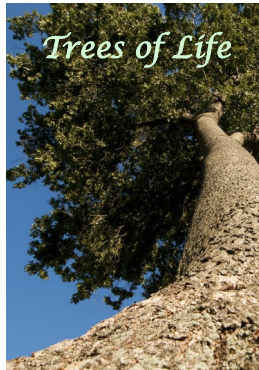


Tabor Mennonite Church

Volume LXVIII

April 30, 2023

No. 18



HOPE FOR GOD'S EARTH

The beginning and the end of the Bible feature the “tree of life” as a critical part of God’s creation. In Genesis, the Garden represents what God intends: beauty, biodiversity, and abundance, where trees give life for all. In Revelation, we see the “tree of life” again producing fruit and leaves for healing the world. The vision of creation is healthy and vibrant, where God’s abundant life of peace is enjoyed by all from generation to generation. As stewards of God’s creation, may we join in God’s calling to serve and protect the earth.

WORSHIP

- PRELUDE Russell Adrian
- WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Myron Voth
- RINGING THE PRAYER BOWL AND LIGHTING THE PEACE LAMP
- *CALL TO WORSHIP
- *GATHERING HYMN *“I Saw A Tree by the Riverside”* No. 514
- *GATHERING PRAYER
- *HYMN OF PRAISE *“This Is God’s Wondrous World”* No. 180
- *PASSING THE PEACE
The Peace of Christ be with you ~ and also with you.
- OFFERING OUR GIFTS *Red bags-Unified Budget; Baskets-New Hope Shelter*
- WORSHIP MUSIC Sharleen Francis
- CHILDREN’S STORY Russell Adrian
- SCRIPTURE READING *Genesis 2:4b-9, 15* Donavon Schmidt
Revelation 22:1-5
The Word of God for the people of God. ~ Thanks be to God!
- *HYMN OF RESPONSE *“The Garden Needs Our Tending Now”* No. 788
- CONGREGATIONAL SHARING & PRAYER Pastor Todd Schlosser
Blessing for Kim Funk
- *SENDING HYMN *“Light Dawns on a Weary World”* No. 205
- *BENEDICTION
- POSTLUDE **Please stand if you are able*

Sunday, April 30

Welcome to worship at Tabor Mennonite Church! Come together to worship God and experience God’s love. This morning you were greeted by Steve and Bonnie Janzen. A special welcome is extended to all visitors.

9:30 am: Worship

YouTube Livestream (also available following the service).

<https://youtube.com/live/Cbb1LA3iDxw?feature=share>

This Sunday’s worship is taken from resources provided by Mennonite Men in honor of Arbor Day this past week. This service is inspired by their JoinTrees initiative – a campaign to plant one million trees by 2030, as planting and protecting trees are critical solutions to the life-threatening problem of climate change. If you would like to learn more or join in this initiative, we encourage you to visit the Mennonite Men website: <https://www.mennonitemen.org/jointrees>. Brochures are also available on the table in the foyer.

Fifth Sunday Offering: New Hope Shelter. *Make checks payable to Tabor Mennonite Church with New Hope Shelter on the memo line.*

10:45 am: Faith Formation for everyone.

11:45 am: Potluck to celebrate the many ways that Kim Funk has blessed our congregation through her role as church secretary. During the meal there will be an open mic time to share stories and to offer our gratitude to Kim. ~Church Council

This Week

Bulletin announcements are due on Thursday mornings.

Mon, May 1 - 5:30 pm - Faithful Fitness.

7:00 pm - Men’s Bible Study. Book of Mark.

Tues, May 2 - 9:30 am - Staff meeting.

7:00 pm - Church Council meeting.

Wed, May 3 - 7:00 pm - TMYF

Sat, May 6 - 8:00 am - Spring Work Day. *see announcements*

Next Sunday, May 7

9:30 am: Next Sunday’s worship will focus on thanksgiving for God’s faithfulness. Pastor Todd will offer a brief meditation.

