

GRACE HILL MENNONITE CHURCH

March 29, 2015

Whitewater, Kansas

Worship 9:30 a.m.

Sunday School 10:45 a.m.

Musician: Ellen Mosiman

Song Leader: Gladys Reimer

Transition Pastor: Randy Smith

UPSIDE DOWN AND INSIDE OUT

Palm Sunday

What is your devotion?

Gathering Music Ellen Mosiman
Welcome and Announcements
Prelude to Worship Valerie Klaassen and Ellen Mosiman
What a Friend We Have in Jesus (Everson)

*Call to Worship Psalm 118

Open for me the gates of the righteous;
I will enter and give thanks to the Lord.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

From the house of the Lord we bless you.

The Lord is God,

and God has caused his light shine on us.

With boughs in hand, join in the festal procession
up to the altar.

You are my God, and I will praise you.

You are my God, and I will exalt you.

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;

God's love endures forever.

*Praise Hymn Hymnal 19
Open now the gates of beauty

*Prayer Valerie and Ellen
I Know Whom I Have Believed (Everson)
Offering

Mark 11:1-10 Penny Hiebert
Hosanna, loud hosanna Hymnal 238
(processional while singing)
Children to age 5 may be dismissed to the library for child care

The Shadow of the Cross
Mark 11:15-18 Kim Claassen
Extinguishing the Light
Silent Reflection

The Light Behind the Cross
Guided Confession
What wondrous love is this Hymnal 530

Scripture Lesson Roberta Harms
Mark 12:28-34

Sermon
First Things First

**How clear is our vocation, Lord* Hymnal 541

Sharing and Prayer

The Good News of the Cross
Jeremiah 31:31-34
The Lord's Prayer
**Heart with loving heart united* Hymnal 420

*Benediction

***Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever.
Amen***

This morning's offering is designated for Camp Mennoscah.

*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

Western District Conference: Pray for Howard Garver, the new
Associate Conference Minister for Texas and Director of Church
Planting, as he gets acquainted, develops relationships, and enters into
the Conference Minister work of WDC.

Mennonite Mission Network: Janet Stucky of Mennonite Mission Network serves as a nutritional consultant at Bethesda Hospital in Benin. Pray for funding to implement a program to improve the diets of pregnant women, children under 5 years old, and people living with HIV/AIDS.

Church Family News

. . . **Clara Penner** is in physical rehab at Schowalter Villa following surgery from her broken hip . . . **Agnes Harder** had surgery on Thursday to pin her broken arm in order to aid its healing . . . **Marianne Eichelberger** was featured in an article in the latest issue of *Harvey County Now* . . . **Tim** and **Lisa Harms** had a look of dismay while their faces were broadcast to the nation at the WSU/KU basketball game. Priceless Congratulations to the Grace Hill Basketball team for their success in the WDC tournament last week! Players were: **Alex Carr, Cole Claassen, Grant Claassen, Paul Goossen, Matt Hiebert, Hunter Hill, Paul Janzen, Kyle Regier, Matt Regier**. . . The quilt on the quilt hanger in the foyer is on loan from **Agnes Harder**. . .

Announcements

Regular Sunday School classes will be held today. There will not be a 5th Sunday Social.

Debbie Claassen is planning to participate in the Kansas Mennonite Relief Sale 5K Run on April 18. If you would like to sponsor her and help raise money for Mennonite Central Committee, please give donations to her by April 15. Checks should be made to KMRS and labeled "Run for Relief" on the memo.

Whitewater Community Bible School will be held June 1-5 in Whitewater. The following supplies are needed: plastic or glass jars (qt. size or smaller), paper towel tubes, clothes pins, old tee shirts (any size), yarn, plastic beads, sea shells, neck ties. If you have any of these items and would like to donate them to the Bible School, please give them to Theresa Toews.

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.

Church Events

This afternoon at 4:00 p.m. All are invited to a special Palm Sunday worship service at Zion Mennonite Church in Elbing this afternoon at 4 p.m., as Karen Andres and Marcene Entz offer some dramatic interpretations of Passion Week. A light fasma will follow.

Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. Youth Group will meet.
Adult Choir practice

Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. Organizational Structure Task Force will meet.

Thursday at 6:30 p.m. Maundy Thursday worship service will begin in our fellowship hall around tables with a light meal, a remembrance of Passover, and communion. We will then move to the sanctuary for a Tenebrae service – reading through the Passion, with song, as the lights dim.

Friday at 8:00 p.m. Pastoral Search Committee will meet.

Next Sunday at 7:30 a.m. Rise and Shine - Plan now to join the youth at the sunrise service located at the North Side Pavilion Easter morning at 7:30 am. Breakfast will be served in the fellowship hall by the Social Council following the service from 8:00 - 8:30 am.

The Kansas Mennonite Relief Sale will be April 17 & 18 at the Kansas State Fairgrounds in Hutchinson. Friday evening entertainment will be Journey South Hutch Kids Jam at 6:30 pm and at 7:00 pm the McKinney Sisters (Christian Bluegrass) from Moundridge. **Volunteers are needed** for serving at the Feeding of the Multitude (6 from Grace Hill) on Saturday from noon – 2 p.m., **Grace Hill Bakers** - pie plates and bread sacks are available on the table. **See all information** and sign-up sheets on the table in the foyer. Please sign-up by next Sunday, April 5. **Purchase MCC Bucks** from Kathy Balzer. **Questions?** Contact Mike & Kathy Balzer or Kim & Debbie Claassen. **Check out the Relief Sale** at the website: www.kansas.mccsale.org or the Facebook page: Kansas Mennonite Relief Sale. General & silent auction items as well as quilts are (or will be soon) on Facebook & the website.

