

GRACE HILL MENNONITE CHURCH

February 27, 2011

Whitewater, Kansas

Worship 9:30 a.m.

Sunday School 10:45 a.m.

Pastor: Peter Goerzen

Associate Pastor: Katherine Goerzen

Musician: Sara Unruh

Chorister: Pastor Katherine

Worship Leader: Pastor Peter

Gathering and Praising

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 Psalm 65

Congregational response: You, O God, are the hope of all the world.

Gathering Prayer

* **Gathering Hymn No. 11** *Sweet hour of prayer*

Offering our Gifts Western District Conference

Special Music

Lucas, Paul and Renata Goossen

O love that will not let me go arr. Gary Leopold

Fairest Lord Jesus arr. Richard S. Willis

Hearing God's Word

New Testament Reading Ephesians 2:1-10

David Janzen

* **Hymn No. 143** *Amazing grace!* verses 1, 2, 3, 6

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

Gospel Reading Luke 18:9-14

Pastor Katherine

Sermon

Pastor Katherine

Responding to God

* **Hymn of Response No. 516** *Just as I am, without one plea*

Welcoming New Members Nick and Pauline Toews

Sharing our Stories and Congregational Prayer

Sent by God

* **Sending Hymn No. 150** *Wonderful grace of Jesus*

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

Today we welcome Nick and Pauline Toews as members at Grace Hill. They are transferring their membership from Bethel College Mennonite Church. Welcome, Nick and Pauline!

We would like to sincerely thank you for the continued support of our preschool program through your yearly pledge and your special Christmas Eve offering. We again have a lively group of children and feel that Community Playschool remains an important option for those families who can't afford to go elsewhere. Thanks, also, to Karma Hill who represents your church on our board and also volunteers twice a week as lead teacher. We are so grateful for the gifts she brings to us as a very competent teacher and a positive influence on the lives of the young children in her classroom.

Bonnie Krehbiel and Jeanette Leary,
Co-directors of Community Playschool

Western District Conference: Pray for the three seminars this next week to help members, pastors, and congregational leaders with money matters – wise Christian stewardship in challenging times.

Mennonite Mission Network: Mike and Teresa Sherrill and their three children have ministered in Japan through MMN for the past decade. Pray for them as they share Jesus' message through teaching, music, and daily involvement in the lives of their neighbors.

Church Events

Tuesday 1:00-5:00 p.m. Quilting at church.

Wednesday 6:10 p.m. All Church Meal – everyone is invited!

7:00 p.m. Children's and Youth Programming

7:00 – 7:40 p.m. Adult Study with Pastor Peter

7:45 – 8:30 p.m. Adult Choir

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

Outreach Tip: Practice reaching out by sharing your faith story with someone in the congregation or in your family.

Et Cetera

Israel/Palestine Community Event A group of 36 people connected with Bethel and Tabor Colleges who traveled to Israel/Palestine in January will host a time for community sharing where group members will give insight into their experiences. All are invited to come and listen, ask questions and/or share their own stories about trips to this region, Monday, Feb. 28, at 7 p.m. in the Bethel College library, to be followed at 8 with a time of planning about responses to the current conflict in Israel/Palestine.

Cropping fun! The Scrapbooking Retreat at Camp Mennoscah will soon be here. Join us for some Faith, Friends, and Finished Albums on March 4-6—it's a blast and a great way to get those pictures out where they can be enjoyed. Registration forms can be found at www.mennowdc.org in the Coming Events section or contact us at campmno@mennowdc.org or 620-297-3290. Registrations accepted until the retreat is full.

Mennonite Central Committee Comforter Blitz- It is time for our 5th annual Comforter Blitz!! If you have come to the Comforter Blitz any time over the last four years, you know what fun it is to work together. It is such a blessing to serve God in this small way and to bring warmth to those in need. We will again use the South Hutchinson Mennonite Church, Journey at Yoder Campus, one mile north of Yoder. The dates this year are: Monday, March 7, 12:00 noon – 9:00 p.m. and Tuesday, March 8, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. The comforters will be distributed by MCC for needs around the world and a few may be sold at the MCC sale. See bulletin board for more details.

Mark your calendars ladies!! An evening of fellowship and inspiration is planned for Thursday, March 17, at Journey at Yoder Activity Center, Yoder. This annual Spring Supper will feature Brenda Glanzer Lilliston as guest speaker. A soup supper will be served at 6:00 p.m. (costing \$6.00 per person). There will be special music and an offering will be taken for Mennonite Women USA. This event is for women of all ages of South Central Conference and Western District Conference and their guests. Reservations are required by March 1st so contact Agnes Harder from our church or see the signup sheet on the bulletin board.

