

GRACE HILL MENNONITE CHURCH

April 27, 2014

Whitewater, Kansas

Worship 9:30 a.m.

Sunday School 10:45 a.m.

Pastor: Peter Goerzen

Associate Pastor: Katherine Goerzen

Song Leader: Gladys Reimer

Musician: Ellen Mosiman

Worship Leader: Rob Schunn

Holy Humor Sunday

The One who sits in the heavens laughs Psalm 2: 4a

Gathering and Rejoicing

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 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 the devil when God raised him from the dead.

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

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 Songs *Hark the Herald Angel Said*

(to the tune of *Hark the Herald Angels Sing*)

It Came upon a Sunrise Bright

(to the tune of *It came upon a midnight clear*)

Offering Our Gifts Western District Conference

Hearing God's Story

Scripture Reading Proverbs 17:22, Job 8:21, Romans 15:13

Roberta Harms

Song *God Bless You Merry Sinner*

(to the tune of *God Bless Ye Merry Gentlemen*)

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

Scripture Reading John 15: 1-11

Roberta Harms

Sermon

Pastor Peter

Responding To God

Song of Response *Beautiful Day* (to the tune of *Silent Night*)

Congregational Sharing and Prayer

Sending Songs *Go tell it on the mountain*
Joy to the World

Benediction

One: The Gospels tell us over and over again of the joy which comes to us through Christ. When Jesus was around, lives were changed, the sick were healed, the sorrowful began to laugh with joy. The good news is that this joy is now given to us.

All: Through the Holy Spirit, we are gifted with joy.

We are sent forth to bring good news to the oppressed, to bring healing to the broken, to anoint everyone with the oil of gladness. Thanks be to God!

Postlude

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

Aaron Tschetter's senior voice recital is Saturday, May 3 at 7:00 p.m. in the Administration Building Chapel at Bethel College.

Western District Conference: Pray for our church planters: Byron Pellecer in Wichita, Moises Romero in Liberal and Karen and Steve Mascho in Gladewater, Texas. Pray for the gathering of Mennonites at the national church planting event Exponential in Orlando, Florida, April 28 – May 1. Clarence Rempel, Conference Minister will be attending.

Mennonite Mission Network: Adam and Jeanette Strode of MMN are beginning full-time language and culture study in preparation for an assignment with a community-based ministry in Bangkok, Thailand. Pray for them in this time of transition and intense learning as they build relationships.

Church Events

Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. Adult Choir practice

7:45 p.m. Administrative Council meets

Next Sunday during the Sunday School hour High School Graduation Reception in the fellowship hall. Sunday School classes will not meet.

Next Sunday at 2:30 p.m. The Year of Biblical Womanhood book study will plan to meet Sunday, May 4 at 2:30 p.m. in the church library.

Next Sunday at 5:00 p.m. Wheat State Manor Vesper Service – no one is signed up at this time.

Et Cetera

Kansas Mennonite Men's Chorus will be in concert at Central Community Church 6100 West Maple St., Wichita, this evening at 7:00 p.m. They will also be in concert at Memorial Hall on the campus of Bethel College on Sunday, May 4, 7:00 p.m. The third concert will be at Presser Hall on the campus of Bethany College in Lindsborg on Sunday, June 8, 4:30 p.m. in a joint concert with Kansas City Metro Men's Chorus.

The next "Year of the Bible" event: A webinar will be hosted at the AMBS-Great Plains classroom (2500 Place, North Newton) on Wednesday, April 30 from 1:00-2:30 p.m. The topic is "*Understanding Anabaptist Approaches to Scripture: What's Different and Why?*" with Loren Johns, Professor of New Testament at AMBS-Elkhart. No pre-registration required but a fee of \$25 must be paid in cash or check to "AMBS-GP", memo line "Webinar - Scripture" at webinar. Simply show up, listen, and join others in a follow-up discussion. Contact Marlene Bogard (mbogard@mennowdc.org or 316-283-6300) for information.

Prayers for Mennonite Church USA at AMBS-Great Plains. On Fridays through May 30, from 12:00-12:30 p.m., all are invited to prayers for Mennonite Church USA and church leaders. Meet at the AMBS-Great Plains Classroom at the 2500 Place building in North Newton. The prayer time, led by Peter Goerzen, will follow the guide developed by AMBS professor David Miller, with praise, confession, and intercession based on Scripture.

Mennonite Central Committee is in need of a large quantity of new or used (clean, unstained) T-shirts and neck-ties. These will be upcycled by volunteers at the Material Resource Center in Ephrata, PA into scarves and tote bags to be given away at the Mennonite World Conference and Mennonite Church USA convention in 2015. Bring your T-shirts and neck-ties to the MCC Center in North Newton (121 E. 30th) by May 9th.

Kansas Mennonite Relief Sale annual meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 29, 6:30 p.m. at Ebenfeld MB Church, 1498 Kanza Road, Hillsboro. The meal is \$15 a plate. Please let your Church Relief Sale liaison (Ed & Marge Harms or Kim & Debbie Claassen) know if you wish to attend by May 18. Or, contact Barb Reeves at 620-543-6863 or bj.reeves@live.com.

Save the Date: the annual backyard mini-music festival known as Song on the Lawn will be Sunday, June 8. Mark your calendar, invite friends and family and plan to enjoy an evening of music at WillowSpring Downs all to benefit MCC's work of relief, development and peace in the name of Christ.

Shine Launch! Find out about the new faith formation curriculum for preschool through grade 8 by attending an interactive learning experience on Sunday June 22 at Lorraine Avenue Mennonite Church, Wichita 3-6 p.m.

Plan now to attend WDC Assembly on July 4-6, in Waxahachie Texas. Fellowship, Discernment, Tag-Team preaching and celebration of Year of the Bible. Mark your calendars! Registration info available May 6. Want to ride a chartered bus from Newton, KS to Waxahachie, TX? Let us know by June 3, when it will be determined if there is enough interest to charter a bus. Go to: <http://mennowdc.org/conference-life/annual-assembly/>, and fill out the online form, or simply reply to this email.

Newton Et Cetera Shop needs your donations! Bring gently-used clothing, household goods, bikes, and furniture to the alley door Monday-Friday from 9:30 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. and Saturday from 9:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Thanks for supporting Mennonite Central Committee and local community efforts by donating to Et Cetera Shop.

Announcements

Have you experienced new questions in your focus of Bible reading during this Year of the Bible? You are invited to share the passage which you would like additional input for further understanding. Simply write it on a sheet from the comment pads in the pews, sign your name (for clarification purpose), and put it in the comment box in the foyer. Pastor Peter is planning a "stump the pastor" theme for the last two Sundays in May and welcomes your requests. Please share your suggestion by May 11.

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: Grace Hill Scholarship Fund \$2,818.00
Offering Next Sunday: Mennonite Church USA