

GRACE HILL MENNONITE CHURCH

March 6, 2011

Whitewater, Kansas

Worship 9:30 a.m.

Sunday School 10:45 a.m.

Pastor: Peter Goerzen

Associate Pastor: Katherine Goerzen

Chorister: Gladys Reimer

Worship Leader: Matthew Hiebert

Musicians: Pastor Katherine & Tara Harms-Becker

Forgiving from the Heart *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 from Psalms 118; 103

All: This is the day the Lord has made.

Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

One: Again today we come together to worship –
the God of creation, of salvation, of time and eternity.
The God of all peoples, of all nations, of all conditions
of people everywhere.

All: Praise the Lord. All that is within me, praise God's holy name.

One: Praise the Lord and remember all God's kindness:
in forgiving our sins; in curing our diseases;
in saving us from destruction; in surrounding us with love.

All: The Lord is full of mercy and compassion.

The Lord is slow to anger and willing to give us gifts of love.

Praise the Lord! Oh, praise the Lord, all that is within me.

Gathering Prayer

* **Gathering Hymn No. 5** *There is a place of quiet rest*

Offering our Gifts Mennonite Church USA

Hearing God's Word

New Testament Reading Colossians 3:12-17

Kyle Regier

Song of Response *Where charity and love prevail*

Tara Harms-Becker and Pastor Katherine

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

Gospel Reading Matthew 18:21-35

Pastor Peter

Sermon *Echoes of Forgiveness*

Pastor Peter

Responding to God

Song of Response *Forgive our sins as we forgive*

Tara Harms-Becker and Pastor Katherine

Sharing our Stories and Congregational Prayer

The Lord's Prayer, using "debts" and debtors"

Sent by God

* **Sending Hymn No. 514** *Lord, I am fondly, earnestly longing*

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 Marlene Bogard, Director for Assembly, and the Annual Assembly Committee as they develop a premier resourcing event for congregations and pastors for July 29-30.

Mennonite Mission Network: Pray for discernment and healthy decision-making processes for Burkina Faso Mennonite church leaders, MMN workers, and Mennonite Church Canada Witness workers as they face transitions in leadership and ministry.

Church Events

Wednesday at 6:15 p.m. Spiritual Council meets at church

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

7:45 – 8:30 p.m. Adult Choir

Ash Wednesday Service: For the start of the Lenten season, we will hold an Ash Wednesday service this Wednesday from 7:20 – 7:40 p.m. in the sanctuary.

Next Sunday, March 13 Youth Group: Next Sunday we will be going to a taping of the Channel 12 evening news. We will plan to meet at the church at 4:15 that evening, we will go out to eat together, then attend the taping together.

Monday, March 14 at 7:00 p.m. Hands of Friendship meet at church. Program: Bake peppernuts for Relief Sale; Hostess & Devotions: Mary Ann Wiebe and Miriam Claassen; Financial project: Mennonite Women USA.

Remaining Wednesday schedule:

March 9 – regular programming; 7:20 p.m. Ash Wednesday service

March 16 – meal & programming

March 23 – No programming – Spring Break

March 30 – regular programming

April 6 – last meal & programming

April 13 – last Wednesday evening programming

April 20 – No programming - Holy Week

April 27 – All-church skating party

September 3 and 4, 2011 200th Anniversary Celebration

Outreach Tip: You can't share your faith unless you have something to share. What about your faith or church is exciting to you?

Announcements

Western District Basketball – let Rob Schunn know if you are interested in playing basketball.

A vital aspect of the mission of our church women is to give to the work of the Auxiliary of Wheat State Manor once a year. The Auxiliary purchases items for the Manor with these finances. An offering will be taken next Sunday in the adult Sunday School classes. Hands of Friendship is sponsoring this offering.

