

GRACE HILL MENNONITE CHURCH

November 9, 2014

Whitewater, Kansas

Worship 9:30 a.m.

Sunday School 10:45 a.m.

Musician: Linda Harms

Song Leader: Penny Hiebert

Transition Pastor: Randy Smith

HARVEST THANKS SUNDAY

Gathering Music

Welcome and Announcements

Randy Smith

Prelude to Worship

Call to Worship

We come together as a family of faith.

We assemble to honor the living God.

Through Christ we become God's holy household.

In Christ we are bonded together to be God's people.

Our worship is united into oneness by the Holy Spirit.

In communion with the Holy Spirit, we celebrate our unity.

*Hymns

We plow the fields and scatter

Hymnal 96

Sing to the Lord of harvest

Hymnal 98

*Prayer

Offering

Children's Story

Katrina and Melinda Regehr

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

Scripture

Psalm 23

Sermon

Miriam Regier

*Response Hymn

My Shepherd will supply my need

Hymnal 589

Sharing and Prayer

*Sending Hymn

Hymnal 226

You are salt for the earth

*Benediction

We came to worship.

We go now to serve.

We have been given the light.

We go now to let it shine.

We have been blessed by God's love.

We go now to share it.

We are Christ's disciples.

We go now to witness to all.

Postlude

On this Harvest Thanks 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.

*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.

Combined Sunday School for youth and adults following the worship service in the sanctuary. Input by John Good and Clint Litsey.

Today following Sunday School Harvest Thanks Dinner prepared by the Social Council – all are welcome to stay.

Following the meal Sharing by Del Hershberger.

Miriam Regier grew up east of Newton and graduated from Bethel College. She served through MCC's SALT (Serving and Learning Together) in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina with Bread of Saint Anthony where her work included cooking in the soup kitchen, housekeeping and teaching English. For the last half of her assignment, she worked with agriculture in a therapeutic community for recovering addicts in a village three hours north of Sarajevo.

John Good and Clint Litsey from First Mennonite Church in Newton participated in a learning tour in Honduras last spring.

Del Hershberger from Mennonite Mission Network, will give an overview of MMN through intersecting stories of their work in various parts of the globe that include long-term workers, short-term teams and partnerships.

For Sharing and Prayer

Please join us in celebrating the marriage of Caleb and Berk-Leigh Regehr at an open house on Sunday November 30 from 2-5 pm in the fellowship hall. All are welcome. Light refreshments will be served.

Curt and Tammy Regehr

Next Sunday we will celebrate communion as we conclude the worship series, *Remember Whose You Are*. We will not celebrate communion on the first Sunday of Advent.

Western District Conference: Pray for the gathering of WDC and congregational representatives at Reference Council on Saturday. The focus will be on who we are (the WDC Survey report) and how we can be together (polity) as congregations of differing conviction.

Mennonite Mission Network: Robin Gingerich teaches and serves in administrative roles at LCC International University in Lithuania through Mennonite Mission Network. She requests prayer for LCC's 70 Ukrainian students who are preoccupied with their families' safety, their financial situations, and security in their hometowns.

Church Family News

. . . **Gladys Reimer's** surgery on Tuesday went very well and she is recuperating at home . . . **Tara Harms-Becker** has moved to 307 W 24th St, Apt 4, at Wheatland Homes in North Newton . . . thanks to **John Claassen, Arlo Voth, John and Valerie Klaassen, Dean and Rita Patterson, Ed and Marge Harms, Gerald and Joyce Wedel, Melvin Klaassen, Merrill Harms and Kendall Claassen** who helped **Grace Hill** be well represented for MCC meat canning this year. . .

Got something for Church Family News? Please let Debbie or Randy know. We can't print what we don't have.

Church Events

Monday at 1:30 p.m. Hands of Friendship meet at church. Program: Stacey Klaassen, presenter from Whitewater/Potwin Food Bank; Hostess & Devotions: Alma Schmidt and Elaine Patterson; Financial Projects: Adopt a Family through Salvation Army and Harvest of Love.

