



This week as we celebrate the birth of Christ, we reflect on the vision of hope in Isaiah 9:2-7 and how Jesus fulfilled these prophetic words in his birth and throughout his life.

WORSHIP

- PRELUDE Pastor Katherine Goerzen
- WELCOME AND PRAYER Peter Goerzen
- CHRISTMAS BRASS
- CHILDREN'S STORY Carol Duerksen
- SCRIPTURE READING *Isaiah 9:2-7* Eunice Nickel
*The Word of God for the people of God ~ **Thanks be to God!***
- SERMON Pastor Phil Schmidt
- CHRISTMAS BRASS
- CONGREGATIONAL SHARING and PRAYER
- OFFERTORY PRAYER Pastor Katherine Goerzen
- SENDING BLESSING
- CHRISTMAS BRASS

Sunday, December 27

Come together in spirit to worship God and experience God's love. As we unite our hearts, may we be mindful of God's saving grace, especially as we face difficult circumstances through uncertain times.

10:45 am: We invite everyone to drive in to the church parking lot for the Worship Service and tune in to FM Radio 107.1 to listen. The service will be Livestreamed and recorded as usual.

Faith Formation

9:00 am: Sharing and breakout rooms via Zoom.

Zoom connection information is below.

-Click this link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7022907372?pwd=Ty9JK0Vvb1ZOLzFnWxwdEwyVXRzdz09>

-Or, open Zoom and type in the following information:
Meeting ID: 702 290 7372 , Password: 2020

-Or, call in by dialing the following number: +1 346 248 7799, then dialing the Meeting ID (702 290 7372) followed by pressing the # key twice.

Children's Faith Formation link:

https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLWJe_BGI_rnLYaijSTgh_oPRMsdutDdvd

This Week

Office hours for the remainder of December will be irregular. Please submit announcements by 8am Wednesday mornings.

Mon. Dec. 28, 7 pm - Men's Bible Study, Tabor Hospitality Hall.

Fri. Jan. 1 - New Year's Day

The church offices will be close December 31 & January 1

Next Sunday, January 3

9:00 am: Faith Formation via Zoom.

10:45 am: Worship service via YouTube playlist. Next Sunday is Epiphany. Scripture for reflection is Isaiah 60:1-6 and Pastor Katherine will be preaching.

Prayer Requests

Remember to Pray for:

- ★ all in our congregation who are recovering from surgery and are facing health related concerns. Lord, hear our prayer.
- ★ those who are recovering from or have been exposed to COVID and are in quarantine. As people begin to receive the vaccine, may it prove effective with no lingering side effects. Lord, hear our prayer.
- ★ Students and teachers and school staff as they are on Christmas and New Year break. Lord, hear our prayer.
- ★ Western District Conference: Give thanks for God's faithfulness to WDC and its congregations over this past year, and pray for vision, courage and hope as we enter a new year.
- ★ Mennonite Mission Network: Jane and Jerrell Ross Richer are in the North American portion of their two-way mission. They will not be able to return to Ecuador in January, as they normally do, due to travel restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic. Pray for them as they communicate electronically with congregations in Ecuador and the United States.

Remember to Praise God for:

- ★ The birth of Jesus! Thanks be to God for the eternal gift that Christmas brings.
- ★ The upcoming birth of a baby boy to JJ and Megan Voth in March. The new baby will join brother Karson. Thanks be to God for the gift of new life!

Thanks

Thank you so much for choosing to support Bethesda Home this year in your annual Mennonite Men's BBQ. Wow!! We are amazed with your generosity. What a blessing it is to have such a caring and supportive community. Thank you. And thanks for the delicious supper that night!. Blessing to you!

~Bethesda Home, Sara Hiebert

Thank you for your donation to Peace Connections. Every act of your generosity helps us further our mission to inspire transformation and create a thriving community. In fact, your gift is helping local families create brighter futures by building relationships, resources, and resilience!

~Peace Connections Board and Staff

Congregational Announcements

Worship in January: Tabor Church Staff and COVID Task Force are recommending that we shift to YouTube Playlist Worship Services in January. We have enjoyed the outdoor worship and fellowship opportunities, but winter weather necessitates a change, and high COVID case numbers do not permit us to gather large groups in the church building at this time. We plan to have one more outdoor worship service this Sunday, December 27 and then will shift to online worship services for the next several weeks. Zoom Faith Formation sessions will continue on Sundays at 9am. We will reassess in mid-January. Please continue to find creative ways to stay connected in healthy ways!

Wednesday Evening Programming Coordinator Needed: The Wednesday Evening programming has taken many different approaches over the years with many good leaders. There are many details that go into each evening and so it would be less overwhelming if it was a team. We have 2 people who are interested and we are looking for at least one more person. Please consider this opportunity to serve all age groups in our Tabor and wider community. Please call or e-mail Pam Abrahams with questions or desire to serve.

Christian Education has been working hard to provide creative and meaningful faith formation experiences for the children since the pandemic began. We are looking for volunteers who have ideas and energy to work with us in the new year. Please contact Pam Abrahams if you would be willing to provide faith formation through video or zoom. Or, perhaps you have a new idea for how things could be done. We would love to hear from you, even if you want to start by committing to one week!

