

#### **Sunday Worship Themes**

#### March 7 - Lent 3: Deep Calls to Deep

Deep Wisdom
John 2:13-22
I Corinthians 1:18-25
Pastor Katherine Preaching

#### March 14 - Lent 4: Deep Calls to Deep

Deep Healing
John 3:14-21; Ephesians 2:1-10
Pastor Katherine Preaching

#### March 21 - Lent 5: Deep Calls to Deep

Deep Growth John 12:20-23 Jeremiah 31:31-34 TBA

#### March 28 - Palm Sunday: Deep Calls to Deep

Deep Hope John 12:12-16 Philippians 2:5-11 Michael Unruh Preaching



## **Tabor Church News**

March, 2021

#### Crumbs and Overflowing Baskets

Hello Dear Tabor Church Family,

First of all, I just want to say how much I appreciate your prayers, your support, and your encouragement. These have helped me a great deal during this time of transition. I continue to thank God for you and for this opportunity to pastor in this wonderful congregation.

Recently the Youth Group had 2 sessions on the story of Jesus multiplying the loaves and the fish (which I wrote as a part of the "God's Treasures in Difficult Times" curriculum). I wanted to share a few thoughts on this story, in part because these are things of which I often need to remind myself, especially when life feels full.

The story of the multiplication of the 5 loaves and 2 fish is one of the few stories that appears in all four Gospels (Matthew 14:13-21; Mark 6:31-44; Luke 9:10-17; and John 6:1-14). Interestingly enough, however, the small boy who offers his lunch only shows up in John's gospel:

It was late and Jesus knew that the crowd would be hungry. So he told his disciples to give the people something to eat. All they could find was the lunch of a young boy: 5 loaves of bread and 2 small fish for a crowd of 5,000. The disciples could not possibly imagine how these mere crumbs would be enough to feed such a large crowd.

And yet Jesus took what the boy had offered, broke and blessed this gift, and multiplied it abundantly for the sake of all who had gathered. Even after everyone ate their fill, there were still 12 baskets of food left over!

When things feel overwhelming, when we feel as though we're not doing enough, when it feels as though all we are offering is crumbs in a hungry world, may we be reminded that God can take even our meager crumbs and bless them. Even our brokenness can be blessed by God (the bread itself needed to be broken before it could be shared). God meets us where we are, reminding us that nothing is impossible for God. God works through us, using the gifts that we offer – no matter how small or insignificant these may seem – to work miracles for the sake of the Kingdom.

May God continue to work in and through our lives in amazing ways.

~Grace and Peace, Pastor Katherine



#### PLANTS and THINGS

Planning is now underway for the 2021 Kansas Mennonite Relief Sale to be held July 2 and 3 at the fairgrounds in Hutchinson.

One of the most popular booths at the KMRS is "Plants and Things". As many of you know, this is the place to purchase a variety of things for your gardens. You traditionally have been able to buy flowers, shrubs, and garden plants. Many people have counted on being able to get their tomato plants, cabbage starts, melon seedlings, annual flowers, bulbs, etc. at the KMRS. Because July 2 and 3 is a bit late to be thinking about purchasing plants and starting or adding to a garden, the "Plants and Things" booth will be open on April 10, the time our sale is regularly scheduled. "Plants and Things" will be set up at the MCC Building in North Newton utilizing the parking lot and the warehouse facilities. Some things are yet to be decided such as opening and closing times, drop off hours, flat pick up, etc., but we wanted you to know that we will be accepting the plants that you wish to bring to the sale. So please start the seeds that will become a part of your contribution to MCC and the sale event. More information will follow, but we want to encourage you to start those plants to donate to the KMRS Early Plants and Things Sale.

For more information and answers to questions, please contact Kristi Unruh at 620-3456867or by email at kdunruh97@gmail.com or you can contact Jim Robb at 620-747-0186 or by email at jimandbeatyrobb@gmail.com.

### Saying Good-bye to Pastor Phil, Mary, Ethan and Noah









#### New Mission Partners for Tabor Church

Meet the Givens family! Joseph and Rachel Givens, along with their two young children Elijah and Micaiah, are called to serve at the Maria Skobtsova House in Calais, France.



They will be primarily working with refugees from the Middle East and Africa flooding to Europe. Thousands of people flee war, death, and famine each year and make their way through Europe in the hope of finding a better life. Calais is an essential destination for refugees who flee from war-torn and oppressive regimes and make their way across Europe, with the goal of claiming asylum in the UK. When people finally cross into the UK gathered in Calais, the nearest city to England, they set up temporary settlements around town with no places to stay. They lack access to basic hygiene, transportation, clean water, etc. The local government is not too kind to them. They break up their camps and force them to leave nearly every day.

The Maria Skobtsova House provides a safe space for vulnerable people to live, work, laugh, play, and pray together. The Givens family are called to manage the house, oversee daily activities, make connections with local nonprofits and churches, show exiles that they are wanted and loved, maintain a prayerful presence, and be a light for the gospel and the hands and feet of Jesus.

More information will be communicated about Tabor's partnership with the Givens family as plans move forward. Watch for ways in which you can show your support!

#### Summer Camps

#### Camp Mennoscah:

We are bouncing in our boots with excitement for the 2021 Summer Youth Camps and can't wait to have campers! This is a pandemic-impacted summer. All aspects of camp from activities to meals to where campers sleep will be affected. We are striving to have the best possible balance of fun and safety! Summer Youth Camps are being planned with the information we currently have.