Wednesday at 6:15 p.m. All Church Meal – everyone is invited!
We are having meals every Wednesday through November 19.
Menu this week: Santa Fe Chicken Soup and Cinnamon Rolls
Cost of the meal: High School & Adults \$3.00 Children \$2.50

Wednesday

7:00 – 8:00 p.m. Junior Dept. Programming

7:00 p.m. Youth Programming

7:00 p.m. Adult Choir

7:00 p.m. Bible Study with Pastor Randy

Thursday at 8:00 a.m. Senior Breakfast at Charlie's, Newton.

During the Sunday school hour on November 16 and 23, Randy will lead us in congregational conversation to claim some of the key values that form the identity and personality of Grace Hill Mennonite Church.

Sunday, November 23 The annual “Hanging of the Greens” will take place Sunday, November 23 after a soup/ salad/ and dessert luncheon. The Education Council is encouraging your specific participation in this Advent preparation event after being invigorated by the delicious nourishment provided by the Grace Hill church family. The theme for us this year is “A Child of Hope and Joy”. A special “Thank You” to Lisa Schmidt for coordinating this event for this special time of year. **There is a “Soups Du jour” signup sheet** in the church lobby which may range from Bear/Barley to Minestrone or to your own unique preferences. You may also bring salads and desserts at will and we know you will.

November 30 - Worship Council is planning a Christmas carol sing-a-long **during the Sunday school hour on November 30**, the first Sunday in Advent. We'll intersperse singing with some vocal and instrumental solos and groups.

Et Cetera

Sunday-Afternoon-at-the-Museum lecture at Kauffman Museum, North Newton, this afternoon at 3:30 p.m., with John Harrington, professor of geography at Kansas State University, on “Global Climate Change: What It Might Mean for Kansas.”

Western District Conference Reference Council will be held on Saturday, November 15, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Eden Mennonite Church, 401 18th Ave, Moundridge. Agenda includes the release of the full report of the 20 question Discernment Task Force survey. Advance materials will be posted online, available only to persons who register prior to the meeting. **Register by Monday, November 10:** online form at <http://mennowdc.org/wdc-reference-council/> or call 316-283-6300.

Save the date – Benefit Dinner: Please join us in supporting the training of Anabaptist Hispanic leaders by participating in a fundraising dinner for Mennonite Education Agency’s Hispanic Pastoral and Leadership Education (HPLE) programs: IBA (Instituto Bíblico Anabautista/Anabaptist Biblical Institute) and SeBAH (Seminario Bíblico Anabautista Hispano/Hispanic Anabaptist Biblical Seminary). The dinner will be on Friday, November 21 at 6:30 p.m. at First Mennonite Church, 429 E. 1st, Newton. The dinner will include smothered pork burritos by Chef Carlos Lujano. This is a BENEFIT dinner. Your generous gift will help ensure the future of this vital ministry, but most importantly we want you to come and hear the testimonies of two IBA students and learn more about the program. (Donations beyond the cost of the dinner will be tax deductible.)

Rural Ministry Seminar: The Mission of a Rural Congregation: AMBS-Kansas Center, in conjunction with Central Plains Mennonite Conference and Western District Conference, will host a Rural Ministry Seminar on Saturday, January 24, 2015 from 8 – noon at Whitestone Mennonite Church in Hesston. This seminar is presented by expert S. Roy Kaufman and will explore the unique mission of the church in a rural context. This seminar will include lecture, case studies, discussion groups, and a catered lunch. *Grace Hill is paying the registration fee, so anyone from our congregation may attend.* For more information, please see www.ams.edu/ruralministry.

Mennonite Church USA Convention registration opens January 15, 2015. Next summer may seem far away, but the Convention in Kansas City, June 30-July 5, 2015, will be here before you know it. Visit the convention website for all the latest news and to register beginning January 15, 2015: www.MennoniteUSA.org/convention.

Combine faith with your career! Serve for a year with Mennonite Voluntary Service and join a team of talented people making a positive impact in communities across the U.S. www.MennoniteMission.net/Serve.

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

Offering Last Sunday: Mennonite Church USA \$1,505.00
Offering Next Sunday: Local Church

CHURCH OFFICES

Pastor’s Office Hours:
Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday 9:00 a.m.-Noon, Thursday 1:00-4:00 p.m.

Transition Pastor: Randy Smith
Email: transitionpastor@gmail.com

Church Secretary: Debbie Claassen Home:
Secretary’s E-mail: secretary@gracehillmc.org

Randy & Ann Smith: 115 W. 27th St., North Newton, KS 67117