

Tabor Mennonite Church

Volume LXVII

March 27, 2022

No. 13



Seeking God's Ways: *From Exceptionalism to Inclusion*

As we seek God's ways, we move from a sense that "we" and "ours" have special standing, to the knowledge that all are equally part of God's Kingdom.¹

Questions to Ponder: With which character in the parable of the Prodigal Son do you most identify? Why? To whom may God be inviting you to extend grace and hospitality?

WORSHIP

- PRELUDE Russell Adrian
- WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Pastor Luke Unruh
- LIGHTING THE PEACE LAMP AND RINGING THE PRAYER BOWL
- *CALL TO WORSHIP *from Psalm 32*
- *GATHERING PRAYER
- *GATHERING HYMN *"Could It Be That God Is Singing"* No. 42
- *PASSING THE PEACE *The Peace of Christ be with you ~ and also with you.*
- OFFERING OUR GIFTS
- WORSHIP MUSIC *"Soon and Very Soon" "The Unclouded Day" Men's Ensemble*
- CHILDREN'S STORY Carol Duerksen and Doris Unruh
- SCRIPTURE READING *Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32 Sheri Schmidt*
*The Word of God for the people of God ~ **Thanks be to God!***
- SERMON Pastor Katherine Goerzen
- HYMN OF RESPONSE *"Mery, Mery, Lord"* No. 169
- SCRIPTURE READING *2 Corinthians 5:16-21 Pastor Katherine Goerzen*
- LOVE FEAST *"Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling"* No. 544
- CONGREGATIONAL SHARING & PRAYER Pastor Luke Unruh
- *SENDING HYMN *"The Love of God"* No. 162
- *SENDING PRAYER and BLESSING
- *POSTLUDE **Please stand if you are able*

¹Focus Statement for the 4th Sunday of Lent from the 2022 Lenten/Easter Worship Resources in the *Leader* magazine.

Sunday, March 27

Welcome to worship at Tabor Mennonite Church! Come together to worship God and experience God's love. A special welcome is extended to all visitors.

9:30 am: Worship
YouTube Livestream (also available following the service).
https://youtu.be/T_vN5L7z_uq

10:45 am: Faith Formation.
Webinar in Sanctuary: Repentance and Transformation Resolution.

5:30 pm: For those participating in Guess Who's Coming to Dinner this evening, please meet in front of the church to find out whose home you will be going to. You will find out who else is going to the same home and have an opportunity to carpool if you wish.

This Week

Mon, March 28, 5:30 pm - Faithful Fitness.
7 pm - Men's Bible Study.

Tues, March 29, 9 am - Staff meeting.
7:30 pm - Deacon meeting. Exit interview with Pastor Luke.

Wed, March 30, 5:45 pm - Wednesday Evening supper & programs.
--Final supper will be served.
--Wrap up for children's programs and pine car work night.
--Webinar: Repentance and Transformation Resolution.
6:30 pm - Book Study: *Oriented to Faith*, chapters 5-8
7:30 pm - Adult Choir.

Thurs, March 31, 7 pm - Worship Council.

Next Sunday, April 3

9:30 am: Next Sunday is the Fifth Sunday in Lent. The theme is Seeking God's Ways and the topic is "From Scarcity to Abundance". Scriptures for reflection will be John 12:1-8, Philippians 3:4b-14, Isaiah 43:16-21, and Psalm 126. It is with gratitude that we look forward to hearing from Pastor Luke as he leads us on this final Sunday as Supply Pastor at Tabor.

10:45 am: Faith Formation.

11:45 am: Potluck meal to say farewell to Pastor Luke as he concludes his ministry as Supply Pastor with us and anticipates serving as Pastor at First Mennonite Church in Newton. *see announcements*

Prayer Requests

The following requests were shared on Sunday, March 20.

- ★ Bruce asked for continued prayers for everyone affected by the Cottonwood Complex fires a few weeks ago, as well as those who are volunteering their time for cleanup with MDS. Lord, hear our prayers as so many continue to process these events and help cleanup as they are able.
- ★ Evie asked for continued prayers for Bethesda Home as they continue to provide care during these uncertain times. Lord, hear our prayers for this wonderful facility that provides so much for so many.

