

GRACE HILL MENNONITE CHURCH

November 8, 2009

Whitewater, Kansas

Worship 9:30 a.m.

Sunday School 10:45 a.m.

Pastor: Peter Goerzen

Youth Pastor: Katherine Goerzen

Keyboard: Tara Harms-Becker

Chorister: Andrew Voth

Worship Leader: Josh Toevs

Harvest Thanks – Mission Sunday

Gathering Our Praise

Prelude

Welcoming Guests 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: The God who made the world and everything in it is Lord of heaven and earth and gives us life and breath. All who search for God will find him, for he is not far from us.

Many: Thanks be to God for the revelation of himself as God of all peoples.

One: Many shall come from the east and the west and will rejoice in God's Reign.

Many: Thanks be to God for the gift of salvation for all peoples.

One: Sing to the Lord, all the earth. Tell of God's salvation from day to day.

Many: Declare God's glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples.

One: For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; God is to be revered above all gods.

All: Honor and majesty are before God, strength and joy are in this place!

* **Prayer of Invocation**

* **Gathering Hymn No. 90** *For the fruit of all creation*

Scripture Reading Psalm 146

Josh Toevs

Choral Anthem *With a voice of singing* by Shaw

Adult Choir

Proclaiming the Word

Children's Story

Mary Hurst

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

* **Hymn No. 96** *We plow the fields and scatter*

Scripture Readings Jeremiah 29:4-7 & Ephesians 4:11-12

Josh Toevs

Sermon

Mark and Mary Hurst

Responding

Offering Harvest Thanks

On this Harvest Mission Festival Sunday, we receive a special offering for the work of God's kingdom. It is an opportunity to give a special gift to the ministries supported by the congregation. Rejoice in what God enables you to give for the transforming of lives for God's kingdom.

Harvest Thanks offering envelopes are available from an usher.

Offertory Prayer

One: Blessed are you, O God, who graces each of us with skills, talents, abilities, and opportunities.

Many: To you, and to our sisters and brothers, we offer these gifts.

One: We pledge to live no more unto ourselves but to love and serve your purposes.

Many: We commit ourselves, O God, for service and ministry, in our congregation, community, and throughout the world.

One: Let your wisdom teach us and your power enable us.

All: Unite us with all Christians as we celebrate your Reign, for the common good of all your people. Amen.

Offertory Hymn No. 383 *God, whose giving*

to be sung as the offering is taken

Congregational Sharing and Prayer

Sharing by Daniel Klaassen about his Ministry Inquiry Program experience at Lorraine Avenue Mennonite Church

Sending

* **Sending Hymn No. 414** *God, who stretched*

* **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.

Today we welcome Mark and Mary Hurst! As resource persons for the Anabaptist Association of Australia and New Zealand, they build networks, conduct workshops on conflict resolution, and provide Anabaptist resources. The Hursts both come originally from Lancaster County, Pennsylvania.

Youth and adult classes will meet in the sanctuary for Sunday School with Mark and Mary Hurst today.

Today Harvest Thanks - Mission Sunday

- ◆ **Noon** Harvest Thanks Dinner prepared by the Social Council – all are welcome to stay.
- ◆ **6:00 p.m.** All church supper - pizza, veggies and soda in the fellowship hall, with stories by the Hursts.

For Sharing and Prayer

Thank you for the cards and letters and also to Pastor Peter and Katherine for the prayers while I was in the hospital in Newton Medical.

Arlo Voth and Family

Western District Conference: Pray for the youngest children in your congregation and those who care for them: parents, grandparents, nursery attendants, Sunday School teachers.

Mennonite Mission Network: Pray that God will provide for the needs of Melanie Quinn and the youth she works with at the Bopaganang Basha youth center in Francistown, Botswana, as they study God's word together and share the good news that there is life beyond an HIV-positive diagnosis.

Church Events

Monday at 7:00 p.m. Hands of Friendship meet at church. Program: Book Review by Glenna Schrag; Hostess & Devotions: Kaye Penner; Financial Projects: Mennonite Women USA.

