

GRACE HILL MENNONITE CHURCH

April 26, 2015

Whitewater, Kansas

Worship 9:30 a.m.

Sunday School 10:45 a.m.

Musician: Ellen Mosiman

Song Leader: Penny Hiebert

Transition Pastor: Randy Smith

EXTENDING THE TABLE: Intentional Hospitality

Gathering Music Ellen Mosiman
Welcome and Announcements Randy Smith
Prelude to Worship

*Call to Worship 1 John 3:16-24

This is how we know what love is:

**That Jesus Christ laid down his life for us,
and so we are to lay down our lives
for our brothers and sisters.**

Dear children, let us not love with words or speech,
but with actions and truth.

**This is how we know that we belong to the truth,
and set our hearts at rest in God's presence.**

This is God's command:

**That we believe in his Son, Jesus Christ,
and love one another as he commanded.**

This is how we know that God lives in us:

**We know by the Holy Spirit he gave us.
In the name of God, Son, and Spirit, we worship.**

*Holy Spirit, come with power Hymnal 26

Prayer

Affirmation of Faith Hymnal 814

Psalm 23

My Shepherd will supply my need Hymnal 589

Offering

Faith Story: Because of you . . . Valerie Klaassen

Children's Story Penny Hiebert

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

Scripture Lesson Kaye Penner

Luke 10:38-42

Sermon

Intentional Hospitality: Making Time

*Come to me, come to us Sing the Story 60

Sharing and Prayer

*For we are strangers no more

Hymnal 322

*Benediction

Hospitality is outreaching. Hospitality is when we open our lives to others, welcoming them with sensitivity and respect, so that they might find a place of comfort and belonging with us. We do this because this is what Jesus does for us. Outreaching hospitality is a vital ministry for a healthy congregation. The worship theme for the next five Sundays is, "Extending the Table."

May 3 *Spontaneous Hospitality*

May 10 *Risky Hospitality*

May 17 *Contagious Hospitality*

May 24 *Holy Hospitality*

Who made time for you? Who has been someone in your life who has made time for you and made a difference in you, or someone who made time for others? If you would be willing to share briefly of this someone through a "Faith Story: Because of you . . ." please let Randy know.

This morning's offering is designated for the Western District Conference.

*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 Conference Minister Clarence Rempel as he makes a farewell tour of Oklahoma and western Kansas churches, April 24-27.

Mennonite Mission Network: Today, DOOR Denver is hosting its annual *Cinco de Mayo* festival fundraiser. Pray that relationships will deepen as three churches minister to their community through food, local performers, and children's activities. DOOR is a Mennonite Mission Network partner.

Thank you to all who volunteered, baked, donated or purchased at the Relief Sale last weekend! The total brought in for the Relief Sale at this time is \$547,080.18!!

Church Events

Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. Adult Choir practice
Organizational Structure Task Force meets

Thursday at 7:00 p.m. Spiritual Council meets.

Sunday, May 10 during the Sunday school hour High School Graduation Reception for Paul Goossen in the fellowship hall. Everyone is invited to stay to congratulate Paul. There will be no Sunday School classes that morning.

Announcements

Wes & Deb Bergen's prayer letter was sent by email this week. If you do not have email, copies are available on the table in the foyer.

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: Debbie Claassen and Carine Claassen

Nursery Next Sunday: Kris Goossen and Renata Goossen

Ushers Next Sunday: Terry Klassen and Dean Patterson

Offering Last Sunday: Scholarship Fund \$3,590.26

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

Et Cetera

Kansas Mennonite Men's Chorus Concerts: **April 26** at 7:00 p.m. at Bethel College Memorial Hall, North Newton. The Bethel College Men's Ensemble will perform with the chorus. **May 3** at 7:00 p.m. at Bethany College Presser Hall, Lindsborg.

Mennonite Mission Network will be welcoming two of our international workers back to the Newton office to share about their work in China. Please join us for coffee and conversation with George & Tobia Veith on Monday, April 27th from 2-3 pm in the Newton MC USA offices – 718 N Main St in Newton. After serving many years in Macau, this summer they are launching a new ministry in China. They have been invited by Chinese church leaders to provide training, resources and encouragement to pastors, and to teach theological English at a Seminary. They will work with Mennonite Partners in China, in Harbin, Heilongjiang Province along the Amur River in the northeast China. They will also help resource Mennonite Churches through the Chinese Anabaptist Network. Please join us to learn from our international mission workers! – The Mission Network Newton staff

Annual Masterworks Concert with Bethel College choirs, Oratorio Chorus and Philharmonia Orchestra, Brahms' *A German Requiem*, May 3 at 3 p.m., Memorial Hall (ticket purchase required; available at the door).

Prayer Retreat: The Convention Prayer Team and AMBS-Kansas Center will host a Prayer Retreat prior to the MCUSA 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 on Sunday, May 3 at the Dyck Arboretum of the Plains in Hesston. The retreat begins at 4:30 pm and will conclude with a faspas supper at 6:00, so participants are invited to bring faspas 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.

Thank You to everyone who helped make the 47th Kansas Mennonite Relief Sale a huge success! You are all invited to celebrate this success at the KMRS annual meeting scheduled for Thursday, May 21, 6:30 pm at Buhler Mennonite Church, 220 West Avenue B, Buhler. The meal is \$12 a plate and you will pay at the door. Please RSVP to Mike & Kathy Balzer or Kim & Debbie Claassen by May 7. Or, contact Barb Reeves at 620-543-6863 or bj.reeves@live.com

Adult Bible School: Sermon on the Mount: June is the month for Bible School, and so any adult (congregation member, pastor, anyone interested in the Bible) who is 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 7:00-9:30pm at the Hesston Mennonite Church in Hesston, KS. Normally continuing education opportunities like this cost \$200. However, this event has been sponsored by South Central Conference and Western District Conference. Due to their generosity, the cost per person is only \$50 (please plan to register by May 11 for this reduced rate). Registration is available at <https://www.ambs.edu/academics/Sermon-on-the-Mount-course.cfm> For more information, please contact Katherine Goerzen at kccoordinator@ambs.edu.

Are you interested in learning more about Mennonite World Conference's Global Assembly, coming July 21-26 in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania? Even if you don't think you can come, follow along and join in the conversation on our Facebook page: Facebook.com/MennoniteWorldConference. Share your story and learn about your Anabaptist brothers and sisters from around the world!

The following books were added to the church library:

Purchased books:

Kristy Cambron "A Sparrow in Terezin" a sequel to "The Butterfly and the Violin" Continues with a story of WWII and the Nazi prison camps. We have book one of the series.

Karen Kingsbury "Chasing Sunsets" Vol 1 of the Angels Walking series. We have book one of the series.

These books donated by church families:

Ann Voskamp "One Thousand Gifts" When life becomes difficult, we need to think of one thousand gifts that are ours.

Bruce Feller "Abraham" explains the shared ancestor of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. This gives the reader a combination of history, travel, and spiritual insights of these three.