

Grace Hill Mennonite Church

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

March 12, 2017

"Restore Us, O God! We Wonder!"

Second Sunday in Lent

PRELUDE

* HYMN "Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise" HWB 70

GREETINGS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

- GATHERING INTERLUDE -

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Mindful that God, the great Mystery, has called us

All: we gather to worship.

Leader: Curious about God's ways in the world.

All: we gather to worship.

Leader: Wondering in the face of uncertainty.

All: we gather to worship.

Leader: Receive our worship and our wonderings, O God, as we seek after you.

* GATHERING SONG "Calm Me, Lord" STS 45

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Leader: God of mystery, you call us into the light of Jesus Christ. Whether we come to you by night or by day, with our answers or our uncertain questions, you take us, talk with us, guide us, and teach us. We give thanks that you don't leave us in the dark about who God is and what God expects.

People: We confess that we often reject the light of Jesus Christ. We often prefer the ways of the world. We, like Nicodemus, do not understand. We must be born again, born from above. Forgive us, O Lord, when in our best efforts to work for you, we fail to move with your Spirit.

(Pause for silent confession)

Leader: God of mystery,

All: restore us.

Leader: Our help comes from the Lord, Maker of heaven and earth. The LORD will keep you from all harm. The LORD will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore. Amen.

OFFERING TO GOD LOCAL CHURCH MISSIONS

Offertory
*Doxology (Psalm 100) HWB 119

CHILDREN'S STORY

SHARING AND CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER

"YOU ARE ALL WE HAVE" STJ 29

* SCRIPTURE READING John 3:1-17

SERMON "Nicodemus at Night"

HYMN "I KNOW NOT WHY" HWB 338

LENTEN RITUAL: TAKE A STONE

"GOD IS THE ROCK OF MY SALVATION" PSALM 18:2

* BENEDICTION

*Indicates those comfortable in doing so, please stand.

- After the Children's story children to age 5 may be dismissed to the library for childcare.
- 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!

Serving in Worship

Pastor	Weldon Martens
Scripture Reader	Donna Balzer
Keyboard	Ellen Mosiman
Song Leader	Bonita Schroeder
Greeters	John & Miriam Claassen
Ushers	Doug Hiebert & Adrian Nethercot
Nursery	Marge Harms & Katherine Claassen

For Sharing and Prayer

Western District Conference: Pray for participants leaving this week on a Come and See learning tour of Israel/Palestine, including Byron and Hilda Pellecer and Sandra Martinez from WDC.

Mennonite Mission Network: Oscar Siwali and Mennonite Mission Network's Dan and Kathryn Smith Derksen are working through Southern African Development and Reconstruction Agency to train peer mediators for mediation and peace clubs this month. Pray for the students who are using their school holidays for this training.

Church Events

Wednesday at 6:15 p.m. All Church Meal and following the meal, Family Night Bible Study for all ages – everyone is invited!

Menu this week: Pizza & Root Beer Floats

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

This is the last Wednesday meal and Bible study for the winter/spring session.

Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. Praise Team practice – all are welcome to come sing! Praise Team will sing next Sunday.

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

Announcements

Mennonite Church USA Convention 2017 will be July 4-8 in Orlando, Florida. **Western District Assembly** is August 4-6 in Dallas, Texas. If you are interested in being a delegate for either of the conferences, please talk to Tim Harms.

Debbie Claassen is planning to participate in the Kansas Mennonite Relief Sale 5K Run on April 8. If you would like to sponsor her and help raise money for Mennonite Central Committee, please give donations to her by April 5. Checks should be made to KMRS and labeled "Run for Relief" on the memo.

The following book will be placed in the church library: "One Light Still Shines" by Marie Monville with Cindy Lambert. Marie Roberts Monville, the wife of the man who unleashed the horror of the shooting in the Amish school in Pennsylvania, tells her story of sorrow and destruction, as well as, compassion and forgiveness.

Nursery Next Sunday: Kaye Penner and Quinn Dove

Greeters Next Sunday: Galen and Roberta Harms

Ushers Next Sunday: Mike Balzer and Kendall Claassen

Offering Last Sunday: Mennonite Church USA \$1,153.00

Offering Next Sunday: Bethel College

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

Et Cetera

Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary and Western District Conference will host a reception on Sunday, March 12 from 3:30-4:30 p.m. to honor the ministry of the AMBS-Kansas Center. The reception will be held at the Western District Offices, 2517 N. Main Street, North Newton. Words of gratitude and blessing will be offered at 4:00 p.m. The center provided numerous continuing education events for congregational and pastoral leaders over the last three years.

Please pray for the Constituency Leaders Council (MCUSA) meeting, which takes place in Elkhart, Indiana, March 16-18.

All women in Western District and South Central Conferences are invited to attend the annual Mennonite Women Spring Supper on March 23 at 6 pm at Bethel College. Supper provided by Bethel College Women's Association (BCWA). Stories shared by Leah Mueller, Christine Schweitzer, Barbara Krehbiel Gehring and Mary Herr about "Living Faithfully in our Communities". Cost for meal: \$12 payable at the door for BCWA. Make your reservation by March 16 to: westerndistrictwomen@gmail.com or 316-283-3342 (Marlene V. Faul). Offering will be received for a Mennonite Central Committee women's project (make checks payable to MCC).

Bethel College Concert Choir home concert will be on March 26 at 7:00 p.m. in Memorial Hall at Bethel College.

Remington High School Community Service Day will be on April 26. High School students would like to work for you - no charge! It is an opportunity for the students to give back to their supportive community. Please contact Jodi Janzen at 316-799-2123, jjanzen@usd206.org or see the form posted on the bulletin board.

Summer is around the bend! Grab your smart phone, laptop, or other mobile device and sign up for Summer Youth Camp at Camp Mennoscah! Register online at campmennoscah.org or call us at 620-297-3290 for assistance. It's an amazing time to find friends and meet God!

Early registration for the Mennonite Church USA Convention 2017 has been extended to March 23! Early Registration includes a T-shirt, I-Ride trolley pass, servant project and a meal card. Come to Orlando July 4-8 to celebrate "Love is a Verb" with fellowship, worship and activities with Mennonites from around the country. Learn more at: <http://convention.mennoniteusa.org/registration/>.

"Following Jesus into the future" appeared in the March issue of The Mennonite. Author Ervin Stutzman highlights plans for the Future Church Summit to be held at the Mennonite Church USA convention in Orlando this July.

Mennonite Women USA is celebrating its 100th birthday in 2017. Our theme for the year is Fruit from the Vine, based on John 15.5. We are seeking submissions of stories, prayers, poems, songs and readings to add to our Centennial Celebration resources. If selected, they will be posted to our website at mwusa.org/centennial. Email Marlene Bogard with your submissions by April 1: marleneb@mwusa.org

The Kansas Mennonite Relief Sale will be April 7 & 8 at the Kansas State Fairgrounds in Hutchinson.

- Please think about being a part of the Relief Sale by helping out somewhere – there are many opportunities for many different interests.
- Bakers: We need baked items – we have zwieback bags and pie tins.
- Grace Hill needs six people to help with the Feeding of the Multitude as table waiters on Saturday from 11:45 a.m. – 2:15 p.m.
- Start training for the Run (or walk) for Relief 5K – pay a registration fee or raise money for MCC by getting sponsors.
- Cool whip containers and ice cream buckets are needed for the verenike making day. If you have some to spare, please leave them on or below the table in the foyer.
- See the table and bulletin board in the foyer for sign-up sheets and all kinds of information!
- Also, go to www.kansas.mccsale.org or Facebook.