

Tabor Mennonite Church

Volume LXVI

August 15, 2021

No. 33

On Tabor's Heights: Returning from Exile



Today we begin our worship series, which focuses on biblical stories of God's people returning from the exile while seeking to rebuild their lives. What will the new normal look like? How does one mourn what was lost? Where might God be leading amid the uncertainty of the future? These questions speak into our own lives as we too seek to rebuild what was lost during the "exile" of the pandemic.

WORSHIP

- PRELUDE Susan Merrifield
- WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Lewis Unruh
- RINGING THE PRAYER BOWL AND LIGHTING THE PEACE LAMP
- *CALL TO WORSHIP *Isaiah 40:1-5, 28-31*
- *GATHERING PRAYER
- *GATHERING HYMNS "Come, We That Love" No. 31
"They That Wait Upon the Lord" inside bulletin
accompanied by Michelle Unruh
- *PASSING THE PEACE *The Peace of Christ be with you ~ and also with you.*
- *OFFERING OUR GIFTS
- WORSHIP MUSIC Isaac Swartzendruber
- CHILDREN'S STORY Pastor Luke Unruh
- SCRIPTURE READING *Ezra 1:1-7* Jill Litwiller
The Word of God for the people of God ~ Thanks be to God!
- SERMON Pastor Katherine Goerzen
- *HYMN OF RESPONSE "Build My Life" No. 92
- FAITH SHARING Brenda Buller
- CONGREGATIONAL SHARING & PRAYER Pastor Katherine Goerzen
- *SENDING HYMN "Guide My Feet" No. 816
- *BENEDICTION
- *POSTLUDE **Please stand if you are able*

Sunday, August 15

Welcome to worship at Tabor Church! Come together to worship God and experience God's love. This morning you were greeted by Keith and Barb Banman. A special welcome is extended to all visitors.

9:30 am: Worship Service in the Sanctuary.
YouTube Livestream (also available following the service).
Link: Will be emailed Saturday evening.

Fellowship Time following worship.

10:45 am: Faith Formation.

Jr. High - Adults: The last of our Table Talks will take place in the Hospitality Hall. We will be sharing about our hopes and dreams for Tabor's future.

Children: Meet at the front of the sanctuary and continue in church park.

This Week

Pastor Luke will be studying at AMBS Aug 16-21.

Mon. Aug. 16, 7pm - Men's Bible Study in the Hospitality Hall.

Tues. Aug 17, 9 am - Staff meeting.

Wed. Aug. 18, 5:30 pm - Faithful Fitness

Next Sunday, August 22

9:30 am: Next Sunday we will continue with the worship series, "On Tabor's Heights." The theme for the morning will be "Joy and Sorrow." Scripture for reflection will be Ezra 3:8-13; Isaiah 43:1-2, 15-21 and Pastor Katherine will be preaching.

Fellowship Time following worship.

Congregational Meeting: Following the worship service on August 22 we will have a short congregational meeting to have a vote to retain Pastor Katherine for another 3 year term. The deacons have decided to forego a review at this time due to the situation we have had this past year with the change in Pastor Katherine's role from half-time to full-time and the effects of the pandemic year. The deacons will initiate a pastoral review for a later date.
~The Board of Deacons

10:45 am: Faith Formation

3:00 pm - Celebration of Life Service for Wilma Schmidt.

Prayer Requests

The following prayer request were shared on Sunday, August 8

- ★ Dawson Duerksen thanked the congregation for the support he has received as he prepares to serve in Albuquerque. Lord, hear our prayer as we continue to support Dawson through gifts and prayer.
- ★ Erica Stoltzfus and Travis Duerksen announced that they are engaged to be married next spring! Thanks be to God!
- ★ Kevin Nickel shared that his friend's grandson, Briggs, is in the ICU at Wesley Medical Center in Wichita with kidney dysfunction. Lord, hear our prayer for Briggs and his family, as he battles for his health.

Remember to Pray for:

- ★ students, parents, teachers, administrators, and staff as a new school year begins. We recognize that this year still holds many challenges. We pray for the safety and well-being of all. May all receive what they need for a rich and meaningful school year. Lord, hear our prayers, and thanks be to God for the start of a new school year.
- ★ all who are struggling with illness, depression, despair, loneliness, both here and around the world. Lord, hear our prayer for your healing presence to be made known in the midst of struggles.
- ★ The caring quilt is with Kristin Schmidt and family following the service which was held for Archie here on Saturday. Lord, hear our prayers for peace and comfort.
- ★ Western District Conference: As a new school year begins, pray for health and strength for all students, teachers and mentors in WDC congregations.
- ★ Mennonite Mission Network: Laura Schlabach, of MMN, has had a steep learning curve during the past year in the JCS International office, as she learned new administrative skills for responding to the crises caused by COVID-19 in Mongolia. She requests prayer to improve her communication skills, especially in the Mongolian language.

Remember to Praise for:

- ★ the refreshing rain which we had this past week following the intense summer heat. Thanks be to God!

