

# GRACE HILL MENNONITE CHURCH

January 31, 2016

Worship 9:30 a.m.

Musician: Tara Harms-Becker

Transition Pastor: Randy Smith

Whitewater, Kansas

Sunday School 10:45 a.m.

Song Leader: Penny Hiebert

Gathering Music Tara Harms-Becker  
Welcome and Announcements Randy Smith  
Prelude to Worship

\*Call to Worship Sing the Journey 49 (green)  
*Rain down*

\*Prayer

Praise Hymns

*Blessed assurance* Hymnal 332  
*When we walk with the Lord* Hymnal 544

Revelation 4 and 5

Chorus: Doug Claassen, Marianne Eichelberger, Josh Janzen,  
Kris Janzen, Bonita Schroeder

*The church's one foundation* Hymnal 311

Affirmation of Faith (sermon scripture) Colossians 3:12-17

***Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved,  
clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility,  
gentleness and patience.***

***Bear with each other, and forgive one another if any of you  
has a grievance against someone.***

***Forgive as the Lord forgave you.***

***And over all these virtues put on love,  
which binds them all together in perfect unity.***

***Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts,  
since as members of one body you were called to peace.  
And be thankful.***

***Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly  
as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom  
through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit,  
singing to God with gratitude in your hearts.***

***And whatever you do, whether in word or deed,  
do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus,  
giving thanks to God the Father through him.***

Offering and Offertory

Children's Story Travis Harms  
*Children to age 5 may be dismissed to the library for child care*

Sermon

*Don't Go to Church*  
*Where charity and love prevail* Hymnal 305

Sharing and Prayer

\*Sending Hymn Hymnal 580  
*My life flows on*

\*Benediction

We thank God for the blessings of life.  
For the privilege of serving as your pastor  
through this interim time,  
For the bonding of teamwork, new friendships, and love,  
For the promising new beginning in the next chapter  
God has prepared.  
As Christ has led his church and will so lead,  
be confident of this,  
that the one who began a good work in you  
will carry it to completion  
until the day of Christ Jesus. Amen.

Postlude

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

This morning's offering is designated for Camp Mennoscah.

**The worship service** today includes three of my favorite hymns, (Tara chose the other three hymns) and a favorite selection of scripture.

Randy

*The church's one foundation*, inspired by Menno Simons' favorite verse 1 Corinthians 3:11, declares unflinchingly what the church is and is called to be— the creation and embodiment of Jesus Christ solely. *Where charity and love prevail*, one of many Catholic hymns in our hymnal, yet decidedly Anabaptist in theology, expressing the faithful essence of the church ethos and witness.

*My life flows on* is a song to help us through life, reminding and assuring us to faith, conviction, and praise, even as we experience trouble and walk through dark and doubt-filled times.

The book of Revelation expresses the same theme of this song. Though often abused and distorted, Revelation is essentially the reason why we steadfastly live and proclaim hope in the midst of persecution and a world coming apart. “Blessed are they who overcome.” The great worship scene of chapters 4 and 5 provides that reason right at the beginning, before the calamities of the book follow.

### **For Sharing and Prayer**

Thank you for the prayers, cards and visits during my illness and recovery in the hospital and nursing home.

Pauline Balzer and family

**Western District Conference:** As WDC’s fiscal year concludes, give thanks for God’s faithful provision for WDC throughout the past year.

**Mennonite Mission Network:** Pray for Mennonite Mission Network personnel and their colleagues in Nepal as they share the good news of God’s providence through the creation of small businesses, including a coffee shop. Praise God for the success of this hospitality ministry that is prospering and giving hope to many visitors.

### **Church Family News**

. . . **Valerie Klaassen** begins a new job on February 1 at the Mid-West Center for Wound Healing at Wesley...**Samantha Claassen** will be attending the NRHA (National Rural Health Association) Rural Health Policy Institute in Washington DC this week. . . **Randy** and **Ann Smith** are "expecting" to be first time grandparents in August . . . **Mildred Buller** can be visited in Kansas Christian Home, room 304, as she works to get back to her apartment . . .

