

Tabor Mennonite Church

Volume LXVIII

December 17, 2023

No. 50



ADVENT 3: HOW WILL WE KNOW . . . WHAT'S NEXT?

On this third Sunday of Advent we get to enjoy the music of the season and reflect on the song and prayer of Mary - the Magnificat - while considering the question: "How will we know . . . what's next?"

WORSHIP

- PRELUDE Mark Schmidt
- INTROIT "Unto Us a Son Is Given" – Joseph Martin Adult Choir
- WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Reece Hiebert
- LIGHTING THE PEACE LAMP AND RINGING THE PRAYER BOWL
- *CALL TO WORSHIP *from Zechariah's Song – Luke 1:68-79*
- *GATHERING HYMN "Hark! The Glad Sound!" No. 217
accompanied by Russell Adrian
- *GATHERING PRAYER
- *HYMN OF PRAISE "Go Tell It on the Mountain" No. 252
- *PASSING THE PEACE
The Peace of Christ be with you ~ and also with you.
- OFFERING OUR GIFTS
- CHILDREN'S STORY Tammy Wintermote
- WORSHIP MUSIC "Chill of the Nightfall" – K. Lee Scott Adult Choir
"Once in Royal David's City" – John Ness Beck
- SCRIPTURE READING Luke 1:46b - 55 Braxton and Quinli Unruh
The Word of God for the people of God. ~ Thanks be to God!
- ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING Braxton and Quinli Unruh
- MEDITATION Pastor Todd Schlosser
- *HYMN OF RESPONSE "Now the Heavens Start to Whisper" No. 237
- CONGREGATIONAL SHARING & PRAYER Pastor Katherine Goerzen
- *SENDING HYMN "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" No. 247
- *BENEDICTION
- *POSTLUDE **Please stand if you are able*

Parts of the order of worship are taken from the 2023 Leader Advent worship materials.

Sunday, December 17

Welcome to worship at Tabor Mennonite Church! This is the 3rd Sunday of Advent. Come together to worship God and experience God's love. This morning you were greeted by Kenton and Eunice Nickel and family. A special welcome is extended to all visitors.

The flower arrangement this morning celebrates Marcene Entz for her MANY years directing the Tabor Church Adult Choir.



9:30 am: Worship

YouTube Livestream (also available following the service)

<https://youtube.com/live/Cvkw330Fco?feature=share>

10:45 am: Faith Formation for Everyone

Last Sunday for Trading Post open in Hospitality Hall—Support our mission partners and other Tabor projects. Contact Ruby Graber or Carol Duerksen with questions.

5:00-7:00 pm: **Night in the Barn at Patchwork Farms**

Reflection: *Think of a question you have been sitting with. How might this question be shaping your faith and your relationship with God?*

This Week

Bulletin announcements are due on Thursday mornings.

Mon, December 18, 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 19, 9:00 am - Staff Meeting

Wed, December 20, 9:30 am - Comforter tying and hand quilting on the MCC Sale quilt - Hospitality Hall

7:00 pm - TMYF Christmas Party at Adriana's and Greta's house

No regular Wednesday Evening activities

Next Sunday, December 24

10:00 am: Next Sunday is the fourth Sunday in Advent. Scripture to reflect on is Luke 2:1-20. Peter Goerzen will be preaching.

11:00 am: No regular Faith Formation. *Children will be practicing for the evening service following worship.*

6:30 pm: Christmas Eve Service - Join us at 6:30 for a prelude of Christmas music by many of our children followed by a program with children leading us in song and the Christmas story, Christmas carols, and candlelighting.

Prayer Requests

Remember to Pray for :

- ★ Western District Conference: Pray for generous financial support for WDC congregations, as they seek to meet annual budget goals for mission and ministry.
- ★ Mennonite Mission Network: SADRA (Southern African Development and Reconstruction Agency) Conflict Transformation is a Mennonite Mission Network partner that offers a Christian response to injustice in South Africa. Pray for the conflict mediators, who train members of their communities to de-escalate situations that could lead to violence.

Upcoming Dates:

December 27 - No regular Wednesday Evening Activities

December 31 - Worship at 10:00 am

- Christmas Social following - Bring Christmas goodies to share
- No regular Faith Formation.

January 2 - February 4: Pastor Katherine's third month of sabbatical

January 3 - Pizza and Game Night

March 4-6 - MCC Comforter Blitz, Yoder, KS

Congregational Announcements

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.)

Greeters: If you are interested in being added as a Sunday morning greeter for Tabor Church sometime this coming year, please let me know soon. I will be making the new schedule and would like to include everyone who wants to greet in 2024! —Diana Schmidt

Tabor Mennonite Women:

- There will be no quilting on December 25, 27, and January 1.
- A schedule of **upcoming events** for Tabor Mennonite Women is posted on the bulletin board. Please consider signing up to help with an event.

Community and Conference Announcements

The WDC Israel Palestine Task Force invites you, your congregation, family, friends and allies to join Mennonite Action on Tuesday, December 19, for a public witness at Senator Jerry Moran and Roger Marshall's offices in Wichita, KS to ask for a ceasefire in Gaza and Israel. We will meet at Lorraine Avenue Mennonite Church, [655 S Lorraine ST](#), at 10:30 am to rehearse the actions which include prayer, singing and sharing bread with congressional staffers and each other. We encourage fasting or bring your own lunch. We will drive and park near the offices of the Senators. There may be a \$2-\$3 parking fee. There will be a 6-block walk between Senator Moran and Senator Marshall's offices. This is a somber event, and we encourage participants to wear black. A script of the event will be provided, and we should be finished by 3 pm. Specific questions may be referred to Kathy Neufeld Dunn at 620-755-4331 or Bob Atchison at 785-313-2292.

