

Acts 8: 26-39

Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch

²⁶ Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) ²⁷ So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸ and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹ Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." ³⁰ So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" ³¹ He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. ³² Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

"Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,
so he does not open his mouth.

³³ In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth."

³⁴ The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" ³⁵ Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶ As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" ³⁸ He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. ³⁹ When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing.

CHURCH OFFICE

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FIRST MENNONITE CHURCH

In Christ –
Making Disciples through
Loving Relationships.

Worship 10:30 a.m.

Sunday, January 17, 2021
Second Sunday after the Epiphany

GATHERING

Gathering Music

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude to Worship

Shirley Baltzer

Aleen Ratzlaff

Shirley

*Call to Worship

Psalm 133

Aleen

***How very good and pleasant it is
when kindred live together in unity!
It is like the precious oil on the head,
running down upon the beard, on the beard of Aaron,
running down over the collar of his robes.
It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion.
For there the LORD ordained his blessing, life forevermore.***

Hymns

How good a thing it is
God, whose purpose is to kindle

No. 310

No. 135

SHARING

Children's Story

Sharing and Prayer

Hymn

Aleen Ratzlaff

Pastor Tom

No. 372

O healing river

LISTENING

The Lesson

Sermon

Acts 8: 26-39

Chris Williams

"Uncomfortable Conversations during Uncomfortable Situations"

RESPONDING

Hymn

Benediction

Postlude

Lift every voice and sing

No. 579

Shirley

A WARM WELCOME TO ALL who are gathered to worship, wherever you are, and whenever you are able to watch this service!

Chris Williams' bio:

I was born and raised in Jackson, Mississippi, and now live in Wichita, Kansas. I am a proud 2006 graduate of Tabor College and former member of the 2003 and 2004 Tabor football team. My wife, Gladys, and I met when I was attending Tabor and have been together for 16 years. We have three wonderful children-- Jaivyn, Laila, and Mia.

In 2007, I began working for Sedgwick County Juvenile Detention Facility, then later pursued a career with the Wichita Police Department (WPD) in 2009. During my 11 years as a police officer, I was a member of the Traffic Unit, Defensive Tactics Unit, and Homeless Outreach Team. Though I am no longer with WPD full time, I will maintain my status as a commissioned police officer while being an active member of the Police Reserves and Defensive Tactics Unit.

My hobbies consist of spending time with my family, exercising, and watching football. I am very thankful God led me back to Tabor and look forward to sharing all the knowledge and experience that I have gained over the years as well as learning from each person I come into contact with.

The FMC Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 24, immediately following the worship service. Our plan intends to include as many people as possible who wish to participate, but if you cannot participate for whatever reason, you may still cast an absentee vote for (a) the slate of MTLs (to be sent with the newsletter this week), and (b) the proposed budget (previously distributed to the congregation). The meeting will be held in the sanctuary, asking people to remain seated as they were during the worship service. We will make the meeting available via Zoom as well (link to be sent). Those participating via Zoom will be able to speak as well as listen. The annual reports are now available in church mailboxes. Please read these prior to the Annual Meeting. The first part of the meeting will be a streamlined acknowledgment of committee work among us. If you have any questions or comments about the work of any committee, you are invited to send those to Maura at the church office ahead of time so that they may more easily be addressed in the meeting. During the meeting, we will also invite a conversation that includes reflections on how we have functioned as a church community during these past 9 months, and suggestions on ways to improve during the months ahead. Your prayers for this event are appreciated. Doug Miller, moderator

Mon., Jan. 18, 6:30 p.m. – Bethel College’s annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day celebration will feature spoken word artist M’Vyonne Payne and former pro athlete and motivational speaker Chris Singleton. The event will be held in *Krehbiel Auditorium in Luyken Fine Arts Center*, with COVID protocols in place, and will also be live-streamed via YouTube at bit.ly/bethelks-mlk2021 Sponsors are the Bethel College Diversity Council, Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, and Student Life Office, with support from the Bethel College Women’s Association.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Kauffman Museum at Bethel College is offering **Kansas Day in a Box** to give families the option of celebrating the day in the safety and comfort of their own home. The box will include games, crafts, recipes, foods, maps, activities and some surprise items to help you enjoy Kansas history and culture. The order deadline is Weds., Jan. 20; to order, go to <https://kauffmanmuseum.org/product/kansas-day-craft-kit/> Kansas Day in a Box can be picked up at the museum between Jan. 26-30, or mailed for an additional fee. On Sat., Jan. 30, Ms. Kristin (Kristin Neufeld Epp) from New Creation Preschool in Newton will open Kansas Day in a Box live on Zoom. Details on how to participate will be sent to all who purchase boxes.

The 2021 MCC Sale in Hutchinson has been postponed to July 2-3, 2021. Mark your calendars!