STRUCTURE TASK FORCE UPDATE

Background

Following the January Sunday school study on gifting and leadership, the Administrative Council appointed a task force to evaluate the way Grace Hill is currently organized for ministry and leadership, and to make recommendation to the congregation. The task force is composed of Kim Claassen, Tim Harms, Virgil Penner, and Randy Smith.

First Meeting Agenda

The task force met on March 12 to discuss expectations and review five principles for organizing ministry and leadership that were part of the January study. These are:

Gifts Based Structure – Using as a base starting point, the people and the gifting, interests, and passions that God has placed within the congregation.

Flexible and Adaptable – Able to adjust to changes and opportunities as these arise, as in Jesus' example of new wine and new wineskins.

Six Core Ministries – Functioning well in all six of the core ministry areas as exemplified in the church of Acts 2: 42-47: Care, Hospitality, Mission, Nurture, Stewardship, and Worship.

Leadership – A team of leaders recognized as trusted leaders in the congregation and affirmed to a central leadership team by the congregation.

Vision – Leading with stated priorities and goals for the future, and a clear, congregationally-owned vision of God's calling for the next chapter with the next pastor.

Next Meeting

The Structure Task Force is scheduled to meet again April 1. Agenda is to review, critique, and discuss the current committees and organizational structure as to how well it reflects these five principles. The surveys from the January study will help inform the process as to the strengths and limitations within Grace Hill. The task force hopes to make a recommendation to the congregation by June.

Et Cetera

Bethel College Concert Choir Home Concert will be this evening at 7:00 p.m. in Memorial Hall, Bethel College.

Community Good Friday Service and Prayer Vigil: Shalom Mennonite Church (800 E First St, Newton) is hosting the annual Community Good Friday Service, April 3 at 7:00 p.m. A prayer vigil will also be held in the afternoon from 1:00 - 6:00 p.m. prior to the service, when community members are invited to stop by for quiet prayer any time during those hours. The Good Friday service is organized by the Newton Ministerial Alliance (NMA). An offering will be taken which goes to the NMA Community Assistance Fund account for distribution through the Salvation Army. All are welcome to this service and prayer time.

Western District Conference Reference Council is coming up on April 11 (9 am - 2 pm, lunch included) at Hope Mennonite Church in Wichita. Hear the latest developments from Mennonite Church USA and continue our ongoing discernment regarding the Rainbow Mennonite Church resolution. Read the full resolution and letter of introduction at: <http://mennowdc.org/annual-assembly/>. Register online (at the same web address) by April 3, or call 316-283-6300.

Men and Boys Retreat at Camp Mennoscah is April 10-12. Pastor Phil Schmidt will be our speaker for the weekend. You can come out on Friday already, although Saturday supper will be the first meal provided. Lodging for the weekend is available on a first-come, first-served basis and includes cabins, staff houses, or bring a tent. RV, or sleep under the stars. If you have any questions, contact Kevin Neufeld at 316-284-0450 or kevinneufeld2@gmail.com.

The Convention Prayer Team and AMBS-Kansas Center will host a Prayer Retreat prior to the MC USA Convention in July. This retreat is intended for pastors, congregational leaders, delegates, members and anyone who is interested in coming together to join in prayer in preparation for Convention. This retreat will be held on Sunday, May 3, at the Dyck Arboretum of the Plains in Hesston. The retreat begins at 4:30 p.m. and will conclude with a fasha supper at 6:00, so participants are invited to bring fasha finger foods (bread, meat, cheese, pickles, fruit, etc.) to share. This event is free and open to the public. For more information, please see <https://www.ambs.edu/news-events/Prayer-Gathering.cfm>. To RSVP as a congregation or as an individual, please contact Katherine Goerzen at kccoordinator@ambs.edu by April 27.

Prairie View invites visual artists to submit up to three pieces of original art for its fine art fundraiser/exhibition, "A Beautiful View." Deadline (through digital submission) is May 8. Accepted works are due May 22. For info or to enter, see www.prairieview.org/abeautifulview (click on "Invitation to Exhibit Original Art."). The event, with silent and live auctions, is 6-8 p.m., Thursday, June 4 at Carriage Factory Art Gallery, Newton. Proceeds will go to Prairie View to treat mental illness and addiction disorders. Questions? Contact Misty Elder, eldermd@pvi.org, 316-284-6385.

Adult Bible School: Sermon on the Mount: June is the month for Bible School, and so any adult looking for an opportunity for spiritual growth, renewed discipleship, and a chance to dive deeper into the Bible is invited to participate in an Adult Bible School on the Sermon on the Mount. This continuing education opportunity is hosted by AMBS-Kansas Center and will be taught by Jerry Truex. It will meet June 1, 8, 15, and 22 from 7:00-9:30 p.m. at the Hesston Mennonite Church in Hesston. The cost per person is \$50. Registration will be available soon (Please plan to register by May 11). For more information, please contact Katherine Goerzen at kccoordinator@ambs.edu.

Going to the Mennonite Church USA Convention in Kansas City June 30-July 5? Are you looking for a roommate or want to carpool? Let WDC know, and we'll try to help you make those connections. Email or call Nancy at wdc@mennowdc.org or 316-283-6300.

Nursery This Sunday: Marge Harms and Quinn Dove
Nursery Next Sunday: Jackie Moore and Bethany Regehr
Ushers Next Sunday: Terry Klassen and Dean Patterson

Offering Last Sunday: Western District Conference \$1,625.00
Offering Next Sunday: Mennonite Church USA

CHURCH OFFICES

Pastor's Office Hours:
Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday 9:00 a.m.-Noon, Thursday 1:00-4:00 p.m.

Transition Pastor: Randy Smith
Email: transitionpastor@gmail.com

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