

GRACE HILL MENNONITE CHURCH

March 5, 2006

Worship 9:30 a.m.

Pastor: James Voth

Keyboard: Linda Harms

Whitewater, Kansas

Sunday School 10:45 a.m.

Youth Pastor: Brett Klingenberg

Chorister: Gladys Reimer

Lenten Theme: Write on our hearts

"This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after that time," declares the LORD. "I will put my law in their minds and **write it on their hearts**. I will be their God, and they will be my people." Jeremiah 31:33

First Sunday of Lent

Everlasting Covenant . . . Everlasting Life

Prelude

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.

Gathering

* **Choral Call to Worship** *My Lord, What a Mornin'* Adult Choir

* **Opening Litany and Prayer**

Leader: Come, beloved children of God, come worship the Lord.

People: The Lord is merciful and good, giving life to all creation.

All: We worship the Lord who loves us with an everlasting love.

Leader: Make us to know your ways, O Lord; teach us your paths.

Lead us in your truth and teach us,

For You are the God of our salvation. Amen.

Praising

* **Calling Hymn No. 138** *Let God, who called the worlds*

Scripture Genesis 9:8-17

Pastor Jim

Hymn No. 161 *We give thanks unto you* verses 1-3

Offering Mennonite Church USA

Hearing the Word

Letter from God based on Mark 1:9-15 and 1 Peter 3:18-22

Levi Goossen

Children's Time

Carl Goossen

As the children come forward let us join in singing *Into My Heart*

Into my heart, Into my heart, Come into my heart, Lord Jesus;
Come in today, Come in to stay, Come into my heart, Lord
Jesus.

Gospel Reading Mark 1:9-15

Curtis Toews

Choral Anthem *In Christ There is No East or West*

Adult Choir

Children to age 5 may be dismissed to the library for childcare

Lenten Memory Verse for the week 1 Peter 3:18

For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive by the Spirit.

Sermon *The Brilliance of the Covenant Relationship*

Responding

Prayer of Confession based on Psalm 25

Leader: God of mercy, we do not have the faith of Noah;

We have doubted your wisdom,

looking in all the wrong places for answers.

People: Lead us in your truth.

Leader: We have turned away from you,

pursuing our own ambitious goals.

People: Make us to know your ways.

Leader: We have heard your word but have often failed to follow,

choosing the course of convenience and ease.

All: Teach us your paths. Amen.

Words of Assurance

Pastor Jim

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

* *Benediction*

Leader: Hear the promise of God:

“Never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.”

**People: Just as Noah and his family were saved by water,
so too are we saved through baptism
as a new creation in Christ.**

All: Thanks be to God!

* *Closing Hymn No. 522 My Jesus, I love thee*

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

Pray for the new High School catechism class that begins next Sunday afternoon from 4:00-5:15 p.m.

Brian, Lori and Zachary Kennell will be traveling to St. Judes on March 23 for Zachary's radiation. He will need to have numerous scans redone since he is part of a clinical trial. Zachary is doing very well. He has responded to chemo, a follow up MRI and biopsy indicated that his tumor is no longer present on his tongue. We are so thankful for this. He had a large dose of chemo this past Friday, Feb 24, and we are at a half way point, I believe, with chemotherapy. We appreciate your prayers so much. Specifically pray that Brian and I will be able to prepare Zachary for this and that the procedure is successful. Brian & Lori Kennell

Western District Conference: Pray for the young adults in your congregation that they will find spiritual strength as they begin vocations, life-long relationships, and offer their gifts to the church.

Mennonite Mission Network: MMN worker Anne Garber Kompaore in Burkina Faso is doing research and making contacts regarding establishing a translation project in the major Burkina dialect of the Fulani language. Pray that this research will yield fruitful results.

Church Events

Today at noon Business Council meets at church.

Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. Spiritual Council meets at church.

Wednesday at 7:00 – 8:15 p.m. Children's and Youth Programming
7:00 – 7:40 p.m. Adult Bible Study
7:45 – 8:30 p.m. Adult Choir

Saturday, March 11 The Jr. Youth group will be serving this Saturday at Health Ministries in Newton from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Monday, March 13 at 7:00 p.m. Hands of Friendship meet at church. Program: Bake peppernuts for MCC Sale; Devotions: Ruby Harms; Hostess: Kathy Balzer; Financial Project: Western District Women in Mission, Camp Mennoscah.

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 by March 12. 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.

March 17-19 High School Snow Camp The high school youth will be at Rocky Mountain Mennonite Camp March 17-19. Parents, please call the high school principal as a reminder of this event.

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 are available today. Please turn in reservations to Virgil Penner by March 21. Profits will be used for church missions. Be sure to tell your neighbors and invite a friend!

March 27 – April 1 Western District Basketball & Volleyball Tournament. If you are interested in playing volleyball, contact Diana Schunn or Debbie Claassen. If interested in basketball, contact Pastor Brett.

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.

Announcements

An offering will be taken for Wheat State Manor Auxiliary next Sunday, March 12 in the Adult Sunday School Classes. The offering will be used to purchase items that are beneficial to the residents of the Manor. Hands of Friendship is sponsoring this offering.

The Quilt for the Mennonite Relief Sale is on display in the Fellowship Hall.

Harvest of Love seeks to meet the needs of those with special needs in Harvey County through food and money collected in the churches. A basket for food and a collection container for monies are located in the foyer by the front entrance. Please make checks payable to “Harvest of Love.” This is a year round project of the Newton Ministerial Alliance.

