

# GRACE HILL MENNONITE CHURCH

March 27, 2011

Whitewater, Kansas

Worship 9:30 a.m.

Sunday School 10:45 a.m.

Pastor: Peter Goerzen

Associate Pastor: Katherine Goerzen

Musician: Linda Harms

Chorister: Gladys Reimer

Worship Leader: Pastor Peter

They were sent off in peace by the believers – 3rd Sunday in Lent  
*Gathering and Praising Together*

## 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: We have gathered as God's people to delight in God's presence,  
to experience God's healing, to receive God's grace.

*All: Let us be reconciled and renewed as we worship our God  
through Christ in the Spirit. Amen.*

## Gathering Prayer

\* **Gathering Hymn No. 26** *Holy Spirit, come with power*

**Offering our Gifts** Western District Conference

## Hearing God's Word

**New Testament Reading** Galatians 5:13 – 6:2 Kim Claassen

\* **Hymn No. 373** *Thou true Vine, that heals*

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

## Reader's Theater based upon Acts 15: 1-35

Tara Harms-Becker, Kim Claassen, Jeff Toews, Doug Claassen

**Sermon** *The whole assembly kept silence and listened* Pastor Katherine

## Responding to God

## Words of Response

We covenant together, with God's Holy Spirit empowering us:  
to love the Lord with all our hearts,  
to keep our lives yielded to God,  
to fellowship with God in prayer,  
to give gladly of our time, talents, and possessions,  
to be faithful in meeting together as the Body of Christ.

We covenant together, with God's Holy Spirit empowering us:  
to love each other as ourselves,  
to serve each other in humble and sacrificial love,  
to admonish, encourage, and forgive one another,  
to be accountable to one another,  
to bear one another's burdens,  
to take time to prayerfully listen to each other.

We covenant together, with God's Holy Spirit empowering us:  
to listen for the ways that God is speaking among us;  
to seek peace and pursue it in our daily living,  
to proclaim the good news of God's ministry of reconciliation  
through our words, and deeds, and our life together,  
so that we might glorify the One whom God has sent to  
break down the walls between us.

\* **Hymn of Response No. 363** *Renew your church*

## Sharing our Stories and Congregational Prayer

## Sent by God

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

## 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!**

**Today:** We continue our Lenten journey toward reconciliation as we join Jesus on the way of the cross. Today we hear the story of the Council of Jerusalem, where the members of the early church took time to listen to one another and to God's Spirit which led to reconciliation, healing, and hope.

### **For Sharing and Prayer**

**Western District Conference:** Pray for Jocelyn Graber, Southern Hills Mennonite Church, and Miles Reimer, First Mennonite Church, Hutchinson, who are full-time students at Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary and are supported by scholarships from WDC.

**Mennonite Mission Network:** Drew and Mary Ellen Robinson with their three children are preparing to leave Mongolia in May after 16 years of service through MMN. Pray for this family as they adapt to life and ministry in the U.S. Pray also that the seeds of the gospel they have planted in Mongolia will bear fruit in God's time.

<p><b>Outreach Tip:</b> Reaching out doesn't have to mean adding more programs.</p>
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## Church Events

**Wednesday** 7:00 – 8:15 p.m. Children's and Youth Programming  
7:00 – 7:40 p.m. Adult Study with Pastor Peter  
7:45 – 8:30 p.m. Adult Choir

**Thursday at 7:00 p.m.** Education Council meets at church.

**The Homeless Shelter schedule** is on the bulletin board. Our week for volunteering is April 6-12; our days are Wed., Fri., Sun. and Tues. Donna Balzer is accepting Dillon's OVM certificates if you would like to help in this way.

**April 10** College Meal: All college-age young adults are invited to the meal at Tim and Lisa Harms' on Sunday April 10 at noon. Feel free to invite your friends!

## Announcements

**Need for Pies:** The Youth will be serving the meal at Merrill and Gladys Harms' auction on Saturday, April 16 as a fundraiser for the MCUSA Convention in Pittsburgh this summer. If you would be interested in baking pies for this, please let Pastor Katherine know. Thank you!

**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

**Preaching Next Sunday:** Pastor Peter

**Scripture Next Sunday:** Ephesians 2:11-22

**Ushers Next Sunday:** Dean Patterson and Terry Klassen

**Offering Last Sunday:** Scholarship Fund \$2,886.00

**Offering Next Sunday:** Mennonite Church USA

## History Blurb #12: TRAGHEIMERWEIDE/STUHM AREA

In the 1770's some of the people from the Montau area began moving a bit further northeast to the Stuhm marshes quite near the junction of the Nogat & Vistula Rivers. The Teutonic Knights had grazed their horses here, so it was fertile.