Wednesday **7:00 – 8:15 p.m.** Children's and Youth Programming
 7:00 – 7:40 p.m. Adult Choir
 7:45 – 8:15 p.m. Adult Bible Study with Pastor Peter

Friday Our congregation will be hosting an Encore event (like 5th Quarter, except after the play) for High School Youth on Friday November 13th. A sign up sheet for food will be passed around during Sunday School. Thank you so much for your support!

Friday and Saturday The Mennonite Disaster Service Region III Annual Meeting will be held at Grace Hill.

November 25 at 7:00 p.m. Grace Hill Thanksgiving Service

Announcements

It is time to update *The Mennonite* subscription list. The Business Council would like for anyone who wants to continue receiving a subscription through the church's group plan to sign your name on the list in the foyer. If you do not sign the list, your subscription will be dropped. This is an attempt to use our resources better and to save the cost of unread subscriptions. The list will be in the foyer through November 22. A copy of *The Mennonite* will also be available in the church library or online at www.TheMennonite.org. Thank you!

The Health Resource Team will not do blood pressure checks today – they will be done next Sunday, November 15.

If you are interested in having your name put on the nursery schedule, to help in the nursery during the worship service, please contact Kathy Balzer.

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 Courtney Claassen

Nursery Next Sunday: Lisa Harms and Melinda Regehr

Ushers Next Sunday: Mike Balzer and Kendall Claassen

Preaching Next Sunday: Pastor Katherine

Keyboard Next Sunday: Julia Washburn

Offering Last Sunday: Mennonite Church USA \$1,905.00

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

Youth Pastor: Katherine Goerzen

E-mail: youthpastor@gracehillmc.org

Church Secretary: Debbie Claassen

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

Et Cetera

Upcoming training sessions for the Harvey County Homeless Shelter: Nov. 12 at 10:00 a.m., Nov. 16 at 6:30 p.m., Dec. 3 at 6:30 p.m., Dec. 15 at 6:30 p.m., Dec. 18 at 10:00 a.m., Dec. 29 at 6:30 p.m. If you have questions, contact Donna Balzer.

Open House 2 to 4 p.m. Saturdays, Nov. 14 and 21 at 11 Lakewood Circle in Campus Woods Estates, North Newton, Kidron Bethel Village's residential addition. Come see the 2,061-square-foot Walnut, featuring 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, safe room, sunroom and bonus room. Information: Marilyn King, 284-2900, ext. 232.

Music and Worship Leaders' Retreat, January 8-10. Gather together with those who are passionate about leading others in worship at Laurelville Mennonite Church Center. During the weekend you will enjoy quality workshops, resource sharing, fellowship with like-spirited individuals, and opportunities to create worshipful music. Visit www.Laurelville.org or call 800.839.1021 to register.

Camp Mennoscah—Be part of the future! The Camp Mennoscah staff and the Retreat Commission are planning for the next 30 years of fun-filled excitement and camping ministry—and we want to hear from you! This is for all ages from kids to adults. A 10 question strategic planning survey is available online at www.mennowdc.org/Camp.html or you can contact Camp Mennoscah at 620-297-3290 for a hard copy. Help us build a better camp!

Mennonite Central Committee Increases Asia Disasters Appeal
In response to the needs of flooding and earthquake survivors in Asia, MCC is increasing its appeal for donations to \$250,000. The additional contributions will allow MCC and its partners to respond to extensive flooding damage in southern India and Cambodia and to provide permanent housing for people in Indonesia, where earthquakes devastated entire villages. Please donate by sending checks designated Asia Disasters to MCC Central States PO Box 235 North Newton, KS 67117 or online at www.donate.mcc.org.

Relief Kits MCC's priority kit right now are Relief kits. These kits provide valuable supplies to families traumatized by war and natural disasters. In recent years, kits have been sent to Iraq, Gaza, Bosnia, Serbia, Nepal, Mozambique, Indonesia and Honduras. For a full list of Relief Kit contents visit <http://mcc.org/kits/relief>.