

## Tabor Mennonite Church

Volume LXVIII

November 19, 2023

No. 46



### ISAIAH OF THE EXILE

Isaiah preached a message of comfort and hope in the midst of exile and loss. In our worship and in our life together, may we also experience God's mighty and comforting presence with us.

### WORSHIP

PRELUDE Susan Merrifield

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Josh Schmidt

LIGHTING THE PEACE LAMP AND RINGING THE PRAYER BOWL

\*CALL TO WORSHIP *from Psalm 85*

\*GATHERING HYMN "Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven!" No. 75  
Accompanied by Russell Adrian

\*GATHERING PRAYER

\*HYMN OF ASSURANCE "Come, Ye Disconsolate" No. 643

\*PASSING THE PEACE  
*The Peace of Christ be with you ~ and also with you.*

OFFERING OUR GIFTS

CHILDREN'S STORY Eunice Nickel

WORSHIP MUSIC "Soli Deo Gloria" - arr. Mark Hayes Adult Choir

SCRIPTURE READING *Isaiah 40:1-11* Janna Duerksen  
*The Word of God for the people of God. ~ Thanks be to God!*

SERMON Pastor Katherine Goerzen

\*HYMN OF RESPONSE "Comfort, Comfort, O My People" No. 212

CONGREGATIONAL SHARING & PRAYER Pastor Todd Schlosser

\*SENDING HYMN "My Soul Cries Out" No. 412

\*BENEDICTION

\*POSTLUDE

*\*Please stand if you are able*

## Sunday, November 19

Welcome to worship at Tabor Mennonite Church! Come together to worship God and experience God's love. This morning you were greeted by Carol Duerksen and Maynard Knepp. A special welcome is extended to all visitors.

**9:30 am:** Worship

YouTube Livestream (also available following the service).

[https://youtube.com/live/tlY7\\_A\\_ksc0?feature=share](https://youtube.com/live/tlY7_A_ksc0?feature=share)

**10:45 am:** Faith Formation for Everyone

**Trading Post opens in Hospitality Hall**—Creators and buyers make the Trading Post a great place to keep our money local and support our mission partners and other Tabor projects. Contact Ruby Graber or Carol Duerksen with questions.

**5:00-6:30 pm:** GMA Community Thanksgiving Meal for all. If you signed up to bring food, you may bring it to the church before 2:00 or take it directly to the school by 4:00.

### This Week

**Bulletin announcements are due on Tuesday morning this week. The bulletin will be printed on Wednesday this week.**

**Mon, November 20, 9:30 am** - Comforter tying and hand quilting on the MCC Sale quilt - Hospitality Hall

**5:30 pm** - Faithful Fitness

**7:00 pm** - Men's Bible Study

**Tues, November 21, 9:00 am** - Staff Meeting

**Wed, November 22, 9:30 am** - Comforter tying and hand quilting on the MCC Sale quilt - Hospitality Hall

**No Wednesday Evening Activities**

**November 23-24** - Church Offices closed for Thanksgiving

### Next Sunday, November 26

**9:30 am:** Next Sunday's worship focus will be a Thanksgiving Service. Trent Voth, Assistant Professor of Bible and Religion at Bethel College, will be preaching.

**10:45 am:** Faith Formation for everyone.

### Prayer Requests

Remember to Pray for :

- ★ Hesston College faculty, staff and students as the Board of Directors has recently announced institutional shifts.
- ★ Western District Conference: Give thanks for changing seasons, and pray that WDC congregations may discern God's presence and guidance in the midst of the opportunities and challenges that they face.

- ★ Mennonite Mission Network: Tomorrow, Barb Thuma will complete a seven-week Mennonite Mission Network assignment at La Casa Grande, a children's home in Benin. Pray that the love she shared with the children, through teaching English and working with them on the agricultural program, will bear fruit in the lives of each person she learned to know.

