

GRACE HILL MENNONITE CHURCH

March 11, 2012

Whitewater, Kansas

Worship 9:30 a.m.

Sunday School 10:45 a.m.

Pastor: Peter Goerzen

Associate Pastor: Katherine Goerzen

Musician: Jordan Ortman

Song Leader: Andrew Voth

Worship Leader: Pastor Katherine

Third Sunday in Lent: Where do I sign?

Gathering our Praise

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 1 Corinthians 1: 18-25

Gathering Prayer

* **Gathering Hymn No. 617** *Jesus, keep me near the cross*

Offering Our Gifts Local Church Missions

Hearing God's Story

Drama Abraham and Sarai Cole Claassen and Kylee Schunn

Old Testament Reading Genesis 17: 1-7, 15-16 Katie Regier

Drama Abraham and Sarah

Choral Anthem *Lord, I want to be a Christian* by Dennard
Adult Choir

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

New Testament Reading Mark 8: 27-38 Katie Regier

Sermon *Getting in line* Pastor Peter

Responding to the Story

Song of Response *Take up your cross*

Andrew Voth, Jordan Ortman, Aaron Tschetter

Congregational Sharing and Prayer

Offering Our Lenten Commitments and Receiving a New Name

STJ No. 45 *In the morning when I rise*

At this time, everyone is invited to come forward to place your Lenten Commitment sheets on the Communion table, as a symbol of offering your commitment to God. Once you have done that, you are invited to receive a "new name," just as Abraham and Sarah received new names from God. This is an affirmation that each of us has great value in God's eyes, as well as a reminder of our commitment to follow Jesus in our daily living.

Sending

Choral Benediction *Peace, I Leave With You* by Shue
Adult Choir

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

Laura Janzen passed away on Wednesday, March 7, 2012. Services were held at Grace Hill yesterday, March 10. We continue to pray for Henry and the family.

We wish to express our heart felt gratitude for the expressions of support we received during the recent loss of our father/grandfather. The prayers, cards, gifts and many kind words helped to keep us going during a difficult time. We are very thankful for a wonderful church family.

Tammy, Curt, Caleb, Amanda, Melinda, Katrina and Bethany Regehr

Thank you to everyone who hosted Bluffton University students and faculty, and to everyone who provided food for the potluck! Thank you for showing hospitality to welcome our guests!

Emily Burch will be serving this summer on an International Service Team in La Preciosita, Mexico. A letter is posted on the bulletin board with details about her trip. Emily would greatly appreciate support during this opportunity! Any monetary donations would be helpful, as she is in charge of funding the project herself. Checks can be made out to Kansas State University with a memo that says "IST-Emily Burch" so they can be put in an account set up for Emily. Please give checks to Bonita Schroeder. Thoughts and prayers are also welcome! Feel free to contact Emily at eburch@ksu.edu or 316-251-2322.

Western District Conference: Pray for developing church plants. Gilberto Flores will be meeting with a Hispanic congregation in Liberal, Kansas. Pray for Grace Mennonite, Gladewater, Texas; Manos de Cristo, Wichita; Metro Mennonite, Oklahoma City; Peace Mennonite, Columbia; and Sembradores de Buenas Nuevas, Palmer, Texas.

Mennonite Mission Network: MMN invites us to join our Japan Mennonite Fellowship brothers and sisters today in creating a ring of prayer around the earth on this first anniversary of the Tohoku Earthquake that set off multiple disasters. It is suggested that each congregation pray for five minutes, from 11:45 - noon. Pray for the families of the 20,000 victims. Pray for the 23,000 people still living in refugee camps. Pray for renewal of the contaminated land. Pray for all who are working in stricken areas.

Church Events

Monday 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.

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

Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. Business Council meets
at 7:45 p.m. Administrative Council meets

Wednesday 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

Thursday at 6:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast at Charlie's, Newton.

