

GRACE HILL MENNONITE CHURCH

March 25, 2012

Whitewater, Kansas

Worship 9:30 a.m.

Sunday School 10:45 a.m.

Pastor: Peter Goerzen

Associate Pastor: Katherine Goerzen

Song Leader: Gladys Reimer

Worship Leader: Russell Janzen

Musicians: Sara Unruh, David Janzen, Pastor Peter

Fifth Sunday in Lent: Where do I sign?

Gathering our Praise

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

One: If you are delighted to be here,
and if you are tired or troubled,
you are welcome.

If your faith is strong,
and if your faith is battered or frail,
you are welcome.

If you are eager to praise God,
and if you need to be quiet,
you are welcome.

**All: God welcomes us all to worship today
and promises to meet us here.**

Gathering Prayer

* **Gathering Song STJ No. 49** *Rain down*

Offering Our Gifts Western District Conference

Hearing God's Story

Old Testament Reading Jeremiah 31: 31-34

Rita Patterson

Drama God and Gabriel

* **Hymn No. 299** *New earth, heavens new* verses 1-3

Penny Power Offering for MCC Sale

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

Gospel Reading John 12: 20-33

Rita Patterson

Sermon

Pastor Peter

Responding to the Story

Time of Silent Reflection

*Jesus said, "Whoever serves me must follow me,
and where I am, there will my servant be also." (John 12:26)
What steps will I take this week to follow Jesus in my daily living?*

* **Song of Response No. 546** *Guide my feet* verses 1, 4, 5 & 6

Sharing Our Stories and Congregational Prayer

Sending

* **Sending Hymn No. 614** *In the bulb there is a flower*

Benediction

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.

**The Adult Sunday School classes will begin
10 minutes after the service is over.
Everyone is welcome!**

For Sharing and Prayer

We want to express our thanks to our church family and Pastors Peter and Katherine for the support we received in prayers, cards and food. The loss of a wife and mother is hard, your support was appreciated.

The family of Laura Janzen

The Wheat State Manor Auxiliary offering taken last Sunday in the Sunday school classes was \$380.00. Thank you for your gifts.

Western District Conference: Pray God's wisdom and guidance for these Pastoral Search Committees in Kansas: Bethel Mennonite-Inman, Goessel Mennonite, Tabor Mennonite-Goessel, West Zion-Moundridge and Zion Mennonite-Elbing.

Mennonite Mission Network: Pray for city directors of MMN's partner, DOOR, as they host spring break service trips, plan for intense summer activity, and put together summer staff teams.

Announcements

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: Kaye Penner and Camille Claassen

Nursery Next Sunday: Marge Harms and Rita Patterson

Ushers Next Sunday: Terry Klassen and Dean Patterson

Offering Last Sunday: Scholarship Fund \$1,937.00

Offering Next Sunday: Mennonite Church USA

Church Events

This afternoon at 4:00 p.m. Wheat State Manor Vesper Service. Also this week at Wheat State: Tuesday at 9:00 a.m. – mending; Friday at 3:00 p.m. – Bingo.

This evening 5:00-5:30 Supper

5:30-6:15 Brief worship, followed by input by Eugene and questions with Eugene

6:15-6:45 Structured discussion around tables

Eugene Thieszen, pastor of Herold Mennonite Church in Cordell, OK, will lead a seminar on human sexuality. This will be an item of discussion at the Western District Conference assembly this summer. We value our relationship with WDC and the opportunity it provides us to join the larger church in service, partnership, and witness to the Gospel, and we want our delegates to the annual assembly this summer to be informed and able to represent our congregation. This is also an opportunity for us to grow in "humility, gentleness, patience, bearing with one another in love, and making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace" (Eph. 4:2-3), as we immerse ourselves in the Scriptures together, learn, grow, and discuss together, and pray together that we might yield before the will of God. If you would like to do additional study before this event, a resource sheet is available on the desk in the church library. Please see a member of Spiritual Council if you have any questions or concerns.

Tuesday 1:30-5:00 p.m. Quilting on a quilt for Pastors Katherine and Peter's baby.

