

Tabor Mennonite Church

Volume LXX

December 28, 2025

No. 52



BE AMAZED: GOD AMONG US

On this Sunday after Christmas, we are invited to be amazed at what God can do as we celebrate the coming of Jesus through Scripture and Carols.

WORSHIP

- PRELUDE Diane Unruh and Pastor Katherine Goerzen
- WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Janna Duerksen
- RINGING THE PRAYER BOWL AND LIGHTING THE PEACE LAMP
- *CALL TO WORSHIP *inspired by John 1:19-34*
- *GATHERING HYMN "Silent Night, Holy Night" ~vs 1 & 4 No. 244
- *GATHERING PRAYER
- *HYMN OF PRAISE "Still, Still, Still" No. 264
- *PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST
The Peace of Christ be with you ~ and also with you.
- OFFERING OUR GIFTS
- CHILDREN'S STORY Carrie Unruh
- *HYMN "Joy to the World" ~vs 1 & 4 No. 240
- SCRIPTURE READING *John 1:1-5, 9, 14*
Scriptures this morning are read by Keri, Cory, Boyd & Sawyer Unruh
- CAROL "From the Parent's Heart, the Firstborn" ~vs 1, 2, & 4 No. 418
- SCRIPTURE READING *Isaiah 9:2, 6-7*
- CAROL "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming" No. 216
- SCRIPTURE READING *Matthew 1:18-25*
- CAROL "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly" No. 243
- SCRIPTURE READING *Luke 2:1-7*
- CAROL "O Little Town of Bethlehem" ~vs 1-3 No. 245
- SCRIPTURE READING *Luke 2:8-20*
- CAROL "The First Noel, the Angel Did Say" ~vs 1, 2, & 4 No. 250

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 2:1-12

CAROL

"O Beautiful Star of Bethlehem"

No. 275

CONGREGATIONAL SHARING AND PRAYER

Pastor Todd Schlosser

*SENDING HYMN

"It Came upon a Midnight Clear"

No. 248

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

**Please stand if you are able*

Sunday, December 28

Welcome to worship at Tabor Mennonite Church! Come together to worship God and experience God's love. This morning you were greeted by Donavon & Deloris Schmidt. A special welcome is extended to all visitors.

10:00 am: Worship

YouTube Livestream (also available following the service)

<https://youtube.com/live/nKtZEyhu1Ak?feature=share>

This Week

The bulletin will be printed on Tuesday this week. If you have announcements, please get them in by 9:00 am on Tuesday. Office hours will be varied this week.

**Mon, Dec 29, No Faithful Fitness or Comforter Tying/Quilting
7:00 pm - Men's Bible Study**

Wed, Dec 31, No Wednesday Evening Programming

Next Sunday, January 4

Next Sunday is Epiphany. We will continue with our "Be Amazed" series. The scripture for reflections will be John 1: 35-51. "Come and See" what God is doing among us.

Finger Food Fellowship will be after the service. There will be no Children's Faith Formation. Adult class may choose whether to meet.

Prayer Requests

Remember to Pray for:

- ★ Western District Conference: Pray that during this Christmas season the emerging congregations in WDC experience Christ's light and hope as they welcome neighbors and share God's love.
– WDC Church Planting Commission
- ★ Mennonite Mission Network: Although 2025 is ending with much suffering and violence in our communities and around the world, join Mennonite Mission Network in praying that we will not tire of proclaiming our hope in Jesus, who has overcome evil and injustice. May we continue to "be the Gospel" wherever we find ourselves.

Congregational Announcements

Faithful Fitness and Quilting Group will resume on January 5.

Community and Conference Announcements

MDS On the Level: The December edition of On the Level is now available. In this edition, U.S. Board Chair Wayne Yoder share his observations from the past year, learn how determination brings disaster survivors home in Ohio, and see what volunteers have accomplished this year.

Click on this link to read more: <https://conta.cc/3YovH9P>

Bethel College: -Kauffman Museum at Bethel College invites you to visit during the holidays, with two items of special interest to available to view for a limited time: a 17th-century Bible from the family of the late Jake T. Friesen of North Newton and a medallion made by John P. Klassen to commemorate MCC's war and famine relief in Ukraine in the early 1920s. Both have been at the Ford Conservation Center at the Nebraska State Historical Society in Omaha for restoration and preservation. The Bible is normally at the Mennonite Library and Archives at Bethel and is seldom on public display. **Holiday hours: closed Mondays; Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.; Christmas Day and New Year's Day, closed; non-holiday weekdays, 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; weekends, 1:30-4:30 p.m.** The two artifacts can be seen (until the first of the year) just inside the museum's front entrance with no admission charge. There is a small fee for non-museum members to see the current special exhibit, "Voices of Conscience: Peace Witness in the Great War," and permanent exhibits "Of Land and People," "Mirror of the Martyrs" and "Mennonite Immigrant Furniture." The museum store is also open during those hours, with books, games, art and other gift items for sale (see <https://www.kauffmanmuseum.org/museum-store>).

