

GRACE HILL MENNONITE CHURCH

April 15, 2012

Whitewater, Kansas

Worship 9:30 a.m.

Sunday School 10:45 a.m.

Pastor: Peter Goerzen

Associate Pastor: Katherine Goerzen

Song Leader: Andrew Voth

Musician: Jordan Ortman

Worship Leader: Tim Harms

Holy Humor Sunday *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.

Introit *Low in the Grave He Lay*

Call to Worship

One: We believe in God, who made us in the divine image.

Many: We live, we love, we laugh, because we are like our Creator.

One: We believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God, our Lord and Savior.

Many: He had the last laugh on death when God raised him from the grave.

One: We believe in the Holy Spirit, who empowers us to become a new creation.

Many: Our advocate, our guide, our motivator: the Spirit is our joy!

One: Forgive us, Lord, when we take ourselves too seriously, when we don't claim the happiness that is rightfully ours as your children, when we forget that you will have the last laugh in this world.

All: Restore us to the joy of our salvation, through Jesus Christ our Lord! Amen.

Gathering Prayer

* **Gathering Song** *Lord of the Dance*

Offering Our Gifts Western District Conference

Hearing God's Word

Prodigal Son in F Flat

Cody Claassen

Choral Anthem *Ev'ry Time I Feel the Spirit* arr. Dawson
John Keckeisen, soloist

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

New Testament Reading 1 Corinthians 1:18-2:5 Pastor Peter

Sermon *Foolishness for Christ* Pastor Peter

Responding to the Gospel

* **Song** *Give me joy in my heart*

Sharing Our Stories and Congregational Prayer

Sent to Proclaim the Good News

* **Sending Song No. 427** *You shall go out with joy*

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!**

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." Today we celebrate the joy of the resurrection and our new life in Christ, who has the "last laugh" over death.

For Sharing and Prayer

Marjorie Harms had hip surgery at Newton Medical Center on Thursday. Pray for Marjorie during her recovery.

Thank you to the Grace Hill congregation for the love and encouragement you have given to our family over the last several months. The cards and phone calls we received meant so much to us and lifted our spirits on difficult days. We have felt the presence of God through the many prayers offered on our behalf, and the support we have been given has blessed us in so many ways.

Sondra (Penner) Otto and family

Western District Conference: Pray for Marlene Bogard, Assembly Director, and the Assembly Planning Team as they prepare for our gathering in Oklahoma City, July 6-8. The emerging theme is “Becoming One to Be Sent in Christ” from John 17.

Mennonite Mission Network: Concordia Mennonite Church, a German-speaking congregation in Paraguay, is discerning God’s will in beginning a ministry for their Spanish-speaking neighbors. Pray for C. Paul and Hildi Amstutz of MMN and for other members of the team who are preparing an integration proposal to be presented this month.

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: Ashley Enns and Emma Hilgenfeld

Nursery Next Sunday: Kathy Balzer and Rachelle Claassen

Ushers Next Sunday: Josh Patterson and Rob Schunn

Special Music Next Sunday: Bethel College Women’s Chorus

Offering Last Sunday: Local Church \$8,092.00

Offering Next Sunday: Bethel College

Church Events

Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. Spiritual Council meets at church.

Wednesday 6:15 p.m. All Church Meal – everyone is invited!
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
Cost of the meal: High School & Adults \$3.00 Children \$2.50

Wednesday at 7:45 p.m. Administrative Council meets at church.

Thursday at 6:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast at Whitewater Café.

Saturday (April 21) at 2:00 p.m. Catechism retreat. Meet at the church at 2 p.m.

Next Sunday Bethel College Sunday – the worship service is planned by our Bethel College students and Bethel College Fellowship Committee.

Wednesday, April 25 at 6:30 p.m. All church bowling party at Play-Mor Lanes, 1105 Washington Road, Newton! Cost is \$2.75 per game and \$1.00 for shoes. Everyone is welcome and bring your friends!

April 29 at noon Fundraiser Meal for Social Council

May 6 after worship High School Graduate Reception

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

CHURCH OFFICES

Pastors' Office Hours:

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

Pastor: Peter

E-mail: pastor@gracehillmc.org

Associate Pastor: Katherine Goerzen

E-mail: youthpastor@gracehillmc.org

Church Secretary: Debbie Claassen

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

Et Cetera

Kansas Mennonite Men's Chorus Concerts are this evening at 7:00 p.m. at Memorial Hall, Bethel College, North Newton and April 22 at 7:00 p.m. at Presser Hall, Bethany College, Lindsborg. Praising God in glorious sound... 300-plus Christian men singing from a wide selection of choral literature. Free will offerings are taken at the concerts to help alleviate worldwide poverty and hunger through Mennonite Central Committee.

