

GRACE HILL MENNONITE CHURCH

March 18, 2007

Worship 9:30 a.m.

Pastor: James Voth

Keyboard: Mary Ann Wiebe

Whitewater, Kansas

Sunday School 10:45 a.m.

Youth Pastor: Brett Klingenberg

Chorister: Suzy Burch

Fourth Sunday of Lent ***God Reaches Out With Open Arms***

Prelude

Jana and Laura Harms

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.

* **Words for Gathering based on Psalm 63 and Psalm 32** Pastor Jim

Leader: O God, you are our God. We seek You.

People: **Our souls thirst for You**
As in a dry and weary land
Where there is no water.

Leader: We confess our sin to You and You forgive us.

People: **We offer our prayers to You and you embrace us.**

All: ***O God, you satisfy our souls as with a rich feast.***
In the shadow of Your wings, we sing for joy and You uphold us.

* **Gathering Hymn No. 14** *Come, we that love the Lord*

This morning Lon and Deb Hiebert place a candle and cup on the stones. The rock candle symbolizes our grounding in Jesus the rock, whose life was poured out so that we might share God's abundant love and forgiveness.

Children's Moments *God's love is like a warm hug* Sue Ann Jantz

Worship in Giving Kansas Mennonite Relief Sale

Offertory *You Raise Me Up* Darren Enns

Sharing our Praises and our Prayers

Special Music *Gospel of Grace* Darren Enns

Scripture Reading Revelation 20:1-6

Curt Regehr

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

Message *The Millennium and the Return of Christ*

Excerpt from Confession of Faith

Article 24. The Reign of God

We place our hope in the reign of God and in its fulfillment in the day when Christ our ascended Lord will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead. He will gather his church, already living under the reign of God according to the pattern of God's future. We believe in God's final victory, in the end of this present age of struggle between good and evil, in the resurrection of the dead, and in the appearance of a new heaven and a new earth. There the people of God will reign with Christ in justice, righteousness, and peace.

* **Hymn No. 299** *New earth, heavens new*

Prayer of Confession and Reconciliation

Pastor Brett

Reading of Psalm 32:10-11

Congregational Prayer

God of steadfast love, we put our trust in Your care for us.

When we need to find our way home, we put our trust in You.

Leader: When we need forgiveness ...

Help us to put our trust in You.

When our souls hunger for a new way of living ...

Help us to put our trust in You.

All: In the morning and in the evening, we will put our trust in You!

Leader: Our Generous God provides for us!

* **Hymn of Response** *Fill us with your feast* Hymnal pocket

* **Benediction**

* **Benediction Hymn No. 319** *Jesus shall reign* Vs. 1, 3 & 5 A cappella

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!

Three Views of the Millennium

Postmillennialism: Christ will return after the millennium.

- Christ will establish the millennium on earth through the church.
- The millennium designates the triumph of the Gospel proclaimed. The forces of Satan will gradually be defeated by the expansion of the Kingdom of God throughout history up until the 2nd coming of Christ.
- After the millennium Christ will appear to raise the dead, judge the world, and inaugurate the new order.

Premillennialism: Christ will return before the millennium.

- The belief that Christ will literally reign on the earth for 1,000 years at his second coming.
- The millennium is not the work of the church, but is only actualized with the second coming of Christ.
- The world will become increasingly more corrupt, culminating in a “great tribulation” of seven years.
- Premillennialists differ on the view of the rapture. Some are Pre-Tribulation, others Mid-Tribulation and others Post-Tribulation.
- Christ will come to reign physically from his throne in Jerusalem for a thousand years.
- Satan will be released for the final conflict.
- The ungodly will be resurrected for final judgment.

Amillennialism: There is no literal earthly millennium of one thousand years, but the millennium is a spiritual portrayal of the church age.

- Named for its denial of a future, thousand-year, physical reign of Jesus Christ on the earth, the millennium has already begun and is identical with the church age.
- The millennium is the extended period between Christ’s first coming and his second coming when he will come to judge the dead and establish the kingdom of God.

For Sharing and Prayer

I would like to thank everyone for your prayers, cards and visits when I was in the hospital.
Willard Wiebe

The family of Menno and Doris Regier invite you to celebrate 50 years of marriage with them on Sunday, April 1, from 2 - 4 p.m. in the Zion Mennonite Church Fellowship Hall. No gifts please. Just come and join us for a time of fellowship.

Pastor Brett will be on vacation March 18-26.

Western District Conference: Pray for the WDC pastors of congregations in western Kansas as they meet tomorrow (Ransom, Hanston, Montezuma, Liberal, Pawnee Rock, Turpin, OK).

Mennonite Mission Network: MMN workers Bruce Yoder and Nancy Frey, West Africa, request prayer for the leadership training program of Mennonite Church Nigeria. Pray that God will use this initiative to strengthen the church and increase its awareness of the Anabaptist tradition.

The Youth Pastor Search Committee met on March 14 with Dorothy Nickel Friesen, conference minister. The committee will meet again on March 28 and will continue to review the responsibilities of youth pastor and complete a variety of paperwork. Search Committee members are James Regier (chair), Diana Schunn, Marie Wiebe, Brittany Claassen and Emily Burch. If anyone has suggestions of potential applicants, please forward the names to James Regier or Dorothy Nickel Friesen.

Nursery This Sunday: Kaye Penner and Brittany Claassen

Nursery Next Sunday: Joyce Wedel and Elizabeth Martin

Music Next Sunday: Praise Team and Tara Harms-Becker

Ushers Next Sunday: Rob Schunn and Becky Voth

Offering Last Sunday: Local Church \$6,710.63

Offering Next Sunday: Western District Conference

Church Events

Today at noon Home fellowship meals.

