



## Worship Themes

**August 6 - Seeking Peace Together:  
"Elisha and the Soldiers"**

2 Kings 6:8-23

Pastor Katherine preaching

**August 11 - WDC Assembly Worship  
"Holy/Wholly Listening"**

Isaiah 51:1-8; Numbers 27:1-11

Nathan Koontz preaching

**August 13 - WDC Assembly Worship  
"Holy/Wholly Listening"**

Isaiah 51:1-8; Numbers 27:1-11

Jes Stoltzfus Buller preaching

**August 20- Seeking Peace Together:  
"God Tends a Garden"**

Genesis 2:4-23

Pastor Todd preaching

**August 27- Seeking Peace Together:  
"Celebrating the Harvest"**

Leviticus 23:33-43;

Deuteronomy 16:13-15

Pastor Todd preaching



*Parent and Child Dedication  
Reece, Cayla, and Teagan Hiebert with Pastor Katherine*

# Tabor Church News

August 2023

## #BeTransformed

The summer of 2023 marked another gathering of Mennonites from across the country converging on Kansas City for this year's version of MennoCon, followed by the MCUSA (Mennonite Church USA) delegate session...dates which happened to coincide with the two Taylor Swift Kansas City concerts scheduled for the same days as the last two nights of the MCUSA Assembly. Admittedly while having a bunch of Mennonites rubbing elbows with droves of "Swifties" (my daughter informed me they were called "Swifties"... I didn't just come up with that) had the potential to "be transforming", our conference leadership had something else in mind.

Throughout the week in a variety of different ways, we were invited to envision transformation and to be encouraged to look forward and anticipate how we are being, and have been, changed...transformed... as MCUSA. This transformation and the hope for the future was evident as we met, particularly in the type of faith work we are being invited to do together...specifically the peace and justice opportunities made tangible in the various seminars. This transformation and invitation to envision what could be, was also wonderfully evident in the growing diversity present in those who attended and took part in the weeks' activities.

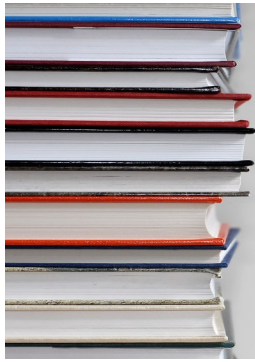
I attended seminars regarding hope in rural ministry settings, trauma awareness in the church, safeguarding in Christian institutions, resistance and healing regarding various movements in the church, and supersessionism and biblical interpretation. I look forward to sharing more about these sessions as opportunities arise. I also attended numerous worship services and the MCUSA delegate sessions on behalf of Tabor. As already mentioned in our assembly reporting, two of the three delegate resolutions passed with the resolution to move conference to a three year from a two year cycle failed. While this resolution may have failed, by doing so it does seem to communicate that we value being together...which is not really a bad thing. Regardless, we can look forward to another gathering in 2025.

While the days were uplifting and dreaming of what could be is exciting and energizing, transformation also means change and change is not always easy nor does change always produce the outcomes we hope for. For that reason, I would invite us to hold MCUSA, our MCUSA leadership, and our sister MCUSA congregations in your prayers as the conference navigates this time.

With that all being said, I was grateful for the warm, positive, hopeful spirit present in Kansas City as we gathered together, allowing us to visualize the future God has in store for MCUSA. Thank you for allowing me to attend on your behalf!

Pastor Todd Schlosser





**Pastor Katherine's  
Sabbatical  
Reading List  
(not exhaustive)**

These are some of the books I hope to read during this time of sabbatical. If you're interested, you're welcome to read some of these books as well (I'm always happy to recommend books!).

- *All Our Grievs to Bear: Responding with Resilience after Collective Trauma* by Joni S. Sancken
- *Been in the Struggle: Pursuing an Antiracist Spirituality* by Regina Shands Stoltzfus and Tobin Miller Shearer
- *Beyond Welcome: Centering Immigrants in Our Christian Response to Immigration* by Karen González
- *By the Way: Getting Serious about Following Jesus* by Derek Vreeland
- *Four Gifts: Seeking Self-Care for Heart, Soul, Mind, and Strength* by April Yamasaki
- *God Breathed: What It Really Means for the Bible to Be Divinely Inspired* by Zack Hunt
- *I Am Not Your Enemy: Stories to Transform a Divided World* by Michael T. McRay
- *Imagine Church: Releasing Whole-Life Disciples* by Neil Hudson
- *In Deep Waters: Spiritual Care for Young People in a Climate Crisis* by Talitha Amadea Aho
- *Jesus of the East: Reclaiming the Gospel for the Wounded* by Phuc Luu
- *Let the Light In: Healing from Distorted Images of God* by Colin McCartney
- *The Making of Biblical Womanhood: How the Subjugation of Women Became Gospel Truth* by Beth Allison Barr
- *Mystics and Misfits: Meeting God Through St. Francis and Other Unlikely Saints* by Christiana N. Peterson
- *Not Quite Fine: Mental Health, Faith, and Showing Up for One Another* by Carlene Hill Byron
- *Paul Among the People: The Apostle Reinterpreted and Reimagined in His Own Time* by Sarah Ruden
- *Present Over Perfect: Leaving Behind Frantic for a Simpler, more Soulful Way of Living* by Shauna Niequist
- *Rooted Faith: Practices for Living Well on a Fragile Planet* by Sarah Renee Werner
- *The Space Between Us: Conversations about Transforming Conflict* by Betty Pries
- *Tell Her Story: How Women Led, Taught, and Ministered in the Early Church* by Nijay K. Gupta and Beth Allison Barr
- *To Be Made Well: An Invitation to Wholeness, Healing, and Hope* by Amy Julia Becker
- *An Untidy Faith: Journeying Back to the Joy of Following Jesus* by Kate Boyd

Hello Tabor Church Family,

I want to start by once again expressing my deep appreciation to all of you for this opportunity to take a sabbatical. I am grateful for this time of rest and rejuvenation so that I can recharge and refresh following a number of years of transition and COVID challenges. My sabbatical will be in two parts. The first part will begin right after the WDC Assembly on Monday, August 14 and I will look forward to coming back to Tabor beginning on Monday, October 16. During these 2 months I will spend a lot of time reading (see the reading list to the left). I will also virtually attend the Rooted and Grounded Conference through AMBS entitled "Pathways through Climate Doom: Resistance and Resilience." I hope to travel up to Winnipeg to visit friends from college and spend some time on the CMU campus (while perhaps visiting some MCC Thrift stores in Nebraska, South Dakota, and Manitoba along the way!). I am also looking forward to spending time resting/retreating, as well as being with family and friends.

The second part of my sabbatical will be from December 25 – January 25 and during this month I will be joining Peter, college students, and community members on the Jerusalem Seminar trip to Jordan and Israel/Palestine. I am looking forward to this opportunity to once again visit the Holy Land (the last time I was there was in 2011). Though this is a sabbatical, if you see me out and about in the community, please feel free to say "hello!" I appreciate all of you and will look forward to coming back and seeing all of you again in mid-October! Thank you for this opportunity and for the continued support and grace you have given to me!

Grace and peace,  
Pastor Katherine

