

**GRACE HILL MENNONITE CHURCH
HARVEST THANKS SUNDAY**

Worship November 11, 2007 9:30 a.m.

Combined Adult Sunday School 10:45 a.m.

*My tongue will speak of your righteousness and of your praises
all day long! Psalms 35:28 (NIV)*

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Special welcome to our guests on this Harvest Thanks Sunday. Each year we as a congregation set aside a Sunday in the fall to give thanks to God for the blessings of harvest and all the blessings of life God has poured out on us. We're glad you have come to worship with us. During this time in the service we spend a few moments introducing guests. May the joy of the Lord be our strength as we worship together in the name of the Father, the Son Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit in and among us.

Harvest Thanks offering envelopes are available from an usher

*** Preparing Our Hearts to Give Thanks and Praise** Pastor Katherine

One: Give thanks to God,

All: For God's creation is amazing.

One: The sun warms our day,

All: The moon lights our nighttime way.

One: The earth is filled with bounty,

All: A cornucopia of plenty.

One: Give thanks to God,

All: For God's salvation is perfect;

One: Restoring us to new creations,

All: Through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

One: God is my hope and my salvation,

All: So my heart is filled with joy.

One: Give thanks to God,

All: For God's love is everlasting;

One: A constant source of comfort,

All: A companion in hard times.

One: God is my strength and song,

All: So my heart is filled with praise.

* **Gathering Prayer** Pastor Katherine

* **Hymn No. 89** *For the beauty of the earth*
verse 1 – parts verse 2 – a cappella verse 4 - unison

Congregational Sharing and Prayer Pastor Jim

Children's Moments Kevin Goertzen

Anthem *I Love the Lord* Kids in Praise

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

Scripture Reading Mark 8:1-10 Amanda Regehr

Sermon *What it takes for effective mission* Joseph Kamau Kabui
Introduction of Joseph by Ron Ringenberg

* **Hymn No. 327** *Great is thy faithfulness*

Moment in Mission Kevin Goertzen
"Building Relationships - Building the Kingdom"

Worship in Giving Harvest Thanks Offering

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

* **Hymn No. 396** *The work is thine, O Christ*

* **Benediction** Pastor Jim

* **Benediction Hymn No. 118** *Praise God from whom*

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.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES BEGIN AT 10:45 A.M.
EVERYONE IS WELCOME!**

A special welcome to our guests

- ✦ Joseph Kamau Kabui, pastor and Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary student from Kenya
- ✦ Ron Ringenberg, Vice President for Advancement and Admin., Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary, Elkhart, Indiana
- ✦ Kevin Goertzen and Jeremy Kindy, Mennonite Mission Network staff from Newton
- ✦ Peter Wiebe, pastor and present chair of the *Joining Together, Investing in Hope* campaign

HARVEST THANKS, MORNING, NOON AND NIGHT!

9:30 a.m. Worship: Sermon by Joseph Kamau Kabui
Moment in Mission and Children's Story: Kevin Goertzen

10:45 a.m. Combined Adult Sunday school in the sanctuary - "A Missional Collage" – Peter Wiebe — a multi-media presentation including stories of mission, our vision for the future and an opportunity for dialog with Peter, Kevin and Jeremy.

12:00 Noon Harvest Thanks Dinner prepared by the Social Council and served by the Youth.

6:00 p.m. All Church Pizza Party in the fellowship hall. Pizza, Salad and Soda Pop! "Stories of God at Work" - Mission stories told by Kevin Goertzen, Peter Wiebe and Jeremy Kindy.

Worship Leaders

Pastor: James Voth

Youth Pastor: Katherine Goerzen

Keyboard: Linda Harms

Chorister: Katherine Goerzen

ABOUT OUR GUEST SPEAKERS

Jospeh Kamau Kabui comes from Limuru, Kenya which is about twenty-five miles northwest of Nairobi. He gave his life to Christ at the age of fifteen and felt called to the ministry while in high school. He joined Kenya Baptist Theological College in Kenya where he graduated with a Diploma in Theology, then joined Vision Christian College and graduated with a BA in Biblical Studies and later attended the University of South Africa and graduated with an Honors Bachelors of Theology.