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

Wednesday 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. Junior Dept. Programming

7:00 – 8:30 p.m. Youth Programming

7:00 p.m. Adult Choir

7:00 p.m. Adult Book Study with Pastor Peter

Wednesday – Tuesday, April 3 Grace Hill/Zion week at the Harvey County Homeless Shelter. The volunteer and meal sign-up is on the bulletin board.

Saturday at 8:00 a.m. Work day at church. Plan to install new curtains in the fellowship hall and other jobs.

Next Sunday, April 1 Holy Week Services: Palm Sunday evening, there will be a worship service at Grace Hill starting at 7 p.m. as part of our joint Holy Week services with Zion Mennonite Church. The speakers for the evening will be Maynard Knepp and Carol Duerksen, they will present the monologue "A man called Peter." There will be a pie reception to follow. Please see the sheet in the foyer to sign up to bring a pie. All are welcome!

Thursday, April 5 All are invited to a **Maundy Thursday service** on April 5, shared between the Grace Hill and Zion congregations, to be held at Zion. We plan to observe a traditional Jewish Seder service (including full meal) ending with the Lord's Supper. Jewish Passovers are traditionally family celebrations, so we are planning interaction to engage all ages. The program will begin at 6:30 p.m.; including the meal, plan on 1½ - 2 hours. In order to prepare adequate food, we request that those planning to attend sign-up on the sheet on the bulletin board *no later than Sunday, April 1*. The service and meal are free, although donations to help with expenses will be accepted.

April 8, Easter Sunrise Service: The Youth Group will lead us in a Sunrise Service Easter morning starting at 6:50 a.m. All are invited!

Holy Humor Sunday: Traditionally, the Sunday after Easter is observed as "Holy Humor Sunday" within the worldwide church, because we know that through the power of the resurrection, it is God who has the last laugh. This is a tradition that goes back to our early church fathers and mothers, known as the "Risus paschalis" or, "the Easter laugh." **On Sunday, April 15**, all are invited to celebrate the joy of the resurrection and our new life in Christ through our "Holy Humor" worship service. As part of the celebration, everyone is invited to wear your brightest colored clothing as a sign of our joy in Christ. "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." (Romans 15:13)

May 27: Baptism Sunday. There will be no Sunday School on this day. A Memorial Day service will follow worship.

Et Cetera

Bethel College Concert Choir home concert – Sunday, March 25, 7:00 p.m., Memorial Hall; free, with freewill offering taken.

Bethel College Women's Chorus spring concert – Sunday, April 1, 4 p.m., Administration Building chapel; free

Sign-up sheets for the Kansas Mennonite Relief Sale – April 13-14 - are on a table in the church foyer. 1000+ volunteers are needed throughout the week of the sale. There are sit down jobs, food preparation jobs, set-up, cashiers and more. There are opportunities to make New Year's cookies during the sale, bake bread, pies and zwieback prior to the sale. Look over the table and see how you might like to help! **Cal Frye also needs help in the cherry moos booth on Saturday for an hour block of time – contact him to make arrangements.**

Join in the fun and help those in need...be a part of the Kansas Mennonite Relief Sale '12 Run for Relief scheduled 8 a.m. Saturday, April 14—a walk, jog, run for all ages & abilities. Please return your entry form by March 31 with your entry fee or “Go the extra mile” by inviting others to sponsor your run to raise even more for those in need. For more information contact Angie Teeter at theteeterfamily@cox.net or 620-327-4434 for more details.

This year, the Kansas MCC sale is again selling books of “MCC Bucks” for \$10. The books have ten, one dollar “bucks” in each one and they will spend like cash at the sale. You can use them as gifts to your kids, your employees, your co-workers, your neighbors, your friends, your enemies or whoever! The advantage of giving these books is that the MCC Sale already has your donation even if the bucks are never used! It also ensures that all of your money will stay at the sale. These bucks will be available at the next Sale meeting (March 29) and can be purchased by your church liaisons (Ed & Marge Harms, John & Miriam Claassen). They will also be available at the Information Booth at the sale or directly from the sale treasurer, Tim Miller (email him for more info: kmrsoffice@gmail.com).

Attention High School Seniors: Want to take some time off from school to focus on service and learning? Service Adventure gives you the opportunity to live in community with other young adults and a unit leader or couple while you learn more about what it means to serve God and each other. Visit Service.MennoniteMission.net for more information or an application.