

Tabor Mennonite Church

Volume LXVII

December 25, 2022

No. 52



On this Christmas Day, we gather in worship to sing together and to reflect on the good news of great joy – the story of God taking on flesh and coming to dwell among us. Thanks be to God!

WORSHIP

- PRELUDE Marcene Entz
- WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Pastor Todd Schlosser
- LIGHTING THE PEACE LAMP AND RINGING THE PRAYER BOWL
- *CALL TO WORSHIP *from Luke 1:68-79*
- *GATHERING PRAYER
- GATHERING HYMN “O Come, All Ye Faithful” vs 1, 3, & 4 No. 241
- LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE Lydia, Miriam, Jordan,
Eunice and Kenton Nickel
- SCRIPTURE READING *John 1:1-5, 9; 2 Corinthians 4:6*
- *CHRISTMAS CAROLS “*Num Ist Sie Erschienen*” -German or English No. 52CS
“*Love Has Come*” No. 258
- *PASSING THE PEACE *The Peace of Christ be with you ~ and also with you.*
- OFFERING OUR GIFTS
- CHILDREN’S STORY Michael and Lina Unruh
- CHRISTMAS CAROL “*There’s a Song in the Air*” -vs 1 & 4 No. 47CS
- SCRIPTURE READING *Excerpts from Isaiah* Sophia, Nathan,
Isaiah 9:2, 6; 11:1-2; 60:1-3, 19-20 Katherine and Peter Goerzen

- CHRISTMAS CAROL “*To Us a Child of Hope Is Born*” -vs 1 & 2 No. 259
- SCRIPTURE READING *Matthew 1:18-25* Boyd, Sawyer,
Keri, and Cory Unruh
- CHRISTMAS CAROL “*O Come, All Ye Children*” -vs 1, 3, & 4 No. 142CS
- SCRIPTURE READING *Luke 2:1-20* Adriana, Janna,
and Duane Duerksen
- CHRISTMAS CAROL “*Angels We Have Heard on High*” -vs 1 - 3 No. 249
- SCRIPTURE READING *Luke 2:22-40* Sam, Sophia, Simeon,
Pamela, and Brent Abrahams
- CHRISTMAS CAROL “*On This Great Day of Days*” -vs 1, 2, & 4 No. 260
- SCRIPTURE READING *Matthew 2:1-12* Jonathan, Rebecca,
Lynn, and Todd Schlosser
- CHRISTMAS CAROL “*The First Noel, the Angel Did Say*” -vs 1 - 4 No. 250
- WORSHIP MUSIC “*Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming*” Brass Choir
- CONGREGATIONAL SHARING & PRAYER Pastor Katherine Goerzen
- *SENDING HYMN “*Joy to the World*” No. 240
- *BENEDICTION
- *POSTLUDE

**Please stand if you are able*

Sunday, December 25

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

10:00 am: Worship

YouTube Livestream (also available following the service).

<https://youtu.be/AqjITnFWduA>

Brass Choir: Elizabeth Alderfer, Isabelle Alderfer, Adriana Duerksen, Janna Duerksen, Peter Goerzen, Elaina Graber, Wyatt Sommerfeld

No Faith Formation hour.

This Week

Bulletin announcements are due on Thursday mornings.

Church offices closed, with irregular hours the week of Dec. 26-30.

Contact Pastors via cell phone (# on back of bulletin) with pastoral concerns.

Next Sunday, January 1 ~ New Year's Day

10:00 am: Worship. As we begin the new year, we have asked some from our congregational family to respond to the question "What does Tabor mean to me?" We look forward to hearing what they have felt called to share during our time of worship. Scripture for reflection will be Psalm 145:1-13.

11:00 am: Finger Food Fellowship. Please bring Christmas goodies to share. No regular Faith Formation hour.

Prayer Requests

The following prayer requests were shared on December 18

- ★ Many thanks were expressed to Marcene and her passion for music and her leadership of the Tabor choir. Marcene also expressed thanks to the choir. May we lift up our voices in grateful praise for the many gifts God has given to our Tabor community through music.
- ★ Ruby expressed thanks for the generosity of those who participated in this year's Tabor Trading Post.
- ★ Due to the generosity of our Goessel community, care packages are distributed to those in our community who have shared about their need. We invite God's Spirit to rest with each family receiving a care package and with each of us as we consider ways we feel called to help others.
- ★ Let us pray for each other as we experience this Advent/Christmas season, mindful of various gatherings and travel some will experience, and of others who will be alone.

