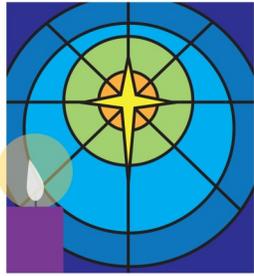


# Tabor Mennonite Church

Volume LXV

November 29, 2020

No. 48



FIRST SUNDAY  
OF  
*Advent*

On this first Sunday of Advent, we remember Isaiah's cry, "O that you would tear open the heavens and come down!" We are longing for God's presence in our lives and in the world. We are yearning for God to miraculously make things right once and for all. Advent reminds us, however, that though God's presence may be revealed in unexpected ways, God who made us and loves us is still with us, working for good in the world.

## WORSHIP

PRELUDE		Russell Adrian
WELCOME AND PRAYER		Janna Duerksen
LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE		DeVon, Lee, Hoxie, Reece Hiebert and Cayla Lawless
HYMN	"O come, O come, Immanuel" -vs. 1 & 6	No. 172
CHILDREN'S STORY		Carol Duerksen
SCRIPTURE READING	Isaiah 64:1-9 <i>The Word of God for the people of God ~ <b>Thanks be to God!</b></i>	Kim Funk
SERMON		Pastor Katherine Goerzen <i>"Oh, that you would tear open the heavens and come down!"</i>
HYMN	"O little town of Bethlehem" -vs. 1 & 4	No. 191
CONGREGATIONAL SHARING and PRAYER		
OFFERTORY PRAYER		Pastor Katherine Goerzen
SENDING BLESSING		

*Words for hymns in bulletin*

## Sunday, November 29

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.

**9:00 am:** Faith Formation via Zoom  
BASIC class: Plans pending. Watch for details.

**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.

Pastor Phil and his family are in Indiana and will return home tomorrow.

## This Week

**Mon. Nov. 30, 7:00 pm:** Men's Bible Study, Tabor Hospitality Hall.

## Next Sunday, December 6

**9:00 am:** Faith Formation via Zoom  
BASIC class: Plans pending. Watch for details.

**10:45 am:** Next Sunday is the second Sunday in Advent. Scripture for reflection is Isaiah 40:1-11 and Pastor Phil will be preaching.

## Prayer Requests

Remember to Pray for:

- ★ Pastor Phil as he candidates at the Belmont Mennonite Church in Elkhart, Indiana this weekend. Thanks be to God for Pastor Phil and the gifts he offers for the work of the church.
- ★ All in our congregation who are recovering from surgery, and all who are facing health related concerns. Lord, hear our prayer.
- ★ those in our church and in our communities, schools and nursing homes as we continue to see new positive COVID cases. Pray for those who test positive, those who are in quarantine, teachers and staff who continue to teach our children and all those in the health care field, including those who care for our loved ones in nursing homes. Lord, hear our prayer.
- ★ Western District Conference: Pray for God's hope and encouragement for WDC congregations that have suffered significant loss and stress during the pandemic.
- ★ Mennonite Mission Network: David and Sophie Lapp Jost of MMN live in Germany but were on the Greek island of Lesbos to witness more than 12,000 people displaced by a fire that burned a migrant camp. Pray that God's people throughout the world will open their hearts to welcome as neighbors those who without homes.

Mennonite World Conference Prayer of Gratitude and Intercession:

Lord, have mercy!

As a world-wide community of faith and life, we transcend boundaries of nationality, race, class, gender and language.

Empower us to live in the world without conforming to the powers of evil, witnessing to God's grace by serving others, caring for creation, and inviting all people to know Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.

We seek to walk in peace by the power of the Holy Spirit, as we confidently await Christ's return and the final fulfillment of God's kingdom.

