021 from 9:00 - 11:30 a.m. EST, Mennonite Men will be hosting a meeting, open to all genders, with members of Seeking the Beloved Community, a group of Black and White men in Elkhart, Indiana, who have been engaged in this work for seven years. A number of these are pastors and members of Mennonite congregations. To learn more about the event, [click here](#). To register for the event, [click here](#).

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: Sun., Jan. 10, 3 p.m. – Florence Schloneger, North Newton, and Pauline Sharp, Wichita, will give a virtual presentation, sharing their family stories related to land ownership, economics, education and identity. This is in connection with the Kauffman Museum special exhibit "Crossroads: Change in Rural America." Schloneger's ancestors immigrated to Kansas in the 1800s while Sharp's relatives, members of the Kanza tribe, lived in central Kansas for centuries before the arrival of Europeans. Schloneger is a retired Mennonite minister. Sharp is a Kaw tribal member and board member of the Kanza Heritage Society. Sign up for the Zoom link at <https://kauffmanmuseum.org/event/sunday-afternoon-at-the-museum-with-florence-schloneger-and-pauline-sharp/> The event will also be on Facebook Live.

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; 1:30-4:30 p.m., Sat.-Sunday; and closed Mondays. Admission to the "Crossroads" exhibit is free on Saturdays.

Hymns for Worship

Nun Ist Sie Erschienen

Companion Songbook No. 52
Public Domain

Nun ist sie erschienen, die himmlische Sonne,
Und strahlt durch die irdische Nacht;
Darum trocknet die Thränen und jauchzet vor Wonne;
Denn den Menschen ist Heil nun in Christo gebracht.

Refrain:

Dem Heiland sei Ehre Und Frieden der Welt
In Christo dem Retter, Ist Heil uns bestellt

Wie lag sie umnachtet in Tod und Verderben,
Die Menschheit, voll Sunde und Not!
Doch durch Christum kann jeder die Seligkeit erben;
"Glaubt und lebet" so heist's nun gelobet sei Gott.

Refrain

Now appeareth the Heavenly Sun in its glory,
It streams thru' the darkness of earth;
So then dry tears of sadness and sing the glad story
Of a Saviour now come by the heavenly birth.

Refrain

To Jesus be glory and peace on the earth
In Christ is salvation, Proclaim we His birth.

The people that walked in sin's condemnation,
And weary of battle and strife
Now inherit in Jesus the gift of salvation,
"believe ye and live," says the Lord of all life.

Refrain

Oh, Beautiful Star of Bethlehem

Sing the Story #32
Public Domain

Oh, beautiful star of Bethlehem, shining afar thro' shadows dim,
giving a light for those who long have gone,
and guiding the wise men on their way unto the place where Jesus lay,
beautiful star of Bethlehem, shine on.

Refrain

Oh, beautiful star of Bethlehem, shine upon us until the glory dawn;
oh, give us thy light to light the way into the land of perfect day;
beautiful star of Bethlehem, shine on.

Oh, beautiful star, the hope of light, guiding the pilgrim thro' the night,
over the mountain till the break of dawn;
and into the light of perfect day it will give out a lovely ray;
beautiful star of Bethlehem, shine on.

Refrain

Oh, beautiful star, the hope of rest, for the redeemed, the good and blest,
yonder in glory when the crown is won;
for Jesus is now that Star divine' brighter and brighter he will shine;
beautiful star of Bethlehem, shine on.

Refrain



Epiphany
The Light Shines in the Darkness

*Thanks to Sheri Schmidt for the photos of the Christmas Eve service seen above
and in the January newsletter.*

Offering December 27, 2020

\$ 2,891.00

Christmas Eve Offering
MCC Infant Care Kits
\$ 3,243.00



Tabor Mennonite Church

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*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

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Co-Pastor:

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Deacons:

Carol Duerksen
Duane Duerksen

Marcene Entz
Denise Nickel

Emil Schmidt
John Unruh