## Church Events

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

**Wednesday at 6:15 p.m.** All Church Meal – everyone is invited! We are having meals every Wednesday through March 16.

**Menu this week:** Chili and Cinnamon Rolls

Cost of the meal: High School & Adults \$3.00 Children \$2.50

**Wednesday Family Night** begins this Wednesday – we will be studying parables this spring. All are invited to attend!

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

**Next Sunday** 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.

**Next Sunday 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.

**February 8 at 7:00 p.m.** The craft group will meet at Valerie Klaassen's home. The group will meet on the second and fourth Mondays at 7:00 at Valerie's home.

**February 10 at 7:30 p.m.** Adult Choir begins spring practice.

## Et Cetera

**The Life Enrichment** program at Bethel College for Spring semester 2016 begins February 3 and ends on April 27. This program is designed especially for persons 60 and above. See the brochure on the bulletin board for more information and a schedule.

**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.)

**Super staffers and snazzy folks!** Camp Mennoscah will be recruiting for summer staff at Hesston, Tabor, and Bethel Colleges on Feb. 8, 9, and 10 respectively. There will be a pizza meal/gathering on Feb. 10 at 6:15pm-ish at Papa John's in Newton for those interested in being on summer staff and all former summer staff. Contact us at 620-297-3290 or [olivia.bartel@campmennoscah.org](mailto:olivia.bartel@campmennoscah.org) for more information. We think summer staffers are a hoot!

**Your life story is an unrepeatable journey that only YOU can tell!** First Mennonite Church in Newton is sponsoring two life stories workshops this year called "Story Matters" led by Laurie Oswald Robinson which will provide tools to help people write their own stories or the stories of a loved one. The workshops will be held February 19-20 (6:30 - 9 pm Friday and 8:30 - 3:30 Saturday) and April 1-2. Choose the one that best fits your schedule. The cost is \$60 per person which includes workshop materials, snacks and lunch. The workshops are partially funded by a Loaves & Fishes Grant from Western District Conference. To register, send an e-mail to Wendy Funk Schrag at [pwschrag@cox.net](mailto:pwschrag@cox.net). Registration is due February 1 for the February workshop.

**You're Invited to join the MCC Central States Board and Staff** at our annual Community Engagement Event on Saturday, February 27. Our event this year will be held in the chapel at Tabor College in Hillsboro, from 8:30-10:45 a.m. focusing on Mass Incarceration. We will have a variety of speakers share with the group and time for questions and answers. Please call our office to let us know if you'll be attending at 316-283-2720. All are welcome to attend this informative event with opportunity to engage with MCC board and staff!

**Mark your calendars!! The Mennonite Relief Sale will be April 8-9, 2016** at the State Fairgrounds in Hutchinson. **Fellowship meals** are scheduled for **February 28 and March 6**. Fellowship meals are shared experiences in giving, hosts invite someone to their home to "come and dine" and guests visit another family's home. The Relief Sale Fellowship Meals Committee finds guests for you to invite, or hosts to invite you. See registration forms in the foyer. Registration deadline is February 8.

**Associate Conference Minister for Texas:** WDC is pleased to announce that Byron Pellecer has accepted an invitation to serve as Associate Conference Minister (Texas-based), beginning in May 2016. This position will include relating to pastors and congregations in Texas, facilitating IBA (Instituto Biblico Anabautista) training, and working with the WDC Church Planting Commission to guide church planting throughout WDC. Byron has previously worked in church planting, discipleship programs and leadership education in Southeast and Virginia Mennonite Conferences. He is currently serving as church planter and pastor at Iglesia Menonita Aposento Alto (Wichita, KS) where he will continue ministry through April, then transition to the Dallas, TX, area to begin his new role with WDC. Pray for Byron, his wife Hilda and family, and WDC during this time of transition.

## Announcements

Wes and Deb Bergen have finished their term in Ghana. If you made a contribution to the Wes and Deb Bergen Mission Partner Fund at Grace Hill in the past year and do not want it to go to the new Mission Partner Fund, please let Marvin Harms or Debbie Claassen know by February 28.

**Nursery This Sunday:** Debbie Claassen and Carine Claassen  
**Nursery Next Sunday:** Lisa Harms and Bethany Regehr

**Ushers Next Sunday:** Terry Klassen and Dean Patterson  
**Greeters Next Sunday:** Allen and Elaine Patterson

**Offering Last Sunday:** Western District Conference \$1,312.00  
**Offering Next Sunday:** Mennonite Church USA