Remember to Pray for:

- ★ our Pastor Search Team as they continue their work. Lord, hear our prayers.
- ★ those in our church family who are grieving and who are dealing with health concerns. Lord, hear our prayers.
- ★ all who are coping with the ravages of war in Ukraine and other parts of the world, and all who are coping with the devastation of natural disasters, most recently the tornadoes this past week.
- ★ Western District Conference: Please pray for Summit Street Church, our church replant in Beatrice, NE, as we continue to navigate what it means for us to follow Jesus' call to become something new. In particular, please pray for our new members/baptism class that will be starting soon. -Pastor Tim Amor
- ★ Mennonite Mission Network: MMN requests prayer for Monika Neufeld, a nurse who is serving as an intern with CASAS (a program of *Seminario Anabautista Latinoamericano*, SEMILLA) in Guatemala. Pray for her as she works with other medical staff at a rural clinic to respond to the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Remember to Praise God for:

- ★ the presence of the Mennonite Heritage and Agricultural Museum in our community, sharing the story of the Mennonites with those who visit, and serving as a reminder of the heritage of faith we have been blessed with. Thanks be to God!

Congregational Announcements

Farewell to Pastor Luke: The deacons and Pastor Katherine invite the congregation to participate in two farewell gestures for Pastor Luke as his time at Tabor as our Supply Pastor comes to an end. 1) You are invited to sign a large card on the table in the foyer with a short message of gratitude; 2) you are invited to our first POTLUCK (after COVID) as an appreciation to Pastor Luke on his last Sunday, April 3. COVID protocol will be followed (please see the posted protocol in the Hospitality Hall).

Good news! After two long years of not meeting, the Adult Choir has once again resumed rehearsals to prepare music for Easter Sunday morning. If anyone who has not joined choir previously would like to sing for Easter, please attend our practices. This would not commit you to anything long term but would give you a chance to help us musically celebrate the Risen Lord. We will wear masks during rehearsal. Please join us if you are able!

Tabor Mennonite Women are invited to a Mystery Supper on Monday, April 11. Plan to meet at the church at 5:30 pm. A sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board. We will carpool to our destination. Cost is \$10.95, payable to the venue that evening.

MC USA Special Assembly:

--In regards to the upcoming discussions for the MCUSA delegate session, church leadership would like to emphasize that the sole purpose of these discussions is to help delegates determine how to vote. The purpose is not to come up with a congregation-wide statement, nor is it to decide where Tabor is in relation to same-sex marriage. The purpose of these discussions is to help delegates determine how to vote on the 4 resolutions, including whether or not to abolish the MCUSA membership guidelines. If this resolution passes, it would then make allowance for our denomination to better follow the delegate approved "Forbearance Resolution" (passed in 2015) which empowers area conferences and individual congregations to make their own prayerful decisions in regards to performing same-sex covenanted unions. Again, if you have any questions or concerns, please speak with a pastor or a deacon.

--One more delegate position needs to be filled for Tabor. If you are interested in being a delegate, contact one of the pastors or deacons.

--If you are planning to be a part of the **table talk discussions** to help delegates discern how to vote for the 4 MCUSA resolutions at the assembly in May, please participate in the book study or read the book *Oriented to Faith* AND/OR watch the 4 MCUSA webinars on each of the resolutions. For more information on the resolutions, and to access the webinars: <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/special-delegate-session-22/>.

It is hard to learn about the tragedy unfolding in Ukraine, and we all feel a desire both to pray and to do what we can to help. Amanda Voth is asking the congregations of the Goessel community to discern if our community might sponsor one or more refugee families (see <https://mcc.org/community-sponsorship>). If you have interest in learning more about this potential opportunity and what might be involved for our community to sponsor a family, contact Amanda Voth (amandagvoth@yahoo.com).

Calling all dishwashers: A list of those who are trained to use the dishwasher is being compiled. Please contact the church office to have your name on the list.