### Upcoming Dates:

November 26 - Trading Post open (also Dec. 3, Dec. 10)  
 November 28 - 6:00 p.m. - MCC Evening of Service (see poster)  
 December 3 - First Sunday in Advent  
     - 3:00 pm - Newton Community Children's Choir at Alexanderwohl  
     - 3:00 pm - McPherson Brass Christmas Concert at Peabody Lutheran Church  
 December 7 - Christmas Coffee - 9:30 am  
 December 9 - Tabor Mennonite Women's Breakfast  
 December 10 - Christmas Brass & Elbiata Goessel Community Concert - Alexanderwohl Mennonite Church - 7:00 pm  
 December 13 - Wednesday Evening Caroling at Bethesda  
 December 16-17 - Night in the Barn  
 December 20 & 27 - No regular Wednesday Evening Activities  
 December 24 & 31 - No regular Faith Formation  
 December 31 - Christmas Social - 10:45 am  
 January 2 - February 4: Pastor Katherine's third month of sabbatical (note: The Jerusalem Seminar she was planning to participate in has been cancelled)  
 January 3 - Game Night  
 March 4-6 - MCC Comforter Blitz, Yoder, KS

### Congregational Announcements

**The pictorial directory is at the printer!** Since this was an above-budget project, we are accepting donations towards the printing costs, which can be placed in the box in the foyer.

**Christmas Coffee:** Everyone is invited to a Christmas Coffee on Thursday, December 7 at 9:30 am. Please bring a Christmas goody to share. Also bring a white elephant gift for our game.  
 Questions: Call Leann 367-8257

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

### The Christmas Giving Tree:

The Goessel Ministerial Alliance and the Citizens State Bank are sponsoring a "Christmas Giving Tree". The tags will be available on the tree at the Citizens State Bank on Tuesday, November 21. All the gifts will need to be brought back to the Bank by Monday, December 11. The gifts should be wrapped and the bank personnel will assist with the "checking in" process. The gifts will then be distributed by the Ministerial Alliance. See more details in the newsletter.

### Tabor Mennonite Women:

—The Tabor Women & Girls Christmas Breakfast is coming soon - it will be on December 9 at 9 am in the Hospitality Hall. The program will be Ken Rodgers' impersonation of Julia Child - it will be very entertaining! Bring your friends! Please sign up on the bulletin board by December 3.

—A schedule of **upcoming events** for Tabor Mennonite Women is posted on the bulletin board. Please consider signing up to help with an event. Thank you.

### Community and Conference Announcements

#### MCC:

**-MCC Material Resources Center in North Newton critically low on inventory:** An MCC kit cannot be distributed until each item for the kit is assembled, but some supplies in the Material Resources Center are so low that kits cannot be processed for shipping. You can help by filling the following needs: *new* infant onesies and sleepers (6-12 month sizes); *new* bath towels (dark colored, light to medium weight); *new* hand towels (dark colored). Locally, MCC distributes prisoner care and returning citizen care kits, for those kits we currently need: men's shirts (sizes XL, 2XL, 3XL -- any color) and men's underwear (sizes 2XL, 3XL -- any color). Buy online and ship it to MCC or bring items to MCC in North Newton (121 E. 30<sup>th</sup> St, North Newton, KS 67117). Questions are always welcome, please contact [brociamueller@mcc.org](mailto:brociamueller@mcc.org) or 316.283.2720. A full list of MCC kit contents can be found at [mcc.org/kits](http://mcc.org/kits).

**-Get busy giving on Giving Tuesday at an Evening of Service at MCC!** Nov. 28 from 6:30-8 p.m. at MCC in North Newton, KS. Bring *new dark colored* hand towels with you to pack hygiene kits (the more towels you bring, the more kits we can pack!). MCC partner Offender Victim Ministries will be here with supplies to write holiday greetings to prisoners, we'll have comforters to tie and delicious snacks to enjoy. What a great way to give on Giving Tuesday!

**The Mennonite Heritage & Agricultural Museum** has recently given the **gift shop** a little refresh and would love for you to come check it out! We have several new items for purchase including special 150th celebration merchandise (t-shirts, tea towels, pins and stickers)...and don't forget to purchase some homemade peppernuts for the Christmas season! **Open Tuesday-Saturday 12 to 4pm.**

**The 2024 commemorative 150 Years of the Mennonite Migration calendars have arrived!!** These calendars are filled with interesting Mennonite historical tidbits and include event dates for the 150th celebration of Mennonites coming to America. They are great for Christmas gift-giving! Calendars are \$15 plus tax and will be for sale at the Mennonite Heritage & Agricultural Museum gift shop. For more information contact 620-367-8200.

