

# GRACE HILL MENNONITE CHURCH

November 13, 2011

Whitewater, Kansas

Worship 9:30 a.m.

Sunday School 10:45 a.m.

Pastor: Peter Goerzen

Associate Pastor: Katherine Goerzen

Musician: Jordan Ortman

Song Leader: Andrew Voth

Worship Leader: Pastor Peter

## Harvest Thanks

*For the sake of the joy that God brings, we give up that which is precious to us –  
and receive blessings previously unknown.*

## Gathering Our Praise

**Prelude** *Selections from French Suite V* by Bach

## 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.*

## Choral Call to Worship

Adult Choir

*The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want* arr. Ferguson

## Call to Worship

from Psalm 136

One: Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good

**Many: God's steadfast love endures forever.**

One: Give thanks to the God of gods

**Many: God's steadfast love endures forever.**

One: Give thanks to the Lord of lords

**Many: God's steadfast love endures forever.**

One: To God who alone does great wonders

**Many: God's steadfast love endures forever.**

One: Who by his understanding made the heavens

**Many: God's steadfast love endures forever.**

One: Who spread out the earth upon the waters

**Many: God's steadfast love endures forever.**

One: Who made the great lights –

**Many: God's steadfast love endures forever.**

One: The sun to rule over the day,

**Many: God's steadfast love endures forever.**

One: The moon and stars to rule over the night

**Many: God's steadfast love endures forever.**

One: It is he who remembered us in our low estate

**Many: God's steadfast love endures forever.**

One: And freed us from our enemies

**Many: God's steadfast love endures forever.**

One: Who gives food to every creature

**Many: God's steadfast love endures forever.**

One: Give thanks to the God of heaven

**All: God's steadfast love endures forever.**

## Gathering Prayer

\* **Gathering Hymn No. 94** *Come, ye thankful people*

## Hearing the Good News

\* **Song STJ No. 42** *Listen, God is calling*

## Children's Story

Joe and Anna Sawatzky

## Choral Anthem

Adult Choir

*For the beauty of the earth* arr. Rutter

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

**Old Testament Reading** Genesis 22:1-19

Pastor Katherine

**Gospel Reading** Matthew 13:44-46

**Sermon** *For the Sake of Joy*

Joe and Anna Sawatzky

## Responding to God

\* **Song of Response** *We will follow* see insert

## Offering our Gifts

Harvest Thanks

*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.

**Offertory** *Amazing Grace* arr. Mark Hayes

\* **Hymn of Response No. 389** *Take my life*

## Sharing Our Stories and Congregational Prayer

*Sent by God to Proclaim the Good News*

\* **Benediction**

\* **Sending Hymn No. 118** *Praise God from whom*

**Postlude** *Courante from French Suite V* by Bach

\*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.

**Biographical Information for Joe and Anna and their family**

Joe and Anna Sawatzky have been with Mennonite Mission Network in South Africa since January 2006. They have four sons, Isaac (8), Moses (6), Levi (4), and Jesse (2). The younger two were born in South Africa.

Anna grew up as a child of missionaries with Mennonite Board of Missions in Ireland. Her roots are in Goshen, IN and she returned to attend Goshen College in 1997 (her parents have also since moved back to Goshen in 2002). Joe grew up in Newton, first at Faith Mennonite and then as a part of Shalom Mennonite. He attended Bethel College. Joe and Anna met each other while working on staff at Rocky Mountain Mennonite Camp the summer before their senior year of college. They were married the next summer in 2001.

After a year off, they returned to school to study at Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary. Joe finished his Masters of Divinity (MDiv) there in 2005. They felt as though these years were preparing them for an assignment in Africa, and they believe God had called them to work with the growing church on that continent. Their seminary years were also when they started their family; both Isaac and Moses were born during that period of time.

**Combined Sunday School for youth and adults** in the sanctuary with Joe and Anna Sawatzky.

**Today at noon** Harvest Thanks Dinner prepared by the Social Council – all are welcome to stay.

**This evening at 6:00 p.m.** All church supper - pizza, veggies and soda in the fellowship hall. Input by James Wheeler. James Wheeler works with Mennonite Central Committee's Global Family Education Sponsorship program. Most recently, he worked as MCC Co-Representative in Egypt from 2003-2009. James' presentation will be "Global Family Education: Stories of Changed Lives."

## For Sharing and Prayer

**Western District Conference:** Thank God for the workers of WDC. Pray for God's wisdom and the Spirit's invigoration for the meetings of the Leadership Council, the Executive Board, and the Reference Council around the theme of "Revitalizing our Congregations."

**Mennonite Mission Network:** Dustin and Tiffany Wyse-Fisher, with their children, Miles, 3, and Liam, 1, recently began a two-year MMN assignment as resource persons with the Corrymeela Community in Northern Ireland. Pray for them as they transition to their new home and join in a ministry promoting reconciliation and peace-building.