Tabor Mennonite Women are collecting sewing kits for MCC supported programs that teach sewing or tailoring and provides the tools to make and mend clothing or to begin a business. *Throughout the month of March, anyone may donate supplies and place them in the basket in the foyer.* You will find a list of items on cards below the mailboxes in the foyer.

Summer Camps: Registration for children/youth summer camps are now open for Camp Mennoscah and Rocky Mountain Mennonite Camp. Tabor Education Co. will once again offer \$50 scholarships for camp registrations. Please sign up on the bulletin board to receive your reimbursement. (Camp Mennoscah discount ends April 1)

Cottonwood Complex Fire: The Kansas Mennonite Disaster Service (MDS) is currently responding to the Cottonwood Complex Fire in Reno County Kansas. Each day we need 1-2 skid steer loaders, a track machine is helpful or a tractor with loader and a grapple fork is very helpful. We can use 4-6 volunteers each day to help with a cutting torch, sifting through and picking up debris. Please contact Cleo Koop at cleohkoop@gmail.com or 316-282-0797 if you are able to help.

Bloodmobile: The need for blood products continues. Please sign up to donate on April 11, between 1:00-6:00 pm at the Goessel Church. Make a single unit donation or a Power Red donation (double units for those with type O+, O-, A-, or B-) to help meet the needs. Sign up for your appointment time online at redcrossblood.org. For more information contact Rosie Reimer 620-367-2418 or Nancy Stucky 620-747-0081. Thanks for making a difference!

Upcoming:

April 6: Pine Car Derby (last evening for regular programming)
April 8-9: MCC Relief Sale
April 11: Tabor Mennonite Women Mystery Supper
April 14: Maundy Thursday Meal and Service
April 15: Good Friday Service at Bethesda
April 17: Easter Sunday
April 24, 11:30 am: Camp 412 fundraiser meal at Goessel High.
May 27-30: Junior High Camp 412
June 6-10: Vacation Bible School

Conference Announcements

Mennonite Central Committee:

--Join the MCC Thrifty 50 Challenge! 50 years ago the first MCC thrift shop opened and now there are 85 shops that provide millions of dollars each year for MCC's work at home and around the world. To celebrate, we're inviting you to sign up for the Thrifty 50 Challenge to get one practical challenge sent to your inbox and have a chance to win a \$25 MCC Thrift gift card every week. Visit thrift.mcc.org to find a shop near you and learn more about MCC Thrift!

--MCC in North Newton will be hosting a two-part **Beginner's Quilt Piecing Class** on Friday, May 6th and May 13th, from 1-4 pm taught by Ann Yoder Smith and Charlotte Wenger. This class is for anyone 18+ years old who has an interest in learning and/or improving basic cutting and piecing skills. Must have a sewing machine to bring and know how to thread and wind bobbins. The class will cover rotary cutting, ironing techniques, squaring up fabric, seam matching, layout choices, and more! Pre-registration is required with a limit of 8 students. Cost is \$20 per person. If interested, please contact Ann Yoder Smith at rws.ays@gmail.com, or call 919-604-3282.

--MCC response in Ukraine: MCC continues to be in communication with our program partners, many of whom have reduced capacity because of the conflict. Currently, partners are responding in some regions as they are able with supplies they can secure. This includes distributing food, blankets, medications and fuel as well as other emergency supplies. The changing situations in the various cities and regions in Ukraine where there is conflict makes this work difficult and at times dangerous. MCC will continue to determine how it can support short-term needs. However, MCC's strength continues to be mid and long-term disaster response and we are working to formulate these plans for Ukraine. MCC has been working in Ukraine for 100 years and we will continue to serve in Ukraine long after the crisis disappears from the news cycle. Donate today to support these efforts at mcc.org/ukraine

Mennonite Disaster Service: The March edition of *On the Level* is now available from Mennonite Disaster Service. In our current issue: Learn about the partnership between Fraser Valley Church and MDS Canada in response to last years devastating flood, read about MDS volunteers making a difference for hurricane survivors in Louisiana, and find out how one volunteer went the extra mile to restore a banjo for a flood survivor. Click on this link to read more: <https://conta.cc/3CM4P89>

Camp Mennoscah: Youth Volunteer Weekend is April 9-10! Start your weekend at the MCC Sale in Hutchinson and then bring the fun with you to Camp Mennoscah in the afternoon. Details: www.campmennoscah.org

Bethel College: Sun., March 27, 2 pm, Spring musical, *Bright Star*, Krehbiel Auditorium in Luyken Fine Arts Center.

