

GRACE HILL MENNONITE CHURCH

April 3, 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 Katherine

For Christ is our peace – 4th 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: Come, people of God, and worship Jesus Christ.

Once we were separated from him,
aliens and strangers who did not belong,
without hope and without God in the world.
Once we loved darkness rather than light.
Once we could not sing the Lord's song

**Many: But now we are joined with Christ,
brought near through his blood, for Christ is our peace.
Now we who lived in darkness have come into the light.
Now we who could not sing have been given a new song.**

All: Let us give thanks to God! Let us worship Jesus Christ!

Gathering Prayer

* **Gathering Hymn No. 43** *Christ is our cornerstone*

Offering our Gifts Mennonite Church USA

Hearing God's Word

New Testament Reading 2 Corinthians 5:14-21 Steven Harms

Special Music *Holy Spirit, Storm of love*

Valerie Klaassen, Curt Regehr, Peter Goerzen, Katherine Goerzen

Reader's Theater Ephesians 2:11-22 Laura Harms & Caleb Regehr

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

Sermon *Reconciled and Reconciling* Pastor Peter

Responding to God

Words of Response based upon Romans 5; 2 Corinthians 5;
Ephesians 2; and Colossians 1

One: Since we are made righteous by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Many: God proves his love for us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us.

One: While we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son. Much more surely will we be saved by his life.

Many: For in Jesus all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him, God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, by making peace through the blood of the cross.

One: For Christ is our peace; in his flesh he has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us, so that he might create in himself one new humanity in place of the two, thus making peace.

Many: So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation.

All: So we are ambassadors for Christ!

* **Hymn of Response No. 407** *We are people of God's peace*

Sharing our Stories and Congregational Prayer

Sent by God

* **Sending Hymn No. 366** *God of grace and God of glory*

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

Western District Conference: Pray for the Leadership Commission as they interview three pastors for ordination on Wednesday – Mike Hiebert, Goessel Mennonite; Christina Litwiller, Salina Mennonite; and Renee Kanagy, New Creation Fellowship.

Mennonite Mission Network: Ask God to grant spiritual strength and physical protection to members of Colombia Mennonite Church, a MMN partner. Colombian brothers and sisters risk their lives as they work for peace by promoting human rights and supporting displaced people.

Outreach Tip: Hospitality begins with each other. Invite someone from church who you don't know very well for lunch some Sunday this month.

Church Events

Wednesday 6:10 p.m. All Church Meal – everyone is invited!
7:00 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
Cost of the meal: High School & Adults \$3.00 Children \$2.50

Thursday at 7:00 p.m. Worship Council meets at church.

The Homeless Shelter schedule is on the bulletin board if you would like to volunteer or help provide food. Our days for volunteering are this week Wed., Fri., Sun. and Tues. Donna Balzer is accepting Dillon's OVM certificates if you would like to help in this way.

Friday and Saturday Mennonite Relief Sale in Hutchinson – go to www.kansas.mccsale.org and learn more about the activities and auction items at this year's sale. Please become a friend of the Relief Sale on Facebook @ Kansas Mennonite Relief Sale.

***Any bread, pies, or other baked goods that members wish to have transported to the sale should have them to the church by noon on Friday. DuMont will be taking the items. The peppernuts which have been in the freezer will also be included. Many thanks to the many members contributing.

Next Sunday at noon 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!

Next Sunday at 4:00 p.m. Wheat State Manor Vesper Service – Mariners S.S. Class is in charge.

Monday, April 11 at 7:00 p.m. Hands of Friendship will meet at church. Program: Work projects – tie comforter, cut quilt blocks, other misc. sewing projects. Election for Hands of Friendship; Hostess and Devotions: Committee; Financial Project: Hands of Friendship Treasury.

Sunday, April 17 Bethel College Sunday followed by an all church carry-in meal at noon.

June 13-17 Community Bible School at Remington Middle School from 9 – noon. For grades pre-k to coming out of 6th grade.

September 3 and 4, 2011 200th Anniversary Celebration

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!

