

# Tabor Mennonite Church

Volume LXVIII

December 3, 2023

No. 48



## ADVENT 1: HOW WILL WE KNOW... HOW LONG?

In our Scriptures, we hear the stories of those who have been waiting to hear from God, who have felt the silence of God as they long for restoration, for vindication, for hope. We too have been those who wait. When we watch the news, when we hear of wars and rumors of war, when children don't have enough to eat, when cancers and illnesses impact lives, we cry out with our spiritual ancestors, "How long, O Lord?" The answer is not forthcoming, yet we know: God is with us in the waiting.<sup>1</sup>

## WORSHIP

PRELUDE Diane Unruh & Michelle Olson

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Carol Duerksen

LIGHTING THE PEACE LAMP AND RINGING THE PRAYER BOWL

\*CALL TO WORSHIP *from Isaiah 64 and Psalm 80*

\*GATHERING HYMN "O Come, O Come Immanuel" -vs. 1, 4, 7 No. 210

\*GATHERING PRAYER

\*HYMN OF PRAISE "Nun Ist Sie Erschienen" CS No. 52  
You may sing this song in either English or German (both languages can be simultaneous), depending on what feels most comfortable.

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

OFFERING OUR GIFTS

CHILDREN'S STORY Pam Abrahams

WORSHIP MUSIC "The Yearning" -Craig Courtney Adult Choir

SCRIPTURE READING *Mark 13:24-37* Tristan and Aubrielle Francis  
*The Word of God for the people of God. ~ Thanks be to God!*

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING Tristan and Aubrielle Francis

SERMON Pastor Todd Schlosser

\*HYMN OF RESPONSE "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" No. 218

CONGREGATIONAL SHARING & PRAYER Pastor Katherine Goerzen

\*SENDING HYMN "Helpless and Hungry & What Child Is This" No. 268/267  
We will sing this as it is suggested at the bottom of No. 268

\*BENEDICTION

\*POSTLUDE

*\*Please stand if you are able*

## Sunday, December 3

Welcome to worship at Tabor Mennonite Church! This is the 1st Sunday of Advent. Come together to worship God and experience God's love. This morning you were greeted by Brad & Sara Hiebert and family. A special welcome is extended to all visitors.

**9:30 am:** Worship

YouTube Livestream (also available following the service).

[https://youtube.com/live/yGM\\_RRV8Ewk?feature=share](https://youtube.com/live/yGM_RRV8Ewk?feature=share)

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

**Trading Post open 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.

**Reflection:** *Think of a time when God was with you while you waited.*

## This Week

*Bulletin announcements are due on Thursday mornings.*

**Mon, December 4, 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

**Tue, December 5, 12:00 pm** - Staff Meeting

**Wed, December 6, 9:30 am** - Comforter tying and hand quilting on the MCC Sale quilt - Hospitality Hall

**12:00 pm** - First Wednesday Lunch

**5:45 - 6:20 pm** - Supper for everyone-Sandwich Bar

**6:20 - 7:30 pm** - Preschool through 5th grade

**6:30 - 7:50 pm** - Jr Hi and High School

Jr Hi Music - 7:30-7:50

High School Music --7:50-8:10

**6:30 - 7:30 pm** - Adult Bible Study

**Thurs, December 7, 9:30 am** - Christmas Coffee - Please bring a Christmas goody to share. Also bring a white elephant gift for our game.

**Sat, December 9, 9:00 am** - Women's and Girl's Breakfast - Program will be Ken Rodgers' impersonation of Julia Child.

<sup>1</sup> This focus statement and parts of the order of worship are taken from the 2023 Leader Advent worship materials.

## Next Sunday, December 10

**9:30 am:** Next Sunday is the second Sunday in Advent. Our worship focus will be *How will we know . . . What now?* Pastor Katherine will be preaching. Scripture for reflection will be Mark 1:1-8 and Isaiah 40:1-11.