-Sat., Jan. 3 – Kauffman Museum bird walk, 8 a.m. start time in the museum parking lot at the corner of Main and 27th streets (2801 N. Main St., North Newton 67117). Experienced birders lead a walk of 1-1.5 hours in Chisholm Park and on Sand Creek Trail (terrain is mostly wood-chip path and sometimes uneven/sloping).

-SAVE THE DATE: Sun.-Mon., Jan. 18-19 – Bethel College and Hesston College collaboration for the annual celebration of the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday, including historic listening event, Jan. 19, 6 p.m., with program at 7 p.m.; see bethelks.edu/MLK

Bluestem U, the lifelong learning program of Bluestem Communities for individuals age 55 and better, is kicking off the new year with three new classes. Courses include: "Life Upon the Wicked Stage: Classics of Western Theatre" taught by Lauren Friesen, "Health, the Human Face of Climate Change" taught by Dwight Krehbiel, and "Biblical Literature (Bib Lit) Crash Course" taught by Kevin Wilder. Courses are \$50 a piece. See bluestemu.org for more information, including dates, times and locations.

Camp Mennoscah: Summer staff applications for the 2026 Summer Camps are open. [The application and further information can be found here](#) or at the link at the end of this announcement. Summer staff need to be 18 or older, preferably with one year of college, work or volunteering. Contact Olivia at 316-293-7313 or olivia.bartel@campmennoscah.org with questions. <https://www.campmennoscah.org/vnews/display.v/SEC/Programs%7CSummer%20Youth%20Camps%3E%3ESummer%20Youth%20Camp%20Staff%20Application>

-Camp Mennoscah is looking for a volunteer to work with the camp website. This would include regularly updating information and potentially a complete overhaul of the website itself. The details of the work would depend on the skills of the volunteer and time they have available. Please contact office@campmennoscah.org or call 620-297-3290 to start the conversation.

-Thank you to everyone who has gifted us wish list items! We would be happy to receive kitchen knives, "restaurant style" hot pads example: <https://www.webstaurantstore.com/choice-10-x-11-terry-cloth-pan-grabber-bakers-pad/160TPH1011WH.html>), replacement ping pong table net with clamps, and plastic cutting boards (no smaller than 12"X18", larger is fine). Office-related items include copier paper, postage stamps, and sticky notes. Toilet paper and kitchen/white paper towels are always wel-

come! Contact office@campmennoscah.org with questions.

-Church-specific matching challenges have been formally issued by anonymous supporters of Camp Mennoscah within the Faith Mennonite - Newton, Shalom Mennonite Church, and Lorraine Ave. congregations, with similar challenges being considered at Eden, Bethel College, New Creation, Hope Mennonite, Whitestone, and others. Will YOU be the first to step-up in YOUR congregation? These \$5,000 - \$10,000 matching challenges - if met within their respective congregations - would allow the retreat center to hit its fundraising goal for project completion by the end of March of next year, and would be a HUGE milestone in the financial stability of Camp Mennoscah. Please contact camp's Director of Development at 620.755.2583 to discuss a match within your church!

Rocky Mountain Mennonite Camp: Jr. High (Jan. 16-18) and Sr. High (Feb. 13-15), 2026! – Visit the camp web page (www.rmcc.org) for additional snow camp details /to register!

-Young Adult Snow Camp (Feb. 13-15) Join the Jr. and Sr. High Snow Camp activities and fellowship with participants serving as program assistants AND participants at just the right young adult price . . . free!

Mennonite Mission Network: Anti-racism grants, apply now—Mennonite Mission Network is offering **anti-racism grants for underfunded ministries and agencies in the United States managed by Asian, Black, Hispanic, Indigenous or other People of Color groups** who are engaged in peacebuilding, social justice and anti-racism efforts. Apply by January 31 at MennoniteMission.net/Peace/Anti-Racism-Grants.

MCC: Across the U.S.–Mexico borderlands — and in communities far beyond them — people of courage and compassion are responding daily to the realities of migration. MCC believes that listening to these stories helps us live more deeply into our values of peace, hospitality, and justice. Join us for **Borderlands & Beyond Monthly Charlas**, a new conversation series led by the MCC U.S. Immigration Network featuring MCC partners, community leaders, and borderlands practitioners who will share their work, struggles, insights, and hopes. Each *charla* provides a welcoming space to learn, ask questions, and explore how we can participate in faithful advocacy and accompaniment. Find out more and register for the Zoom link: mcc.org/events/borderlands-and-beyond-monthly-charlas-mcc.