10:15 am: We are planning for the worship service to be under an hour to allow extended time in faith formation for adult focus group discussions for Pastor Katherine’s Review. During this time, children and junior youth are invited to the basement for games with the youth group and sponsors.

Next Sunday continued

2:00 pm: A celebration of ordination for Michael Unruh, Campus Pastor at Bethel College, will take place in the Administration Building Chapel at Bethel College, 300 E. 27th Street, North Newton. Guests are welcome to join the college community and Michael's congregation, Tabor Mennonite Church, for this special occasion.

Prayer Requests

The following prayer requests were shared on April 23.

- ★ Kenton Nickel invited everyone to come and celebrate at the potluck on April 30 in honor of Kim Funk's 23 years of serving as our church secretary. Thanks be to God for the many ways Kim has blessed our congregation!
- ★ Carrie Unruh requested prayers for the New Hope Shelter. She had recently learned that some of the residents don't have any form of identification, so New Hope supports them as they go through the process of getting identification. She also said that they are \$20,000 short of their fundraising goal for their new building. May our offering this morning help them to get closer to that goal. Lord, hear our prayers for residents and staff and volunteers of New Hope Shelter; we give thanks for this vital ministry in our community!

Remember to Pray for:

- ★ Western District Conference: Dear Lord, we draw near to the throne of your grace, to give you glory, honor, and praise. And to ask you to hear the prayer of your children crying out to you. My prayer request is that you guide us, in our meetings, that we feel your peace, in every decision. Revive your work amid the times in which we are living, and may the world know you, and may the church take the initiative to be light, to give light, to remain in light and in the midst of darkness to shine like a burning torch. Amen – WDC Church Planting Commission
- ★ Mennonite Mission Network: MMN requests prayer for Joseph and Rachel Givens, who serve as hosts at the Maria Skobtsova House in Calais, France, which offers temporary shelter to migrants from Africa and the Middle East. Pray for the Givens family as they work with many volunteers. May their presence encourage the sojourners they encounter.

Congregational Announcements

Spring work day at church will be on May 6 this year. Volunteers are needed to keep our church grounds maintained and looking nice. There are projects for everyone, so plan to attend from 8 am until noon. Refreshments are appreciated! Contact a trustee with any questions.

Tabor Wellness: Our 2023 'Wonderfully Made' wellness challenge will be kicking off on Monday, May 1st. Instructions can be found on the bulletin board and in the wellness mailbox. Although we may often feel our bodies let us down, we need to remind ourselves how amazing they are and the many things they can still do. Our challenge will be to provide both the physical self-care our body needs to function at its best as well as the emotional reminders that our bodies are good and wonderfully made. Please see Kevin Nickel with any questions, good luck!

Vacation Bible School: We still need more volunteers to make VBS a success! There are many tasks to do before, during, and after VBS. Prayerfully consider how you can support the children of this congregation and the local community. Contact Keri Unruh, DeVon Hiebert or Eunice Nickel with questions. Volunteer at <https://forms.gle/iUyBgLA3xhibHp286> Can't volunteer this year? Another way to help is by donating items to the STEAM projects that each child gets to do daily. We are needing donations of newspapers, objects to dip in paint with different textures (like bubble wrap or plastic bottles), wide mouth jars, cereal boxes, cups, plastic bottles (20 oz would work great, 2 liters might be too big) and pebbles and or rocks. Drop off in the supply room downstairs. Also there is still time to register your child for VBS. It would be helpful to have a count by the end of the month so we can start planning. Thank you. Sign your child up here: <https://forms.gle/EZU8EznZoefizJSy6>

Missing Book: A new book written by Edna and George Dyck about their life together was left in the library, but before we could process the book into our library system, it ran away. If you have seen it, please place it in the church library book drop so the book can be made an official part of our library collection. Thank you!
~The Library Committee

Tabor Food Pantry Volunteers Needed: The Food Pantry is sponsored by Goessel Ministerial Alliance and is already generously supported through donations by the Goessel community. Help make a difference for families who may need help in difficult times by joining the team of volunteers who oversee the general needs of the Food Pantry. Tasks include shelving donated items and organizing the Food Pantry, purchasing gift cards from Goessel Grocery and Deli, and meeting with people who come to fill their grocery needs. Contact Kim Funk or one of the Tabor Pastors (367-2318) to volunteer, to understand the process of working with a client, or if you have questions.

