

GRACE HILL MENNONITE CHURCH

March 22, 2009

Worship 9:30 a.m.

Interim Pastor: Marvin Zehr

Keyboard: Sara Unruh

Worship Leader: Kim Claassen

Whitewater, Kansas

Sunday School 10:45 a.m.

Youth Pastor: Katherine Goerzen

Chorister: Ben Lichti

Gathering and Praising

Prelude

Welcoming Guests 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**

Leader: We are God's chosen trying to follow, trying to trust

All: *We are learning to lean on God even in times of trouble.*

Leader: When desolation haunts us, God provides

Right side: wholeness and expectation.

Leader: When shadows darken our path, God offers

Left side: healing and hope.

All: *Even in the midst of despair, God restores us.*

*** Prayer of Invocation**

*** Gathering Hymn No. 16** *God is here among us*

tearing

Scripture Reading

Old Testament Reading Numbers 21:4-9

New Testament Reading Ephesians 2:1-10

Curt Regehr

Reader's Theater

Russ Janzen, Marianne Eichelberger, Peter Goerzen

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

*** Hymn No. 580** *My life flows on*

Sermon

Peter Goerzen

Responding

*** Hymn of Response No. 359** *Lead us, O Father*

Offering Western District Conference

Congregational Sharing and Prayer

Pastor Katherine

Sending

*** Sending Hymn No. 546** *Guide our feet*

*** Benediction**

Pastor Katherine

Leader: May God's hand restore you,
the Spirit speak in the depths of your hearts,
the strength of Jesus fill you,
so that you can follow God's teaching,
rejoice in God's salvation,
proclaim God's forgiveness
and glorify the Lord.

All: *Our lives are in your hands, O Lord.*

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!**

Church Events

Monday at 7:00 p.m. Education Council meets at church.

Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. Spiritual Council meets at church.

Wednesday 7:00 – 8:15 p.m. Children's and Youth Programming
7:40 – 8:30 p.m. Adult Choir

Next Sunday Youth Sunday

Upcoming Events

April 12 Easter Sunday; Sunrise Service planned by the youth.

April 15 Last Wednesday for regular Wednesday night activities (except for high school youth).

April 17-18 Mennonite Relief Sale in Hutchinson

- DuMont Schmidt and Chris Wiebe are planning to run in the Relief Run and are looking for sponsors. Please contact them and support MCC!
- Volunteers are needed! Please see the sign-up sheets in the foyer and share your time and energy with MCC!

April 22 6:30-8:30 p.m. All church skating party at the Starlight Skate Center in Newton.

April 29 at 7:00 p.m. Canadian Mennonite University choir will give a concert at Grace Hill.

May 25-29 8:30-11:30 a.m. Daily Vacation Bible School at Grace Hill.

For Sharing and Prayer

Leona Unruh will celebrate her 100th birthday on April 2, 2009. The Spiritual Council is suggesting that members and friends in our church help her celebrate with a card shower. Cards may be sent to her at her address: Leona Unruh, Room 32N, 3054 Ivy Court, North Newton, KS 67117. We wish her a deep sense of God's presence and grace as she celebrates this special milestone in her life.

Barb and I would like to express our thanks for the help we received from Grace Hill in loading the trucks for the move to Henderson, Nebraska on Friday, March 13th. We are settling in to our home at 1330 11th Street, Henderson, NE. 68371. Our phone number is 402-723-4607. Our email addresses are: jjv0324@gmail.com and brvoth09@gmail.com. Keep us in your prayers during this time of transition and new beginnings as we will also keep you in our prayers.

Grace and Peace, Jim and Barb Voth

(Addresses and phone number are in the new yearbook.)

Jim and Barb Voth have requested a transfer of membership to the Bethesda Mennonite Church in Henderson, Nebraska. They are joining today as well as Jim is being installed today.

Ann Litton has transferred her membership to the New Spring Church in Wichita.

We wish to express our deep appreciation to all who supported us during the illness and death of our sister Helen Friesen through your prayers and cards.

Edgar & Agnes Harder and Willard & Mary Ann Wiebe

The High School youth group would like to thank you for your generosity! Thanks to the offering last Sunday, we have met our goal for Conference in Columbus this summer. We couldn't have done it without you and look forward to sharing with you when we return! Thank you!

Western District Conference: Pray for the WDC Staff Relations Committee (Delon Martens, Donna Becker, James Regier, Rob Franz) as they plan for appropriate staffing in our area conference.

Mennonite Mission Network: Pray for MMN worker Neal Blough, France, as he makes a presentation on "Calvin and the Anabaptists" at the annual theological colloquium at the seminary where he teaches.

Other events are planned in France to commemorate the 500th anniversary of John Calvin's birth.

Mennonite Mission Network thanks Grace Hill Mennonite Church for contributing \$26,817.83 received from February 1, 2008, through January 31, 2009. These gifts, along with your prayers and participation, help to create ministries of healing and hope across the street and around the world. May you experience God's blessings as together we seek to *share all of Christ with all of creation*.

Announcements

Youth Group: Please note the upcoming events calendar in your mailboxes. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Katherine. Thanks!