Remember to Pray for:

- ★ our Mission Partners, Joseph, Rachel, Elijah & Micaiah Givens and the people they love and care for at Maria Skobtsova House in Calais, France. Lord, hear our prayers.
- ★ Western District Conference: On this Christmas Day, give thanks for the gift of Christ's presence made tangible through the life and witness of WDC congregations.

Prayer requests continued

- ★ Mennonite Mission Network: MMN offers a blessing for each member of your congregation on this Christmas Day. May we encourage one another to follow Jesus' example and become incarnations of God's love and peace in our communities, today and in the coming year.
- ★ Mennonite World Conference: The many suffering in the Middle East. We pray especially for safety and inspiring encounters for a Mennonite Central Committee learning tour to Lebanon. The youth in Europe. It is difficult for them to find hope and a future under the threat of many crises. Some develop psychological illnesses, especially those affected by the horrors of war.

Remember to Praise God for:

- ★ God's gift to the world, Jesus Christ, our Savior!

Congregational Announcements

Wednesday Evening Adult Bible Study: When we resume our Wednesday evening activities we will also offer a Bible study option for adults. Starting on January 11th, the group will meet in the conference room following our Wednesday meal and will be led by Pastor Todd. We will work through portions of Genesis together. All are welcome to join for all sessions, or as you are able. Just bring your Bible and yourself.

Tabor Wellness: Please turn in your 2022 challenge trackers to the wellness box by Sunday, December 25th!

Anabaptist World: It is time to renew our group subscription to the Anabaptist World magazine. If you would like to renew or join the group - even if you now have an individual subscription - contact Lewis Unruh by January 4, 2023. Group rate \$39/yr. Individual rate \$54/yr.

Kansas Mennonite Men's Chorus (KMMC): *"We come together as men with a common bond: A love of Jesus Christ, a love of singing and as men who love to help those in need."* Be a part of KMMC 2023. Registration forms are available on the bulletin board in the foyer. Rehearsals begin January 29. For more information, please see Steve Janzen.

Stamps for Ministry: Stamps are sold to stamp collectors by the pound and the funds are used to translate Sunday School materials to Spanish. Through this ministry, more than 50 lesson series have been published and used in Latin America, Spain, and the United States. There is a plastic box for used stamps on the table by the coat racks. Thank you for saving your stamps and donating to this cause.

Upcoming:

Mon. Jan. 2 - Church Offices closed
Wed, Jan. 4 - Wednesday Evening Game Night
Wed, Jan. 11 - Regular Wednesday Evening activities resume
 - Adult Bible Study Class will begin
Sun, Jan. 22 - Anabaptist World Fellowship Sunday
 - Communion
Wed, Feb. 22 - Pine Car Derby

Conference and Community Announcements

Western District Conference:

--Office Schedule. The WDC Office and Resource Library will be closed from Friday, December 23 through Monday, January 2 for the Holidays. We will open again on Tuesday, January 3.

--WDC Volunteer building manager transition. WDC extends thanks to John Good, who is stepping down from his volunteer role as building manager at the 2500 Place in North Newton, KS, which houses WDC's offices, conference rooms, Resource Library and other tenants. John's skillful, cheerful and generous service to WDC over these past 10 years has been deeply appreciated, and we wish him well in the future! WDC seeks a new volunteer to offer several hours per week to manage maintenance and repairs at the 2500 Place. If you know of someone who is interested in supporting WDC in this way, please contact the office at 316-283-6300 or wdc@mennowd.org.

Mennonite Church USA:

--Mennonite Church USA (MC USA) has named John Stoner and Clara Weybright as this year's #BringThePeace awardees. Stoner received the Legacy Peacemaker award, and Weybright received the Young Peacemaker award. The awards are sponsored by MC USA's Church Peace Tax Fund. Read more about the awardees here:

mennoniteusa.org/news/2022-bringthepeace-award

--Save the date! Hope for the Future, an annual gathering of Black, Indigenous and people of color leaders from across Mennonite Church USA, will be held February 3-5, 2023, in Atlanta, Georgia. Learn more here:

mennoniteusa.org/hopeforthefuture

Camp Mennoscah:

--Year-end donations must be received or postmarked by December 31st to count as 2022 donations. [Online donations make it easier for those last minute gifts](#). Each gift helps Camp Mennoscah encourage campers and guests to follow Jesus Christ and seek God's peace.

--[Interviews for Summer Staff Starting Soon!](#) We are seeking stunning summer staff to fill the following leadership positions for the 2023 summer: crafts, lifeguard, music, nature, office, and grounds. These positions are typically filled by college-age students, are summer-long and receive a stipend. Let us know who you think would make a great summer staffer at Camp Mennoscah. It's a summer of fun, service and faith formation!

