

Grace Hill Mennonite Church

Worship – 9:30am / Sunday School – 10:45am

March 11, 2018

"Loving Like God"

Fourth Sunday in Lent

PRELUDE

GREETINGS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

- PIANO INTERLUDE -

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Who comes in the name of God? Step into the light and be known.

People: We are coming, through darkness and fear. We come into the light by the power of God.

Leader: People of God, God has heard your cries and is opening a way for you.

People: We are here, through darkness and fear. We come into the light of this day by the power of God.

Leader: You are here, and God is here. What will you do?

People: Together we will worship our God. Thanks be to God!

* GATHERING SONG *"He Leadeth Me"* HWB 599

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (UNISON)

God of compassion and care,
It is hard to face who we are.

We like to be in control,
to know where we are going.

Relying on someone else,
even you, is hard.

With impatience we find people and situations to criticize.

Complaining and judging becomes easy.

Posturing innocence

It is difficult to confess

that we need your love and mercy.

We don't want to see

that our attitudes and actions

are sinful and weaken the body of Christ.

Forgive our self-righteousness.

Grant us your mercy.

Grant us your grace.

Grant us your peace.

Make us new in Jesus Christ.

Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (LEADER)

Because of His great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive in Christ even when we were dead in transgressions. It is by grace that you are saved. Amen. – Ephesians 2:4-5a

OFFERING TO GOD

LOCAL CHURCH MISSIONS

Offertory

**Doxology* (Psalm 100)

HWB 119

CHILDREN'S STORY

SCRIPTURE READING

John 3:14-21

LENTEN THEME SONG *"Christ, We Do All Adore Thee"* HWB 105

SERMON

"Loving Like God"

HYMN

"Longing for Light"

STJ 54

SHARING AND CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER

LENTEN SENDING *"I Bind My Heart This Tide"* (vs. 4) HWB 411

* BENEDICTION

2 Corinthians 13

*Indicates those comfortable in doing so, please stand.

- Following the children's story children to age 5 may be dismissed to the library for childcare.
- The Adult Sunday School classes will begin 10 minutes after the service is over. Everyone is welcome!

Serving in Worship

Pastor	Weldon Martens
Scripture Reader	Lisa Harms
Keyboard	Ellen Mosiman
Song Leader	Penny Hiebert
Greeters	John & Miriam Claassen
Ushers	Doug Hiebert & Adrian Nethercot
Nursery	Katherine Claassen

For Sharing and Prayer

Thank you to Grace Hill for the phone calls, visits, e-mails and prayers we have received since the fire Friday afternoon. Thank you to Pastor Weldon for his encouraging visits. We are so thankful our house was spared and so appreciative of everyone's kind support.

Allen and Elaine Patterson

Western District Conference: Pray for WDC congregations Beatrice Mennonite Church and First Mennonite Church of Beatrice, NE, as they host Faith, Hope, and the Mission of Rural and Small Town Churches, a study series with Brad Roth, March 18-19.

Mennonite Mission Network: Last month, Taiwan experienced a powerful earthquake that killed at least nine people. Mennonite Mission Network requests prayer for the people of Taiwan as they grieve the loss of loved ones and rebuild their lives.

Church Events

Monday at 7:30 p.m. Missions Council meets.

Wednesday at 6:15 p.m. All Church Meal. Following the meal Jana Harms will share about her time in Ecuador. Everyone is invited!

Menu this week: Spaghetti Casserole & Peanut Butter Cake
Cost of the meal: High School & Adults \$3.00 Children \$2.50

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

April 15 Bethel College Sunday

Save the Date! Grace Hill will be partnering with Zion Mennonite Church for Vacation Bible School this year. VBS will be June 1-2 from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. each day and will be held at Zion. VBS is for children age 3 through grade 5. More info to follow - but mark your calendars now!

Announcements

Debbie Claassen is planning to participate in the Kansas Mennonite Relief Sale 5K Run on April 14. If you would like to sponsor her and help raise money for Mennonite Central Committee, please give donations to her by April 11. Checks should be made to KMRS and labeled "Run for Relief" on the memo.