God led him to the Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary through a Mennonite missionary who worked with his wife at Rosslyn Academy which is a missionary kids school sponsored by the Baptist, Mennonite and Assemblies of God missionaries in Kenya.

Some of the ministry positions that he has held include being on the pastoral staff of Tigoni Baptist Church for sixteen and a half years before leaving for AMBS. He was the immediate chairperson for the Kiambu Baptist Association. He worked as an instructor at Kenya Baptist Theological College for two years teaching pastoral ministry. He is married and has two daughters ages eight and eleven. His wife is a student at Goshen College where she is getting a teaching degree to go back to Kenya and teach at Rosslyn Academy.

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Since his ordination 55 years ago, **Peter Wiebe** has served the church as a pastor, a member of numerous boards and committees and provided interim administrative leadership at Mennonite schools. Wiebe's newest role is chair of the Joining Together, Investing in Hope campaign cabinet, a Mennonite Church USA campaign to build a facility and strengthen our mission. He is working with Mennonite Church USA Executive Leadership and Mennonite Mission Network staff to build a denominational office adjacent to the Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary campus in Elkhart. The building will house Elkhart-based Mennonite Church USA Executive Leadership and Mennonite Mission Network offices along with other Mennonite Church USA organizations that choose to locate there. Wiebe sees the new building as a tangible symbol of Mennonite Church USA's commitment to mission and service, which he says is the unifying force behind the church. He is calling congregations to rekindle their commitment to work together as Mennonite Church USA, one Spirit-led people, following Jesus, and joining God's mission for our time and place.

For Sharing and Prayer

The rose bud is for Rowan Grier Dove, daughter of Chad and Laurie Dove, born Sunday, November 4, 2007.

Please keep Ben Voth and Anna McNay in your prayers this week as they are united in marriage this Saturday, November 17th at 1:00 p.m. here at Grace Hill.

Pastor Jim will be on vacation this week, November 12-19.

Thanks to all who served meals and volunteered at the homeless shelter last week.

Thanks for all the photo work done by Tim Harms, Doug Claassen, and Rob and Diana Schunn in preparing the congregational photo board.

Western District Conference: Pray for LeNora Duerksen as she is installed at Bethel Mennonite Church, Inman as Coordinator of Senior Ministries (1/2 time); and for Matt Simon as he is installed for joint ministry with Buhler and Hoffnungsau Mennonite Churches, as Associate/Youth Pastor.

Mennonite Mission Network: MMN worker Sharon Kniss at London Mennonite Centre requests prayer for the trainers and participants at the "Training the Trainers" course November 18-20. The course broadens Bridge Builders' ministry by equipping Christians to lead workshops on handling conflict.

Church Events

Today at 4:00 p.m. Wheat State Manor Vesper Service – Explorers S.S. Class is in charge. Also this week at Wheat State: Tuesday at 9:00 a.m. – mending; Friday at 3:00 p.m. – Bingo.

Monday at 6:30 p.m. Hands of Friendship will meet at the Et Cetera Shop, Newton, at 6:30 p.m. Program: Work night at Et Cetera Shop and guest speaker Cynthia Peacock from India will be sharing. Devotions: Nancy Schmidt; Hostess: Joyce Wedel; Financial project: Adopt a family (Salvation Army project). Men are welcome, as work projects are planned for them. Park in the lot west of the building and come in the west door from the alley. Please note time change to 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. Administrative Council meets at church.

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

Wednesday at 7:00 – 8:15 p.m. Children's and Youth Programming
7:45 – 8:30 p.m. Adult Choir

Next Sunday during worship the Hesston College Drama Troupe will give the message with several short dramas. Tara Harms-Becker is part of this group.

Wednesday, November 21 at 7:00 p.m. All church Thanksgiving Service at Grace Hill.

December 16 Spiritual Council will go Christmas Caroling with the Senior and Junior High Youth Groups and their sponsors on Sunday afternoon December 16. They will meet back at the church after caroling to enjoy a hot chili supper.

Announcements

Blood pressure checks will not be done this Sunday but we will do them next Sunday, November 18.

