



**GRACE HILL
MENNONITE CHURCH**

February 28, 2016 Whitewater, Kansas
Worship: 9:30 a.m. Sunday School: 10:45 a.m.

Worship
Third Sunday in Lent

Pastor: Weldon Martens Scripture Reader: Josh Patterson
Pianist: Rebecca Schrag Song Leader: Matthew Graber

Gathering Music

Welcome and Announcements Weldon Martens

GATHERING

Call to Worship (Based on Psalm 63)

Pastor: Because your steadfast love is better than life,

All: We gather to praise you.

Pastor: Because your steadfast love is better than life,

All: We will bless you as long as we live.

Pastor: Because your steadfast love is better than life,

All: We will lift up our hands and call on your name.

“Come to Me, Come to Us” Choir

Opening Prayer

* Gathering Hymn *Praise I Will Praise You, Lord* HWB 76

CONFESSING AND RECONCILING

ALL: Almighty and gracious God, we confess that we don't give all of ourselves to you. In our anxiety, anger, and fear we seek strength and

peace in places other than you. Like Adam and Eve, we try to hide our nakedness from you. Accept our confession, and break us free from our sin. Empower us to live as Christ's people who know ourselves to be embraced by your loving arms. Amen.

Confession in Silence

Pastor: Because the love of God is better than life, let us praise God as long as we live. May our souls be satisfied as with the richest of foods. (Psalm 63:4-5)

Theme Hymn *I Love to Tell the Story* HWB 398

PROCLAMATION

* Gospel Reading Luke 13:1-9

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

Sermon “Warning & Grace”

RESPONSE

“Create in Me a Clean Heart” Choir

Offering and Offertory Western District Conference
* *Doxology* HWB 119

Sharing and Prayer

* Hymn *Precious Lord, Take My Hand* HWB 575

SENDING FORTH

*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

Western District Conference: Pray for pastoral search committees in WDC congregations, and for potential pastoral candidates, as they discern God's guidance for the future.

Mennonite Mission Network: Mennonite Mission Network requests prayer for SOOP volunteers to work alongside staff doing office, maintenance and construction work, acting as teachers' aides, and assisting in the kitchen at *Academia Menonita Betania*, a bilingual Christian school located near the city of Aibonito, Puerto Rico.

Church Family News

. . . **Alma Schmidt's** mother, Mary Isaac, died on Tuesday at the age of 101. The funeral was Friday morning at Emmanuel Mennonite Church in Meade. . .

“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 evening at 6:00 p.m. Informational meeting about the youth trip to West Virginia in June with the SWAP program (Sharing With Appalachian People). This meeting is for youth, parents and anyone else interested and will be held in the fellowship hall.

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

Menu this week: Sloppy Joes

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

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

Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. Youth Group

Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. Adult Choir practice

March 13 is Bethel College Sunday. The service will include preaching by Josh Janzen and music by Open Road and Woven. Following the Sunday School hour we will have a potluck meal. We look forward to this time of worship, praise, and fellowship!

Nursery This Sunday: Kris Goossen and Renata Goossen

Nursery Next Sunday: Kris Janzen and Courtney Nethercot

Ushers Next Sunday: Terry Klassen and Dean Patterson

Greeters Next Sunday: Allen and Elaine Patterson

Offering Last Sunday: Grace Hill Youth Group \$1,797.00

Offering Next Sunday: Mennonite Church USA

Announcements

Please take time this morning to look at your photo on the Grace Hill pictorial board in the foyer. It has been several years since these photos were taken. Would you like yours updated? Someone will be by the north doors, outside the sanctuary, taking new photos if you choose to have a new photo taken. If you are satisfied with the current photo on the board, we will leave it there. If you would like to bring your own photo, that would work as well. Thank you for taking a look!

Partnership Home Program is a joint effort between Mennonite Disaster Service and churches to provide new homes for families in need. First Mennonite of Newton is working with MDS to help the Nunoz family of Wakefield, Nebraska. They are looking for other churches to partner with them to help build a home in the Wakefield area. This help could be in many forms including prayer, encouragement or helping build the house. Helping build the house could mean joining a First Mennonite crew or another area church or taking an entire week for ourselves. The onsite build is slated to take place for seven weeks in July and August. If you are interested in helping on this project talk to K. John Klaassen as soon as possible.

