

GRACE HILL MENNONITE CHURCH

September 1, 2013

Whitewater, Kansas

Worship 9:30 a.m.

Sunday School 10:45 a.m.

Pastor: Peter Goerzen

Associate Pastor: Katherine Goerzen

Musician: Ellen Mosiman

Song Leader: Gladys Reimer

Worship Leader: Josh Patterson

Shaped by the Story: In the Image of our Creator God

Grace Hill's Twelve Foundational Scriptures

Gathering and Praising

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 based on Psalm 104

One: Bless the Lord, O my soul! O Lord, my God, you are very great!

Many: Bless the Lord, O my soul!

One: You are clothed with honor and majesty, wrapped in light as with a garment

Many: Bless the Lord, O my soul!

One: You stretch out the heavens like a tent, you set the beams of your chambers on the waters

Many: Bless the Lord, O my soul!

One: You set the earth on its foundations, so that it shall never be shaken

Many: Bless the Lord, O my soul!

One: You make springs gush forth in the valleys, giving drink to every wild animal

Many: Bless the Lord, O my soul!

One: You cause the grass to grow for cattle, and plants for people to use to bring forth food from the earth

Many: Bless the Lord, O my soul!

One: You have made the moon to mark the seasons; the sun knows its time for setting

Many: Bless the Lord, O my soul!

One: O Lord, how wonderful are your works! In wisdom you have made them all

Many: Bless the Lord, O my soul!

One: The earth is full of your creatures. These all look to you to give them food in due season

Many: Bless the Lord, O my soul!

One: When you send forth your Spirit, they are created; and you renew the face of the earth

Many: Bless the Lord, O my soul!

One: May the glory of the Lord endure forever; may the Lord rejoice in his works

Many: Bless the Lord, O my soul!

One: I will sing to the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have being

Many: Bless the Lord, O my soul!

One: Bless the Lord, O My soul! Praise the Lord!

Gathering Prayer

- * **Gathering Hymns No. 48** *All creatures of our God and King* vs. 1-4 & 7
- No. 156** *All things bright and beautiful* vs. 1, 2 & 4

Offering Our Gifts Mennonite Church USA

Hearing God's Story

Scripture Song

Valerie Klaassen

Sing the Journey No. 24 *Creation is a song*

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

Old Testament Scripture Genesis 1:1 – 2:4a

Pastor Katherine

Scripture Sharing

Roberta and Galen Harms

- * **Song Sing the Journey No. 40** *As rain from the clouds* vs. 1 & 3

Old Testament Scripture Genesis 2: 4b -25

Deb Hiebert

Sermon *In the beginning.....*

Pastor Peter

Responding to God's Story

- * **Hymn of Response No. 50** *Praise the Lord, sing hallelujah*

Responding to the Story and Congregational Prayer

What was meaningful for you from this morning's worship service?

What questions have you pondered in regard to this text?

How has God's Spirit spoken to you through this Scripture passage?

Sent by God

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

* **Benediction**

One: O God, who called all life into being,

All: the earth, sea, and sky are yours.

One: Your presence is all around us;

All: your image is within each of us.

One: Your Spirit enlivens all who walk the earth;

All: with it we yearn for justice to be done,

One: for creation to be freed from bondage,

All: for the hungry to be fed,

One: for the captives to be released,

All: for your kingdom of peace to come on earth! AMEN

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

Thank you for your thoughts and prayers after my recent hospitalization.
It was much appreciated. Clara Penner

Western District Conference: Praise God for the call of Byron Pellecer, recent graduate of Eastern Mennonite Seminary, to the planting of a Hispanic congregation in Wichita. Pray God's guidance for the supporting churches in Wichita – Lorraine Avenue Mennonite, Hope Mennonite, and Mennonite Church of the Servant.

Mennonite Mission Network: Praise God for Linda Oyer's successful eye surgery in July. Linda, a long-term worker with MMN in France, is seeing clearly with her left eye for the first time in five years. Pray for her as she resumes ministries put on hold due to problems with her sight.

Sunday School this Fall

Dig In begins today in the fellowship hall! *Dig In* is a new print and video curriculum focusing on 13 core Scriptures for Anabaptists. Participants interact with the Scriptures by storytelling, background information, clips of people digesting the Word into life, and a prayerful reading and response. This is an adult elective and is part of Grace Hill's Year of the Bible.

Youth Sunday School: This fall, we will be engaging "Echo the Story," which tells the overview of the story of the Bible in 12 sessions. Each session includes a brief video, biblical storytelling, discussion, and creative reflection. Each youth will receive their own sketch journal as a part of this series. We look forward to engaging the biblical story together!

Church Events

Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. High School Youth Group will begin with a kick off for the year.

Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. The adult choir will begin meeting on Wednesday at 7 p.m.! We welcome any and all who enjoy singing and who need an uplifting 40 minutes in the middle of the week! Aaron Tschetter will be directing again this year. Please consider singing this year!

Next Sunday at 5:45 p.m. Grace Hill Night at the Movies – Biblical stories on the big screen, complete with popcorn. Response and evaluation to follow viewing. Next week's showing: *The Gospel of John* The story of Jesus' life, adapted for screen word-for-word from John's Gospel. Henry Ian Cusick and Christopher Plummer star. 3 hours. PG-13 (crucifixion).

Sunday, September 29 at 12:45 p.m. Semi-annual Church Business Meeting. There will be a meal at 11:30 a.m. – more details to come.

Announcements

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.

The Harvey County Food Pantry is in need of items throughout the year. A basket for goods is located in the foyer by the front entrance.

