

GRACE HILL MENNONITE CHURCH

January 8, 2012

Whitewater, Kansas

Worship 9:30 a.m.

Sunday School 10:45 a.m.

Pastor: Peter Goerzen

Associate Pastor: Katherine Goerzen

Worship Leader & Chorister: Pastor Katherine

Musician: Sara Unruh

Gospel Stories and Parables: the Prodigal Son
Gathering our Praise

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

During this time we spend a few moments introducing our guests. We're glad you have come to worship with us. May you sense God's peace and direction as we meet together with our Creator and Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Call to Worship

One: Come nearer to God; return from the far country, from self-exile, from selfish desire. God awaits our return.

Many: God meets us on the way; God's arms are open to welcome us.

One: God welcomes the lost and celebrates our return.

All: Let us worship our God whose lavish love awaits our homecoming, who rejoices when the lost is found.

Gathering Prayer

* **Gathering Hymn No. 491** *Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling*

Offering Our Gifts Local Church Missions

Hearing God's Story

* **Hymn No. 139** *Far, far away from my loving Father*

Children to age 5 may be dismissed to the library for child care

Gospel Reading Luke 15: 11-32

Pastor Peter

Sermon *The Lost and Found Files*

Pastor Peter

Responding to the Story

* **Hymn of Response No. 143** *Amazing grace!*

Sharing Our Stories and Congregational Prayer

Sending

* **Sending Hymn No. 521** *Come, thou fount*

* **Benediction**

Postlude

*Indicates those comfortable in doing so, please stand

At the conclusion of the worship service we invite the adults to be seated and take a few moments to greet one another while the children are dismissed to their Sunday school classes.

**The Adult Sunday School classes will begin
10 minutes after the service is over.
Everyone is welcome!**

For Sharing and Prayer

The rosebud this morning is in honor of Declan Dallas Dodson, born to Julia and Devin Dodson on Tuesday, January 3. We rejoice with his family at his birth and praise God for this precious new life!

I wish to thank the Grace Hill Church for their prayers, cards and visits during my 16 days in the hospital and during my recuperation at home. A special thanks to Pastor Peter for his visits. Thank you all so much.
Gladys Harms

Western District Conference: Pray for Goessel Mennonite Church, as they bid farewell to Pastor Mike Hiebert. Pray for the Search Committee as they seek a new pastor for the church.

Mennonite Mission Network: Scott Litwiller of MMN began serving with the Colombia Mennonite Church in the Caribbean Coast area last month. Pray for Scott and the young adult leaders he helps to train for active ministries in beginning new churches and responding to needs around them.

Church Events

Wednesday 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. Junior Dept. Programming
7:00 – 8:30 p.m. Youth Programming
7:00 p.m. Adult Choir
7:00 p.m. Adult Book Study with Pastor Peter

Wednesday at 7:45 p.m. Administrative Council meets at church.

Next Sunday at 4:00 p.m. Wheat State Manor Vesper Service. Sunday School classes – please see the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board for vesper services for 2012.

January 29 at 12:45 p.m. Annual Church Business Meeting. The youth group will serve a fund-raiser meal prior to the meeting.

Nursery This Sunday: Tammy Regehr and Amanda Regehr

Nursery Next Sunday: Ashley Enns and Emma Hilgenfeld

Ushers Next Sunday: Mike Balzer and Kendall Claassen

Offering Last Sunday: Mennonite Church USA \$1,137.00

Offering Next Sunday: Mennonite Relief Sale

CHURCH OFFICES

Pastors' Office Hours:

Tuesday-Friday 9:00 a.m. – noon, 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. or by appointment

Pastor: Peter Goerzen

E-mail: pastor@gracehillmc.org

Associate Pastor: Katherine Goerzen

E-mail: youthpastor@gracehillmc.org

Church Secretary: Debbie Claassen

Secretary's E-mail: secretary@gracehillmc.org

Announcements

A survey to review and evaluate the Grace Hill congregation, Pastor Peter and Pastor Katherine is in the mailboxes this morning. The results from this review will be used to strengthen the congregation and pastors in their relationship and ministry. Everyone attending Grace Hill from high school age on up is asked to participate in the review. Please place completed reviews in the box in the foyer by January 22.

