

GRACE HILL MENNONITE CHURCH

March 4, 2012

Whitewater, Kansas

Worship 9:30 a.m.

Sunday School 10:45 a.m.

Pastor: Peter Goerzen

Associate Pastor: Katherine Goerzen

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.

Offering Our Gifts Mennonite Church USA

Sharing Our Stories and Congregational Prayer

Bluffton University *Shining Through*

Welcome to Bluffton University students and faculty. Thank you for sharing your gifts with us this morning!

An offering plate is available at the back of the sanctuary for Bluffton University.

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 Erv Stutzman, Executive Director of Mennonite Church USA, as he preaches at joint services of First Mennonite, Clinton and Herold Mennonite, Cordell, OK, March 4-6. Pray for the gathering of the Oklahoma Convention on March 10.

Mennonite Mission Network: Barbara and Darrell Jantz, serving with MMN in United Kingdom, request prayer for the London Mennonite Trustees as they discern future ministry. Pray especially that they will find a new home for the London Mennonite Centre.

At last Sunday's congregational meeting, a vote was taken to extend Pastor Peter's and Pastor Katherine's term for 5 years until July 31, 2017. The result of the vote was 67 yes votes out of 68 ballots cast.

Dear Grace Hill,

We thank you for your affirmation, support, and prayers. It has been a joy serving God's kingdom alongside you, and it is our privilege to announce that we have accepted your calling for a 5-year term as your pastors. We look forward to the ways that God's Spirit will lead us and move among us as a congregation.

Pastors Peter and Katherine

Church Events

Today We will have a carry-in meal following the Sunday School hour. All are welcome to stay.

This afternoon 12:45 – 1:45 p.m. Focus groups will meet for in-depth congregational evaluation. Everyone is invited to participate.

Tuesday 1:30-5:00 p.m. Quilting on a quilt for Pastors Katherine and Peter's baby. Quilters are needed.

Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. Pastor Relations Committees will meet.

Wednesday 6:15 p.m. All Church Meal – everyone is invited!

7:00 – 8:00 p.m. Junior Dept. Programming

7:00 – 8:30 p.m. Youth Programming

7:00 p.m. Adult Choir

7:00 p.m. Adult Book Study with Pastor Peter

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

Monday, March 12 at 7:00 p.m. Hands of Friendship meet at church. Program: Bake peppernuts for MCC; Hostess & Devotions: Mary Ann Wiebe and Miriam Claassen; Financial Project: Mennonite Women USA.

Sunday, March 25 at 5:00 p.m. Eugene Thieszen, pastor of Herold Mennonite Church in Cordell, OK, will lead a seminar on human sexuality. This will be an item of discussion at the Western District Conference assembly this summer. We value our relationship with WDC and the opportunity it provides us to join the larger church in service, partnership, and witness to the Gospel, and we want our delegates to the annual assembly this summer to be informed and able to represent our congregation. This is also an opportunity for us to grow in "humility, gentleness, patience, bearing with one another in love, and making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace" (Eph. 4:2-3), as we immerse ourselves in the Scriptures together, learn, grow, and discuss together, and pray together that we might yield before the will of God. The session will begin with a fellowship meal at 5 p.m., provided by the Social Council. If you would like to do additional study before this event, a resource sheet is available on the desk in the church library. Please see a member of Spiritual Council if you have any questions or concerns.

Announcements

Offender Victim Ministries (OVM) Dillon's certificates/gift cards are available today from Ed Harms and Pauline Toews.

Reminder: Daylight saving time begins next Sunday.

Harvey County Food Pantry suggested items to donate this month: condiments (peanut butter, pickles, etc.). A basket for goods is located in the foyer by the front entrance.