Amen

### Thanks

**Many thanks to the Goessel community** for your participation in the GMA's Community Thanksgiving drive-through meal on Sunday, November 15! The response was overwhelming with right at 350 meals served and just over \$3,200 donated to the Goessel Ministerial Alliance. We could not have done this without the expert and gracious services of Keith and Barb Banman; the meal they prepared was delicious and easily transportable. We also could not have done it without the willing help of servers and runners – Kim Voth, Karl and Marcia Brubaker, Leann and Jerry Toews, Timothy Schrag and Jacob Schrag. The holidays will certainly be different this year as we all navigate the Covid-19 virus; yet we are grateful for the generosity and support that we can count on from you, the Goessel Community, as we help one another through these difficult times. Blessings to each of you in the coming weeks and months.

~Caleb Yoder and Lois Harder-Alexanderwohl Mennonite Church,  
Pastors Brad Penner-Goessel Mennonite, Gail Graber-Bethesda Chaplin,  
Phil Schmidt-Tabor Mennonite

Thank you to Ilona Abrahams for the amazing cake she created for Rosie and Kent to take home after Rosie's retirement service last Sunday. Those of you who saw it on the table when you went through the drive-through greeting time may have found yourself drooling just a little bit at this delicacy!  
~Carol Duerksen, Deacon Co Chr.

### Congregational Announcements

**Advent Giving:** MCC Infant Care Kits Help mothers give their infants a good start. Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) kits are given to families displaced by war or disaster and are used in other settings to help support mothers who lack the supplies they need for a new baby.

#### Contents (NEW items only, sizes 3-12 months)

- 3 gowns/sleepers (flannel or similar warm, soft material)
- 3 undershirts/onesies (short or long sleeves)
- 1 receiving blanket (lightweight fleece or flannel, minimum 30 in x 30 in, larger sizes preferred)
- 4 large, heavy-duty safety pins
- 1 large bar mild soap (leave in wrapper)
- 1 pair of socks
- 1 cap

*Items can be purchased or sewn. Contact one of MCC's material resources centers for a pattern for hand-sewn gowns.*

**There will be a container under the carport for you to leave items for donation.**

**Tabor Mennonite Women and Girls** will have a zoom Christmas Breakfast on December 12, 9 a.m. Pastor Diane Schmidt will speak on the theme, Family Tree of Jesus, featuring four women in the Bible. Reserve this date and more information will follow. ~Denise Nickel

**The Christmas Giving Tree:** The Goessel Ministerial Alliance and the Citizens State Bank are sponsoring a "Christmas Giving Tree" to help with some of the expenses of Christmas for families in need. Tags will be available on the tree at the Citizens State Bank on **Monday, November 23**. Because of COVID restrictions, the lobby of the bank is closed. You may pick up a tag at the drive through window, or knock on the lobby door and you will be allowed in to select a tag. (return gifts in same way) All the gifts will need to be brought back to the Bank by **Monday, December 14**. The gifts should be wrapped and the bank personnel will assist with the "checking in" process. The gifts will then be distributed by the GMA. It is our goal that everyone has a blessed and happy Christmas, both the giver and the receiver. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact one of the pastors.

**Would you be interested in being paired up with an 8th grader** as part of our mentor/mentee program at Tabor Church. This is a great opportunity to get to know one of our youth in a special way. We are hoping to get this organized soon, so if you are interested, please contact Sarahanne Unruh or Dale Alderfer with any questions you may have. Thanks for your support.

**Bloodmobile:** As you make plans for the holidays, include sharing the gift of life by donating blood at Goessel Church between 1:00-6:00 on Monday, December 14. Over half of the slots are already filled, so go to [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) to get the time you want.

