

# GRACE HILL MENNONITE CHURCH

March 14, 2010

Whitewater, Kansas

Worship 9:30 a.m.

Sunday School 10:45 a.m.

Pastor: Peter Goerzen

Associate Pastor: Katherine Goerzen

Keyboard: Tara Harms-Becker

Chorister: Andrew Voth

Worship Leader: Doreen Harms

## ***Gathering and Holding On***

### **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** Isaiah 43:16-21

\* **Gathering Prayer**

\* **Gathering Hymn No. 11** *Sweet hour of prayer*

**Unison Affirmation of Faith** the words of Menno Simons

True evangelical faith cannot lie dormant,  
but expresses itself in all righteousness and works of love.

It dies unto the flesh and blood;  
it destroys all forbidden lusts and desires;  
it clothes the naked; it feeds the hungry;  
it comforts the sorrowful;  
it shelters the destitute;  
it aids and consoles the sad;  
it returns good for evil;  
it serves those that harm it;  
it prays for those that persecute it;  
it teaches, admonishes, and reproves, with the Word of the Lord;  
it seeks that which is lost;  
it binds up that which is wounded;  
it heals that which is diseased  
and it saves that which is sound.  
It has become all things to all people.

## ***Hearing God's Word***

**Choral Anthem**

Adult Choir

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

**Sermon** *The way to Jordan*

Clarence Rempel

**Scripture** 2 Kings 5:9-10 & Mark 1:1-8

Camille Claassen

\* **Hymn of Response No. 389** *Take my life*

## ***Letting Go***

### **Prayer of Confession**

There have been times, Lord, when we had confidence in ourselves,  
but life has jolted us into reality.

Everything we have stockpiled can disappear overnight.

*Silence.*

Only with you is there stability.

We want to partner with you, our forever Rock, Amen.

**Words of Affirmation** Hymn No. 705

**Offering our Gifts** Local Church Missions

### **Congregational Sharing and Prayer**

## ***Sending***

\* **Sending Hymn No. 420** *Heart with loving heart united*

\* **Benediction**

One: Beloved by God, a blessing to your congregation,  
go now as God's emissaries into the world

**All: We are willing. Use us, Lord, Amen.**

### **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!**

Welcome to Clarence Rempel, Western District Conference Associate Conference Minister. Thank you for bringing the message this morning.

***“A Christian pledge of allegiance”***

by June Alliman Yoder and J. Nelson Kraybill

I pledge allegiance to Jesus Christ,  
And to God’s kingdom for which he died—  
One Spirit-led people the world over, indivisible,  
With love and justice for all.

**About the Worship Theme of Lent: "Holding on and Letting Go":**

While the scripture readings in Lent always bend toward repentance, this year's texts focus particularly on calling back believers who have fallen away. In these passages we see two parallel invitations:

- 1) to hold on to what is most important and
- 2) to let go of what is peripheral or gets in the way of further growth.

Sometimes we release the ungodly ways of the culture we so easily take for granted. Sometimes we let go of familiar religious beliefs because they are more human creation and habit than essentials of the faith. At times, it is sin that gets in our way. We may hold on to our pride rather than apologize, or clutch resentment rather than forgive, or defend our own rights while others suffer worse conditions. And sometimes we must let go of something that is truly good - a loved one, a hope for the future, our idea of who we are - to continue to grow and develop as God wishes. We look to Jesus as our model, the one who made himself usable for God by letting go of his very life, entrusting himself to the height and depth, the breadth and width of God's love.

~ From the MCUSA "Leader Magazine" Worship Resources for Lent 2010

## For Sharing and Prayer

Please pray for the High School Youth who are attending Snow Camp at Rocky Mountain Mennonite Camp this weekend. In addition to High School Youth from our own congregation, there are other Youth Groups from the surrounding Mennonite Conferences in attendance. The retreat speaker is Immanuel Sila, from Mennonite Mission Network, and the theme for the weekend is "Your Kingdom Come, Your Will be Done" focusing on Matthew 6:9-13. This retreat is a time of inspiring worship and singing, a time of fun, fellowship, an opportunity to meet other Mennonite youth and a time of group building. Pray that this will be a time of nurturing the Youths' relationships with God and a time to build up the Body of Christ. Please pray also for safe travels to and from Rocky Mountain Mennonite Camp. Grace Hill's Youth in attendance are: Brittany Claassen, Cody Claassen, Cole Claassen, Courtney Claassen, Grant Claassen, Samantha Claassen, Brett Harms, Laura Harms, David Janzen, Paul Janzen, Emily Klassen, Elizabeth Martin, Adrian Nethercot, Katrina Regehr, Melinda Regehr, Katie Regier, Kyle Regier, Casey Schunn, Kylee Schunn, and Curtis Toews, Sponsors Kris and Russ Janzen, Rob and Diana Schunn and Pastors Peter and Katherine Goerzen. Thank you for your support and prayers!

**New address:** Andy Lanzrath

Wyncroft Hills Apartments, 12135 S. Blackbob Road,  
Olathe, KS 66062

**Western District Conference:** Pray for Jacob Castro (San Antonio), Berni Kaufman (Moundridge) and Conference Minister Dorothy Nickel Friesen as they represent WDC at the Constituency Leaders Council (15<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>) in Kansas City.

