

GRACE HILL MENNONITE CHURCH

August 11, 2013

Whitewater, Kansas

Worship 9:30 a.m.

Sunday School 10:45 a.m.

Pastor: Peter Goerzen

Associate Pastor: Katherine Goerzen

Musician: Sara Unruh

Worship Leader: Pastor Katherine

Song Leaders: Penny Hiebert, Praise Team

God's Good Creation: A Stone as Witness to the Covenant

Gathering

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 and Gathering Prayer

One: God, our deliverer,
who time and time again brings us out of difficulty
and leads us into places of hope,

Many: don't give up on us,

One: that we may continue meeting together to tell of your
deliverance and bring witness to your great love for us.

All: In the name of Jesus, the covenant maker, we pray. Amen.

- * **Gathering Songs Hymn No. 640** *This is a day of new beginnings*
No. 521 *Come, thou fount*

Praying

Offering Our Gifts Local Church

- * **Song of Prayer Sing the Journey No. 79** *As I went down to the river* vs. 1-4

Prayers of the People

When did I experience God's love and grace this week?
When did I feel abandoned by God?
What did I hope for this week? What did I fear?
How did I live out God's calling for my life this week?
Where did I fall short of God's calling?
What do I need to release into God's care and keeping?

Listening

Children's Story

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

Old Testament Reading Joshua 24: 1-28 Ken Wiebe

Sermon *Choose this day* Pastor Peter

Responding

- * **Songs of Response No. 411** *I bind my heart this tide*
Here by the water

- * **Benediction** Romans 15:13

- * **Sending Song No. 398** *I love to tell the story*

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 Elizabeth Raid as she is licensed towards ordination at Bethel College Mennonite Church today. Pray God's blessing on her ministry as chaplain at Mennonite Friendship Communities, Hutchinson, Kansas.

Mennonite Mission Network: Praise God for positive changes at the War Trauma Center in Serbia where Lane Stopher of MMN served for more than four years. Pray for Lane as he answers a call to the Lombard (Ill.) Mennonite Peace Center and begins ministry there this month.

Announcements

Women's Book Study: I (Pastor Katherine) would love to lead a women's book study in conjunction with Grace Hill's Year of the Bible this year. The book that I am interested in pursuing is *A Year of Biblical Womanhood* by Rachel Held Evans. Here is an excerpt from the back cover:

“With just the right mixture of humor and insight, compassion and incredulity, *A Year of Biblical Womanhood* is an exercise in scriptural exploration and spiritual contemplation. What does God truly expect of women, and is there really a prescription for biblical womanhood? Come along with Evans as she looks for answers in the rich heritage of biblical heroines, models of grace, and all-around women of valor.”

I would hope to meet once a month beginning in October over coffee and hot tea. If any women (high school age women and older) are interested in being a part of this book study, please feel free to send me an email or talk with me in person. Thanks!

Calling All Artists!: Creativity is a gift from the One who created us! So, in conjunction with Grace Hill's Year of the Bible, we would invite anyone who is interested and who feels so led to create pieces of art from favorite scripture passages to be displayed within our church building and/or worship services during the next year. Any medium is fine (painting, photography, sketching, poetry, dance, and so on). If you are interested, please speak with Pastor Peter or Pastor Katherine.

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: Lisa Harms and Melinda Regehr
Nursery Next Sunday: Theresa Toews and Sara Harms
Ushers Next Sunday: Mike Balzer and Kendall Claassen

Offering Last Sunday: Mennonite Church USA \$946.00
Offering Next Sunday: Harvey County Homeless Shelter

Church Events

Today Youth Group Boating Day: The youth group will have our annual day at the lake at El Dorado Lake following the worship service today. All youth (incoming Freshmen to graduating Seniors) are invited and encouraged to bring friends! We will plan to eat sack lunches on our way to the lake; supper will be provided. Please let Pastor Katherine know if you have any questions!

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

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

Next Sunday Grace Hill Bible Bowl 2013! Plan to remain in the sanctuary for the Sunday School hour on August 18 for Grace Hill's first annual Bible Bowl! Bible bowl participants will have access to Scripture passages from which questions will be drawn ahead of time. If you are interested in participating in the Bible bowl on a team, as a cheerleader, a moderator, a coach, or in any other way, let Pastor Peter know. This is open to all ages. This event will kick off the Year of the Bible at Grace Hill, a year of new learnings, faith practices, and satisfying our thirst for God's Word. Learn more on August 18.

Sunday, August 25 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.

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 Claassen

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

Et Cetera

Mental Health Spiritual Retreat - Camp Mennoscah's Mental Health Spiritual Retreat for those affected by mental illness, including family and friends, will be held September 2-3. The theme for the retreat is Create Yourself Anew! Sessions will look at new ways to see ourselves -there will also be swimming, a hayrack ride, and music & worship! Call 620-297-3290 for the brochure or find it online at www.campmennoscah.org in the Retreats section!

Post-College, Pre-Family Potluck Dinner! September 14 at 5:30 p.m. at First Mennonite Church, Halstead (427 West 4th St.). Please bring your own table service and a potluck dish to share, drinks provided. RSVP by September 1 to Peter Wintermote at pete_mote@hotmail.com. To clarify, this is a gathering for any young adults who are past college age and don't yet have children. This specification is not to exclude people, but rather to encourage connections within this specific group of young adults in our area.

The annual Mennonite Central Committee Flatlander Bicycle Ride will be held on Saturday, September 21, originating at the MCC offices, 121 E. 30th Street, North Newton. This year's ride will raise funds for an MCC water development project in Vietnam. Rides of approximately 35, 45, and 65 miles, as well as a shorter family ride are planned. Informational brochures are available on the bulletin board. The brochure is also available on the MCC website: <http://centralstates.mcc.org/programs/flatlander>. Or you can register online at that website.

Mennonite Central Committee Central States is accepting applications for an Office Manager/Bookkeeper in the North Newton office. The person for this position needs to have experience in bookkeeping, have enthusiastic customer service skills and a commitment to the mission of MCC Central States. Hours for this position are Tuesday-Friday 8am-12pm and 1pm-5pm. Check for more details at serve.mcc.org (look for Office Manager/Bookkeeper -Central States) or email Melissa Waltner at mwaltner@mcc.org.

You are invited to the MCC Learning Tour "Ukraine: Addressing the Basic Social Issues of a Broken-Down Society" July 25 to August 4, 2014, which will provide an in-depth look at MCC projects and social-economical issues in Ukraine. Rudi Niessen, MCC Material Resource Center – Warehouse Coordinator (Akron, PA), will be leading this trip. Space is limited. Contact Anna Yoder, annayoder@mcc.org or 316-283-2720, for more information.