**Mennonite Disaster Service:** The November edition of *On the Level* is now available from Mennonite Disaster Service. In our current issue: Kevin King explains how MDS is an emulsifier; check out our new Annual Report; and we are now accepting registration for our Annual Celebration in Fresno in February. **Click on this link to read more:** <https://conta.cc/3G2x>

**Dyck Arboretum of the Plains:** The 2023-24 Prairie Window Concert Series continues with [Martha Scanlan & Jon Neufeld](#) on Sunday, November 19, 2023 at 4 p.m. at the Dyck Arboretum of the Plains in Hesston. Join us for an evening of great music and delicious food from Crust & Crumb in a prairie garden setting. [Purchase tickets online at \[dyckarboretum.org\]\(http://dyckarboretum.org\)](#) or call [620-327-8127](tel:620-327-8127) to reserve your seats. -All area churches are invited to attend this year's PRAIRIE LIGHTS event (formerly called Luminary Walk) at Dyck Arboretum of the Plains in Hesston. Prairie Lights will be from 5:30 to 8 p.m. on November 24, 25 and 26, and on December 1, 2, and 3. Admission to the event is \$5 for Adults and FREE for children 12 and younger. Tickets can be purchased at the Arboretum office or online at <https://dyckarboretum.org/prairie-lights>. Traditional outdoor highlights include the walking path lit up by thousands of twinkle lights, a nativity scene in the leaf house, and roasting marshmallows at the fire pits. Music, education and storytelling are scheduled each night from 6:15 to 8:00 pm in the Prairie Pavilion "snow globe". The Hesston scout troop will provide hot drinks for a free will donation.

#### **Bethel College:**

**-Mon., Nov. 20 – Bethel College Wind Ensemble**, directed by Chris Miertschin, 7 p.m., *Krehbiel Auditorium in Luyken Fine Arts Center* or livestreamed at <https://www.youtube.com/live/JTnHaK6jSkk?si=1FOZS2LEeGbC3ZAe>

**-Sat., Dec. 2 – Five Places of Christmas**, featuring Kauffman Museum and the Bethel College Women's Association at Goerz House, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Other locations are Carriage Factory Gallery, Harvey County Historical Museum and Warkentin House, all in Newton.

**5 Places of Christmas on Saturday, December 2, at Goerz House, Bethel College:** All bakers and craft makers are invited to make items. Bethel College Women's Association will again be selling baked goods, candy, craft items and poinsettias. Your home-baked cookies, zwiebach, cinnamon rolls, peppernuts and poppyseed rolls are always great sellers. This year we are especially asking for homemade candies such as pea-

nut clusters, peanut butter balls, peanut brittle or fudge. Please bring your items to Goerz House on Friday, December 1, from 1:00-4:00 pm or on Saturday from 9:00-10:00 am. **Thank you for your support of Bethel College.**

**Camp Mennoscah:** [The application for 2024 Summer Staff at Camp Mennoscah is open!](#) Summer staff must be 18 years old or older. The staff leadership positions receiving stipends are naturalist, crafts leader, lifeguard, grounds/maintenance, music leader, and office/media. Applications will be accepted until all positions are filled. The 2024 summer camp season begins June 2 with orientation for summer-long positions and ends August 4. We can't wait to hear from you!

**-Volunteers are needed immediately to work (M-F) alongside the facilities director on general maintenance tasks.** Working on these regular maintenance tasks will allow more time for planning and preparation for the Retreat Center HVAC project. The project is running behind and we need to make up time! Call or text Jordan at 316-613-1848. Volunteer hours are available from 8am-5pm or a portion of that time. Please bring a water bottle and your lunch.

#### **Rocky Mountain Mennonite Camp: -**

**-Jr. High (Jan. 19-21) and Sr. High (Feb. 16-18)** Snow Camps are coming again in 2024! – The time has come to enjoy the beauty and chill of RMMC in the winter once again. Come play in the snow and on the ice and then be ready to come inside for good food, fellowship and worship together. For Jr. High, Sarah Neher will provide the input for the weekend, and Eli Regier will be our music leader. For Sr. High, Luke Unruh (First Mennonite Church Newton, KS) will be sharing and Rachel Miller will be leading our worship music. Visit the camp web page ([www.rmmc.org](http://www.rmmc.org)) for additional snow camp details and to register that you're headed to the Colorado Rockies to start the new year!