Help us be a welcoming church. Would you like to take a turn at being a greeter at the front door for a Sunday or two of your choosing? A sign-up sheet will be circulated through the Sunday School classes and then posted in the lobby to provide opportunity for everyone (junior high and older) to sign up as a greeter on Sunday morning. Since the downsizing of the Spiritual Council, we do not have enough individuals to always staff the Sunday morning greeting position. Please check it out and enjoy the greeting experience. Thank you.

Youth Group Finances: This summer, the Youth Group plans to do their summer service trip with DOOR in San Antonio. We are greatly looking forward to this and are excited for the opportunities to serve Christ and his creation that this will provide! We still need to raise some funds for this, however, and the amount that we need to raise yet is around \$5,000. The Youth Group will serve the meal at the Annual Meeting on January 29. There will also be an offering for the Youth Group on February 19. The Youth Group is grateful for the generous support of the congregation. Thank you.

Hosting Bluffton University Students: On Sunday, March 4, our congregation will be blessed with a worship service planned by Bluffton University students. If you would be interested in hosting 2 or more students on Saturday evening (March 3), please speak with Pastor Katherine. Their group includes 17 students and 3 faculty (11 women and 9 men). Thank you!

Reports for the church yearbook – If you are responsible for a report, please get it to Debbie Claassen by January 29. E-mailed reports are preferred, if possible. Thank you!

You're invited to join "Prayers of the Church" each Sunday morning from 9:00 – 9:10 a.m. in the classroom next to the kitchen. Please feel free to place prayer requests in the prayer box in the foyer.

Et Cetera

Kansas Mennonite Disaster Service will be having their annual meeting on January 15 at 2:30 p.m. at First Mennonite Church in Halstead. Alvin Kroeker, Region III Director, will be the speaker.

Bethel College Martin Luther King Jr. Day celebration, with featured speaker Caleb Lazaro, pastor of El Centro Church, Colorado Springs, Colo., along with music, art and poetry reading will take place January 16 at 7:00 p.m. in Krehbiel Auditorium at Bethel College; free with freewill offering taken; call 316-284-5356 for more information

January 19, 7:30 p.m., Krehbiel Auditorium - A cabaret featuring Bethel students Julia Miller, Jordan Ortman, Renee Reimer, Aaron Tschetter, Austin Unruh, Michelle Unruh, Cameron Voth and Allison Yoder, playing and singing Pasek & Paul, Jason Robert Brown, Kooman & Dimond, Jonathan Reid Gealt; free with donations accepted.

New Video Catalog for 2012. 50 new DVD's were added to the Western District Resource Library collection in recent months. See the brand new and updated 2012 Video Catalog at <http://mennowdc.org/library/video-catalog/>.

The Moundridge churches are hosting a missional church seminar on Saturday, February 11, with Wilbert Shenk, Senior Professor of Mission History and Contemporary Culture, Fuller Theological Seminary, and Conrad Kanagy, Professor of Sociology at Elizabethtown College and Pastor at Elizabethtown Mennonite Church. Registration will be \$25 per person or \$75 per church. This will be both an inspirational and instructional event. Outcomes for the seminar include - Persons would understand the mission of God from Jesus through the Anabaptists to the Mennonite churches of today both locally and globally. - Persons would understand the present reality of the Mennonite church and the factors contributing to our diminishment in North America and tremendous growth in the global South. - Persons would claim core Anabaptist beliefs while discovering new ways of sharing their faith. - Persons would have a readiness to follow the Holy Spirit into new initiatives, some of which might not succeed. Registration information will be forthcoming. Now is the time for church leaders to decide about participation. The seminar will be most effective for churches sending their core lay leadership and pastors together.