



**GRACE HILL
MENNONITE CHURCH**

March 6, 2016 Whitewater, Kansas
Worship: 9:30 a.m. Sunday School: 10:45 a.m.

Worship
Fourth Sunday in Lent

Pastor: Weldon Martens Scripture Reader: Lon Hiebert
Pianist: Tara Harms-Becker Song Leader: Bonita Schroeder
Children's Story: Valerie Klaassen

Gathering Music

Welcome and Announcements Weldon Martens

GATHERING
Based on Psalm 32

Call to Worship

Pastor: Many are the woes and struggles of life,
All: but steadfast love surrounds us who trust in the LORD.
Pastor: Therefore, be glad in the LORD and rejoice, you
righteous! Not because life is easy or free of problems but
because of what God has done for us in Christ.
Therefore...
All: ...We shout for joy, and rejoice in the LORD always!

Opening Prayer

**ALL: Loving God, we praise you! We gather this morning again
seeking to turn over a new leaf. As we listen to your words to us,
may we, like the prodigal son, 'come to our senses' and return to
our Heavenly Father trusting in your abundant love—a love that
welcomes all who turn to you. Amen.**

* Gathering Hymn *We Are People of God's Peace* HWB 407

CONFESSING AND RECONCILING
(Based on Psalm 32)

ALL: Because happy are those whose transgressions are forgiven and
whose sins are covered...we acknowledge our sin to you. Should we
keep silent our strength may wither as in the heat of summer.
Therefore, we acknowledge our sin to you, and do not hide our
iniquity...

Confession in Silence

Pastor: God forgives the guilt of our sin. The LORD's unfailing love
surrounds all who trust in him. Rejoice in the LORD and be glad, you
righteous. Let Grace Hill sing with joy and confidence, a congregation
saved by God's unfailing love!

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

PROCLAMATION

* Gospel Reading Luke 15:1-3; 11b-32

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

Sermon "An Amazing Father"

RESPONSE

Hymn *Softy and Tenderly Jesus is Calling* HWB 491

Offering and Offertory Mennonite Church - USA
* *Doxology* HWB 119

Sharing and Prayer

* Hymn *Help Us To Help Each Other* HWB 362

SENDING FORTH

"The Burning of our Sins" & Benediction Fire Pit

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

Thank you for your prayers and other expressions of sympathy during this time of my Mother's passing on to heaven. Alma Schmidt

Western District Conference: Pray for God's strength and peace for families, congregations, pastors and community leaders in the Hesston/Newton area as they continue to respond to the recent shootings.

Mennonite Mission Network: Alisha and Josh Garber of Mennonite Mission Network teach and mentor students at LCC International University in Lithuania. Throughout the winter, Josh has battled bronchitis. Pray for renewed energy for Josh and for the health of Alisha and their first child expected in May.

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

Church Events

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

Menu this week: Pulled Pork

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

Wednesday Family Night – Tara Becker-Harms will be sharing following the meal this Wednesday her work with **Actors, Models, & Talents for Christ**. Our study on the parables will continue the following week. Come hear and see Tara!

Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. Youth Group

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

Wednesday at 8:00 p.m. Hospitality Council meets.
Missions Council meets.

Thursday at 8:00 a.m. Senior Breakfast at Curtis C's, Newton.

Next Sunday is Bethel College Sunday. The service will include preaching by Josh Janzen and music by Open Road and Woven. We look forward to this time of worship, praise, and fellowship!

Next Sunday at 11:30 a.m. All church carry-in meal. Everyone is welcome to stay as we host our guests from Bethel College.

Monday, March 14 at 1:30 p.m. Hands of Friendship - Peppernut baking for MCC on Monday, March 14, at 1:30 p.m. at the church. Some have signed up to bring favorite peppernut dough rolled into ropes ready for baking. You may still sign up to bring dough. Peppernuts already baked are welcome. Any questions contact Marge Harms.

Thursday, March 24 at 7:00 p.m. All are invited to a joint Maundy Thursday worship service of the Zion and Grace Hill congregations meeting at Zion in Elbing on March 24 at 7 p.m., including celebration of the Lord's Supper. We're planning a traditional Tenebrae service of scripture readings, music and prayer, and anticipate departing in silence and darkness (thus, no fellowship after the gathering on this occasion).

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.

Remington High School's Annual Community Service Day will be held, Wednesday, April 20th. This is an opportunity for the students to give back to their supportive community. If you have a job or know of someone who could use help with a project, please fill out a form located on the bulletin board or email Jodi Janzen at jajanzen@usd206.org.

