

GRACE HILL MENNONITE CHURCH

February 19, 2006

Worship 9:30 a.m.

Pastor: James Voth

Whitewater, Kansas

Sunday School 10:45 a.m.

Youth Pastor: Brett Klingenberg

Music by the Praise Team

Prelude

Tara Harms-Becker

Welcome and Announcements

A special welcome to each of our guests! 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** *Here I am to Worship*

* **Litany of Praise**

One: God is everywhere.

All: We are always in the presence of God.

One: In our drive to work or walks in the woods.

All: In simple conversation or quiet rest.

One: In new schemes and old daydreams.

All: When we gather to eat or stand to sing.

One: God is everywhere.

All: We are always in the presence of God.

* **Prayer**

* **Hymns**

Praise to the Lord Hymnal No. 37 Verses 1, 2 & 4

All in All

Offering Western District Retreat Program

Offertory

Tara Harms-Becker

Congregational Reading: Isaiah 43:18-22, 25 (NIV)

Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the desert and streams in the wasteland.

The wild animals honor me, the jackals and the owls, because I provide water in the desert and streams in the wasteland, to give drink to my people, my chosen, the people I formed for myself that they may proclaim my praise.

Yet you have not called upon me, O Jacob, you have not wearied yourselves for me, O Israel.

I, even I, am he who blots out your transgressions, for my own sake, and remembers your sins no more.

Sharing and Prayer

Gospel Reading Mark 2:1-12

Alma Schmidt

Children's Moments

Pastor Jim

Special Music *Trading My Sorrows*

Praise Team

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

Sermon *Friends helping Friends get in touch with Jesus*

* **Hymn** *Jesus Loves Me*

* **Benediction**

* **Benediction Hymn** *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.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES BEGIN AT 10:45 A.M.
EVERYONE IS WELCOME!**

For Sharing and Prayer

Thank you so much for the prayers, cards and support you have given our family following the death of my stepfather Larry Oakman. I shared your cards and letters with my mother, and she was touched by words of love and understanding. Thank you, too, to the children who created and wrote such lovely cards to give to Eli. Sometimes children seem to say things best by offering up their sincere love in words and drawings.

With much appreciation, Tim, Lisa and Eli Schmidt

Pastor Jim and Barb plan to attend the National Pastor's Convention February 22-25 in San Diego, CA. They will leave Tuesday, February 21 and return March 1. Pastor Brett will lead the service on February 26.

The Harvey County Homeless Shelter is in serious need of volunteers in February and March. If you would like to help out, the shelter is looking for people to volunteer their time, or prepare food for the residents. Talk to Pastor Brett if you are interested.

Western District Conference: Pray for WDC pastors as they gather for a seminar on "Pastors Addressing Pornography Together". Pray that all of our congregations will foster a healthy sexual theology.

Mennonite Mission Network: MMN worker Neal Blough in France requests prayer for a first-time meeting of Free Church evangelicals, including Mennonites, who work closely with Catholics. The meeting, held February 25 at Paris Mennonite Centre, is a way to share experiences and find mutual support.

Church Events

Wednesday at 7:00 – 8:15 p.m. Children's and Youth Programming
7:45 – 8:30 p.m. Adult Choir

There will be no Adult Bible Study this Wednesday evening as Pastor Jim is gone. There is however a page of questions for Galatians 3 on the table in the classroom. Feel free to use them for personal study of Galatians 3.

Thursday at 7:00 p.m. Education Council meets at church.

Wednesday, March 1 *Please note time changes*

6:00 p.m. Kids' Meal
6:45 p.m. Children & Youth programming
7:25 p.m. Adult Choir
8:05 p.m. Ash Wednesday service led by Pastor Brett

Ash Wednesday Service

Pastor Brett will be organizing an Ash Wednesday service on March 1 at 8:05 p.m. after Wednesday Night Programming. This service will mark the beginning of the Lenten season. Everyone is invited to attend. The service will be about 20 minutes.

March 1 at 6:45 p.m. Book discussion - *To Fly Again* by Gracia Burnham. The world learned the horrendous details of Martin and Gracia Burnham's year long captivity in Gracia's memoir, *In The Presence Of My Enemies*. In this follow up, Gracia reflects on the lessons and spiritual truths she learned in the jungle, and how they apply to anyone's life. If you have read, or would like to read, either of these books come to the discussion. Both books are in our church library.

March 5 is the First Sunday of Lent. We will celebrate the Lord's Supper together during worship.