Kansas Mennonite Relief Sale

April 8 & 9 at the KS State Fairgrounds, Hutchinson

--Lewis and Carrie Unruh need help at their "Selling Sausage" booth at the Kansas Mennonite Relief Sale on Saturday, April 9. There is an "old fashioned" paper sign-up sheet on the table in the Hospitality Hall.

--HELP NEEDED: ALL AGES: These are easy jobs you can do with your Children or Grandchildren. We need Volunteers to take a 2 hour shift for any of these positions below. NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED. We need 1000 Volunteers. Last year during COVID we had around 700. PLEASE help us get back to our pre-Covid numbers. Many doing a little makes it easy.

- Help make 30,000 New Years Cookies (Brent and Pam in charge)
- Plants and Things Booth (Brandon and Kristi in charge)
- Help sell Verenike in Domestic Arts building
- Help in Tee Shirt Booth, Meadowlark building
- Help fry Verenike Fri. night in trailer SE of Cottonwood Court
- Help sell New Years Cookies in Domestic Arts building
- Help Kansas Crafts Booth
- Help Feeding the Multitude
- Help with Quilt Auction
- Help making Ham Gravy in Cottonwood Court

SIGN UP ONLINE:

Go to the website: kansas.mccsale.org

Click on "Volunteers" on the top of the page in the purple toolbar

Click on any of the above jobs listed

Click on any time slot you would be willing to volunteer

It is that SIMPLE. THANKS for your service to MCC.

--Help the AMAZING Tabor 5K Team: pick someone and give them a donation OR give each one a dollar or two. It is ALL about Donating our Dollars to the work of MCC. Tabor participants are: Michael, Lina, & Heath Unruh; Lee and Phyllis Goertzen; Elton & Denise Nickel; Peter, Katherine, Sophia, & Nathan Goerzen; Corynn & Stephan Nickel; Reece, Cayla, & Hoxie Hiebert; Wyatt Sommerfeld; Les Goerzen; Cory & Keri Unruh; Adriana & Janna Duerksen; Russell, Camille, Hannah, Micah, & Elijah Adrian.

--PLEASE POST a Sale bill at your workplace or other good places

--website: kansas.mccsale.org Check it out. Also on Facebook.

OFFERINGS & ATTENDANCE March 20, 2022

Offering	= \$ 4,640.00	Attendance	= 109
Adult FF	= \$ 0.00	Attendance	= 61
Jr. FF	= \$ 24.30	Attendance	= 21
Worship Link Views		=	36

BECAUSE OF YOUR GENEREOSITY . . .

Tabor Mennonite Youth Fellowship enjoyed a lock-in at the church on Friday night through Saturday morning. The newly remodeled Youth Room was a great place to be together and the rest of the church was used for other activities such as Hide and Seek.

Thanks for your donations to the unified budget, of which \$1,000 is designated for TMYF, and for your donations of time and money for the basement remodel, which includes the new Youth Room. The space is wonderful. If you have not had a chance to check it out, do so!



Tabor Mennonite Church

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email: tabor@tabormennonite.org

Website: 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.

Pastor:
Katherine Goerzen
Cell: 316-727-4986
email: kgoerzen@tabormennonite.org

Supply Pastor:
Luke Unruh
Cell: 620-386-4596
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Deacons:

Carol Duerksen
Ruby Graber

Denise Nickel
Emil Schmidt

Kristi Unruh
Lewis Unruh

Pastor Search Committee:

Reece Hiebert, co chr.
Eunice Nickel, co chr.

Nancy Funk, sec.
Lewis Unruh, deacon rep.
Pastor Katherine Goerzen

Larry Goerzen
Sheri Schmidt