Thursday – Saturday Western District Basketball: Zion/Grace Hill will be playing at Bethel College this Thursday, March 15, at 8:30; Friday, March 16, at 7:30 and 8:30; and Saturday morning in the tournament. Please contact Rob Schunn today if you are interested in playing.

Friday – Sunday High School Snow Camp: Youth and Parents, please see the information for Snow Camp in your church mail boxes. If you have any additional questions, please see Pastor Katherine or Kendall and Carol Claassen. Thanks!

Upcoming Wednesday schedule:

March 14 – regular programming
March 21 – Spring Break – no meal, no programming
March 28 – regular programming
April 4 – Holy Week – no meal, no programming
April 11 – regular programming
April 18 – meal and last night for classes
April 25 – All church bowling party at Play Mor Lanes, Newton

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.

March 28 – April 3 Grace Hill/Zion week at the Harvey County Homeless Shelter. The volunteer and meal sign-up is on the bulletin board.

High School Youth at MCC Sale: The Youth Group will help make New Year's Cookies at the MCC Sale this year on Friday, April 13. Our shift there starts at 4:30, so we will plan to leave from the church at 3:45. Following our shift, we will eat supper together on the sale grounds, as well as allow for some time to enjoy the sale. If you have any questions, please see Pastor Katherine. Thanks!

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

Announcements

An offering will be taken for Wheat State Manor Auxiliary next Sunday, March 18 in the Adult Sunday School Classes. The offering will be used to purchase items that are beneficial to the residents of the Manor. Hand of Friendship is sponsoring this offering.

College Meal: If anyone is interested in hosting a meal for college students in March or April, please see Pastor Katherine. Thank you!

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: Penny Hiebert and Mikayla Hiebert

Nursery Next Sunday: Deb Regier and Katie Regier

Ushers Next Sunday: Mike Balzer and Kendall Claassen

Offering Last Sunday: Mennonite Church USA \$1,795.00
Bluffton University \$391.00

Offering Next Sunday: Grace Hill Scholarship Fund

Et Cetera

Arianna String Quartet – this afternoon at 3 p.m., Bethel College Administration Building chapel; free.

Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminar Webinar: A New Frontier: Doing Theology as Thriving Rural Communities, Presenter: David Boshart, Wednesday, March 21, 2-3:30 p.m. EDT. Congregations that thrive see the tasks of church development and mission as a matter of applied theology. This webinar will explore how rural communities can become thriving centers for mission by reflecting on six major opportunities for developing a relevant witness that can bridge earth and heaven. Early registration deadline is March 17. <http://www.ambs.edu/webinars>.

Sign-up sheets for the Kansas Mennonite Relief Sale are on a table in the church foyer. 1000+ volunteers are needed throughout the week of the sale. There are sit down jobs, food preparation jobs, set-up, cashiers and more. There are opportunities to make New Year's cookies during the sale, bake bread, pies and zwieback prior to the sale. Look over the table and see how you might like to help!

What's going on at this year's Kansas Mennonite Relief Sale on April 13 & 14? Go to www.kansas.mccsale.org and learn more about the activities and auction items at this year's sale. Please become a friend of the Relief Sale on Facebook @ Kansas Mennonite Relief Sale.

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 14—a walk, jog, run for all ages & abilities. Please return your entry form by March 31 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.

Register now! Camp Mennoscah is accepting registrations for our summer youth camps - we bet you're surprised to hear that! We already have almost 3 times the number of registrations than we did at this time next year. We think this is a hoot because we know it's going to be a blast this summer! Confirmation emails and postcards have been sent to those already registered. Give us a holler at campmno@mennowdc.org or 620-297-3290 if you need a registration form. The catalog can also be found at www.mennowdc.org under the camp link.

Rocky Mountain Mennonite Camp brochures are available in the foyer.

What's the Buzz? The new on-line Western District Conference library catalog is the Buzz! Visit it soon. Using your very own PIN, you can log in and reserve and renew books on-line, as well as check your library patron account. We mean to serve you very well - so call or email soon to get your PIN! www.mennowdc.org/library/catalog/.