Blue Christmas - Wednesday, December 20 at 6:30 pm Hillsboro First Mennonite Church.

In a season of BUSY, this is a time to rest.

In a season of HAPPY, it is an opportunity to let sad come to the surface.

In a season of EXPECTATIONS OF PERFECT it is a time to let imperfect be OK because of "human" or "reality".

This will be a time to acknowledge griefs, hurts and disappointments that aren't easily compatible with the world's expectations at Christmas. If you're grieving a hurt or a loss, come. There will be music, but not singing expected, scripture and poetry and blessings that name the pain of loss. There will be candles to light if you desire. Be prepared to enter and leave in silence.

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.**

Bethel College:

-Kauffman Museum at Bethel College invites you to visit during the holidays. Open hours are Tues.-Fri. 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. and weekends 1:30-4:30 p.m. (closed Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve).

The permanent exhibits are "Of Land and People," "Mirror of the Martyrs" and "Mennonite Immigrant Furniture," and the museum store is also open

during those hours, with books, games, art and other gift items for sale (see kauffmanmuseum.org/museum-store/).

-Sun., Dec. 17 -- Kauffman Museum celebration of the 75th anniversary of the longest running community science project in the world, the Harvey County Christmas Bird Count. Come and go at the museum from **1:30-4:30 p.m.** to see the progress of the special exhibit "A Day with the Birds," with brief remarks at 3 p.m.

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 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.

MCC:

-Register now for the MCC South Texas Learning Tour, February 4-9, 2024! This immigration-focused learning tour presents a unique opportunity to engage directly with organizations making a positive impact on our neighbors. You won't want to miss this opportunity. Details and online registration can be found at mcc.org/south-texas-lt. Deadline to sign up is Jan. 20. Please contact Abraham Diaz Alonso with questions, abrahamdiazalonso@mcc.org.

Camp Mennoscah:

-Find your work gloves and boots! The Camp Mennoscah board will be contacting volunteers to work on the Retreat Center HVAC project, likely to start early in 2024. Having volunteers help on a daily basis will save a substantial amount in the overall cost. The project includes not only the HVAC system, but also code deficiencies in electrical and plumbing, for example. It's going to be exciting!

(Camp Mennoscah, cont.)

-Interviews for the 2024 Summer Staff start over the Christmas/semester break! This allows more in-person interviews, which often are a benefit to the applicant. Complete your application for Summer Staff now, especially those who are usually out-of-town, to give Camp Mennoscah staff the best chance to talk with you while you're in the Newton-

ish area. 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 with orientation for summer-long positions on June 2 and ends August 4. [The application for 2024 Summer Staff at Camp Mennoscah can be found here.](#)

Rocky Mountain Mennonite Camp: -

-Jr. High (Jan. 19-21) and Sr. High (Feb. 16-18)

-RMMC Online Trading Post: Still looking for that perfect Christmas gift? Rocky Mountain Mennonite Camp has you covered. Check out the online Trading Post at tradingpost@rmmc.org for t-shirts, sweatshirts, and other RMMC items we can ship to you! We would also love to work with you to provide the gift of a summer camp experience for a loved one. Contact RMMC to discuss the options and to receive a coupon to represent your gift. Any gift you give is also a gift to camp and we appreciate your support.

-RMMC Volunteer Opportunities: The ministry at Rocky Mountain Mennonite Camp is possible because of the dedication of countless volunteers. Camp is still in need of volunteers for our winter programs, including Jr High Snow camp January 19-21, and Sr High snow camp February 18-20. Please visit our volunteer page on the website rmmc.org to sign up!

Mennonite Church USA: Mennonite Church USA's Constituency Leaders Council brainstormed strategies for strengthening youth engagement at its first meeting of the 2023-2025 biennium via Zoom on October 27, 2023. Read more here: mennoniteusa.org/news/clc-youth-engagement

-Save the date for Hope for the Future 2024, the annual gathering of Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) leaders from across the country who are connected to Mennonite Church USA, on February 9-11, 2024 in Dallas, Texas. Learn more here: mennoniteusa.org/hopeforthefuture View the PDF here: mennoniteusa.org/hftf24-savedate

-Menno Snapshots: Cyneatha Millsaps, executive director of Mennonite Women USA, reflects on how gun violence has effected the country, her community and her own family in a blog for Mennonite Church USA. Read her reflection here: mennoniteusa.org/spiritually-emotionally-bankrupt

AMBS:

-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; Practicing and Embodying Nonviolence; 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

-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 of the day.

Featured speaker: Betty Pries, PhD, CMed. Preachers: Nekeisha Alayna

Alexis, MA, and Isaac Villegas, MDiv. Check out the list of workshops, and plan to join us in person or online! Early registration deadline: Jan. 19. ambs.edu/pastors-and-leaders



OFFERINGS & ATTENDANCE			
December 10, 2023			
Offering	= \$ 2,885.00	Attendance	= 143
Adult FF	= \$ 16.00	Attendance	= 52
Jr. FF	= \$ 16.50	Attendance	= 45
Worship Link Views		=	25



Tabor Mennonite Church
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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
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Deacons:

Carol Duerksen	Denise Nickel	Kristi Unruh
Ruby Graber	Emil Schmidt	