Donated food items will go to the Whitewater Food Pantry this month. Suggested items may include canned vegetables, canned fruit, cereal, peanut butter, canned meats, canned meals, boxed meals, soups, crackers, and other nonperishable items. Cash donations are accepted. A basket for goods is located in the foyer by the front entrance.

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: Marge Harms and Rita Patterson

Nursery Next Sunday: Tammy Regehr and Amanda Regehr

Preaching Next Sunday: Pastor Peter

Scripture Next Sunday: John 14-17

Special Music Next Sunday: Adult Choir

Keyboard Next Sunday: Sara Unruh

Ushers Next Sunday: Doug Hiebert and Russell Janzen

Offering Last Sunday: Western District Conference \$1,455.00

Offering Next Sunday: Local Church

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

Associate Pastor: Katherine Goerzen

E-mail: youthpastor@gracehillmc.org

Church Secretary: Debbie Claussen

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

Et Cetera

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. The film's trailer is available at <http://blood-relation.com/trailer>.

Kansas Mennonite Men's Chorus Concerts will be April 10 at 7:00 p.m. at Memorial Hall, Bethel College and April 17 at 7:00 p.m. at Buhler High School, Buhler. We sing that others may live! Free will offerings are taken at the concerts to help alleviate worldwide poverty and hunger through the Mennonite Central Committee.

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, although please keep in mind that we will be unable to provide shelter for vehicles in case of bad weather.

Only 2 months left! There are only 2 months left for you to take advantage of the great Camp Mennoscah Kitchen Staff/Nurse Offer—and only 1 month before Olivia starts panicking. We still need kitchen staff and head cooks for several weeks and nurses for 2 weeks. This offer is only good until the positions are filled so don't miss out on your chance to be an important part of our camping ministry. (And it's a hoot!) Email us at campmno@mennowdc.org or call 620-297-3290 to reserve your week of camping delight! Parents can receive a camper discount.

Summer seminary courses in Kansas! *Congregational Ethics* will be taught by Keith Harder, D.Min., June 7-30; *Greek Readings: Synoptic Gospels* by Jerry Truex, Ph.D., May 31 - August 12. Check out these and other courses, for credit or audit, at Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary-Great Plains Extension, North Newton, Kansas, at www.ambs.edu/GreatPlains. Register online by May 9. For more information, contact Lois Barrett, Director, AMBS-Great Plains, PO Box 306, North Newton, KS 67117; phone 316-283-7098; email: lbarrett@ambs.edu.

History Blurb #13, MICHALIN, VOLHYNIA, UKRAINE, RUSSIA

Some of the Mennonites living in the Montau, Culm, Graudenz, Marienburg, and Thorn areas along the Lower Vistula River found a good market for their butter and cheese in Warsaw, capital of Poland. There they met a Polish nobleman named Potocki who owned much land in the Ukraine, then part of Poland. He offered the Mennonites favorable terms if they would settle on his land. He promised to charge only a few cents rent per acre for a long-term lease and promised to secure rights and privileges from the government for religious freedom and military exemption. These privileges were later confirmed by the Russian Czar Paul about 1803.

Elder G. N. Harms wrote for Grace Hill's 50th anniversary, "Michalin was probably the first Mennonite settlement in Russia. It was located in the southwest corner of the Kiev district... at the time the settlers went there, the area was under Polish rule for 10 years until Russia took it over. Michalin was clearly established by 1783, if not by 1780. Chortitza began at the invitation of Catherine II in 1789,"

The Mennonites promised to grind their grain in Potocki's mills and also buy their drinks in his tavern! Potocki allowed each household head to put buildings on his rented farm as he wished, unusual for that time and place. According to Rev. G. N. Harms 500 or more settlers from the Lower Vistula River moved to the Potocki land.

In the late 1790's, Potocki raised the price of grinding grain so some farmers took their grain elsewhere, but Potocki sent his lawmen to confiscate the grain. Some nights cattle were taken from the Mennonite pastures and put into Potocki's. And in other ways Potocki tried to make the Mennonites his serfs.

Note: For those interested, map sketches of the Volhynian settlements in the Ukraine can be picked up on the table in the lobby.