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: Nancy Harms and Jana Harms
Nursery Next Sunday: Marge Harms and Emily Klassen

Special Music Next Sunday: Kids in Praise
Keyboard Next Sunday: Teresa Martin
Ushers Next Sunday: Doug Hiebert and Orville Schmidt

Offering Last Sunday: Western District Conference \$1,659.20
Offering Next Sunday: Local Church

CHURCH OFFICES

Pastor: James Voth Pastor’s Study: 283-2644 E-mail: jvoth@cox.net
Pastor’s Cell Phone (in case of emergency) 1-316-655-2811
Youth Pastor: Brett Klingenberg Office Phone: 799-2238
Cell phone: 316-772-6267
E-mail: brett_210@hotmail.com
Church Secretary: Debbie Claassen 1-888-516-8474
Secretary’s E-mail: kimdebc@wheatstate.com
Church Website: <http://gracehill.ks.us.mennonite.net/>

Et Cetera

The highest bid gets the kid at the Servant Auction to be held by the Triple T youth group this evening at 7:00 p.m. at the Palmyra Baptist Church, rural Benton. Thirty mission team members will be auctioned off to the highest bidders to do your odd jobs. Homemade pie, ice cream and special desserts will be served at the auction. Freewill donations will go toward their summer mission trip to Lead, South Dakota where they will serve as the hands and feet of Jesus while restoring homes in desperate need of repair.

Community Playschool Turns 40! The Community Playschool is celebrating its 40th birthday with a big party at the Bethel College Mennonite Church, Friday evening March 10, from 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. You are all invited to join the party. Please come to see the displays showing the history and growth of the organization, to play games, win prizes, enjoy the snacks, get your face painted, put your signature on a fish, have your picture taken, do a Playschool book walk! Those of us who are graduates of Playschool, past teachers, volunteers, and drivers are especially invited to come to this party.

Parent’s Night Out to benefit the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society will be held Saturday, March 11 from 4:30 – 10:00 p.m. at the Zion Lutheran Church, 225 S. Poplar, Newton. Suggested donation: \$20 per child. Games, snacks and fun. For ages: 12 months and older through 11 years old. Reserve your child’s spot by contacting Jana Crittenden 316-727-6236 or Heather Martin 620-327-0473.

Grace Hill is invited to a concert given by the Santa Fe Singers (from Newton, director Renae Peters) and the Remington Colt Singers at Zion Mennonite, Elbing next Sunday, March 12 at 6:30 p.m. All are invited to attend.

Mennonite Central Committee Central States invites you to come and share an informal time with MCC Storyteller Cynthia Peacock on Thursday, March 16, from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. at the MCC Center in North Newton. Cynthia will share stories from her decades of service with MCC in India. Coffee, tea and light snacks will be served.

Et Cetera

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.

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 Laurelvilleville Retreat Center. This retreat promises to provide: Storytelling, Worship, Laughter, Rest and Renewal. Brochures with registration forms are available in the foyer or by writing to: office@mennonitewomenusa.org or info@laurelvilleville.org or by calling 1-800-839-1021. Registration deadline is March 10.

By working together for the Kansas Mennonite Relief Sale, we have the opportunity to share with the needy of our world. This year's theme "Extreme World Make Over!!! Making the world equally better for all" is generated from Isaiah 40:3-5. The sale provides us with an opportunity to share what we have in order that the needy of our world are provided for. The sale generated over \$450,000 for Mennonite Central Committee last year (total donations from the 46 relief sales in the US and Canada generated over \$4 million dollars for MCC). This year's sale is scheduled April 7 & 8 at the Kansas State Fairgrounds, Hutchinson. The purchasing committee needs cash gifts for 48 items ranging in cost from \$150 for potatoes to \$7,500 for building rentals. If you would like to contribute to the sale budget in this way, send contributions to sale treasurer, Tim Miller, 4805 Broadacres Rd., Hutchinson, KS 67501. **Seeking foam donation:** Joyce Gilliland, Inman, is creating cushions for rent at the Quilt Action. She is in need of donations of foam, 16"x16" and 1" thick. If you can assist, please contact Joyce at 620-585-2682 or gusgilliland@earthlink.net.

Camp Mennoscah is now recruiting for 2006 summer staff positions which include a mixture of the following: crafts, lifeguard, groundskeeper, maintenance, music, nature, office, assistant lifeguard,

maintenance/emergency counselor. You must be between the ages of 18-24. If you are interested, or know of someone who might be interested, in any of these positions, please contact Joyce Pankratz: 620-297-3290 or campmno@mennowdc.org Applications are being accepted through March 24.

Mennonite Central Committee is seeking applicants for a full-time Administrative Assistant. This person will work out of the North Newton office handling finances, serving as receptionist, managing the audiovisual/print resources available to constituents, coordinating mailings, providing logistical support for meetings and maintaining databases. A full job description is available at www.mcc.org/servicetree/. Please contact Leia Lawrence for further information and to request an application. Phone (316) 283-2720. Email llawrence@mcc.org.

Full-time management position available. The Thousand Villages - Newton. Send resume including address, e-mail and contact information to Kristen Mayhue, 22 Regal Crescent, N. Newton, KS 67117, 316-283-3660.

Mennonite Central Committee, in partnership with Houston Mennonite Church, is seeking a donated minivan for the continuing response to Hurricane Katrina in Houston. The desired minivan will be no more than 5 years old, in good working condition, and have less than 75,000 miles. Due to immediate need, if a vehicle is not donated by March 15, a used minivan will be purchased in the local market. The minivan is needed to transport participants in a job training program. This donation will qualify for an IRS tax deduction. For more information, please contact Tim Barr at tbarr@mcc.org or 713-775-3818.

Request for names for Western District Conference annual delegate assembly ballot WDC requests your suggestions for names to be placed on the ballot for the annual delegate assembly, July 14-15 at Bethel College. Your pastor has information about positions needed. Responses are needed by March 15.