★ **If you are interested in taking the Jr. High Youth to Snow Camp, please speak with Pastor Katherine.**

**-Young Adult Snow Camp (Feb. 16-18)** Young Adult Snow Camp continues to join the Sr. High Snow Camp week of activities and fellowship with participants serving as program assistants AND participants at just the right young adult price . . . free!

**-Scrapbook Retreat, Jan. 26-28** is your opportunity to create paper or digital photo books and share ideas and good conversation with other scrapbook participants. Lisa Longacher will return as our program resource for the retreat and help facilitate a variety of activities. Please come for retreat and community in God's creation here at Rocky Mountain Mennonite Camp. Register online ([www.rmmc.org](http://www.rmmc.org)) and save a space to join in.

**Mennonite Church USA:** During the Korean War, Sue Park-Hur's Aunt Hwasil was separated from her mother and brothers. After 40 years, she was finally able to reunite with her family, a privilege that many other Korean families have not been able to enjoy. Park-Hur is Mennonite Church USA's director of racial/ethnic engagement. Read her blog here: [mennoniteusa.org/korean-family-reunion](http://mennoniteusa.org/korean-family-reunion)

-After researching the experiences of women in ministry, Amy Zimbelman, conference minister of Mountain States Mennonite Conference, explains that the best gift many congregations can give to their pastor is support through a Pastor-Congregation Relations Committee (PCRC). Read more here: [mennoniteusa.org/thank-your-pastor-pcrc](https://mennoniteusa.org/thank-your-pastor-pcrc)

-Sarah Werner, author of "Rooted Faith: Practices for Living Well on a Fragile Planet," and communications coordinator for Central District Conference, a Mennonite Church USA conference, gives hope and tangible ideas for how to Christians can live a life that is faithful to their beliefs amid rapid climate change. Read more here: [mennoniteusa.org/living-faithfully-changing-planet](https://mennoniteusa.org/living-faithfully-changing-planet)

**AMBS: AMBS Pastors & Leaders 2024: Strategies for Peacemaking: Feb. 19–22.** How do we find our calling as a peace church in the world today? This conference will focus on tools for peacemaking — building our capacity to tend to our inner work; address conflicts within our churches; and lead people to action on big issues such as climate change, immigration and political division. Featured speaker: Betty Pries, PhD, CMed. Preachers: Nekeisha Alayna Alexis, MA, and Isaac Villegas, MDiv. Plan to join us in person or online! [ambs.edu/pastors-and-leaders](https://ambs.edu/pastors-and-leaders)

**-Take a seminary course this spring!** AMBS's distance-friendly options include Church and Race; Dynamics and Theology of Reconciliation; Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations; The New Testament and Its Contexts; Numbers; Spiritual Practices: Play and Rest; and more. In-person courses are also available. Nonadmitted students get 50% off their first three credit hours. Courses run Jan. 9 – April 26; sign up by Jan. 2. [ambs.edu/upcoming-courses](https://ambs.edu/upcoming-courses)

**Newton Public Library:** Historian and pastor John Sharp will return to Newton Public Library for a follow-up talk focusing on the Mennonite experience in Central Asia, Tuesday, Nov. 21, at 7 p.m. This is a hybrid program. Participants can attend in person, [join online via Zoom webinars](#), or head to the [Newton Public Library Facebook page](#) at the time of the event for a livestream.

## OFFERINGS & ATTENDANCE

Nov. 12, 2023

Offering	= \$	4,890.00	Attendance	=	N/A
Adult FF	= \$	47.00	Attendance	=	43
Jr. FF	= \$	16.00	Attendance	=	45

Worship Link Views = 30

## Unified Budget Giving Update - Fiscal Year 2023

Total Budget	310,131.00
Actual Giving through 11/12	258,182.73
Needed to meet budget	51,948.27
Sundays remaining	2
Amount needed per Sunday	25,974.14



Tabor Mennonite Church

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Website: [www.tabormennonite.org](http://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.*

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Deacons:

Carol Duerksen  
Ruby Graber

Denise Nickel  
Emil Schmidt

Kristi Unruh