Date: Every 3rd Thursday of the month (January to December 2026)

Time: 4:00 PM PT / 5:00 PM MT / 6:00 PM CT / 7:00 PM ET

Location: Online via Zoom

-MCC's high school essay contest is now open! The annual MCC U.S. National Peace & Justice Ministries essay contest highlights the perspectives of youth on significant public policy issues and promotes the involvement of young people in faithful witness to government authorities. Submissions may be in English or Spanish. (*A continuación véase la información en español.*) The contest is open to Mennonite, Brethren in Christ and other Anabaptist youth of high school age and to all youth who attend Mennonite high schools within the United States, including Puerto Rico. Regional prizes will be awarded, with the top three essays being submitted to the national competition. Regional top prize is \$200 and the national contest grand prize is \$1000. Contest topics, rules and resources can be found at mcc.org/events/high-school-essay-contest. The deadline for submitting entries is February 27, 2026. Essays should be submitted to centralstates@mcc.org, questions can be directed to beckyteiwes@mcc.org.

-The chill of winter is settling in and that means it's time for MCC's Great Winter Warm-up! From January to March, the goal is 10,000 comforters to help spread warmth, joy and comfort to people around the world. Start plans now to gather with friends and family to make comforters for MCC this winter! Find inspiring stories and instructions at mcc.org/gwww.

MC USA: MC USA invites you to an interactive online (Zoom) meeting on **coping with and processing grief**. Sponsored by The Corinthian Plan, MC USA's healthcare plan for pastors and church workers, this webinar will encourage and equip attendees with practices that lead toward resilience and peace. All are welcome to attend. Register here: <https://bit.ly/48d6TGo>
-MC USA's Safe Church ministry recently presented an online training webinar based on Part 1 of the denomination's new Prevention and Accountability Resource. Designed for pastors, church leaders and congregational teams, this session provides practical guidance to help congregations create safer spaces and stronger systems of accountability. Watch it here in English <https://bit.ly/44uyi5q> or Spanish <https://bit.ly/48nXw6T>.

-Jamaica Mennonite Church has been hard hit by Hurricane Melissa, a Category 5 storm that caused widespread destruction in the Caribbean. Please remember those affected in prayer, and consider making a donation to help our sister churches recover from this devastating storm. 100% of donations will go directly to Jamaica Mennonite Church. Donations can be made online here <https://bit.ly/4pwk648> (temporarily under Climate Justice), noting "JAMAICA" in the note field.

Menno Snapshots: In his latest blog, MC USA Executive Director Glen Guyton reflects on the tensions, opportunities and faithful discernment at the

heart of **Reimagining MC USA**. As we look toward the next decade, he invites us to consider a deeper question: What must endure for our shared witness to thrive? Read more here: <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/conservation-amid-change/>

AMBS: Online Practical Leadership Training modules: Gain leadership skills through Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary's affordable short-term online modules! February–April offerings include Leading Congregations in Transition; Effective Church Boards; Anabaptism and Professional Organizations; and Being the Church amid Polarization and Conflict. CEUs available. Check out our full list of modules! ambs.edu/plt **Online Short Course: Biblical Interpretation Across the Two Testaments:** Jan. 28 – March 10. Explore the harmful claim that the New Testament supersedes the Old Testament. How can we as Anabaptists read our Scriptures faithfully, creatively and respectfully? Instructors for this six-week online short course of Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary are Mary Schertz, PhD, and Jackie Wyse-Rhodes, PhD. No grades, no papers! CEUs available. Sign up by Jan. 7 to save \$50. ambs.edu/short-courses **-The Trail of Death: A Pilgrimage of Remembrance, Lament and Transformation:** May 11–21. Participants in this pilgrimage will trace the route of the U.S. military's 1838 forced removal of Potawatomi people from their ancestral homeland in northern Indiana to present-day Osawatomie, Kansas. This intensive graduate-level course of Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary can be taken for credit, audit or no credit (trip only). Limit: 15 participants. Sign up by April 1. ambs.edu/trail-of-death

OFFERINGS & ATTENDANCE

Dec. 21, 2025

Offering =	\$ 12,285.56	Attendance =	152
Adult FF =	\$ 33.00	Attendance =	35
Jr. FF =	\$ 9.76	Attendance =	46

Worship Link Views = 45

Upcoming Dates

January 4: Finger Food Fellowship; No children's Faith Formation

Vote on the Revised Constitution & Bylaws directly after the worship service

January 7: Wednesday Evening Programming resumes (youth Christmas party)



Tabor Mennonite Church

891 Chisholm Trail, Newton, KS 67114

Phone: 620-367-2318

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:

Nancy Funk Larry Goerzen

Nathan Graber Denise Nickel Kristi Unruh