Donated food items will go to the Potwin Food Pantry this month. Suggested items may include canned vegetables, canned fruit, cereal, peanut butter, canned meats, canned meals, boxed meals, soups, crackers, and other nonperishable items. Cash donations are accepted. 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

Preaching Next Sunday: Pastor Peter
Scripture Next Sunday: Matthew 5:21-26; 18:15-20

Ushers Next Sunday: Doug Hiebert and Russell Janzen
Special Music Next Sunday: Adult Choir

Offering Last Sunday: Western District Conference \$1,366.00
Offering Next Sunday: Local Church

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

Et Cetera

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.

Harvey County Homeless Shelter training dates are March 8 at 6:30 p.m., March 16 at 10:00 a.m. and March 24 at 6:30 p.m. See Donna Balzer if you have any questions.

“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.

Join in the fun and help those in need...be a part of the KS Mennonite Relief Sale '11 Run for Relief scheduled 8 a.m. Saturday, April 9—a walk, jog, run for all ages & abilities. Please return your entry form by March 25 with your entry fee or “Go the extra mile” by inviting others to sponsor your run to raise even more for those in need. For more information contact Angie Teeter at theteeterfamily@cox.net or 620-327-4434 for more details.

Newton Et Cetera Shop is looking for additional Friday and Saturday clerks - morning and afternoon shifts are available. Last year, over 60 volunteer clerks helped ring up about \$425,000 in sales at the Newton store, and of this, \$175,000 was donated to Mennonite Central Committee. Clerks also helped run our pantry supply drive for the Harvey County Homeless Shelter; they ministered to community members through the relationships they built; they helped support Ten Thousand Villages by drinking lots and lots of Equal Exchange coffee during break time. Interested? Stop by or contact the store to request a volunteer application: 316.283.9461 or newtonetc@sbcglobal.net.

Mennonite Education Agency has a website at www.MennoniteEducation.org/PRAYERS where monthly “Prayers for Faith and Learning” can be accessed. Individuals who are interested in a free subscription to *Prayers for Faith and Learning* (or other MEA publications) may subscribe online at www.MennoniteEducation.org/Subscribe.

Turning toward peace – an MCC invitation to sow seeds of peace. What belongs to God? What belongs to Caesar? Each year some people of faith decide to witness for peace by redirecting their war tax dollars to efforts that nurture life, build justice and promote peace. For those who make this choice, Mennonite Central Committee U.S. offers the “Turning toward peace” initiative – an invitation to sow the seeds of peace by supporting MCC’s Global Family education sponsorship program in Afghanistan or the MCC U.S. Summer Service program’s work to nurture young community leaders. Learn more about the initiative and the options and consequences of war tax resistance at us.mcc.org/wartaxes or contact Titus Peachey, Director of Peace Education for MCC U.S., toll free at 888-563-4676, or 717-859-1151. To support these peace initiatives send contributions payable to MCC (designate "Turning towards peace" in the memo line) to MCC Central States, P.O. Box 235, North Newton, KS 67117.

Blurb #9: GRACE HILL BACKGROUND IN POLAND

We know that our Grace Hill forefathers did not settle in Poland as one group or congregation but came to Poland at various times and from several places in the Netherlands area and settled in various places along the Lower Vistula River. Their houses and barns in Poland were built under one roof, as many are even today in Friesland, Netherlands.

Our forefathers were generally of Frisian background. Most of the Mennonite churches in the Vistula Delta triangle were Flemish. Interestingly the split between Frisian/Flemish lasted longer in Prussia than in the Netherlands.

The Mennonite settlers retained their native Dutch language for over two centuries. Grace Hill people who visited Poland in recent years found that Polish people today tend to refer to Mennonites as the *Hollanders*.

The Grace Hill Mennonite Church background in Poland is in the Thorn (Torun), Obernessau (Nieszawka), Montau (Matawy), Schoensee, Graudenz (Grudziadz}, Culm (Chelmo) & Stuhm/ Tragheimerweide areas of the Lower Vistula River, not the Delta. **Pick up in the foyer a sketch mapping this.**

Since World War II, there are no Mennonites left in Poland.