**Mennonite Mission Network:** Many college groups participate in DOOR (Discovering Opportunities for Outreach and Reflection) over spring break. Pray for growth through their experiences – both in the lives of the students and those they serve – and the application of this new understanding in their lives.

## Church Events

**No Wednesday Programming or Meal this week – spring break!**

**Thursday at 6:30 a.m.** Men's breakfast at Whitewater Café.

**Tuesday-Saturday** Western District Basketball tournament

**Friday – Saturday** Western District Volleyball tournament

## Announcements

**There will be no blood pressure checks today.**

**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

**Preaching Next Sunday:** Pastor Peter

**Keyboard Next Sunday:** Sara Unruh

**Special Music Next Sunday:** Samantha Claassen

**Offering Last Sunday:** Mennonite Church USA \$1,817.00

**Offering Next Sunday:** Grace Hill Youth Group Missions

## CHURCH OFFICES

Pastors' Office Hours:

Tuesday-Friday 9:00 a.m. – noon, 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. or by appointment

**Pastor: Peter**

*E-mail:* [pastor@gracehillmc.org](mailto:pastor@gracehillmc.org)

**Youth Pastor: Katherine Goerzen**

*E-mail:* [youthpastor@gracehillmc.org](mailto:youthpastor@gracehillmc.org)

**Church Secretary: Debbie**

*Secretary's E-mail:* [secretary@gracehillmc.org](mailto:secretary@gracehillmc.org)

## Et Cetera

**Local alumni and friends of Bethel College** are invited to a free continuing education seminar on estate planning March 15, at 6:30 p.m. at Kaufman House/KIPCOR, 2515 College Ave., North Newton. Randy Pankratz and David Stucky from Adrian & Pankratz, P.A., Newton, will provide information on three topics: "Use of IRAs and Trusts for Charitable Giving," "Update on Medicaid Eligibility and Estate Tax Issues" and "Possible Pitfalls of Do-It-Yourself Estate Planning." Dessert will be served. Please RSVP by noon on the day of the seminar to Mary Regier at 316-284-5250 or [mary@bethelks.edu](mailto:mary@bethelks.edu).

**Harvey County Homeless Shelter** Following is the schedule of Volunteer Training Sessions scheduled for March: Wed. March 17, 10:00 a.m.; Thurs. March 18 at 6:30 p.m.; Mon., March 29 at 6:30 p.m. See Donna Balzer if you have questions.

**Newton Neighborliness Sale!** Bring one or more of the following donations for the Harvey County Homeless Shelter into Newton Et Cetera Shop, March 15 - 20, and get 50% off your clothing purchase: paper towels; styrofoam plates, bowls and cups; plastic cups and cutlery; napkins; tin foil; plastic wrap; NEW bath towels and wash cloths; bathroom cleaner; toilet cleaner; trash bags (various sizes).

**All are invited to First Mennonite Church,** Halstead, for a Celebration of Music on March 21 at 7 p.m. They are celebrating their 135th anniversary. A social time will follow the program. For more information: 316-835-2282.

**Hesston College students, friends and faculty** will perform *A Memory, A Monologue, A Rant, And A Prayer* at 7:30 p.m. on March 28 at Hesston Mennonite Church on the Hesston College Campus as part of the V-Day global movement to end violence against women and girls. The writings are inspirational, funny, angry, heartfelt, tragic, and beautiful. Together they create a true and profound portrait of how violence against women affects every one of us. *A Memory, A Monologue, A Rant, And A Prayer* is a call to the world to demand an end to violence against women. Tickets are \$5 at the door. Proceeds will benefit the Harvey County Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Task

Force. For more information, contact Megan Tyner at [megant@hesston.edu](mailto:megant@hesston.edu).

**Remington High School Community Service Day is April 21.** If you have a job such as yard work, painting, or cleaning - Remington students would be glad to help. Contact Pam Harber by April 9th at 799-2123.

**WDC concern:** The tornado at Hammon, OK on Monday, March 8, did not damage any property nor injure any members/families of the Bethel Mennonite Church. The tornado's path was at the southern edge of town sparing all but several community homes and a county building. There was plenty of warning as the storm approached. (This information comes from Betty Hart and David Gerbrandt who watched the storm clouds from Clinton. Gene Thieszen, pastor of Herold Mennonite Church, Cordell, a trained "storm chaser" was within several miles of the tornado tracking its path.)

**Camp Mennoscah** - Hey, all you faithful folks! Join us for the Sustainable Living Retreat on April 9-11. Dwight Platt, Professor Emeritus of Biology and Environmental Studies at Bethel College, is our featured speaker and there will be all sorts of astounding presentations on different aspects of living sustainably in today's world. The brochure can be found at [www.mennowdc.org](http://www.mennowdc.org) in the Coming Events section or contact us at [campmno@mennowdc.org](mailto:campmno@mennowdc.org) or 620-297-3290 for more information.

**Thinking about what's ahead this fall?** Are you a young adult interested in discovering more about God, yourself and others? Would you like to be part of a team that invests a year serving and learning together in a cross-cultural setting? Are you someone who enjoys a challenge and takes initiative to build relationships? Radical Journey may be just what you're looking for! To learn more about Radical Journey, view location descriptions, or apply now for the 2010-2011 year, visit [www.Service.MennoniteMission.net](http://www.Service.MennoniteMission.net) or e-mail [KayS@MennoniteMission.net](mailto:KayS@MennoniteMission.net).