Children's Story Bible: Christian Education Council will be placing an order for the New Children's Story Bible, The Peace Table, which includes stories that will correspond with the Shine Curriculum for the next 3 years. These Bibles will be 25% off until June 1. If you would like to order a copy for your family, please let Kim or Pastor Katherine know by May 14. The discounted cost is \$25 per book.

Summer Camps: Registration for children/youth summer camps are open for Camp Mennoscah and Rocky Mountain Mennonite Camp. Tabor Christian Education Co. is offering \$75 scholarships for all Tabor children attending summer camps. Please sign up on the bulletin board to receive your reimbursement.

Tabor's Summer Plans:

--Children's, Jr. High and Youth Faith Formation will take a break for the summer months, which means that there will be no Faith Formation from May 28 to August 13. On August 20 and 27, children and youth will meet together for stories and games. Regular Faith Formation will begin again on September 10.

--Each Adult class may discern whether or not they would like to continue meeting during the summer months.

--Worship will still begin at 9:30, and each Sunday will be followed by an optional time for coffee and fellowship, with Finger Food Fellowship potlucks on the first Sundays of June, July, and August.

Welcome Summer by attending the 2nd Annual Bethesda Fundraiser. Sunday, May 21, 5-7pm, White Owl Barn, 2861 Comanche Rd. Details coming to the bulletin, or see poster on the bulletin board in the foyer.

Rejoice! The summer issue of the *Rejoice!* devotional is available on the table in the foyer. The Christian Education Commission make these available to anyone who would like one.

Upcoming:

Wed, May 10 - VBS Orientation

Sun, May 21 - Bethesda Fundraiser: White Owl Barn

Fri, May 26 - Mon, May 29 - JR High Camp 412

Mon, May 29 - Memorial Service at Tabor Cemetery

Tues, May 30 - TMW Salad Supper

Mon, June 5 - Fri, June 9 - Vacation Bible School

Conference and Community Announcements

Western District Conference:

--**Save the Date!** WDC Annual Assembly, August 11-13, 2023 at Tabor Mennonite Church. This annual event is for all ages. Come for intergenerational fun faith formation, music, worship, work of the broader church, good food, time with old and new friends, and more! The topic is holy listening.

--**Book Sale** - The WDC Resource Library in North Newton will be hosting a Book Sale on Saturday, May 6 from 8:30am -12:30pm outside in front of the WDC building. There will be a large variety of donated books and books & DVDs removed from circulation. Donations will be accepted for your selections. Hope to see you there!

Mennonite Church USA: Online registration is open for MennoCon23, Mennonite Church USA's leading faith formation event, in Kansas City (Missouri) Convention Center, July 3-6, 2023. Registration is also open for the Youth & Young Adult Climate Summit, July 7, and the Delegate Assembly, July 7-8. Additional information can be found at:

mennoniteusa.org/news/mennocon23-registration

Camp Mennoscah

--Camp Mennoscah is looking for people to provide a "main course" for approx. 12 people during the week of May 29-June 2. Camp will provide the extras for the meal and staff do the meal prep as a team building exercise. If you would like to provide the full meal, wonderful! During this week, summer staff do training for Youth Development, the Staff Handbook, Reducing the Risk of Abuse, and more. This week prepares the staff to create great camp experiences for a summer of campers.

--**Also needed: Counselors** for the 2023 summer youth camps. **Nurse** for July 9-14, Junior High II Camp. **Head cook** for PreJunior II, June 25-29.

