

GRACE HILL MENNONITE CHURCH

September 30, 2012

Whitewater, Kansas

Worship 9:30 a.m.

Sunday School 10:45 a.m.

Pastor: Peter Goerzen

Associate Pastor: Katherine Goerzen

Song Leader: Gladys Reimer

Musicians: Sara Unruh, David Janzen

Worship Leader: Pastor Katherine

Seek Shalom and Pursue It: Seek Shalom as a Way of Life

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.

Psalm Reading Psalm 34: 11-15

Call to Worship

All: We celebrate the resurrected Jesus who lives among us

One: whose Spirit empowers us to remove barriers,
tear down walls, heal divisions,
and seek shalom without and within.

All: We celebrate the resurrected Jesus who lives among us

One: whose Spirit empowers us to see our sister's good as our own,
to be our brother's advocate,
to love our neighbor as ourselves,
and to contribute to the well-being
of every part of Christ's body,
so that we can build up and grow up
and be joined together into a new structure:

**All: where Christ's Spirit dwells, where Christ's Spirit empowers us
to be shalom-seekers, shalom-finders, and shalom-makers!**

Prayer for Shalom and Lighting the Peace Lamp

* **Gathering Hymn No. 6** *Here in this place*

Sharing our Stories

Congregational Prayer

Listening

Gospel Reading Matthew 16: 13-21

Donna Balzer

* **Hymn Sing the Journey No. 61** *How can we be silent*

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

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

Pastor Peter

Sermon *Minding the Faith*

Pastor Peter

Responding

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

Prayer of Confession

One: Holy One, it is hard to live our lives toward your shalom

North side: Sometimes our love is false

South side: We cling to the evil and ignore the good

North side: We exaggerate our own importance

South side: We grow weary

One: God, sometimes we lose our joy, our patience, our words for prayer

North side: We close the door on strangers

South side: We respond to hatred with more hatred

One: We do not trust the power of good to overcome the evil around us

All: Have mercy on us, O God.

Assurance of Pardon Romans 12: 1-2

Offering Our Gifts

We will receive a special health and well-being offering. Half of this offering will go towards an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) for the church building. The other half will be sent to Mennonite Central Committee for health projects. For many people around the world, good health care is out of reach. Some communities lack proper equipment or medications while others are in remote areas far from health providers. This offering will help MCC open doors to healthier lives in the name of Christ!

* **Sending Song Sing the Journey No. 54** *Longing for light*

* **Blessing**

Postlude

*Indicates those comfortable in doing so, please stand

Today during the Sunday School hour we will meet in the fellowship hall to begin the twelve scriptures project. The children will meet in the basement for a joint Sunday School.

For Sharing and Prayer

We wish to express our thanks to the church family for helping us celebrate our 65th wedding anniversary. It was a delight to see so many of you sharing your time with our family and enjoying the afternoon. May God bless you as well as He has blessed us for so many years.

Thanks, Merrill & Gladys Harms

Next Sunday we will celebrate Worldwide Communion, together with our sisters and brothers around the world. We invite you to prepare your hearts to come to the table with the assembly of believers the world over!

Western District Conference: Pray for Philip Schmidt as he is installed today as the lead pastor of Tabor Mennonite Church, Goessel.

Mennonite Mission Network: Praise God for a new meeting place for the growing Mennonite Christian Community of Riobamba in Ecuador, a MMN partner. Pray that pastors, Luz Marina and William Valencia, and each worshiper in the congregation will feel the Lord's presence and power in their lives.

College Prayer Partners: Sign up on the sheet in the foyer to be a prayer partner for one of our college students!

Church Events

Tuesday afternoon Quilters are welcome to come to the church and quilt on the MCC quilt anytime from 1-5 p.m.

Wednesday 6:15 p.m. All Church Meal – everyone is invited!
7:00 – 8:00 p.m. Junior Dept. Programming
7:00 – 8:15 p.m. Youth Programming
7:00 p.m. Adult Choir
7:00 p.m. Adult Study with Pastor Peter
-Philip Yancey's "The Jesus I Never Knew" DVD series
Cost of the meal: High School & Adults \$3.00 Children \$2.50

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

Saturday at 4:00 p.m. Baking Communion Bread: The Youth Group will be baking communion bread for Worldwide Communion. We will plan to meet at the church building at 4:00 p.m. Afterward, we will plan to go together to the Breadbasket for supper. Please bring money for the buffet. Hope to see you there!