--Do you have a hankering for a giant bonfire? Camp Mennoscah has several burn piles and tall grass areas that need to be burned. This takes several people, a full day and cooperating weather. Burning hasn't been done for a few years and we'd like to have the piles and tall grass done for safety reasons. Call 620-297-3290 or email office@campmennoscah.org to volunteer.

--Help us Plan for the Future! A seven-question survey will help us know how camp is used and what you would like to see in the future.

[Click here to tell us what you think!](#)

Mennonite Central Committee:

--MCC is seeking a Project Coordinator-Burkina Faso, responsible for mentoring and building capacity of local partners towards greater independence and sustainability. If you or someone you know might be interested, read more and apply by December 31 at mcc.org/burkina.

--MCC is seeking a Seed Coordinator-El Salvador who will coordinate the second SEED Cohort for Guatemala and El Salvador. This position will be based in Guatemala. If you or someone you know might be interested, read more and apply by December 31 mcc.org/guatemala.

Mennonite Disaster Service: The December edition of *On the Level* is now available from MDS. In our current issue: find out why some disaster survivors may think it's absurd for MDS volunteers to help rebuild and restore; celebrate six home dedications in time for the holidays in Crisfield, MD; and get more details on how to register for the MDS annual celebration in Pennsylvania in February. Click on this link to read more: <https://conta.cc/3Whz2F8>

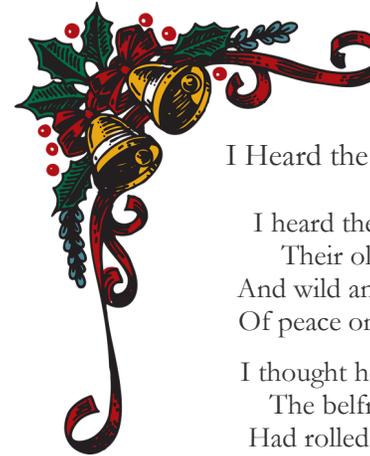
Hesston College Masterworks Presents: I Believe - Jan. 14, 7 p.m., Hesston Mennonite Church. Join us for a celebration of Martin Luther King Jr. Day with a performance featuring music of African American Composers, including works by William Dawson, Robert Owens, and Margaret Bonds. Masterworks chorus and orchestra will be joined by soloists Evan Julius Nelson, Dr. Carren Moham, and Dr. Holly Swartzendruber. More info at hesston.edu/masterworks or join us at hesston.edu/livestream

Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary: Is your congregation being proactive about calling people to leadership in the church? How can future leaders for your congregation and the broader church be identified and prepared? AMBS will be sponsoring a luncheon and discussion on “Reimagining the Call: Finding and Forming the Leaders God is Calling” with David Boshart, Heidi Regier Kreider, & Clarence Rempel. This will be on January 13 from 12-1:30pm at Water's Edge Restaurant in Hesston. Pastors, congregational leaders, and interested laypersons are invited.

OFFERINGS & ATTENDANCE December 18, 2022			
Offering	= \$ 8,965.23	Attendance	= 137
Adult FF	= \$ 24.00	Attendance	= 33
Jr. FF	= \$ 21.25	Attendance	= 39
Worship Link Views		=	54

BECAUSE OF YOUR GENEROSITY . . .

we have been able to collect supplies for relief kits through the Advent season, and give to this Mennonite Central Committee project during our Christmas Eve service. These donations are beyond the giving to our regular Sunday morning budget offerings.



I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day

I heard the bells on Christmas day
Their old familiar carols play,
And wild and sweet the words repeat
Of peace on earth, good will to men.

I thought how, as the day had come,
The belfries of all Christendom
Had rolled along th'unbroken song
Of peace on earth, good will to men.

And in despair I bowed my head:
“There is no peace on earth,” I said,
“For hate is strong and mocks the song
Of peace on earth, good will to men.”

Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:
“God is not dead, nor doth he sleep;
The wrong shall fail, the right prevail,
With peace on earth, good will to men.”

Till, ringing, singing, on its way,
The world revolved from night to day,
A voice, a chime, a chant sublime,
Of peace on earth, good will to men!

-Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, 1807–1882



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
Cell:	316-727-4986	620-960-1718
email:	kgoerzen@tabormennonite.org	tschlosser@tabormennonite.org

Deacons:

Carol Duerksen	Denise Nickel	Kristi Unruh
Ruby Graber	Emil Schmidt	Lewis Unruh