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: Bonita Schroeder and Emily Burch

Nursery Next Sunday: Kaye Penner and Camille Claassen

Ushers Next Sunday: Lon Hiebert and Dean Patterson

Offering Last Sunday: Grace Hill Youth Group \$3,396.50

Offering Next Sunday: Western District Retreat Commission

CHURCH OFFICES

Interim Pastor: Marvin Zehr

E-mail: pastor@gracehillmc.org

Youth Pastor: Katherine Goerzen

E-mail: youthpastor@gracehillmc.org

Church Secretary: Debbie Claassen

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

Church Website: www.gracehillmc.org

Et Cetera

Hymn Sing Today! Special director Ken Nafziger and accompanist Ken Rodgers will lead at 2 p.m. at Eden Mennonite Church, Moundridge. An offering will be taken for expenses.

Gift Annuities provide life income and meet charitable giving goals. Everyone is invited to a free seminar on March 26 at 3:00 p.m. to hear Mike Miller of Mennonite Foundation present the options and benefits of annuities. The seminar will be held in Menno Hall at Kidron Bethel Village, 3001 Ivy Drive in North Newton. For more information contact Ron at 284-2900 ext. 226.

Harvey County Homeless Shelter Training Sessions will be held at various times this spring: March 26, April 14, April 23, May 7, May 18. All sessions will begin at 6:30 p.m. and last until about 8:00 p.m. and are held in the Shelter Staff/Volunteer quarters in the basement of the Old Axtell Hospital, 209 E. Broadway, Newton. The entrance to the shelter is on the back southeast corner of the building. Questions – call/e-mail Christa Jahay at 316-284-4205 or christa@hchs-ks.com.

Wheat State Manor announces that their Annual Meeting will be held on Thursday, March 26 at 7:30 p.m. A short business meeting will be held plus information about the expansion and remodeling of Sunflower Lane. A representative of the Alzheimer's Association will be the featured speaker.

Match Two (M-2) Training March 28 at Hutchinson Correctional Facility The M-2 (Match Two) program of Offender / Victim Ministries seeks new volunteers to be involved in prison visitation. Ministry in prison requires a training session given by both prison staff and the M-2 director. The upcoming training will be March 28 from 7:00 – 11:00 am. M-2 is a supervised in-prison friendship program. A volunteer commits to visit one evening per month. Contact OVM (316-283-2038) or email (ovm.ks@sbcglobal.net) for further information or to submit your name and other required information so that clearances may be obtained for admission to training. Please submit your information no later than March 23.

What's going on at this year's Kansas Mennonite Relief Sale on April 17 & 18? Go to www.kansas.mccsale.org and learn more about the activities and auction items at this year's sale.

The global food crisis may seem like it is beyond your backyard, but there is something you can do! In conjunction with the Washington Office Spring Seminar the following events are open to the public at

Lorraine Avenue Mennonite Church (655 S. Lorraine Ave, Wichita) on Sunday, March 29: Hear from Zemedkun Baykeda Habtyimer from Ethiopia give an overview of the global food crisis from an Ethiopian perspective at 3:00 p.m. A discussion will follow. A panel discussion of different viewpoints on bio-fuels featuring Jim French (Oxfam), Dan Nagengast (KS Rural Center) and Bill Hargrove (Kansas State University) at 7:00 p.m. In addition, Zemedkun Baykeda Habtyimer will speak at the MCC Center in North Newton (121 E. 30th) at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, March 30. He will share about his experience in Ethiopia with the global food crisis and explain MCC's involvement in the process of food crisis alleviation. All are welcome to attend this informative and enriching evening.

Looking for ways to start or renew a men's group in your church? Men & Boys Retreat is the perfect place to do it. Start talking to your brothers about going to Camp Mennoscah April 24-26.

Camp Mennoscah—The Retirees' Relaxation Retreat is April 27-29! Join us for some rest, relaxation, and a rousing good time. Our theme this year is "Great God! Great Gardens!" and on Tuesday night a catered meal and a performance by the Heritage Quartet. Contact Camp Mennoscah for more information at 620-297-3290 or campmno@mennowdc.org. See the brochure at www.mennowdc.org in the Coming Events section.

Camp Mennoscah—Break through the boredom! Break through the everyday! Break through the normal! Come to Camp Mennoscah for one of our summer youth camps for exciting times and new friends. Our theme for the summer is Breakthrough and focuses on stories from Mark & Luke. Returning campers: bring a new friend for a free camp tee shirt! Contact Camp Mennoscah for more information at 620-297-3290 or campmno@mennowdc.org. The 2009 Camp Mennoscah Catalog can be found at www.mennowdc.org/Camp.html

The Corinthian Plan is a new health care benefit plan for Mennonite Church USA pastors and church workers. This week information about the plan will be received by every congregation. Congregations will have until October 1 to enroll with a goal of having 80% of Mennonite Church USA congregations in this new plan. Ambassadors for The Corinthian Plan have been trained in every conference and will be contacting someone in your church in the next several weeks. Ask your pastor or other congregational leaders about this important new development. More information is also available at www.TheCorinthianPlan.org.