Please join us for the Third Thursday Soup Supper at Ten Thousand Villages, Newton. The soup supper will be held Thursday, April 19, from 5:30 - 8:00 p.m. A variety of soups will be served for a donation. Come shop in the store, promote fair trade, meet your friends and enjoy the food - while helping us to continue our mission.

Mark your calendars, Men and Boys Retreat at Camp Mennoscah is April 20-22. Brett Klingenberg will be our speaker for the weekend. Bring your chainsaw; we'll have a service project from 1:00 to 3:00 on Saturday removing trees that died in the heat wave last summer. Saturday supper through Sunday lunch will be provided. No pre-registration is necessary. Come out for a weekend of fun, relaxation, and fellowship!

Andrew Voth will give his senior cello recital on Saturday, April 21 at 7:00 p.m. in the Administration Building Chapel at Bethel College.

Inmate and Community Choir Concert The Rock Castle Chorus will present a concert of sacred choral works, folk songs, and spirituals on Saturday, April 21 at 1:00 p.m. at the Hutchinson Correctional Facility Central Unit. Lyle Stutzman directs the choir composed of inmates and volunteers from the Hutchinson and Newton area communities. Hazel Zink will also be providing special music with her accordion. Arrive at HCF by 12:45 p.m. with an official photo ID in hand.

Almost, but not quite! The Retirees' Relaxation Retreat at Camp Mennoscah is just one week away. (April 23-25) There are still a few spaces in the Retreat Center and a few more in our bunk/staff houses. We'd love to have you join us as we "travel" through Paraguay and other assorted topics. Contact us at 620-297-3290 for more information.

Want to add 71% to your donation? A donation of \$790.79 to Camp Mennoscah for paying off the new property saves camp approximately \$561.31 in interest. Assuming Olivia's math is correct, of course. Even if she's wrong, wow! You've greatly increased your donation to camp-- just make sure to mark your donation "new property."

The Center for Mennonite Brethren Studies at Tabor College is sponsoring two events on Saturday, May 5. A local Mennonite History Tour and lunch, May 5, 11:45 - 5:00, will begin at Tabor's Historic Church and circle through the Marion County region, visiting various Polish, Russian, and Swiss Mennonite sites (cost \$25). The CMBS Annual Spring Dinner Meeting, May 5, 6:30 p.m., Wohlgemuth Lobby (cost \$15), will feature "The First African-American Mennonite Brethren Church" by Dr. Terry Hunt, North Carolina District Minister of Lenoir, North Carolina. Reservation required. Please call Peggy Goertzen at (620)947-3121, ext. 1211 or 1212.

Hello all! Camp Mennoscah is gearing up for another exciting summer program and are ready for you to come out and join us. Our cabin mattresses, however, are not. Camp's 20 year old mattresses have finally bit the dust and we're ready to replace 'em. Please join us Sunday, May 6 at 7 p.m. at Faith Mennonite Church, Newton, for "*Mattress Melodies*". Camp song leaders from years past will lead us in favorite camp songs as we raise funds to replace cabin mattresses. Please note the youth group who raises the most money (\$500 minimum) for the cabin mattresses will earn a pool party at Camp Mennoscah!! Be ready to test your knowledge of Camp Mennoscah with a fun trivia game, sing favorite camp songs, and have a good time! Camp style popcorn and generic pop will be served outside the building following the Camp Sing.

The Bethel College Alumni Association invites alumni and friends to its annual banquet, May 19 at 6:00 p.m. in Memorial Hall. Alumni awards will be presented to Glen Ediger, Toshihiro Fukudome, Marie Voth and Martha Voth. Cost is \$19 if paying by May 4, \$21 May 7-9. Contact Thresher Bookstore in Schultz Student Center, 316-284-5205. Reservation deadline is May 9.

MCC responds to Middle East Crisis Mennonite Central Committee is appealing for \$500,000 and relief kits to assist partner organizations in the Middle East as they provide humanitarian aid and build peace at the community level. Tens of thousands of Syrians have fled violence in their country to seek refuge in neighboring countries. A significant part of MCC's response is helping partners in Lebanon expand efforts that strengthen conflict prevention efforts and disaster preparedness. Donations should be marked Middle East Crisis and sent to MCC, PO Box 235, North Newton, KS 67117. For more information about assembling relief kits please call 316-283-2720 or visit mcc.org/kits/relief.