Next Sunday, October 7 at noon Attention all council members! The Administrative Council is planning a vision, planning, and praying retreat for Sunday, October 7 from noon-4 p.m. here at the church, and all members of councils are encouraged to participate. We will eat lunch at noon and follow with the meeting. Please let Debbie Claassen know if you plan to attend so food arrangements can be made. Come join us as we seek God's leading for the coming year and beyond!

Monday, October 8 at 1:30 p.m. Hands of Friendship will meet at church. Program: Work day at church, tie comforts and cut quilt blocks; Hostess & Devotions: Agnes Harder and Elaine Patterson; Financial Project: Western District Women in Mission.

Sunday, October 14 Worship and Supper with Casa Betania: On Sunday, October 14, the Casa Betania congregation from Newton will join us at Grace Hill for a special evening of exciting worship and food and fellowship. Casa Betania's worship band will be leading our singing, and the congregation will serve a supper of burritos and/or tostadas. We will have the opportunity to share in Casa Betania's ministry in the community through worship, prayer, and a free-will offering which will support the mission of Casa Betania. Worship will be at 5 p.m., followed by supper at 6 p.m.



October 20-21 The Grace Hill Church Retreat is on October 20 and 21. Make sure you look at the schedule and registration form that was placed in your church mailbox. We will have a great weekend of fun, entertainment and worship, featuring a "Night at the Improv" on Saturday night. You won't want to miss this great weekend. Fill out the registration form and return it to Merrill and Gladys Harms' mailbox by October 14.

Announcements

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: Kris Goossen and Renata Goossen
Nursery Next Sunday: Kathy Balzer and Rachelle Claassen

Ushers Next Sunday: Terry Klassen and Dean Patterson
Offering Last Sunday: Western District Conference \$1,293.00
Offering Next Sunday: Mennonite Church USA

CHURCH OFFICES

Pastors' Office Hours:

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

Pastor: Peter

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

Pig Roast (and annual meeting)! Everyone of every age is invited to come to the first annual meeting of the Camp Mennoscah Association today at Camp Mennoscah. There are children's activities to start our afternoon at 3 p.m., followed by the meeting, the pig roast potluck, music by The Book of JEB, and the Camp Mennoscah Master Plan. Please bring table service and a side dish to share. Donations will be accepted. Questions? Call us at 620-297-3290. We'll see you there!

All are invited to a centennial celebration of the Congo Mennonite Church and Africa Inter-Mennonite Mission today at First Mennonite Church, 429 E. 1st St., Newton. Celebrations took place in Congo in July; the month of September 2012 has been set aside for celebrations in eight locations in North America. The Newton-area celebration features the following events: 4:00 p.m. Program in Fellowship Hall; 5:00 p.m. Light Meal in Fellowship Hall; and 6:00 p.m. Worship in Sanctuary. For more information contact First Mennonite Church at 316-283-0273 or office@firstmennonitewton.org.

Life-Chain in Newton will be next Sunday, October 7 from 2-3 p.m. Please join in a peaceful, prayerfully quiet witness of unity and gratitude for Pro-Life supporters within our community. Life-Chain starts at the SW corner of N. Main and 9th St. Signs will be provided. Bring your lawn chairs and umbrella – come rain or shine!

Getting ready to retire? “Retiring Soon? An Introduction to Medicare and Social Security,” will be presented from 7 - 8 p.m. Monday, October 8, at Hope Mennonite Church, 868 N. Maize Road, Wichita; and from 7 - 8 p.m. October 22 at the Hesston Mennonite Church Community Center, 309 S. Main St., Hesston. Representatives of Everence will provide instructions on how to enroll, how continuing to work affects your benefits and answer related questions. Admission is free but please reserve your spot by Oct. 1 by calling Darlene Buller at (620) 327-4043 or (877) 467-7294 or emailing darlene.buller@everence.com.