Camper numbers will be very limited! Sign up for the waitlist! As guidance changes or as creative solutions are found, we hope to add more spaces. There may be changes and we will do our best to keep you informed. Whatever changes there are, we plan on fun!

Please contact Camp Mennoscah with any questions. We will not have all the answers, but we will answer as best we can.

#### Rocky Mountain Mennonite Camp:

Goodness, what will the coming summer camp season look like? Well, we know we will continue to follow state and local guidelines in ensuring the safety of our campers and staff today, tomorrow and for the coming summer. We should all plan for our resident and wilderness youth camps to operate at a reduced capacity (40 for resident, normal for 10 for wilderness), a reduced length (Sunday arrival to Friday morning departure), and with amended practices/activities. Thankfully, being outside is our friend related to the coronavirus pandemic (always has been hasn't it?). And the good news is that there is plenty of God's creation and sunshine in the outdoors here at Rocky Mountain to go around. So have your sunscreen and your rain gear at the ready and let's all breathe in the fresh mountain air together! With MANY moving parts and coordinations involved in offering a summer camp program, join us in taking things one step at a time, hoping, praying and planning to offer a fun and meaningful experience to our youth campers this summer.

# Something Fun for the Young and Young at Heart





Jesus gave thanks to God.

That day 5,000 people were fed.



#### Western District Conference:

#### Hope Fund

Western District Conference extends prayers and encouragement for all congregations and communities impacted by recent weather-related crises in our region. The resulting power outages, water shortages, need for emergency shelter, and loss of work and income are also exacerbating the vulnerabilities and risks of the ongoing COVID pandemic. In the face of these needs, congregations may apply for assistance grants of up to \$2,500 from the WDC Hope Fund, and donations to the fund are also invited. Grant applications and contributions may be made online at Hope Fund, or sent to WDC at PO Box 306, North Newton, KS 67117. In the future, we will be discerning a broader purpose for the Hope Fund, to continue to respond to congregational needs as we anticipate moving beyond the COVID pandemic. Further announcements will be made as that is determined. May God strengthen the church's witness, caring and fellowship as we share together in this way.

#### Women in Mission

Save the date! Mark your calendars for Thursday, April 8 at 7:00pm for the Western District Women in Mission 2021 Spring Soiree! In lieu of our annual Spring Supper, gather with us for a virtual night of worship, music and a reflection on "Faith in Turbulent Times" offered by special guest speaker and freelance minister, Georgia Metz, M. Div. More details to follow soon.

#### Gifts Discernment Committee

Do you know persons who can contribute to the ministry of WDC? The Gifts Discernment Committee invites suggestions of names to consider for positions on the Executive Board and Commissions. For information, see <a href="http://mennowdc.org/executive-board-commissions/">http://mennowdc.org/executive-board-commissions/</a>. Nominees will be presented for affirmation by delegates at the WDC Annual Assembly, July 30-Aug. 1, 2021. Contact WDC at <a href="https://wdc@mennowdc.org">wdc@mennowdc.org</a> or 316-283-6300 to offer suggestions.

## March

## TABOR CHURCH CALENDAR

	7pm Men's Bible Study	2 10am Staff Mtg 7pm Church Council Zoom Mtg	3 6:30pm Jr. Hi Fellowship 7:15pm TMYF	4	5	6
7 9am FF Zoom 10:45 am Worship 7pm Book Study	8 7pm Men's Bible Study	9 10am Staff Mtg	10 <sub>6:30pm</sub> Jr. Hi Fellowship 7:15pm TMYF	11 7pm Christian Ed	12	13
14 9am FF Zoom 10:45 am Worship	15 7pm Men's Bible Study	16 10am Staff Mtg 7pm Worship Planning Team	17 6:30pm Jr. Hi Fellowship 7:15pm TMYF	18 Newsletter Items Due	19	20
21 Pam 10:45 am Worship 7pm Book Study	22 7pm Men's Bible Study	23 10am Staff Mtg	24 6:30pm Jr. Hi Fellowship 7:15pm TMYF	25	26	27
28 FF Zoom 10:45 am Worship Palm Sunday	29 7pm Men's Bible Study	30 10am Staff Mtg	31 6:30pm Jr. Hi Fellowship 7:15pm TMYF	April 1 7pm Holy Week Service		





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Keri Unruh							
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- 8 Sandra Duerksen Eve Buller
- 9 Brenda Buller
- 10 Susan Merrifield
- 13 Dana Gleason Evelyn Schmidt
- 16 Duane Duerksen
- 17 Nicholas Johnson
- 19 Carol Duerksen

- 20 Eileen Schmidt
- 21 Elaina Graber
- 25 Norma Graber Laura Unrau
- 26 Lee Hiebert
- 27 Boyd Unruh
- 28 Lynne Voth
- 30 Sophia Goerzen Sawyer Unruh
- 31 Norah Schmidt

Russ & Sandra Duerksen	March 7,	34 yrs.
Jeremy & Sara Rohr	March 9,	3 yrs.
Darren "DJ" & Lisa Schmidt	March 26,	10 yrs.
Bruce & Eileen Schmidt	March 29	53 vrs