

GRACE HILL MENNONITE CHURCH

July 24, 2011

Whitewater, Kansas

Worship 9:30 a.m.

Sunday School 10:45 a.m.

Pastor: Peter Goerzen

Associate Pastor: Katherine Goerzen

Chorister: Pastor Peter

Worship Leader: Valerie Klaassen

Musicians: Samantha Claassen, Caleb Regehr, Curtis Toews, Pastor Katherine

Loving Our Enemies
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.

Call to Worship

One: God's faithful gather from the world – but we are not of it.

Many: We are God's people. Can we claim it?

One: The world says, "Love your neighbor and hate your enemy".

Many: We are God's people. Can we claim it?

One: The world reserves love for friends who think alike.

Many: We are God's people. Can we claim it?

One: The world honors deception, shrewd deals, and lies.

Many: We are God's people. Can we claim it?

One: The world justifies revenge and "getting even".

Many: We are God's people. Can we claim it?

One: The world returns insult for insult.

Many: We are God's people. Can we claim it?

One: The world is quick to label some as "lazy," "ignorant,"
"worthless".

Many: We are God's people. Can we claim it?

One: We come from our world to worship and to be reminded of who we are.

All: Let us open our hearts and lives to God's transforming power.

May God be praised in our worship. Amen.

Gathering Prayer

* **Gathering Hymn No. 229** *Lord, you have come to the lakeshore*

Offering our Gifts Western District Conference

Hearing God's Word

New Testament Reading Romans 12:1-2, 9-21 Brittany Claassen

Children's Story Valerie Klaassen

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

Special Music *Abide with me* Samantha Claassen

Gospel Reading Matthew 5:38-48 Pastor Peter

Sermon Pastor Peter

Responding to the Gospel

* **Hymn of Response No. 411** *I bind my heart this tide*

Affirmation of Faith

(taken from the Dordrecht Confession – a Mennonite Confession from 1632)

One: As regards revenge, that is, to oppose an enemy with the sword,

Many: we believe and confess that the Lord Christ has forbidden and set aside to His disciples and followers all revenge and retaliation,

One: and commanded them to render to no one evil for evil, or cursing for cursing, but to put the sword into the sheath, or, as the prophets have predicted, to beat the swords into plowshares.

Many: For this we understand that therefore, and according to His example, we must not inflict pain, harm, or sorrow upon anyone, but seek the highest welfare and salvation of all men,

One: and even, if necessity require it, flee for the Lord's sake from one city or country into another, and suffer the spoiling of our goods; that we must not harm anyone, and, when we are smitten, rather turn the other cheek also, than take revenge or retaliate.

Many: And, moreover, that we must pray for our enemies, feed and refresh them whenever they are hungry or thirsty, and thus convince them by well-doing, and overcome all ignorance.

All: Finally, that we must do good and commend ourselves to every man's conscience; and, according to the law of Christ, do unto no one that which we would not have done to us.

Sharing Our Stories and Congregational Prayer

Sending

* **Sending Song** *Unity*

* **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 joint adult and youth Sunday School class will meet in the sanctuary and will begin at 10:50 a.m. Everyone is welcome!

Summer Sunday School

200th Anniversary "Home Coming" Celebration 2011

10:50 – 11:35 a.m.

Joint Adult and Youth Summer Sunday School will meet in the sanctuary. Today's and next Sunday's speaker: James Juhnke – 19th to Early 20th century (US) – *Migration, Go East, Go West or Stay at Home.*

For Sharing and Prayer

Western District Conference: Pray for WDC Assembly, "Make No Excuses, Simply Come to the Banquet!" gathering at Bethel College, July 29-30. Pray for Sara Wenger Shenk, President of Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary and our keynote speaker, and all those leading Learning Tracks.

Mennonite Mission Network: On the last Saturday of each month, Quito (Ecuador) Mennonite Church offers peace education workshops to about 50 neighborhood children. Through theater, songs and crafts, MMN partners help kids learn about Jesus' example of peace. Pray that God's peace may grow in the lives of each participant.

Church Events

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

Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. Education Council meets at church.

Next Sunday, July 31 College Students/Young Adults: Looking for a way to keep cool during these hot summer days? Then join us for a pool party at Tim and Lisa Harms' on Sunday, July 31st in the evening.

August 13-14 Youth Group at Marion Reservoir: The Youth Group will plan to be at Marion Reservoir on August 13-14. (Additional information yet to come)

August 14 6:00-8:00 p.m. All church swimming party at the Newton Public Pool, Athletic Park.

Sunday, August 28 Back-to-School Celebration during the Sunday School Hour. We will again be assembling MCC School Kits. A reminder to collect school supplies: MCC School Kits: (NEW items only): 4 spiral or perforated notebooks (70 sheets), 4 unsharpened pencils, 1 ruler (flat, flexible plastic, indicating both 30 cm and 12 inches), 12 colored pencils (in packaging), 1 large pencil eraser.

Announcements

Summer Food For Kids: Monday, August 1 is Grace Hill's day to provide food bags for children in the Whitewater/Potwin community. Today and next Sunday during Sunday School, we will pass around an offering for the food bags. Around 80 bags are passed out every week, and they cost around \$10 per bag. We are also looking for another helper to put the bags together. Contact Pastor Peter if you are interested.