Thanks

The board and staff of the museum would like to thank everyone for your support and attendance last weekend at Country Threshing Days in Goessel. A huge thank you also to the group of about 70 volunteers who worked behind the scenes, served at the Low German meal and at the Preparatory School, and prepared the sausage, verenika, New Year's Cookies, cherry moos, zwieback, and monster cookies. It took a village, and you were amazing!

~Aileen Esau, Mennonite Heritage & Agricultural Museum

Congregational Announcements

Fall Faith Formation: We are looking forward to starting the fall with some children's faith formation opportunities. Please contact Pam Abrahams if you would be willing to teach a children's class either on Sunday mornings or Wednesday evenings. brentnpam@hotmail.com or 386-4483. Thanks!

Mennograss, an evening of music and fellowship, is Sunday, August 29, at 6:30 pm at the church park. Kilometer 81 and The Flannelbacks will play music. Bring lawn chairs and your own drinks if you'd like. Water will be available, but no food will be provided due to covid. This event will be canceled if there is rain or inclement weather.

The Tabor Mennonite Church campout is September 18-19 at Camp Mennoscah. We anticipate a hayrack ride, campfire, popcorn, and Sunday morning worship. We will follow covid protocol, including wearing masks inside buildings. Please be prepared to help set up, cook, or clean up after meals. Registration forms are in your church mailbox and are due August 29. This event is subject to change based on covid numbers.

MCC Flatlander Bicycle Ride: We are raising money for clean water projects in Nicaragua. Registration is now open. You can register on line at www.Bikereg.com/mcc-flatlander-ride, or paper registrations are located under the mailboxes in the church foyer. We need a separate registration for each rider. There is also a poster with information on the bulletin board in the foyer. The ride is scheduled for Sept. 18, 2021. Registration is at 7 a.m. and the ride begins at 8 a.m. If you have questions please talk to Elton Nickel.

Invitation: This past year we have experienced losses of loved ones in greater numbers than we typically have in years past. We remember and celebrate those lives. Planning for memorials is not an easy task, nor is it one which we often take the time to think about before the need arises. That being said, those planning services - Pastors, families, church staff and funeral committee alike, have all been grateful for the Life Sketches we have on file here at Tabor. Some of you may have filled out a Life Sketch in the past. Others may not be aware that this is available. We are offering the opportunity for you to fill out a Life Sketch, which you will find attached to the Sunday Worship email, with paper copies available below the mailboxes in the foyer. If you have previously filled out a life sketch and would like to review it and/or update it, please let us know. Once completed, please return to Pastor Katherine (place in her church mailbox or email a copy to her kgoerzen@tabormennonite.org) and she will hold in a confidential file.

Request for Information: I am working on compiling information for individuals who served in CPS, 1-W, VS, PAX, Teachers Abroad, etc. I have sent out emails and letters to individuals who I know served with one of these entities. If you didn't receive a notification and served in some way please let me know. Thanks, Ilona Abrahams

Save the date for this year's Goessel Area Harvest Giving Walk.

This year's walk will begin at Goessel Church on Sunday, September 26. More details and donation envelopes coming soon!

Rejoice! The fall issue of Rejoice! Devotional is available for you to pick up from the table in the foyer. If you would like to have a copy mailed to you, please notify the church office.

Service Adventure contact information for Dawson Duerksen:

1808 Truman St NE, Albuquerque NM 87110

Email: dawson.duerksen@gmail.com

Phone: 620-877-0718

Conference Announcements

--Women's Retreat: All women 13 years and older are invited to the annual Women's Retreat being held Saturday, September 11 through Sunday, September 12 at Camp Mennoscah near Murdock, KS. Kathy Neufeld Dunn will be our main speaker on Re/Connecting with God and Each Other. Whether we need time to reconnect with God, with our sisters in Christ or both, Women's Retreat is a chance to do that. Join us for a special time of focus on spiritual and emotional connection with each other and the One who loves us and cares for us beyond imagining. [Click here for more information and registration forms.](#) Covid rules and restrictions will be followed, and a few things will look different so please read the information carefully. We hope to see there!

--WDC and Bethel College invite you to save the date for Bethel's 5th **Biennial Worship and the Arts Symposium** at Bethel College --Joining Voices Together, November 5-8, 2021, featuring the new denominational hymnal, Voices Together (2020). This worship book is resonating across Mennonite Church USA and Mennonite Church Canada as we reach for connection with each other and with God's work in the world. The Symposium will include convocation speakers on Nov 5 and 8, seminars and evening worship on Nov 6, and guest presenters in area congregations on Nov 7. Come gather around stories that shaped Voices Together; contemplate the visual art curated for this collection; experience historical, contemporary and intercultural worship; and develop tools for adopting new resources in your worshiping community. More information and registration available soon at bethelks.edu/worshiparts

Camp Mennoscah:

--The next Work Day is August 28 with all sorts of fun projects! Meet at the Maintenance shed at 8:30am and bring your lunch and a water bottle. Come for a partial day, if that's what works! Call us at 620-297-3290 or email office@campmennoscah.org! You are important to Camp Mennoscah's ministry!