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

## Trading Post open

## Prayer Requests

Remember to Pray for :

- ★ Western District Conference: Give thanks for the WDC Resource Library's creative resources and ideas for Advent and Christmas, and pray for congregational leaders who plan worship and special activities during this season.
- ★ Mennonite Mission Network: Pray for the participants in Mennonite Mission Network's Tucson, Arizona, Mennonite Voluntary Service unit — Nely Cotuc, Hannah Nuest, Ally Weaver, Magdalena Wenger and Deborah Yoder — as they help extend the ministries of their host congregation, Shalom Mennonite Fellowship, through welcoming immigrants, promoting literacy and working to protect the environment.

## Upcoming Dates:

December 3 - 3:00 pm - Newton Community Children's Choir and Elbiata at Alexanderwohl

- 3:00 pm - McPherson Brass Christmas Concert at Peabody Lutheran Church

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 here!** Pick up your copy from the table in the foyer following worship. 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.

**Blood Drive: December 11 - 1:00-6:00 pm - Goessel Church** - *Include donating blood in your holiday preparations. Make it a better holiday for those needing transfusions. Sign up at [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) to donate a single or double unit on December 11, between 1:00-6:00 pm at Goessel Church. For more information contact Nancy Stucky 620-747-0081*

## 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 beginning 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.

## Tabor Mennonite Women:

—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.

## Nursery attendants wanted!

In an effort to offer hospitality to our families and visitors with young children, we'd like to reinstate having attendants in the nursery on Sunday mornings, beginning in the new year. We would like to have 2 adults - or 1 high schooler and 1 adult - available most Sundays to staff the nursery. Nursery attendants will only be assigned one Sunday per quarter. Please let Yvette Nickel know if you are interested in being part of this pool of volunteers. Thank you for considering this important ministry for our youngest attendees. (Safe sanctuary training will be provided as needed.)

**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.

**Greeters:** If you are interested in being added as a Sunday morning greeter for Tabor Church this coming year please let me know this coming week. Or, if you've been a greeter this past year and don't care to be on the new greeter schedule, let me know that as well. —Diana Schmidt

## Community and Conference Announcements

**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.

**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 Goessel High School Music Dept. Christmas Concert** is on **Monday, December 11 at 7pm.** The evening will feature both familiar and unique sounds of the season such as We Three Kings, Joy to the World, Ukrainian Bell Carol, Bluegrass Choir & Fiddle, An African Celebration, The Nutcracker, Silver Bells, and O Come, O Come, Emmanuel. The concert will culminate with the long-standing tradition of the community-sing of the Hallelujah Chorus (sheet music will be provided).

#### **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).

**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!

**Dyck Arboretum of the Plains:** 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 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.

#### **Hesston College:**

##### **-Melva Kauffman Lecture Series: Dismantling the Doctrine of Discovery**

This year the Melva Kauffman Lecture Series is pleased to host Mark Charles who will present on the topic of Dismantling the Doctrine of Discovery. Charles is the son of an American woman (of Dutch heritage) and a Navajo man. He teaches with insight into the complexities of American history regarding race, culture and faith in order to help forge a path of healing and conciliation for the nation. The public is invited to hear his presentation at Hesston Mennonite Church Sunday, January 21, 2024, at 7 p.m.

##### **-Take a Bible Class at Hesston College**

Interested in auditing a Bible course beginning in January? This spring semester Hesston College has opportunities to audit Biblical Literature, Jesus and the Gospels, and Peacemaking and Justice courses. Acceptance is based upon availability of open seating. If you are interested in enrolling in or auditing a Bible course, please contact [amber.hett@hesston.edu](mailto:amber.hett@hesston.edu) before Jan. 9 to register. Spring courses are in session Jan. 10 to May 9. Be sure and ask about discounted rates for senior citizens.

#### **Bethel College:**

**-Wed., Dec. 6 – Singalong to Christmas portions of Handel's *Messiah*, 11 a.m.,** with chamber orchestra and soloists, *Bethel College Mennonite Church*. Scores provided.