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

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

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

There will be NO adult choir on Wednesday, March 21.

Saturday 5:00-7:00 p.m. Community German Supper at Grace Hill. Please make reservations with Virgil Penner today. Cost: Adults \$10, children age 6 and under \$6. Proceeds go to the church's outreach programs. Invite your neighbors and friends!

March 27-31 Western District Basketball and Volleyball (March 30-31) Tournament.

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP

April 8 at 6:50 a.m. Easter Sunrise Service

April 13 and 14 Mennonite Relief Sale

April 15 Homeless Speaker at Bethel

Upcoming Worship at Grace Hill

March 25 Morning Worship - Revelation 21-22 *The Glorious Fulfillment*

April 1 Morning Worship – Special Child Dedication Service

April 1 Evening Holy Week service at Zion. Speaker: Barry Bartel, president of Bethel College.

April 5 Maundy Thursday Communion service at Grace Hill

April 8 The Easter Sunrise Service will begin at 6:50 a.m. on April 8! The youth are planning the service and Spiritual Council is providing breakfast.

April 8 Sunday morning Easter service

Et Cetera

Living with Grief: Before and After the Death is the topic of this year's video teleconference presented by the Hospice Foundation of America. The conference will be held on Thursday, March 22, from 12:30-3:30 p.m. at Krehbiel Auditorium on the Bethel College campus with registration from 12:00-12:30 p.m. Anyone interested in knowing more about the grieving process will benefit from this conference. There is no charge unless continuing education credit is desired. Call 283-8220 for more information.

Mike Palecek, author of "The American Dream," will be stopping in Newton during a cross-country book tour. Palecek will be speaking at Peace Connections, 612 N Main, Newton on Thursday, March 29 from 12:00-1:30 p.m. You are welcome to bring a bag lunch for this event. You are also invited for coffee and conversation during his book signing at Faith and Life Bookstore, 724 N. Main, Newton from 3:30-5:30 p.m. Palecek was a federal prisoner for peace and Iowa's 2000 Democratic Nominee for U.S. House. Please call (316)284-0000 or (316)283-2210 with any questions.

Arthur Marks, renowned tenor, and Laura Bergquist, pianist, will present a benefit concert Sunday, April 29, at 4:30 p.m. at the Trinity Heights United Methodist Church, 1200 Boyd Avenue, Newton. A full dinner will be served. Tickets are \$50 each, \$85 for two, and \$320 for a table of eight, with reservations needed by April 23. For tickets and information, contact the Kansas Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution (KIPCOR) at 2515 College Avenue, P.O. Box 276, North Newton KS 67117 or call 316-284-5217. The concert benefits KIPCOR's Community Mediation Center.

Western District Conference Resource Commission awarded travel grants for attendance at the Christian Peace Witness in Washington D.C. on March 16 to: Dick Davis from Peace Mennonite, Dallas, TX; Emma Denner from Manhattan (KS) Mennonite; Susanna Mierau from Mennonite Church of the Servant, Wichita, KS; Garland Robertson from Austin (TX) Mennonite, Phil Rhoads from Rainbow Mennonite, Kansas City, KS; and Ben Schmidt from Tabor Mennonite, Newton, KS. They will be available to speak in churches in their geographic area about their experience of being part of thousands of Christians who marched against the Iraq War. For contact information, call Marlene Bogard at 316-283-6300.

Urgent Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) Relief Response to Iraq You can help more than 500,000 people who have been displaced by the war in Iraq. MCC is shipping material aid, including 4,200 relief kits and raising \$60,000 for shipping and related costs in the month of March. In Central States, we are committed to collecting 865 relief kits and \$12,000. Designate funds for "Iraq Emergency Assistance." Kits can be brought to any MCC center. Details about relief kits and other drop-off sites can be found at www.mcc.org/iraqrelief. Questions? Please call 316-283-2720. MCC is supporting peace building to address the root causes of violence and displacement throughout the Middle East. MCC believes the U.S. should take steps toward withdrawing troops, not adding more.

Mennonite Relief Sale in Hutchinson – April 13 and 14

- It's fun for the whole family. The Kansas Mennonite Relief Sale, April 13 & 14 at the Kansas State Fairgrounds, Hutchinson, features events for the whole family. Located inside the Pride of Kansas Building is the newly organized Children's Activity Area featuring a Children's Auction, Moon Walk, carnival games, barrel rides, and the 9-hole MCC Mini-Golf. Also, don't forget the Big Green Slide on the way to Feeding the Multitude. Come enjoy a weekend of fun with your family and help make a difference through your donations to MCC.
- Baked foods – Attractive homemade baked foods sell very well at the Relief Sale! Please have noodles in 1 lb. packages, and peppernuts in ½ lb. or 1 lb. packages. We will appreciate your donations of sweet rolls, angel food cakes, poppy seed rolls, cookies, and whatever you would like to bring! Please identify your items with a note attached.
- See the sign-up sheets on the bulletin board for many opportunities to serve.
- Don't forget the penny collection – the jug is in the foyer.
- Grant Claassen is planning to participate in the 5K Run for Relief and would like your support. Let him know if you are interested in giving him a pledge for Mennonite Central Committee.

CHURCH OFFICES

Pastor: James Voith *Pastor's Study:* 283-2644 *E-mail:* jvoith@cox.net

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Youth Pastor: Brett Klingenberg *Office Phone:* 799-2238

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