Mennonite Central Committee:

--MCC Treats & Beats, August 26 from 4 p.m.-6 p.m. at MCC in North Newton! Join us for this relaxed come-and-go event featuring ice cream treats from Salted Creamery and beats from the talented Kevin Gaedder! Drop in, grab some ice cream and enjoy a little music as our thank you for your support of the work of MCC!

--New curriculum now available from MCC! Conflict is a normal part of life. It arises in our workplaces, in our churches and with our families. To help people to learn to work through divisive issues, Mennonite Central Committee has produced a new adult Sunday school curriculum, [Peaceful Practices: A guide to healthy communication in conflict](#). It invites churchgoers to follow Jesus' call to peacemaking through dialogue with each other in nine sessions. The curriculum is available to download for free, or in print for a suggested \$5 donation. Please direct questions to karinkaufmanwall@mcc.org 316.283.2720 or curriculum author Jes Stoltzfus Buller at peacefulpractices@mcc.org.

The Kansas Mennonite Relief Sale Annual Meeting will be Thursday, August 26, 6:00 pm at First Mennonite Church, McPherson. The cost of the meal is \$20.00. Please RSVP to Barb BJ Reeves at bj.reeves@live.com or 620-543-6863 by August 22. We will be checking with health information sources regarding group meetings closer to the date for everyone's protection. The funds will go to the McPherson Housing Coalition for the construction of Oak Harbor Cottages for low income/homeless families.

Offender Victim Ministries: Greetings, fellow Justice seekers! OVM (Newton, KS) is preparing an evening of Just Desserts and we'd like to invite interested folks to join us on August 29, 6-8pm at the Carriage Factory Art Gallery Park, 126 E. 6th, Newton, KS. Additional information can be found on the poster on the community bulletin board or at www.offendervictimministries.org.

Tabor College presents Music on the Plaza with two events on the Kliever Plaza, just east of the Shari Flaming Center for the Arts.

--Saturday, August 16, 6:30-8:30pm: The Mike Fetters --Tom Harder Jazz Duo with guest vocalist, Lois Harder.

--Friday, August 27, 6:30-8:30pm: Tom and Lois Harder Folk Duo. All concerts are free and open to the public. Bring your lawn chair.

AUGUST COVID19 PROTOCOL

--Due to the recent increases in Covid19 and the Delta variant, the CDC recommends that everyone (including vaccinated persons) **wear masks when indoors** in areas of high or substantial community transmission. We Strongly Encourage following this mask guidance at this time.

--Social Distance seating on dots during children's story time will continue.

--During worship people speaking from the front microphones are encouraged to remove masks to accommodate those who have difficulty understanding the speakers.

--Musicians are encouraged to perform from the stage.

--Congregational Singing has resumed.

--Passing Offering Bags will resume.

--PLEASE KEEP HANDSHAKING TO A MINIMUM WITH GREETERS AND DURING THE SERVICE.

--If you test positive after attending a church event, **PLEASE** call one of the Covid Task Team or the church office. **This is important!**

--Sanitizing stations will remain available and encouraged to be used.

--Mailboxes are in use.

--Gatherings that include serving of food are discouraged. Groups of less than 50 may meet with food if individual plates are prepared and served (versus potluck style).

Thank You, Covid Task Team – Gayle Funk, Duane Duerksen, Erica Stoltzfus

Notes

OFFERINGS & ATTENDANCE

August 8, 2021

Offering	= \$ 4,769.00	Attendance	= 96
Adult FF	= \$ 12.00	Attendance	= 19
Jr. FF	= \$ 4.50	Attendance	= 24

Worship Link Views = 50

Views to links may include more than one person

They that wait upon the Lord 584

They that wait up-on the Lord shall re-new their strength. They shall mount up with wings as ea-gles. They shall run and not be wea-ry, they shall walk and not faint. Teach me, Lord, teach me, Lord, to wait.

Chords: E^b, Irregular, B^b7, E^b, A^b, E^b, Cm, E^b, B^b7, E^b, A^b, E^b

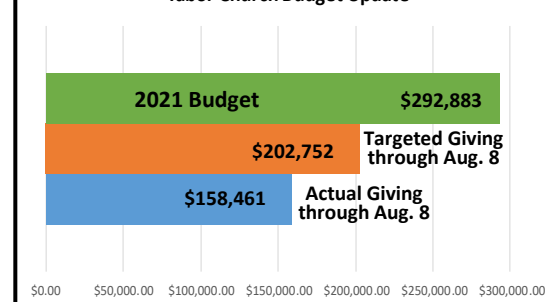
Text: Stuart Hamblen, 1953 (chorus of song "Teach me, Lord, to wait")

Music: Stuart Hamblen, 1953

Text and Music copyright ©1953 renewed 1981 Hamblen Music Co.

Reprinted *Hymnal: A Worship Book*
Faith and Life Press, Newton, KS

Tabor Church Budget Update



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.

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