There is an opportunity to serve as Grace Hill's Everence Advocate. The Everence Advocate attends informational meetings and completes grant applications. If you would like to serve in this way, please contact Kim Claassen.

To clarify some confusion, we have learned that **Wes and Deb Bergen's** term was actually a two-year term, concluding in December 2015, rather than a three-year term. We had budgeted for three years support thinking that was the term and the request. 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 **today**.

Et Cetera

Friends of the MLA (Mennonite Library and Archives) presentation: Rachel Waltner Goossen, "Mennonite Women Challenge John Howard Yoder's Sexual Abuse," March 8 at 7 p.m., Kauffman Museum auditorium.

It's just about time for the Youth Volunteer Weekend at Camp Mennoscah on March 11-12! We'll be singing & worshipping, doing some service projects, and enjoying camp! Patrick Loganbill and Rachel Miller will lead us in activities along with our trusty counselors. Register online at www.campmennoscah.org. Questions? Contact us at 620-297-3290.

WDC/SCC Women's Spring Supper will be at Whitestone Mennonite Church, Hesston, on Thursday, March 17, at 6:00 p.m. Reservation with name(s) need to be made by March 10 to: ksmennonitewomen@gmail.com or 620-327-8201 (Angie at Hesston College). See the flier on the bulletin board for more information.

MCC Quilters' Corner Opportunities: Volunteers are welcome and needed each Tuesday evening 6:30-8 pm at the MCC Center in North Newton to help sort and price items for the Sale as well as each third Saturday of the month (March 19) any time between 9 am - 3 pm. Quilting donations are also welcome and needed i.e. quilting fabrics, quilting supplies, vintage linens, unfinished quilting projects, etc. Donations may be collected by Sale liaisons at their churches and brought to Sale meetings or brought directly to the MCC Center with the indication that they are for Quilters' Corner. If you have questions contact Ann Yoder Smith, 919-604-3282, rws.ays@gmail.com.

A benefit dinner to support scholarships for Iglesia Menonita Casa Betania members participating in IBA (Instituto Biblico Anabautista) classes will take place March 19, 5:30 p.m. at Bethel College Mennonite Church in North Newton. The meal is by donation, and is sponsored by the BCMC Witness Commission as part of a project supported by a WDC "Loaves and Fishes" grant used to facilitate conversational Spanish classes. Members of the Spanish class will prepare and serve the meal. If you plan to attend, please RSVP by March 14 to Margaret Goering at mrgoering@outlook.com or 316-283-5034.

Camp Mennoscah's Retirees Relaxation Retreat will be April 25-27 on the theme of Mennonites in Early Kansas. Retirees of all ages (and all interested!) are invited to join us for 3 days of captivating speakers, Bible Study, coffee breaks, and community. It's a grand time for being with others and relaxing in creation. Contact us at 620-297-3290 or register online at www.campmennoscah.org!

Mennonite Central Committee Central States is hiring for an Office Manager/Bookkeeper. This position is available starting on April 1 at the MCC office in North Newton, Kansas. The Office Manager provides public relations, completes bill paying, bookkeeping and other financial tasks, assists volunteers and other departments as needed, maintains CS information in MCC databases and completes general office management tasks. The work schedule is 32 hours per week. The full job description is available at mcc.org/cs-office-manager. Please contact Heidi Huber at heidihuber@mcc.org for more information.

Kansas lawmakers have a bill before them that would repeal the death penalty. House Bill 2515 was introduced by Representative Steven Becker, a member of Buhler Mennonite Church. But the bill has yet to receive a hearing. Contact your legislators and House Speaker Ray Merrick to express your support for death penalty repeal. Find their contact information at www.kslegislature.org. For more information, see www.ksabolition.org.

CHURCH OFFICES

Pastor's Office Hours:

Tuesday & Thursday - Mornings, Wednesday - Afternoon, Friday - day off

Pastor: Weldon Martens

Email: weldon.martens@gmail.com

Director of Youth Ministry: Joshua Janzen

Email: joshuadjanzen@bethelks.edu

Church Secretary: Debbie Claassen

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