The next Wednesday evening adult Bible study session will be November 28. We will again listen and respond to a message given by one of the speakers at San Jose 2007 this summer. *Live the Call!*

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: Marge Harms and Deb Hiebert
Nursery Next Sunday: Nancy Harms and Jana Harms

Special Music Next Sunday: Adult Choir
Keyboard Next Sunday: Julia Washburn
Ushers Next Sunday: Mike Balzer and Kendall Claassen

Offering Last Sunday: Mennonite Church USA \$1,373.25
Offering Next Sunday: Local Church

CHURCH OFFICES

Pastor: James Voth

E-mail: pastor@gracehillmc.org

Youth Pastor: Katherine Goerzen

E-mail: youthpastor@gracehillmc.org

Church Secretary: Debbie Claassen

Church Website: www.gracehillmc.org

Et Cetera

Sunday-Afternoon-at-the-Museum, this afternoon 3:30-4:30 p.m., "Birding Adventures: The Ruths of Halstead." Dwight Platt, professor emeritus of biology at Bethel College, will present an illustrated program on sisters Alma and Edna Ruth and their niece Ruth Rose. Their daily bird lists, kept from 1942 to 1970, made a major contribution to knowledge about bird species in Harvey County. The lecture is based on Platt's presentation to the Kansas Ornithological Society. Free and open to the public. Kauffman Museum at Bethel College is located at 27th and North Main in North Newton. Call 316-283-1612 for more information.

Old Fashioned Variety Show: Good music, comedy, ventriloquism, story telling, and amazing feats are just a few of the highlights at the annual variety show and fundraiser sponsored by Mennonite Men of the Plains. The show is this evening at 7:00 p.m. at Hesston Mennonite Church. Bring your kids, your parents, and your friends for the show and all the zwiebach and jelly you can eat. An offering will be taken, all proceeds go to scholarships for seminary and ministry inquiry students. Call Brent Voran 316-284-2657 for more information.

Offender / Victim Ministries sponsors the Prison Arts Project at the Hutchinson Correctional Facility. The Rock Castle Drama Troupe, directed by John McCabe Juhnke, will perform on November 18, at 7:30 p.m. On the program is *Poor Fellas*, that consists of six short tragicomedies. The other is *The Meeting*, which depicts the fictionalized meeting between Malcolm X and Dr. Martin Luther King. For more information and to get your name on the guest list, call Offender/Victim Ministries at 316-283-2038 by Wednesday, November 14.

Phyllis Good, author of the fabulous Fix-It and Forget-It cookbook series, will be at Faith and Life Bookstore in Newton for a book talk and signing on Friday, November 16 at 10:00 a.m. Bring a friend or co-worker and join us for fellowship, refreshments, and food for thought during this busy season!

A volunteer leader is needed for the Parkinson's Support Group, hosted by Kidron Bethel Village. The group is the only one in this area. The volunteer would provide leadership, arrange for speakers, and show relevant videos. Kidron Bethel provides the meeting space, coffee, and advertising. For more information, please contact Marilyn King at Kidron Bethel.

Joyce Pankratz, Director of Camp Mennoscah, has announced her resignation effective January 31, 2008. The Conference Minister and the Retreat Commission are setting up a search process to ensure a smooth transition. If there are interested persons for this full-time position, please contact Dorothy Nickel Friesen, dorothyf@mennowdc.org by November 15. An application packet is required from all candidates.

Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary – Great Plains Extension is offering courses for the interterm and spring semester. See the notice posted on the bulletin for more details or contact Norma Johnson at 316-283-7098 or email at lbarrett@ambs.edu.

Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary will host the conference, "Upgraded? The influence of technology on Christian worship," August 7-9, 2008. AMBS extends an invitation for proposals for presentations to be submitted by January 15, 2008. This invitation is for all who are interested in thinking constructively and critically about how technology is shaping congregational worship - pastors, worship leaders, musicians, sound and video projection technicians, artists. Send proposals to Rebecca Slough, academic dean and associate professor of worship and the arts, guest.591834@MennoLink.org; or Craig Neufeld, senior Master of Divinity student at AMBS, cbneufeld@student.ambs.edu. Or proposals may be sent by mail to either contact person at 3003 Benham Avenue, Elkhart, IN 46517.