

# GRACE HILL MENNONITE CHURCH

January 24, 2016

Whitewater, Kansas

Worship 9:30 a.m.

Sunday School 10:45 a.m.

Musician: Matthew Graber

Song Leader: Bonita Schroeder

Transition Pastor: Randy Smith

Gathering Music

Welcome and Announcements

Randy Smith

Prelude to Worship

\*Call to Worship

We gather to worship. We pause to remember. . .

. . . **the work of God's Kingdom,**  
. . . **the people in whom we see God's light,**  
. . . **the people to whom we show God's light,**  
. . . **the gifts we have received,**  
. . . **the gifts we have to offer the world,**  
. . . **the Word and Spirit of Jesus Christ.**

These things remind us why we are here.

These things remind us what is important.

***May the Holy Spirit guide us as we gather to worship***

***May the Holy Spirit guide us as we learn and live out the mission.***

\**Nothing is lost on the breath of God*

Sing the Story 121(purple)

\*Prayer

*My soul is filled with joy*

Sing the Journey 13 (green)

Our Partnership in Mission

Roberta Harms

Children's Story

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

*Who has the final say?*

A song to learn from Ghana

Scripture

John 1:1-2. 10-17

Sermon

*I Don't Think the Word Means what You Think it Means*

\*Response Hymn

Sing the Journey 2

*Come, walk with us*

Offering and Offertory

Sharing and Prayer

\*Sending Hymn

Sing the Journey 95

*I want to walk as a child of the light*

\*Benediction

***As we go forth from this place to live the call we have been given, we go with the power of God, the love of Jesus, and the guidance of the Holy Spirit. May our gifts continue to be a blessing to the Kingdom of God. Amen***

Postlude

\*Indicates those comfortable in doing so, please stand.

This morning's offering is designated for Western District Conference.

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.

## For Sharing and Prayer

**Western District Conference:** Pray for youth leaders, mentors, Sunday school teachers, pastors and others who nurture faith formation within WDC congregations.

**Mennonite Mission Network:** Lauren Baer, Laura Haar, Malte Kaliske, Jessica Lindsay, and Pablo Lorenzana make up Mennonite Mission Network's Service Adventure unit in Albany, Oregon. Pray for them as they work with Habitat for Humanity, care for older adults, help in the local school system, and engage in ministries with homeless people.

## Church Family News

. . . **Mildred Buller** has been a patient at Via Christi-St Francis this past week and is now back at Kansas Christian Home. . . **Katherine Claassen** is now serving as the board (not bored) chairperson of the Newton Et Cetera Shop . . .

## **Announcements**

**A new year brings new opportunities to share your talents!** If you'd like to provide special music in 2016 please talk to Valerie Klaassen.

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

**Help make comforter tops for the MCC Comforter Blitz.** Pick up a bag of material in the foyer. Instructions included. Questions? Ask Kathy Balzer.

**Nursery This Sunday:** Kathy Balzer and Lily Hilgenfeld

**Nursery Next Sunday:** Debbie Claassen and Carine Claassen

**Ushers Next Sunday:** Terry Klassen and Dean Patterson

**Greeters Next Sunday:** John and Miriam Claassen

**Offering Last Sunday:** Mennonite Relief Sale \$1,707.00

**Offering Next Sunday:** Camp Mennoscah

*“Our vision at Grace Hill Mennonite Church is for a revitalized ministry seeking authentic community that honors Christ by:*

*discerning our gifting;*

*developing a leadership team;*

*deepening our core ministries of*

*care, education and hospitality.”*

## Church Events

**This Sunday** Wes and Deb Bergen are with us sharing during the worship service and Sunday school hour about the church in Ghana and their work, experiences, and friendships there. Grace Hill was one of their supporting congregations for their term of service through Mennonite Mission Network.

**Adult Sunday School** will be in the sanctuary. Following a brief fellowship time after the worship service, please promptly move back into the sanctuary so we can give adequate time for stories and questions with Deb and Wes.

**Today** the youth will provide the meal before the annual meeting as a fundraiser for a summer mission trip.

**Today at 12:45 p.m.** Annual Church Business Meeting

**Monday at 7:00 p.m.** We'd like to explore the possibility of having a craft night one to two times a month to build community, have fun and work on projects! We will meet at Valerie's home on Monday evening, January 25 at 7 p.m. to discuss how we should organize and how we should format the time together. There are no age or gender requirements for this group - all are welcome. Please bring ideas and a craft to work on (if you have one going)! If you have questions contact Valerie or Courtney.

**Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.** Youth Group

**Thursday at 8:00 a.m.** Senior Breakfast at Curtis C's, Newton.

**Saturday The Youth Group** is planning to attend the Bethesda Bible Series in Henderson, Nebraska this Saturday at Josh Janzen's home church. Randy will drive the van.

**Next Sunday** Randy's Farewell Reception during the S.S. hour. No Sunday School classes will be held.

**February 3** Wednesday Evening Programming will begin on February 3! Come join us for outstanding table fare and meaningful Bible study. We will be studying parables this spring - please come and invite your family, friends and neighbors to join us as well!

**February 7** Installation service for Weldon Martens. Western District Conference Minister Heidi Regier Kreider will be preaching. Dr. Chelsea Vaught will be our guest organist, with the prelude beginning at 9:15 a.m. Sunday School classes will be held as usual, but may be abbreviated. **For the meal at 11:45 a.m.** – the Social Council is asking that each household bring one salad. The rest of the meal will be prepared by the Social Council.