Gameo.org.encyclopedia says, "The last great settlement of Mennonites in West Prussia was made in the Stuhm marshes in 1724. The land was chiefly meadow, which the Mennonites now began to cultivate and on which they lived on their scattered individual farms, with cattle and provisions under one roof with the residents. The occasion for the settlement of these marshes was the return of the Mennonites from Lithuania, who had lived there since 1713 but had to leave the Memel Lowlands (Lithuania) in 1724 on account of military service... The settlers after the Lithuanian group, for the most part came from the Montau and Schoensee congregations."

The congregation early on was called Schweingrube, for a time Zwanzigerweide but later the name changed to Tragheimerweide. The church and settlement here existed until 1945 when the members had to flee due to WW II. The church building was then torn down, but the Mennonite cemetery is still there in the countryside. Local citizens today remember the Mennonites but call them the "Hollanders."

John H. Schmidt, late Mennonite historian & member of Grace Hill, wrote for Grace Hill's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary, "while they enjoyed comparative freedom as long as they developed the rural areas, they were never very secure... Their prosperity aroused the envy of native citizens; they spoke a different language and practiced a religion condoned by neither the Catholics nor the Lutherans... Privileges granted by one ruler might be denied overnight by another ruler. The increasing militarization of Prussia and the partitioning of Poland threatened the principle of nonresistance... and economic freedom stipulated that they contribute an annual sum of 5,000 thaler for the support of the military academy at Culm. "

## Et Cetera

**The Bethel College Concert Choir** presents its home concert this evening at 7:00 p.m. in Memorial Hall. The concert is free, with a freewill offering taken.

**Eating for the Earth—boy howdy, is it tasty!** Camp Mennoscah's Sustainable Living Retreat is April 2-3 and we'll be talking about food and how we relate to the earth. Jon Piper, the Katherine Esau Distinguished Chair of Plant Sciences at Bethel College, is our main presenter and sessions on nutrition, urban gardening, and Farmers' Markets are planned. Get your brochure today at [www.mennowdc.org](http://www.mennowdc.org) in the Coming Events section or email us at [campmno@mennowdc.org](mailto:campmno@mennowdc.org)

**Remington Community Service Day** will be April 20. If you are retired and have any jobs, such as washing windows, yard work, painting, etc. you would like to have done for free, please contact Grant Claassen or pick up a form on the table in the foyer. Please respond by April 3.

**Newton Neighborliness Sale!** Bring one or more of the following donations for the Harvey Co. Homeless Shelter into Newton Et Cetera Shop, April 4 - 9, and get 50% off your clothing purchase: bleach (1 gallon), Pine Sol (brand-name only). Donations will go directly to the Homeless Shelter, helping them offer a hospitable environment to those needing support.

**KIPCOR's (Kansas Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution) Film Series continues with the screening of *Blood Relation*** at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 7, in Krehbiel Auditorium on the Bethel College campus. Co-sponsored by Peace Connections, the film is free and open to the public; a free-will offering will be taken. For more information, call 316-284-5217. To learn more about the film and the Underground Film Series, visit [www.artwithimpact.org](http://www.artwithimpact.org). The film's trailer is available at <http://blood-relation.com/trailer>.

**What's going on at this year's Kansas Mennonite Relief Sale on April 8 & 9?** Go to [www.kansas.mccsale.org](http://www.kansas.mccsale.org) and learn more about the activities and auction items at this year's sale. See DuMont and Barb Schmidt or Ed and Marge Harms if you have any questions or if you still want to sign up to work at the sale.

**The Harvey County Homeless Shelter** is hosting a Volunteer Appreciation Dinner on Saturday, April 16 at 6:00 p.m. at Faith Mennonite Church in Newton.

**Men and Boys Retreat at Camp Mennoscah is April 16 and 17.** There will be opportunities for fun and games, fishing, or just relaxing. It's a fun time for men and boys of all ages! Do you have an old car, truck, or tractor that you like to talk about? Bring it out for our third annual car show.

**Camp brochures for Rocky Mountain Mennonite Camp** are available in the foyer.

**Mennonite Education Agency** has a website at [www.MennoniteEducation.org/PRAYERS](http://www.MennoniteEducation.org/PRAYERS) where monthly "Prayers for Faith and Learning" can be accessed. Individuals who are interested in a free subscription to *Prayers for Faith and Learning* (or other MEA publications) may subscribe online at [www.MennoniteEducation.org/Subscribe](http://www.MennoniteEducation.org/Subscribe).

### **CHURCH OFFICES**

Pastors' Office Hours:

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

**Pastor: Peter Goerzen**

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

**Associate Pastor: Katherine Goerzen**

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

**Church Secretary: Debbie Claassen**

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