

GRACE HILL MENNONITE CHURCH

March 12, 2006

Worship 9:30 a.m.

Pastor: James Voth

Keyboard: Teresa Martin

Whitewater, Kansas

Sunday School 10:45 a.m.

Youth Pastor: Brett Klingenberg

Chorister: Suzy Burch

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

Second Sunday of Lent

I will bless you

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** *Jesus, Teach Me* Kids in Praise

* **Opening Litany and Prayer**

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

People: The Lord satisfies our deepest longings and delivers us from our distress.

All: We worship the Lord whose promises never fail.

Leader: Remember us in your mercy, O Lord, and make our lives fruitful, that we may proclaim your deliverance to future generations. Amen.

Praising

* **Calling Hymn No. 162** *The God of Abraham praise*

Scripture Genesis 17:1, 15-16

Katie Regier

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

Sharing and Prayer

Offering Local Church Missions

Hearing the Word

Letter from God based on Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16 and Romans 4:13-25
Sharon Schmidt

Children's Time *Abraham and Sarah*

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 8:31-38

Melinda Regehr

Choral Anthem *God, You're My Protection and Strength* Kids in Praise

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 Exceeding Fruitfulness of God's Covenants*

Responding

Prayer of Confession based on Psalm 25

Leader: God of Abraham and Sarah, we offer to you our barrenness and affliction.

People: Our hearts ache with longing for your promise to be fulfilled

Leader: We are tempted to doubt when fulfillment is delayed.

People: We try to fulfill your promise in our own way.

All: Write on our hearts your stories of faithfulness to heal our ache and quell our doubt. Amen.

Words of Assurance

Pastor Jim

* *Sending Hymn No. 577 O Love that will not let me go* Verses 1-3

* ***Benediction***

Leader: Hear the promise of God:

“I will make you exceedingly fruitful.”

People: Let us grow strong in our faith, being fully convinced that God is able to do what God has promised.

All: Thanks be to God!

* *Sending Hymn No. 577 O Love that will not let me go* Verse 4

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

In the hospital: Carol Claassen (Olin), Kansas Spine Hospital, Wichita

Pray for the new high school catechism class that begins this afternoon.

Western District Conference: Pray for the WDC Personnel Committee as it discerns staffing needs, policies, salaries, and benefits for the next year.

Mennonite Mission Network: Pray for Esther Schlegel, Jeff Stoesz and Joel Reesor, Service Adventure participants, as they serve through the local thrift store, schools and Boys & Girls Club in Lebanon, Oregon.

This afternoon at 4:00 p.m. High school catechism class begins.

Monday 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.

Wednesday at 6:10 p.m. All Church Meal*

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

*To make or cancel reservations for the meal please contact Tammy Regehr (799-2911) or Barb Voth (283-2644).

Cost of the meal: Adults \$3.00 Children \$2.50

Thursday at 6:00 p.m. A Spring Sunset Supper for all women of the Western District and South Central Conferences and their guests will be held at Grace Hill. 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.

Friday - Sunday High School Snow Camp The high school youth will be at Rocky Mountain Mennonite Camp.

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

March 26 during the Sunday School hour, the adult and high school Sunday School classes will meet together. Jim Stucky, Western District Conference Pastor Relations Committee, will present the results of the church survey conducted in January.

An offering will be taken for Wheat State Manor Auxiliary today 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.

A small poster of the 2006 Camp Mennoscah schedule is posted on the various bulletin boards. A larger brochure will be arriving later. Also a schedule for the Retirees' Relaxation Retreat program is posted on the bulletin board, including extra registration blanks.

Grace Hill is responsible to provide 15 pies, 12 dozen zwiebach and 5 loaves of rye or wheat bread for the Mennonite Relief Sale. Pie tins and bread sacks are available in the foyer. Help yourself!!

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: Marge Harms and Emily Klassen

Nursery Next Sunday: Carol Claassen (Olin) and Brittany Claassen

Keyboard Next Sunday: Linda Harms

Ushers Next Sunday: Mike Balzer and Kendall Claassen

Offering Last Sunday: Mennonite Church USA \$1,598.25

Offering Next Sunday: Offender Victim Ministries

Et Cetera

Seminar on Modern Parents and Postmodern Teens will be held this afternoon from 3:00-5:30 p.m. at the Alexanderwohl Mennonite Church, Goessel. Cost is \$3 at the door. Uncovers why adolescence has changed, provides an inside look at the new teen culture and offers biblical answers to tough parenting questions. Contact Nita Wilson with questions at 620-367-8197.

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 this evening 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.

Wheat State Manor Annual Meeting will be held on Thursday, March 23 at 7:30 p.m. at the Manor. Everyone is invited to attend.

Numerous small contributions to the Kansas Mennonite Relief Sale have resulted in large amounts used to assist needy people in many ways. This year's Penny Power collection before and during the sale will support MCC Food Basket Projects promoting Food for Today, for Tomorrow and for All. Let us remember the families in Haiti that can only provide their children with one meal a day, or the 1 in 10 U.S. households that don't always know if they will have food for their next meal. The Penny Power project at the Kansas Sale raised a little over \$22,000 last year. Let us help end hunger through our spare change.

MCC Kit Supplies Needed Because of all the disasters last year, our warehouse is empty. We need supplies for kits. School kits are especially needed for a new kit-packing activity at the Kansas Relief Sale, April 7-8. Please bring kits to the MCC Material Resource Center, North Newton. Thank you.

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.

Deepening Relationships Nonviolent Communication Workshop is offered by Peace Connections on Sat., March 25, 8:30-noon. For couples, friends, families: This workshop will help you accurately hear

what others need, make clear requests to get what you need and resolve conflicts by finding solutions that work for everyone. Come to learn and practice nonviolent communication skills that build on the relationships that you have with those closest to you. The workshop is taught by Jean Ryan, M.Ed., Center for Nonviolent Communication Certified Trainer. She has worked with individuals, couples, families and organizations for 8 years. Pre-register by March 18. Cost: \$20 individual / \$30 couple. Partial scholarships available. For more information call 316-284-0000 or stop by 612 N. Main, Newton.

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.

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.

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/>