**February 7 at 1:30 p.m.** Dr. Chelsea Vaught will do a program of organ music, including several congregational hymns, in our sanctuary. Chelsea is a former organist at Grace Hill, and is currently the Director of Music at First Presbyterian Church, Fort Wayne, IN. Invite your friends to join us.

### **CHURCH OFFICES**

Pastor's Office Hours:

Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday 9:00 a.m.-Noon, Thursday 1:00-4:00 p.m.

**Transition Pastor: Randy Smith**

Email: [transitionpastor@gmail.com](mailto:transitionpastor@gmail.com)

**Director of Youth Ministry: Joshua Janzen**

Email: [joshuadjanzen@bethelks.edu](mailto:joshuadjanzen@bethelks.edu)

**Church Secretary: Debbie Claassen**

Secretary's E-mail: [secretary@gracehillmc.org](mailto:secretary@gracehillmc.org)

## Et Cetera

**WDC Women in Mission will sponsor a Sister Care Weekend** at Bethel College Mennonite Church, 2600 College Ave in North Newton on January 29 and 30. Come spend Friday evening (7-9 pm) and Saturday (9 am-4:30 pm) at a seminar that will provide tools for ongoing personal healing, for recognizing and celebrating God's grace in our lives, and for responding more confidently and effectively to the needs of others. Registration can be found on the WDC website (<http://mennowdc.org/sister-care-seminar-january-29-30-2016/>) or contact: Pam Schrag 317-217-1448; [schraggs52@gmail.com](mailto:schraggs52@gmail.com) OR Nancy Krehbiel 620-245-2471, [stevekrehb@mtelco.net](mailto:stevekrehb@mtelco.net).

**February 5 and 6 – Prison Theater Project**, a Bethel College 2016 interterm class, presents *Inside Story*, directed by John McCabe-Juhnke, **7 p.m.**, Krehbiel Auditorium in Luyken Fine Arts Center. Tickets are \$6 for adults and \$4 for senior citizens and non-Bethel students (Bethel students are free Friday and pay \$1 Saturday). A dollar of every ticket sold goes to Offender Victim Ministries, Newton, to support its Prison Ministries that include arts projects and M-2. (Please note *Inside Story* is rated PG for language.)

**Nationally known Christian speaker and author Shane Claiborne** will be featured at the Hesston College Anabaptist Vision and Discipleship (AVDS) conference February 19-21. *Not Just On Sunday* will explore what it's like to live a vibrant 24/7 faith by discovering spiritual practices that bring transformation. To register, use the printed brochure available on the bulletin board or go to [www.hesston.edu/avds](http://www.hesston.edu/avds). (by Feb. 12) For more information, call 620-327-8109 or toll free at 866-437-7866.

*Not Just On Sunday* features a Saturday evening Celebration Concert with Bluegrass music by Hesston College alumnus Dave Miller and The Book of Jebb, 7 p.m. February 20 at Hesston Mennonite Church auditorium. Tickets are \$7.50 for adults and available at the Hesston College Bookstore at 620-327-8104 or at the door. Conference registrants and youth of all ages are free.

**MCC Comforter Blitz:** March 7 12:00- 5:00, March 8 and 9 9:00-5:00 at the Journey Mennonite church at the Yoder Campus. Look on the bulletin board for more information.

**Hey, summer campers and youth!** There's a retreat just for those of you in grades 7-12 - the Youth Volunteer Weekend - on March 11-12. We'll be singing and having fun as part of this time of service. Registration is at 7 p.m. on Friday with worship, singing, and snacky stuff following. Saturday will be fun times with Patrick Loganbill and Rachel Miller and various projects around camp. Register online at [www.campmennoscah.org](http://www.campmennoscah.org) or call Camp Mennoscah at 620-297-3290.

**Scrapbook and Crafts Retreats!** Camp Mennoscah is offering two weekends for all you crafty and scrappy people to focus on your projects - as well as chat and share stories with others! Register online for the March 4-6 or March 11-13 retreats at [www.campmennoscah.org](http://www.campmennoscah.org) or call Camp Mennoscah at 620-297-3290. It's a chance to finish up that project you've been working on (or put it off even longer)!

**Do you enjoy singing?** You are invited to join a community choir to present "The Messiah" on Saturday evening, March 26 at the Remington High School Auditorium. Anyone high school and older is welcome to be part of the choir practices and performance! Practice will be on Sunday afternoons 3:00-4:30 p.m. (began January 17) at the Remington Middle School (east entrance), 317 E. Central, Whitewater. Questions: call Traci Hutchinson (316-648-2487) or Sharon Entz (316-799-2362).

**Serve Mennonite Central Committee and your local community by volunteering at Newton Et Cetera Shop!** Currently needed: volunteer clerks (especially 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. Monday-Friday); volunteers to check electronics, tag clothing, shoes, housewares, other. Times are flexible. For more information call 316-283-9461.

**The Camp Mennoscah Board of Directors** is pleased to announce that we have hired Jerry Kroeker as our next executive director. He is currently the executive director at Swan Lake Christian Camp and will begin his service with Camp Mennoscah on February 1 in a part time capacity while completing critical projects in his current position. Kroeker brings nearly two decades of camping experience to this position and will be an incredible asset in continuing the momentum of Camp Mennoscah in providing a place where people of all ages come to renew themselves, their relationships and their connection with God. Our current staff will continue in their responsibilities and will be integral to a successful transition process. The board is grateful to John Stoesz for his leadership over the past year and a half and wish him well as he pursues Indigenous Justice work.