Contact: Website: www.campmennoscah.org Phone: 620-297-3290.

Mennonite Disaster Service: The April edition of *On the Level* is now available from Mennonite Disaster Service. In our current issue: learn why some volunteers feel driven to be a part of the RV (recreational vehicle) program; search and rescue volunteers in Arkansas help bring closure to a grieving family; and volunteers in Florida deliver hope just in time for Easter. Read more at <https://conta.cc/3USblhq>

Newton Et Cetera Shop:

--A Newton Et Cetera Shop Volunteer Event will be held Tuesday, May 2 at 6:30 pm at Shalom Mennonite Church, 800 E. First Street, Newton. Current and former volunteers as well as anyone interested in becoming a volunteer at the shop are invited. Join us to learn more about our mission and opportunities to get involved. Your work supports MCC! 30% of MCC's annual budget comes from thrift shops across the United States.

--Newton Et Cetera Shop workdays on Saturdays - May 6, 13, and 20 from 9 am-noon or 1-4 pm each day to clear out excess clothing in carts. If you are able to climb the stairs to the second floor for this work, let Marcia Miller (marciamiller25@gmail.com) know as soon as possible. We could use your help! Bring a friend!

Hesston College: Bel Canto Singers concert over commencement weekend Friday, May 12, at 7 pm. Join in person at Hesston Mennonite Church or watch the live stream at hesston.edu/livestream.

Bethel College: Sun, April 30, 4pm. Masterworks concert featuring mass choir, orchestra and soloists, performing Mozart and Beethoven; Memorial Hall.

Pastor Katherine's Review

To support the health and ministry of its pastors, our church conducts periodic in-depth reviews of our pastors' work and ministry which involve the entire congregation. The goal of these pastoral reviews has always been to **strengthen the ministry of our pastors**. The Deacons are leading this year's in-depth review for Pastor Katherine Goerzen. We will not have a congregation review at this time since we had extensive conversations before Pastor Todd was hired.

The process we will be using for Katherine's review this year is called **"the Appreciative Way."** The Appreciative Way process differs from other methods we have used in the past.

- Instead of using a congregation survey, we will be discussing review questions in small focus groups.
- The Appreciative Way shifts from a problem-based to a **strength-based approach**, while also identifying areas for growth in ministry.
- The primary focus is to identify **"what is life-giving"** and **"what is working"** so we can maximize Katherine's ministry at Tabor.
- Another important aspect of "the Appreciative Way" will be for **Katherine to write a self-review using questions similar to the ones we will be discussing in focus groups.**

The Deacons have assigned a leader and a recorder for each focus group. Leaders will guide the discussion and the recorder will write down your comments from the discussion. **Notes from focus group recorders will be given to our Pastoral Review Advisor** from the Western District Conference, Roger Neufeld Smith. Roger will write a **draft report from the focus group notes and from Katherine's self-review**. After sharing that draft with Katherine and with the Deacons for their comments and suggestions, Roger will write a final report to be shared with the congregation.

The date for these focus groups will be Sunday, May 7 during the Faith Formation time. All adults will have the opportunity to attend since the youth and youth sponsors will be doing their review on May 3, which will allow them, along with Pastor Katherine, to provide a time of fellowship and games for our children.

If you have questions, contact one of the deacons: Carol Duerksen, Ruby Graber, Denise Nickel, Emil Schmidt, Kristi Unruh.

SERMON NOTES

OFFERINGS & ATTENDANCE

April 23, 2023

Offering	= \$13,846.17	Attendance	=	134
Adult FF	= \$ 26.00	Attendance	=	38
Jr. FF	= \$ 12.50	Attendance	=	38
Worship Link Views				= 60



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

Todd Schlosser

Cell: 316-727-4986

620-960-1718

email: kgoerzen@tabormennonite.org

tschlosser@tabormennonite.org

Deacons:

Carol Duerksen
Ruby Graber

Denise Nickel
Emil Schmidt

Kristi Unruh