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: Joyce Wedel and Katrina Regehr

Nursery Next Sunday: Kaye Penner and Angela Frohlich-Phipps

Ushers Next Sunday: Doug Hiebert and Russell Janzen

Offering Last Sunday: Western District Conference \$1,332.00

Offering Next Sunday: Local Church

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

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.

Bible Storying is our next Year of the Bible event. Attend if you enjoy an interactive learning experience on how to learn and teach the Bible. Come to Faith Mennonite, Newton, from 3-6:30 p.m. on Sunday, September 15. Call Western District Conference at 316-283-6300 by September 10 to reserve your spot. Only \$10 per person or \$25 for a group of up to ten persons from your congregation.

Bethel College and the Bethel College Service Corps present The Misguided Professors and The Book of JEBB in a benefit concert for Oklahoma tornado relief and a celebration of fiddler Jesse Graber – Sunday, September 15 at 3 p.m., Memorial Hall on the Bethel campus; free with offering taken.

Don't Hide Under a Bushel! We're looking for skills great and small--from dusting to repairing, from willing spirits to helpful hands--to join us for our **Work & Play Camp at Camp Mennoscah**, September 15-18. This is a service-oriented retreat for all ages. We'll be working hard and squeezing every ounce of fellowship and fun out of each day. This year's retreat is slightly shorter than previous years and we'd be happy to have folks stay longer. Just let us know! The brochure can be found at www.campmennoscah.org or give us a call at 620-297-3290.

Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary-Great Plains invites you to a Simple Supper on Friday, September 20 at 6:00 p.m. at Faith Mennonite Church, Newton. The supper will be followed by a report of the recent survey data and discussion concerning the future of the AMBS - Great Plains extension program. No cost; RSVP by Sept. 16 to Marlene Faul, 316-283-7098 or mfaul@ambs.edu.

Camp Mennoscah Annual Meeting - Camp Mennoscah Association will have its second annual meeting (wow!) on September 22 at 3 p.m. in the camp dining hall. Entertainment will be provided by Tom, Lois, & Anna Harder and a pulled pork meal will be served. Pulled pork and buns provided. Please bring a side dish to share and table service. Donations accepted. We'll see you there!

If you've ever felt that today's youth and families are stretched thin by the busyness of our culture and the demands of the sports that our kids play, or the activities that they are involved in, then please put September 22 on your calendar, as we will have the opportunity to hear from Dave King, Director of Athletics at Eastern Mennonite University. He will describe the current state of youth sports and help us explore the impact on our children, family and church. Together we will discover resources to help parents find their way through this challenging time! **Join us September 22, 6-7:30 p.m. at Whitestone church.** This is for all youth, parents, and youth workers. Free will offering will be taken. Refreshments provided! Childcare available on site for infant through grade 3. Please register your children by contacting the church office at 620-327-4123 or whitestone@whitestonemc.com.

More Cropping at Camp Mennoscah! This spring there was such a demand for our scrapbooking retreat that we're considering adding a second retreat this fall. Our primary scrapbooking retreat is November 1-3. If we have enough interest, we'll add a second retreat on November 15-17--this retreat is not guaranteed. Brochures are not yet available, but send us an email at campmno@mennowdc.org or give us a call at 620-297-3290 to tell us you're interested. Fun times are ahead!

Job Opening: Director of Prison Ministries - Offender/Victim Ministries is seeking applicants to oversee its M-2 Prison Visitation and Prison Arts programs at Hutchinson Correctional Facility. This position is half-time, salaried and based in Newton. Interested candidates should submit resumes and cover letters to libby.ovm@sbcglobal.net.

The Lions of Judah series, written by Gilbert Morris, has been added to the Grace Hill Library.

- Heart of a Lion is the story of Noah's struggles and courage when following God's call.
- No Woman So Fair is the story of Abraham and Sarah.

2013 – 2014 SUNDAY SCHOOL YEAR

Early Childhood: Kindergarten/Pre-kindergarten

Teachers: Chad & Laurie Dove, Josh Patterson

Students: Rowan Dove, Caleb Enns, Jacob Enns, Hadleigh Harms

Middler: Grades 1st – 4th

Teachers: Kathy Balzer

Students: Lexi Enns, Lizzie Enns, Sara Enns,
Eva Hilgenfeld, Lily Hilgenfeld

Junior Youth: Grades 5th - 8th

Teachers: Jo Frye, Deb Regier

Students: Alston Cunningham, Quinn Dove, Alia Enns,
Brandi Enns, Jacob Hilgenfeld, Bethany Regehr

High School: Grades 9th – 12th

Teacher: Pastor Katherine

Students: Alexander Carr, Carine Claassen, Rachelle Claassen,
Carson Dove, Lucas Goossen, Paul Goossen, Renata Goossen,
Sara Harms, Emma Hilgenfeld, Hunter Hill, Madison Janzen,
Eli Schmidt, Kylee Schunn

2013-14 College Students

Bethel College – Cody Claassen, Tara Harms-Becker, Mikayla Hiebert,
Katrina Regehr, Melinda Regehr, Katie Regier, Kyle Regier,
Casey Schunn

Hesston College – Matthew Hiebert

Kansas State University - Brittany Claassen, Camille Claassen,
Cole Claassen, Courtney Claassen, Grant Claassen, Samantha Claassen,
Grant Hill, David Janzen, Paul Janzen, Adrian Nethercot, Josh Toevs

Kansas University – Philip Harms, Steven Harms

Newman University, Wichita – Ashley Guhr

Wichita State University – Brett Harms, Laura Harms