The Whitewater and 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 Next Sunday: Marge Harms and Quinn Dove

Greeters Next Sunday: Galen and Roberta Harms

Ushers Next Sunday: Mike Balzer and Kendall Claassen

Offering Last Sunday: Mennonite Church USA \$1,078.00

Offering Next Sunday: Mission Partner Fund

Et Cetera

Mennonites and the Holocaust Conference at Bethel College Doris Bergen, University of Toronto, "Neighbors, Killers, Enablers, Witnesses: The Many Roles of Mennonites in the Holocaust," March 16 at 11 a.m. The Mennonites and the Holocaust conference also presents a public screening of Friesennot, a 1935 Nazi propaganda film about a Mennonite village in Russia, March 16 at 7:30 p.m. Both events will be in Krehbiel Auditorium, Luyken Fine Arts Center at Bethel College.

Refresh and Renew! Camp Mennoscah's Retirees Retreat invites retirees and interested persons of all ages to join us April 23-25 for several days of renewal. Speakers will share about Vietnam, teen prison ministry, storm chasing and so much more! Coffee breaks will give you a chance to discuss further and enjoy a good chat. Contact Camp Mennoscah for a brochure or find it online at campmennoscah.org! We'll see you there for an amazingly good time.

Rainbow Summer Program (Rainbow Mennonite Church, Kansas City, KS) is hiring summer interns! Rainbow Summer Program is a six-week summer enrichment program for 100 children who have completed grades K – 8. Interns serve in the classrooms and are paid a stipend for the summer. For more information on how to apply, please visit www.rainbowmennonite.org/serving/rainbow-summer-program/.

Newton Et Cetera Shop invites organizations to apply for their annual Local Giving grants. Local Giving grants are made available each spring by the Newton Et Cetera Shop board of directors. Application forms may be downloaded at newtonetceterashop.com and must be submitted by e-mail to localgiving@newtonetceterashop.com by April 13, 2018. Multiple grants will be awarded to selected groups by June 2018, in amounts up to \$5,000. Applicants for the Local Giving grants must hold legal nonprofit status and operate out of and serve Newton, North Newton, Hesston, Goessel, Moundridge, Whitewater, Elbing, Halstead or Walton. Applicants do not need to have a religious affiliation or mission, but they must function in a manner consistent with Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) and be guided by purposes consistent with MCC's.

50th Annual Kansas Mennonite Relief Sale, April 13-14, in Hutchinson, the theme is "Praising God through Service".

- Sign-up sheets are available on the table in the foyer or NEW this year, sign-up online to make New Year's Cookies. Go to www.kansas.mccsale.org, click on the Volunteer tab, click on the Sign-up button at the bottom of the page. You can see what shifts need help and can sign up you and your friends! (with their permission!)
- For the bakers - we have pie tins (regular & small), zwieback bags, and rye/wheat bread bags. Be creative with your pies, apple and cherry are welcome but peach, apricot, rhubarb, etc. are often requested.
- April 7 is Bohne Beroggi making day at Moundridge High School...April 10 is Verenike making day at Parkview MB Church in Hillsboro (new location)...we also need 5 dozen cookies for verenike making day.
- Stay up-to-date on all things relating to Kansas Mennonite Relief Sale by liking us on Facebook at Kansas Mennonite Relief Sale or our website at www.kansas.mccsale.org. Also, download the new Kansas MCC sale app by clicking on the link on our homepage.

REMEMBERING 50 years of the Relief Sale in Kansas "Love Must Be Genuine" was the theme of the 1997 Sale and appeared on 556 t-shirts, sweatshirts, and tote bags. Publicity for the sale was carried out by the usual distribution of mailings, press releases, and radio announcements, but also included an internet page with photos and extensive information. The internet page was put together by David Godshall of Hesston College. The weather was not favorable causing attendance to be down by about half, but the Sale proceeds were almost the same as the year before. The Quilt Auction was moved to the Industrial Building, which was heated. A singing group from Topeka "Personal Touch" performed on Friday evening. The theme was carried out by the way the volunteers pitched in and did the necessary things for the Sale to be a success. \$375,000 was donated for MCC's work of genuine love.

CHURCH OFFICES

Pastor's Office Hours:

Wednesday - Afternoon, Friday - day off

Pastor: Weldon Martens

Email: weldon.martens@gmail.com

Church Secretary: Debbie Claassen

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