Hesston College will host Sonia Nazario, Pulitzer Prize-winning reporter and author of the college's first-year common read, Enrique's Journey, for a discussion on immigration issues in the United States at 7 p.m., October 9 at Hesston Mennonite Church. Nazario has spent more than 20 years reporting and writing about social issues for major newspapers including The Los Angeles Times. She will also share her research for the book, which chronicles the true story of Enrique, a Honduran boy, and his journey and struggle to reunite with his mother in the United States. Following the presentation, Nazario will participate in a question and answer time and a book signing. The event is free and open to the public.

Enjoy a hearty Country Breakfast at Kidron Bethel Village from 7 to 9 a.m. Saturday, October 13, a great start to your day at Bethel College Fall Festival. The breakfast menu includes pancakes, sausage, scrambled eggs, orange juice and coffee. A donation is requested for the meal.

The Bethel College Women's Association Market on the Green Committee is asking for donations of ethnic foods, poppy seed rolls, zwiebach, homemade noodles, pies, and other baked goods and home grown produce for the Bethel College Fall Festival on Saturday, October 13. Please bring your items to the large tent on the north side of the green anytime Saturday morning after 7:30 a.m. Also available for sale will be gift items that include the 125th anniversary picnic basket, pewter Christmas Tree ornaments, stadium seats, cookbooks, breadbasket napkins and tea towels, Lithuanian candle house replicas of Goerz House and “Everyone Loves a Mennonite Girl” T-shirts in new colors and more. Come start your Christmas shopping early! **Bethel College Women's Association** is also sponsoring **PAINT ON SLATE!** For a small fee, you will be able to create a memento of Bethel on a piece of slate salvaged from the old Science Hall roof. Supplies, paint smocks and expertise will be provided. Other Science Hall items will also be on display and for sale. Proceeds go to Bethel College Women's Association.

Volunteers are needed at the traditional German-Swiss noon meal at Bethel College Fall Festival, October 13, 11:15-1:30. Volunteers will help with ushering, clearing and resetting tables, pouring beverages, or wiping trays. Consider volunteering for the entire time or split a shift with a friend. There is a sign-up sheet in the foyer.

You are all invited to join us at Camp Mennoscah for our Fall Scrapbooking Retreat with a multitude of Make-n-Takes, sessions, and bountiful time to work on those projects you've been saving. Grab your photos and scissors--we can't wait to have you at our banquet table. The retreat runs from Friday, November 2, to Sunday, November 4. The brochure can be found at www.campmennoscah.org under Retreats or at www.mennowdc.org in the Coming Events section.

Have you seen it? Camp Mennoscah now has a website. We're still learning all the ins and outs of updating, but check us out at www.campmennoscah.org for the next new thing.

The following books have been donated to the church library by Faith & Life:

Faltering towards Perfection Jody Stephenson She explores her life of following Christ through art, poetry, and prose. Used to live in Greensburg.

Treasures in Clay Jars Lois Y. Barrett et al Studies of nine missional congregations in North America

Telling our Stories Ray Gingerech & Earl Zimmerman, eds. Personal accounts of engagement with Scripture.

Healing the Wounds Ann Wenger & Esther & Malcom Wenger One family's journey among the Northern Cheyenne.

Catch a Rising Star Tracy Bateman story about family, friendship, and faith for teens

All that Glitters Nicole O'Dell Interactive fiction for girls (teens)

The following books have been added to our library: Leona Unruh Memorial

The Reason William Sirls - a carpenter is busy in a little village and many miracles happen.

Traveler's Rest Ann Tatlock - healing comes in many different ways, not as we might wish

The following donated by others:

"A" is for Alaska: Teacher to the Territory Anna Gaede-Penner a biography of Anna Bartel Church who taught in Alaska

From Kansas Wheat Fields to Alaska Tundra Anna Gaede-Penner a Mennonite family finds home in Alaska. Her husband is a doctor.

After the Rains Deborah Raney this is a sequel to *Beneath a Southern Sky* which we have in our library.

After All Deborah Raney #3 of the Hanover Falls series. (we have the other 2).

The Frontiersman's Daughter Laura Frantz historical novel of early settlers in Kentucky

Unending Devotion Jody Hedlund historical novel in Harrison, Michigan, dealing with the logging camps and towns.