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: Joyce Wedel and Katrina Regehr

Nursery Next Sunday: Penny Hiebert and Mikayla Hiebert

Special Music Next Sunday: Adult Choir

Keyboard Next Sunday: Jordan Ortman

Ushers Next Sunday: Doug Hiebert and Russell Janzen

Offering Last Sunday: Western District Conference \$1,104.21

Offering Next Sunday: Local Church

Et Cetera

The Bethel College Academy of Performing Arts presents Global Art Charity Concert on Sunday, March 4 at 6:30 p.m. at Memorial Hall on the Bethel College campus. The evening of music and dance will support the Shoroq wa-Amal "Sunrise and Hope" Children's Center in Khan Younis Refugee Camp in Gaza, Palestine, an MCC Global Family program (globalfamily.mcc.org). The Children's Center provides a safe and nurturing space that offers leadership training and healthy self-expression for children. Admission is by donation and all proceeds will go to "Sunrise and Hope".

Staley Lectures – March 4, 7 p.m., and March 5, 11 a.m., both in Krehbiel Auditorium in the Fine Arts Center, Bethel College, both free, by Gregory Ellison, assistant professor of pastoral care and counseling at Candler School of Theology, Emory University. His work examines the intersections of pastoral care, personality development, theologies of hope and marginalized populations; Sunday night lecture: "Cut Dead, But Still Alive: Caring for Marginalized Populations"; Monday morning lecture (part of Bethel's convocation series): "Fantasy as Addition to Reality?: Fantasy Aggression and Fantasy 'Aggrace-ion' in Violent Media."

Comfort Blitz- It is time for the annual Comfort Blitz!! It will be held at Journey Yoder Campus, one mile north of Yoder. Dates and times are Monday, March 5, noon-9 p.m. and Tuesday March 6, 9-5. All are welcome including youth groups. Check flyer on the bulletin board for more details.

Peace Connections will hold their 2012 Annual Meeting on March 8 from 6:00-8:00 p.m. at First United Methodist Church, 801 N. Main, Newton. *Real stories from real people:* Spotlight on Circles of Hope and colorful presentations of 2011 Peace Connections highlights. Homemade soup, bread and dessert. Questions: 316-284-0000.

On Friday March 9 Wheat State Manor is having a fund raising dinner at Emmaus Mennonite Church. Information was in your mailboxes; if you have questions, talk to John Claassen. Your support for this fund raiser is encouraged.

It's time to plan for Mennonite Women Spring Supper again! The evening of fellowship and inspiration will be held Thursday, March 15, at Eden Mennonite Church, near Moundridge. Supper will be served at 6:00 p.m. and the program featuring guest speaker Michele Hershberger will be at 7:00 p.m. Cost is \$6.00, paid at the door, and an offering for Mennonite Women USA will be taken. This event is for women of all ages from South Central Conference and Western District Conference and their guests. Reservations are required: sign up sheet is posted on bulletin board in the foyer.

Feeding The Multitude (at the Mennonite Relief Sale) is in need of 4 table waiters from Grace Hill to work from 12:15—2:30 p.m. on Saturday, April 14. The duties include: seating people, serving their drinks, and clearing tables when they have finished. Respond to John/Miriam Claassen or Ed/Marge Harms prior to April 6 if you would be willing to volunteer.

Retirees' Relaxation Retreat - Brochures for this year's Retirees' Relaxation Retreat at Camp Mennoscah on April 23-25 have been sent to past attendees. We're always looking for more folks to share this retreat with - it's a great time for conversation and coffee breaks. The theme of our time together is Paraguay Plus! It's a whole lot of Paraguay and much more! Todd Schlosser from Mennonite Manor will be leading our Bible Study. Contact us at 620-297-3290 for more information.

Few extra hours? Camp Mennoscah is looking for 1-2 volunteers to help out in the kitchen with our Retirees' Relaxation Retreat from April 23-25. So many of our volunteers attend this retreat that we often have difficulty filling these spots. You can volunteer for one day or for all 3 days--we're pretty flexible. Contact us at campmno@mennowdc.org or 620-297-3290 if you can help us out of this tight spot.

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 Claassen

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