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: Catina Wiebe and Rachelle Claassen

Nursery Next Sunday: Debbie Claassen and Samantha Claassen

Ushers Next Sunday: Mike Balzer and Kendall Claassen

Offering Last Sunday: Mennonite Men of the Plains \$1,005.00

Offering Next Sunday: Peace Connections

The following books of Marie Wiebe have been donated to our library:
Nouwen, Henri J. M. *The Way of the Heart* dealing with silence and prayer in the Christian life, - *Behold the Beauty of the Lord* dealing with prayer, - *Reaching Out* reaching out to our inmost self, others, and God, - *Clowning in Rome* reflections on solitude, prayer, and contemplation, - *Out of Solitude* meditations on the Christian life, - *The Living Reminder*, service and prayer in memory of Jesus Christ, - *With Open Hands* with photographs dealing with prayer.

Manning, Brennan *The Ragamuffin Gospel* Good news for the bedraggled, beat-up and burnt out.

Olson, Dave & Linda *Listening Prayer* listening to God in our praying.

Ortberg, John *If You Want to Walk on Water, You've Got to Get Out of the Boat.*

Wilkinson, Bruce *The Prayer of Jabez for Teens* written for his teenage daughter.

Holmes, Marjorie *To Help You Through the Hurting* guide to faith, hope and healing.

Sullivan, Clayton *Jesus & the Sweet Pilgrim Baptist Church* a fable, *Watch for the Light* devotionals written for each day of Advent and Christmas.

Betten, Mary *People of the Passion* ideas for dramas for groups.

Lucado, Max *God Came Near* all happened in a remarkable moment, - *No Wonder They Call Him the Savior* chronicles of the cross.

Sider, Ronald J. *The Scandal of the Evangelical Conscience* Our lives should reflect Christ.

Jensen, Margaret *Violets for Mister B* a Christian biography, *First Comes the Wind* Fiction Is there anything meaningful in life?

Bibee, John *The Magic Bicycle* how a bicycle found a boy - book for all ages.

Bunn, T. Davis *To the Ends of the Earth* a novel of the Byzantine Empire.

Leona Unruh Memorial:

Klavan, Andrew *The Truth of the Matter* Bk III of The Homelanders Series for Jr/Sr high boys.

Outreach Tip: Christians who seriously read not only the Bible, but also the newspaper, will find themselves endlessly drawn into the process of translating God's Word into the language of their ever-changing world. - James R. Krabill

Et Cetera

Alumni and Friends of Hesston College are invited to Honeytown, a high energy Americana band from Kidron, Ohio performing at Hesston Mennonite Church, 309 South Main Street, this evening at 7 p.m. Go to Honeytownmusic.com for more information. A free will offering will be taken.

Make no excuses, simply come to the banquet/No pongan Excusas: Simplemente ven al Banquete, based on Luke 14:15-24. The countdown to the Western District Conference Annual Assembly is about over. The program will begin Friday, July 29 at 2 p.m. with an opening session featuring the state of the conference, a 75th birthday party for the Conference Resource Library, a supper meeting for pastors and spouses, and the opening worship service featuring Sara Wenger Shenk, President of Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary.

Explore your faith with seminary classes this fall: *Sermon on the Mount*, taught by Jerry Truex; *Christian Theology I*, taught by Lois Barrett; and *Pastoral Ministry and Leadership*, taught by Keith Harder. Credit students and auditors welcome. Check out these and other courses at Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary – Great Plains Extension at www.ambs.edu/GreatPlains. Weekend and evening classes in North Newton. Register for fall classes by August 8 at www.ambs.edu/admissions/register-online. 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.

Alumni and friends of Bethel College are invited to the Summer Thresher Golf Classic and Barbecue, Saturday, August 13, at Galaway Creek Golf Course, Henderson, Nebraska. Contact 316-284-5251, alumni@bethelks.edu, see the brochure in the foyer or print one from www.bethelks.edu/alumni/events/golf.php. Register with payment by Thursday, August 4, and save \$10!

All women and girls grade 3 and above are invited to Camp Mennoscah September 9-11. On Saturday, we have many opportunities including Bible study, canoeing, skin care and pampering, water aerobics, using your digital camera, prayerful movement, and learning about gluten intolerance. There will also be time for fellowship, spending time in nature, swimming, singing and worshiping God. Scholarships are available. Brochures are available in the foyer or for more information contact womengirlsretreat@gmail.com. We hope to see everyone at the retreat.

Hesston College will host its 12th annual Anabaptist Vision and Discipleship Series conference Oct. 28 to 30 with the theme *Getting Beyond Them and Us – to We*. A complete schedule, registration information and speaker information are available at www.hesston.edu/avds. Cost for registration before Oct. 1 is \$110 for individuals or \$85 per person if registered in groups of three or more. After Oct. 1, individual registration is \$130, and the group rate is \$95 per person. For more information, contact Elaine Schmidt at elaines@hesston.edu or 620-327-8290.

Square feet needed! We know that some of you have two left feet, but what we really need are those of you with square feet. We need to fund these last square feet of the new swimming pool - each square foot costs \$150. Give us a call at 620-297-3290 and we'll tell you what you can do with those square feet of yours.

Mennonite Central Committee is appealing for donations to support its response to the drought and food crisis in East Africa that has left about 11 million people in need of humanitarian assistance. Please consider a gift to help fund initial efforts in Ethiopia and Kenya to provide supplemental food for at-risk groups, and to support food-for-work projects. To donate, visit mcc.org or send checks with "East Africa Drought Response" in the memo line to MCC Central States, PO Box 235, North Newton, KS 67117. We encourage you also to pray for people in the region.

CHURCH OFFICES

Pastors' Office Hours:

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

Pastor: Peter Goerzen Office:

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