## Church Events

**Monday** Hands of Friendship will meet at Karen's Kitchen in Newton for lunch at noon. At 1:30 p.m. – work day at the Etcetera Shop. Hostess & devotions: Marge Harms & Joyce Wedel; Financial project: Mennonite Women USA.

**Wednesday**   **6:15 p.m.** All Church Meal – everyone is invited!  
                  **7:00 – 8:00 p.m.** Junior Dept. Programming  
                  **7:00 – 8:30 p.m.** Youth Programming  
                  **7:00 p.m.** Adult Choir  
                  **7:00 p.m.** Adult Book Study with Pastor Peter  
                  Cost of the meal: High School & Adults \$3.00    Children \$2.50

**Thursday at 6:30 a.m.** Men's Breakfast at Whitewater Café.

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

**Wednesday, November 23 at 5:30 p.m.** Hanging of the Greens – the evening will begin with a soup sampler supper at 5:30 p.m. followed by decorating the church and ending with Christmas caroling around the Christmas tree. Ornament making is being planned for the children.

## Announcements

**Youth and Parents:** Please remember to turn in your forms for the Summer Service Trip by NEXT SUNDAY and your forms for Snow Camp by November 27. If you have any questions, please see Pastor Katherine. Thanks!

**Josh Toevs** is going to East Asia this Christmas break to share with Chinese college students the meaning of the holiday they are celebrating. If you are willing to be a prayer partner or financially support him please email him at [Blitzer1@hotmail.com](mailto:Blitzer1@hotmail.com) or call at 316-435-2289.

**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 Melinda Regehr  
**Nursery Next Sunday:** Theresa Toews and Kristen Toews

**Ushers Next Sunday:** Mike Balzer and Kendall Claassen  
**Offering Last Sunday:** Mennonite Church USA \$1,491.00  
**Offering Next Sunday:** Local Church

## Children's Story Song Lyrics

<i>In Xhosa:</i>	<i>In English:</i>
Masibulele kuYesu ngokuba wasifela Wasenzela izibele ngokusifela kwakhe	Let us all give thanks to Jesus For he gave his life for us Loving kindness shown among us When he died upon the cross

<b>Chorus:</b> Taru, Bawo Yiba nofefe kuthi Taru, Bawo Yiba nofefe kuthi	<b>Chorus:</b> Thank you, Father for your grace and mercy to us Thank you, Father for your grace and mercy to us
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Abantsundu nabamhlope Mababulele kunye Mabavakalise bonke Baculele iNkosi	Black and white together Let them serve the Lord as one Sharing the good news of Jesus Singing to the Lord this song
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(repeat chorus)

(repeat chorus)

## Et Cetera

**Western District Conference Reference Council** - November 19, 8:30 - 12 (lunch included) at Tabor Mennonite Church, rural Newton. Topic: Revitalizing our Churches, with Pastor Randy Smith and four testimonies from revitalizing congregations. Reference Council is a gathering of WDC commissions, committees, task forces and pastors. Lay leaders intrigued by the topic are welcome. Please RSVP to [wdc@mennowdc.org](mailto:wdc@mennowdc.org) or call 316-283-6300.

**Think, Celebrate, Sing – A Worship and the Arts Symposium** will take place on the Bethel College campus November 19. It will be centered on the Psalms and will have as resource people Thomas G. Long, professor of preaching at Emory University, and John Ferguson, professor of organ and church music at St. Olaf College. Activities begin at 8:30 a.m. in the Fine Arts Center, with most sessions taking place there. The Saturday symposium concludes with a hymn festival at 7:30 p.m. in Memorial Hall. Registration fee is \$40. To register online, and to see a complete Saturday schedule, go to [www.bethelks.edu/worshiparts](http://www.bethelks.edu/worshiparts). The Saturday evening hymn festival and Sunday afternoon art lecture are free and open to the public.

**Mennonite Central Committee Christmas Giving** This Christmas, begin a new tradition. Share the joy with others around the world by selecting a gift from MCC. Simple gifts make a big difference. The gift of **education** provides a brighter future for children and communities. The gift of **friendship** helps MCC reach out to newcomers, showing God's love for all. The gift of **peace** helps people build understanding and harmony where they live. Explore all the MCC gift options and discover more ways to share the joy at [www.mcc.org/christmas](http://www.mcc.org/christmas) or make checks payable to MCC and send them to MCC Central States PO Box 235 North Newton, KS 67117.

**Eastern Mennonite University** is offering a two-credit graduate-level online restorative justice course with Howard Zehr, which runs Feb. 1-April 25. This course is for those who have some background in restorative justice and want to explore this area further. If you have questions, please go to <http://emu.edu/cjp/restorative-justice/online-course/> or contact Janelle Myers-Benner at [bennerj@emu.edu](mailto:bennerj@emu.edu).