Special Community Event. On Saturday, March 25, the Social Council will host a Community German Supper (sausage, verenike, zwiebach, cherry moos or cake) in the Fellowship Hall. Serving time will be 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. Tickets for the supper will be available today. Be sure to tell your neighbors and invite a friend!

March 27 – April 1 Western District Basketball & Volleyball Tournament

April 7-8 Mennonite Relief Sale in Hutchinson. Please check the bulletin board in the foyer to see all the opportunities for helping at the sale.

High School Youth Group

February 25 Newton Homeless Shelter
March 17-19 Snow Camp
April 2 Stand in the Gap @ Newton High School

Announcements

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.

Nursery This Sunday: Marge Harms and Deb Hiebert
Nursery Next Sunday: Bonita Schroeder and Emily Burch

Special Music Next Sunday: Celebration Singers
Keyboard Next Sunday: Teresa Martin
Ushers Next Sunday: Rob Schunn and Becky Voth

Offering Last Sunday: Local Church \$7,131.00
Offering Next Sunday: Western District Conference

Et Cetera

The Swiss Church in Whitewater invites everyone to an evening of inspiration and blessing as the singing group "Step By Step" will be

sharing their love for the Lord through music this evening at 6:00 p.m. at the Swiss Church. "Step By Step" is a praise and worship team from the Burrton area. Free will offering.

Ann Showalter will be signing her new book, "Touched by Grace, from Secrecy to New Life", 10:00 a.m. - noon, Saturdays, February 25 and April 29 at Peace Connections, 612 N. Main, Newton. "It is a compelling account of vulnerability and courage," says Marcus Smucker, Professor Emeritus, Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary.

The High School Youth Group at First Mennonite Church in Halstead will serve a Verenike Supper on Saturday, February 25 from 5:00-7:00 p.m. at First Mennonite Church, 427 W. 4th, Halstead. The menu will include verenike with ham gravy, sausage, green beans, zwiebach, cherry moos, and pie. Proceeds will go to a youth service trip and a sister congregation in Lesotho.

A Spring Sunset Supper for all women of the Western District and South Central Conferences and their guests will be held at Grace Hill on Thursday, March 16 beginning at 6:00 p.m. The Grace Hill women will serve a light supper. Cost of the meal will be \$5.00. Reservations are required. Please contact Agnes Harder to make reservations or sign up in the foyer. Theme: "Finding God's call in your life today"; Program: 7:00 p.m. Wendy Funk Schrag, Newton and Raynetta Wilson, Wichita; Devotions: Gail Graber; Special Music: Kay Schroeder Trio; Offering: toward expenses of the evening with balance to Mennonite Women USA.

Learning to Pray with Arthur Paul Boers will be presented at Zion Mennonite Church on March 18 from 8:30 a.m. – 3:45 p.m. Arthur Boers is the Director of Spiritual Formation at Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary. One of the most important tasks of the church has been to help Christians nurture faithful relationships with God in all aspects of our lives. Registration deadline is March 5. For more information see the flyer in the foyer.

The Cheyenne, Arapaho, Mennonite: Journey from Darlington conference sponsored by the MCUSA Historical Committee will be held in Clinton, OK, March 30-April 2. It will celebrate and review the historical relationship and interconnected faith stories of the native tribes and the first Mennonite mission begun in Darlington 120 years ago. Registration fees are \$100 per person (\$50 for students), and include

lunches and dinners. Registration deadline is March 1. For information and registration forms contact Jim Juhnke, jjuhnke@bethelks.edu or John Sharp, johns@mennoniteusa.org or go to www.mcusa-archives.org/events/nativeamericanconf/index.html. In coordination with this conference a bus tour has been arranged from Newton to Clinton that includes the conference and more! For details contact Roger Juhnke, roger.bcmc@sbcglobal.net or by phone: 316-283-0452(H) or 316-283-3667(O).

Women of all ages are invited to a Women in Conversation Retreat titled "Treasuring Time" in Wichita, March 31- April 2. The retreat is sponsored by Mennonite Women USA and Laurelville Retreat Center. Join mother-daughter June Alliman Yoder and Mandy Yoder Schrock for a weekend retreat; worship leader will be Kay Schroeder. Brochures with registration forms are available in the foyer or by writing to: office@mennonitewomenusa.org or info@laurelville.org or by calling 1-800-839-1021.

CHURCH OFFICES

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