“Business Leaders and Pastors: Partners in Leadership and Ministry?” workshop will be held March 26 8:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. at Prairie View, Newton. For more information, see the flier in the foyer.

Camp Mennoscah - Spam? I don't think so. When we send out email confirmations or announcements through our camp software, there are always numerous emails that bounce back to us. Some of these come back to us because spam-blocker software thinks we're spam. We don't even eat Spam. Please make sure to add us to your contacts so that you can receive your email confirmations for camps and retreats. **At loose ends?** We can help tie up your days with some volunteering at Camp Mennoscah! Check out our Volunteer Wish List (and our “things” Wish List) at www.mennowdc.org/Camp.html We also need cooks, nurses, and kitchen staff for our summer youth camps. We know you're out there, all you long-time camp folks. Give us a call (620-297-3290). Send us a note (campmno@mennowdc.org). We can't wait to hear from you.

Mennonite Central Committee's international workers evacuated from Egypt during the recent turmoil have started returning to their work placements in Egypt. MCC asks that you pray for the safety and well-being of all people in Egypt and in other countries in the Middle East and North Africa where there is civil unrest.

New Library Book: *Forever Family* by Laurie Oswald Robinson from Newton. She and Al became foster-to-adopt parents of Sarah, with hopes adoption would become a reality. Many obstacles come into play during this time with the agency. A sobering account of that part of their lives. Worth reading. Book was donated to our church library.

Announcements

Just 2 days left to get your recipes entered for the Grace Hill Cookbook. Lots more recipes are needed. You may enter your recipes at www.typensave.com. Group login in: gracehill67154 Password:73kqy If you are unable to enter your recipes on the computer, give them to Donna Balzer. Deadline is March 1.

Western District Basketball and Volleyball Tournaments are coming up March 15-19. Information and registration forms are available on the WDC website at www.mennowdc.org (Coming Events) for anyone interested in forming a team. Entry deadline is March 4.

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: Barb Schmidt and Kylee Schunn
Nursery Next Sunday: Joyce Wedel and Katrina Regehr

Preaching Next Sunday: Pastor Peter
Scripture Next Sunday: Matthew 18-21-35

Ushers Next Sunday: Terry Klassen and Dean Patterson
Keyboard Next Sunday: Pastor Katherine
Special Music Next Sunday: Tara Harms-Becker

Offering Last Sunday: Grace Hill Youth \$3,998.30
Offering Next Sunday: Mennonite Church USA

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 Claussen

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

**From now on, these blurbs will accent Grace Hill's history rather than overall Mennonites history in Poland & Ukraine.
If interested, pick up a map sketch in the lobby today which shows the villages in Poland where Grace Hill ancestors once lived.**

Blurb #8: POLAND IS DIVIDED. MENNONITES SETTLE LOWER VISTULA AREA

The first partition of Poland in 1772 brought many parts of Poland under Prussian (German) rule, which extended until World War I. Thus the state church in the Prussian areas was Lutheran and in the Polish areas was Catholic. Interestingly the Anabaptists fared better under Polish rule.

“The Peace of Thorn (1466) had given some of the Culm lowlands to the King of Poland,” writes Peter J. Klassen on pages 41-42 of *A Homeland for Strangers*, “while others were retained by the Teutonic Knights, and thus formed part of the later duchy of Prussia. As Lutheranism established itself throughout the duchy, Mennonites were forced to leave those areas.”

He continues, “Thorn (Torun) marked the most southerly area conquered and settled by the Teutonic Knights... Anabaptists were excluded from the city... Fortunately for the Mennonites, local lords usually determined religious policy on their lands... The administrator of Dbow on the south side of the river invited Hollanders to come to his flooded, marshy lands in Grossnessau and Obernessau...”

“The settlement remained small, however, and never enjoyed prosperity comparable to that experienced in the Vistula Delta.” In 1778 the Mennonites built their own church in Obernessau long after Grace Hill ancestors left. The structure burned when it was hit by lightning in 1889.

The *Mennonite Encyclopedia* says Obernessau was one of the oldest Mennonite congregations in Poland (now Nieszawka) located near Thorn (Torun) on the Vistula and must have been formed in the late 1540's. All land leases from there have been lost. The Harms forefathers and likely others of Grace Hill were there until 1715. The village Nieszawka and the 2nd wooden church erected in 1890 are still there today; the town is very small and the area rural. Just when our Grace Hill forefathers came to Poland and from what part of Friesland in The Netherlands, is not known.