**A new service is being started in the Goessel community.** “Josie’s Closet – Medical Equipment Loan & Recycling” is a way for people to donate gently used equipment, such as walkers, wheelchairs, shower chairs, etc., so that they can be loaned to others in need in the Goessel community. It is under the umbrella of the Goessel Ministerial Alliance, and housed at Goessel Mennonite Church. Requests to borrow equipment or offers to donate equipment are by appointment with Nancy Stucky, director. See the attached flyer and the following link <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1LNggx7VhTm-MfTGwl2kofyKPlc9pEpS2/view?usp=sharing> for more information

**Mennonite Heritage & Ag Museum:** *Shop Local First.* Locally crafted items, Mennonite Cookbooks, Gift memberships to museum, Selected book-table for the frugal shopper, Mennonite History Books, Agricultural Books, Gift certificates available. Open Tues-Sat. 12-4:00 p.m. until Dec. 19, 2020 (closed Thanksgiving Day)

**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:** Giving Tuesday is December 1 – WDC invites you to join this global giving initiative! 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. 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!

### **Mennonite Church USA:**

--Help make this season of anticipation more meaningful for the little ones in your life. Download your free copy of the Advent at Home devotional [here](#). The flexible, intergenerational format makes it ideal for families of all sizes and ages. Use it for all of Advent to Epiphany (November 29 through January 6), just for Christmas week or whatever rhythm works for your household.

--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. Flexibly designed for retirees, families, and adults over 25. Visit [MennoniteMission.net/SOOP](http://MennoniteMission.net/SOOP) to learn more!

--Youth Venture is accepting applications for summer 2021! Discover and experience the work that God is doing in the world with a team of other young people as you serve, learn, worship, and build relationships. Visit [MennoniteMission.net/YouthVenture](http://MennoniteMission.net/YouthVenture) to learn more!

### **Camp Mennoscah:**

-- Cookies in a Box! Camp Mennoscah is expanding on the theme of a Camp in a Box for Giving Tuesday with Cookies in a Box for anyone who gives \$25 more than their total giving in 2019 on Tuesday, December 1. We’ll carefully pack up the dry ingredients for approximately 20 cookies from camp cook Leslie Schrag’s famous Chocolate Crinkle cookies. Add a few ingredients that don’t pack well and bake them at home! Send a check to Camp Mennoscah with “Giving Tuesday” in a note, or give online at [campmennoscah.org](http://campmennoscah.org) Food allergies? Let us know. Limited to donations given or postmarked on December 1.

--The Camp Mennoscah Christmas Gathering is tentatively being planned as an outdoor event on Saturday, December 12 at 2:30pm. Registration required. Call 620-297-3290! Plans may change depending on coronavirus case rates and the desire to keep everyone safe.

--Camp Mennoscah is a wonderful place for family gatherings of whatever size! A variety of facilities fit any number of family groupings. Or maybe you only need a space during the day for walking the trails or playing disc golf. There is plenty of outdoor space! Contact Camp Mennoscah at 620-297-3290 or [office@campmennoscah.org](mailto:office@campmennoscah.org) to reserve!

### **Mennonite Central Committee (MCC):**

--Join MCC for a series of “MCC and me” webinars to hear more about service opportunities. MCC is working to adapt our programming as the situation with COVID-19 develops. All sessions relate to anticipated service needs, though timing and some other details may be subject to change.

- December 9 at 7 p.m. EST: Serving and Learning Together (SALT)
- January 13 at 3 p.m. EST: Summer Service leadership program
- February 25 at 10 a.m. EST: Sharing With Appalachian People (SWAP) summer staff
- February 25 at 8 p.m. EST: International service worker
- March 6 at 12 p.m. EST: International service worker
- March TBD: Mobile Meat Canner

For more information and to register: [mcc.org/mcc-me-webinar-series-service-opportunities](http://mcc.org/mcc-me-webinar-series-service-opportunities)

### **--MCC asks for support for Central American hurricane recovery.**

Not one, but two hurricanes within two weeks have caused extensive flooding in Honduras, Guatemala and Nicaragua destroying crops and forcing people from their homes. MCC is working with churches and community organization to provide emergency food, hygiene supplies and cleanup support. Join us as we help these communities recover. You can donate online [mcc.org/eta-iota-relief](http://mcc.org/eta-iota-relief), by phone (888) 563-4676 or by mail at MCC, 21 S. 12<sup>th</sup> St., PO Box 500, Akron PA 17501.