**-Thurs., Dec. 7 – Visit Senior Art Exhibit 1, 5:30-7:30 p.m.** in the Regier Art Gallery and the Drama Lab in Luyken Fine Arts Center. Artists will be present: "Crowded Table," pottery by Edel Miller (gallery), and "Solace in the Story," book art and theater art by Rachel Geyer (lab).

**-Thurs., Dec. 7 – Gala Jazz, directed by Joel Boettger, 7:30 p.m.,** *Krehbiel Auditorium in Luyken Fine Arts Center*

**-Sun., Dec. 10 – 37th annual Lighting of the Green , 8 p.m.** on the Bethel College campus

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

**-Jr. High (Jan. 19-21)** and **Sr. High (Feb. 16-18)** Jr. High, Sarah Neher-input and Eli Regier-music leader. Sr. High, Luke Unruh-sharing and Rachel Miller-worship music. Visit the camp web page ([www.rmmc.org](http://www.rmmc.org)) for additional snow camp details and to register.

★ **If your JH youth is interested in attending, please speak with Pastor Katherine.**

**-Men's Retreat: March 1-3, 2024** The festivities for the weekend include worship times, foosball, ping pong, chess, human curling, snowshoeing, musical jam sessions, great fellowship and more! On the Friday prior to Men's Retreat, participants have a tradition of tackling necessary projects at camp. Register @ [mmc.org](http://mmc.org).

**-Women's Retreat : March 8-10, 2024.** This weekend is geared towards women ages 18 and older to come together for laughter, fun, and great fellowship. Please visit [mmc.org](http://mmc.org) to register.

**Mennonite Church USA:** Mennonite Church USA issued a statement on the Israel-Hamas War on Nov. 15. The statement laments the loss of life and stands on our shared Anabaptist faith values in a call for a ceasefire. Read it here: [mennoniteusa.org/menno-snapshots/ceasefire/](https://mennoniteusa.org/menno-snapshots/ceasefire/) -The Center for Community Justice in Elkhart, Indiana, honored Lorraine Stutzman Amstutz, Mennonite Church USA's denominational minister for Peace & Justice, for her work in restorative justice at an event celebrating the 45th anniversary of its Victim-Offender Reconciliation Program (VORP). Read more here: [mennoniteusa.org/news/ccj-honors](https://mennoniteusa.org/news/ccj-honors)

**AMBS: New *Vision* issue on “Family” available for free online.** The Fall 2023 issue of *Vision: A Journal for Church and Theology* — edited by Andy Brubacher Kaethler, PhD — explores how the church can play a positive role in supporting families without relying on a narrow understanding of the ideal family unit itself. [ambs.edu/vision](https://ambs.edu/vision)

**-Online Short Course: Understanding Anabaptist Approaches to Scripture: Jan. 31 – March 12.** Study how 16th-century Anabaptists approached Scripture — as compared with Catholics and other Protestants — and consider those similarities and differences in light of today. Instructors for this six-week AMBS Online Short Course are Laura Brenneman-Fullwood, PhD, and David Cramer, PhD. No grades, no papers! CEUs available. Sign up by Jan. 10 to save \$50. [ambs.edu/online-short-courses](https://ambs.edu/online-short-courses)

SERMON NOTES

OFFERINGS & ATTENDANCE			
Nov. 19, 2023			
Offering	= \$13,864.52	Attendance	= 135
Adult FF	= \$ 33.00	Attendance	= 33
Jr. FF	= \$ 6.07	Attendance	= 42
No Services on Nov. 26, 2023 - inclement weather			
Worship Link Views		=	43



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.*

Pastor:	Katherine Goerzen	Todd Schlosser
Cell:	316-727-4986	620-960-1718
email:	<a href="mailto:kgoerzen@tabormennonite.org">kgoerzen@tabormennonite.org</a>	<a href="mailto:tschlosser@tabormennonite.org">tschlosser@tabormennonite.org</a>

Deacons:

Carol Duerksen	Denise Nickel	Kristi Unruh
Ruby Graber	Emil Schmidt	