--Pam, for the Christian Ed. Team
brentnpam@hotmail.com 620-386-4483

Calendars are here! The 2021 "Kansas Scenes" calendars by Emil & Vickie Schmidt are now available. Proceeds will be donated to Camp Mennoscah. Suggested donation is \$15. Make checks payable to Tabor Mennonite Church and note "Calendars" in the memo. You can pick them up at the church (calling first recommended) or contact Emil or Vickie for pick up or delivery arrangements at (620)-367-2343.

Small Group Gatherings: If you would like to schedule an in-person or Zoom meeting for your small group, faith formation class, or another gathering, please let church staff know and we will get that set up!

Conference Announcements

Western District Conference:

--The WDC Staff sends greetings for a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

--WDC invites you to share a gift with WDC during this season to help our congregations Witness & invite others to faith in Jesus Christ, Dwell in just & loving relationships, and Connect to God's mission in the world. Your generous gifts are appreciated as we look toward our fiscal year end on January 31 and meeting our budget goal! You may make an online contribution [HERE](#) or send a check to Western District Conference, PO Box 306, North Newton KS 67117. Thank you for your generosity!

Camp Mennoscah:

--A Christmas full of light and love to all of you!

The Camp Mennoscah staff and Board of Directors prays for you to find Christ's love and joy during this not-as-usual Christmas season. May you find hope, joy, and peace in your celebrations!

--**Thank you, Allen and Janet!** After 40 years of dedicated service as program directors at Camp Mennoscah, Allen Jantz and Janet McGillivray are retiring. We know them in part for their wonderfully caring and carefully planned camp week and for Allen's lunchtime skits and Janet's lanyard making. We celebrate these years shared with Camp Mennoscah and wish them the best in new adventures! See you at Camp Mennoscah again soon, Allen and Janet!

--**Applications for Camp Mennoscah Summer Staff** positions are now being accepted! Although there is a chance positions will change to meet the needs of pandemic-impacted summer youth camps, the current summer staff leadership positions are naturalist, crafts leader, lifeguard, grounds/maintenance, music leader, office, and all-round/media. For those 21 years old or older, there is also a Director of Support opening. Find the application and information online at www.campmennoscah.org under Summer Youth Camps!

Mennonite Church USA: SOOP (Service Opportunities with our Partners) is accepting applications! Use your gifts and skills to work alongside others in a network of ministries across the church. This program is flexibly designed for retirees, families and adults over 25. Visit MennoniteMission.net/SOOP to learn more!

Mennonite Central Committee (MCC):

--**Area Director for Central Southern Asia.** MCC is seeking applicants for the position of [Area Director for Central Southern Asia](#). The Area Director will be responsible to coordinate MCC's resources in impactful and mutually transformative programming. For more information and/or to apply, please visit serve.mcc.org.

--**MCC Representative for Haiti.** Are you looking for opportunities to use your leadership skills? The [MCC Representative for Haiti](#) provides programmatic direction to the work of MCC in Haiti within the MCC Latin America/Caribbean region. This position provides team leadership and support for all MCC workers in Haiti. For more information and/or to apply, please visit service.mcc.org.

--**Canner Operator.** MCC is looking for new canner operators! This two-year service term is unique and offers the opportunity to travel around the U.S. and Canada, working as a team while meeting new people! Check out mcc.org/canning for details!

Hesston College announces an online event for February 20, 2021: What if They Don't Come Back? Pastoring Through the Pandemic Pastors and church leaders have had unprecedented challenges during COVID-19. How do we care for each other when we can't be together? How do we move toward each other in a time of historical division if we can't be in proximity? How do we reach out when we really should stay home? Tensions, divisions and frustrations abound and the Pastor is at the center of it all. But what if in the midst of challenge comes the opportunity for transformative change? More information/registration at: <https://www.hesston.edu/academics/departments/call-program/weekend-college/what-if-they-dont-come-back/>
If you plan to attend, please contact the church office. Tabor already qualifies for group registration discount.

Gratitude

I am grateful for....

- ~ the love of family as we celebrate Christmas and continued to find creative ways to stay close during this pandemic.
- ~ the vastness of God's universe and being able to view the aligning planets during the winter solstice.
- ~ this past year of gratitude with a new year ahead to continue to seek out and recognize ways to be grateful.

Offering December 20, 2020

\$ 4,135.00

Christmas Day Prayer

O God, my Father,

*Looking up at the shining stars of the cold December sky
I remember the patient mother and the rock-hewn manger
in lowly Bethlehem where lay cradled Thy Love for the world.
In the shadows of the silent stall I stand beside the Christ.
Speak to my soul as I wait, I pray Thee.
Let the trusting, loving spirit of the Child steal into my life
until it calms my fears and soothes my pain.
In willing surrender and passionate longing
let me take the Christ child to my heart,
that henceforth I may live as He lived,
love as He loved, and, following His footsteps,
bring help to the needy, courage to the weak,
comfort to the sorrowing, and hope to the lost.
Amen.*

~Anonymous

The Incarnation: An Anthology; Nelson's Anthology Series



Tabor Mennonite Church

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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.

Co-Pastor:

Philip Schmidt

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Co-Pastor:

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Deacons:

Carol Duerksen
Duane Duerksen

Marcene Entz
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