Debbie Claassen is planning to participate in the Kansas Mennonite Relief Sale 5K Run on April 9. If you would like to sponsor her and help raise money for Mennonite Central Committee, please give donations to her by April 6. Checks should be made to KMRS and labeled "Run for Relief" on the memo.

The Whitewater & Potwin Food Pantries are in need of items throughout the year. A basket for goods is located in the foyer by the front entrance.

Nursery This Sunday: Kris Janzen and Courtney Nethercot
Nursery Next Sunday: Deb Regier and Katherine Claassen

Ushers Next Sunday: Doug Hiebert and Russell Janzen
Greeters Next Sunday: Rob and Diana Schunn

Offering Last Sunday: Western District Conference \$ 1,476.00
Offering Next Sunday: Bethel College

Et Cetera

MCC Comforter Blitz: March 7 12:00- 5:00, March 8 and 9 9:00-5:00 at the Journey Mennonite church at the Yoder Campus. See the flyer on the bulletin board for more information.

International Mission Worker Janet Stucky in Newton to share about her work. You are invited to join MC USA staff in the Newton offices (718 N Main St, Newton) to hear from Mennonite Mission Network worker Janet Stucky on March 8 from 9:30-10:30 a.m. We will have coffee, and hear a presentation from Janet about her work. Janet recently returned from spending 2 years in Benin, West Africa as a Mission Network International Worker. She worked with community nutrition and related to the Benin Bible Institute. Her home congregation is Bethel College Mennonite Church in North Newton.

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.

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.

Prayer and Scripture Continuing Ed. opportunity available from AMBS-Kansas Center: AMBS-Kansas Center will host a short course on prayer and Scripture entitled "Being Formed by God through Scripture." This course is open to anyone interested in learning how Scripture shapes our prayer practices. This course will be led by Kathryn Damiano, a spiritual director of 33 years and adjunct professor for AMBS-Great Plains. The course will meet on April 9, 16, 23, and 30 from 9:30-11:30 a.m. at Mennonite Church of the Servant in Wichita, KS (2401 N. Woodland, Wichita). If interested in taking this course for masters-level credit or if you have any questions, please contact Katherine Goerzen (kgoerzen@ambs.edu) for more information. The cost of this continuing education course is only \$50 for WDC participants who register before March 19. Registration is now available at: <https://www.ambs.edu/academics/kansas-center-non-credit.cfm>.

Camp Mennoscah tee shirt design - Hey, artists and idea-makers! Pull together your best design for a Camp Mennoscah tee shirt and send it to us by March 15. We've got some options for this year's tee, but maybe there's something better out there. Show us your humdingers and fancy pants designs! Contact us at olivia.bartel@campmennoscah.org or 620-297-3290.

WDC Spring Reference Council: "*Held Together in Mission: Being Church in the Rural Context*" - Saturday, April 23, 9 am - 3 pm at First Mennonite Church, Beatrice, NE. WDC congregation members, pastors, and board/commission/committee members are all invited to come for worship, fellowship and learning together, as we nurture relationships through deeper understanding of our diverse church contexts. Sessions on April 23 will include a panel discussion of WDC pastors working on a book-writing project on rural ministry, story-telling and table conversation about the unique experiences, gifts and challenges of being church in rural communities. Refreshments and lunch will be provided. If you plan to attend, please RSVP to WDC at 316-283-6300 or wdc@mennowdc.org. If you have interest in carpooling, let us know and we will help to make those connections.

Mennonite Mission Network is now accepting applications for the role of Global Ministries Senior Executive to provide leadership and oversight to the Global Ministries division, to participate in organizational leadership, and to work with the Executive Director in cultivating healthy relationships with international and local partners. The anticipated start date is August 2016. To receive a position description or to send a letter of interest please address Human Resources Senior Executive Rachel Stoltzfus (RachelS@MMNWorld.net) and Executive Director Stanley Green (StanleyG@MMNWorld.net).

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.

The Kansas Mennonite Relief Sale will be April 8 & 9 at the Kansas State Fairgrounds in Hutchinson. The theme this year is "HOPE – Help brighten our world by Offering our blessing that People both far and wide might have Expectations of joy and peace." Dates to remember: **March 7** – Quilt Auction Deadline; **April 2** – Bohne Beroggi Making at Moundridge High School; **April 5** – Verenika Making at Hillsboro Fairgrounds. See the table and bulletin board in the foyer for sign-up sheets and all kinds of information! For even more information about the sale, go to www.kansas.mccsale.org or Facebook.

Then I acknowledged my sin to you
and did not cover up my iniquity.
I said, "I will confess
my transgressions to the Lord."
And you forgave
the guilt of my sin.

Psalm 32:5



My transgressions...