

GRACE HILL MENNONITE CHURCH

November 15, 2015

Whitewater, Kansas

Worship 9:30 a.m.

Sunday School 10:45 a.m.

Song Leader: Matthew Graber

Transition Pastor: Randy Smith

Musicians: Rebecca Schrag, David Janzen

The Spirit and Church in Acts

Gathering Music

Welcome and Announcements

Randy Smith

Prelude to Worship

Sung Call to Worship

Choir

Come, ye thankful people

*Call to Worship

Psalm 89

I will sing of the Lord's great love forever.

**With my mouth I will make known your
faithfulness through all generations.**

I will declare, "Your love endures forever!"

You have established your faithfulness in heaven itself.

The heavens praise your wonders, Lord,

Your faithfulness too, in the assembly of the saints.

Praise be to God forever!

* *Love divine, all loves excelling*

Hymnal 592

Prayer

Anthem

Choir

Hallelujah

Affirming Our Faith

I Corinthians 13:1-8a

The love of God

Sing the Journey 44

Offering and Offertory

Children's Story

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

Scripture

Rita Patterson

Acts 20: 17 -38

Sermon

And they'll know we are Christians by . . .

We are one in the Spirit

(words in the bulletin)

Sharing and Prayer

*Sending Hymn

Sing the Journey 49

Rain Down

*Benediction

Postlude

*Indicates those comfortable in doing so, please stand.

This morning's offering is designated for Local Church.

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.

The Adult Sunday School classes will begin 10 minutes after the service is over. Everyone is welcome!

They'll Know We Are Christians by our Love

1. We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord (2x)

And we pray that all unity may one day be restored.

(Chorus)

And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love.

Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

2. We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand. (2x)

And together we'll spread the news that God is in our land.

3. We will work with each other, we will work side by side. (2x)

And we'll guard each one's dignity, and save each one's pride.

4. All praise to the Father from whom all things come.

And all praise to Christ Jesus, his only Son.

And all praise to the Spirit who makes us One.

"Our vision at Grace Hill Mennonite Church is for a revitalized ministry seeking authentic community that honors Christ by:

discerning our gifting;

developing a leadership team;

deepening our core ministries of

care, education and hospitality."

For Sharing and Prayer

The fresh floral arrangement is in celebration of Doreen Harms' 90th Birthday.

Western District Conference: Pray for members of the Resource Commission as they meet this week to consider ways to support healthy, missional congregations in WDC.

Mennonite Mission Network: Pray for Mennonite Mission Network's Journey International participants in Indonesia, their host families and communities. May they all work together to build up the global body of Christ.

Announcements

“Koats 4 KC Kids” Melinda Regehr, currently working for the Mennonite Voluntary Service unit in Kansas City, is collecting new or gently used coats, sweaters, gloves, anything for winter weather. She especially needs children's coats. If you would like to donate, please leave the coats in the basket in the foyer marked “Koats 4 KC Kids”. Money donations are also appreciated, Melinda will then buy the coats. Please make checks out to JVS (Jewish Vocational Services) and write on the memo line “coat drive”.

Nursery This Sunday: Kathy Balzer and Theresa Toews

Nursery Next Sunday: Jane Washburn and Catina Wiebe

Ushers Next Sunday: Josh Patterson and Rob Schunn

Offering Last Sunday: see insert

Offering Next Sunday: Western District Conference

Church Events

Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. Spiritual Council meets.

Wednesday at 6:15 p.m. All Church Meal – everyone is invited!

Menu this week: Meatballs

Cost of the meal: High School & Adults \$3.00 Children \$2.50

Telling stories from the Gospel of John this week for Wednesday Family Night will be Kris Goossen and the Youth Group . This is our last meal and Family Night for the fall.

Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. Youth Group meets.

Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. Adult Choir practice

Wednesday at 8:00 p.m. Business Council meets.

Wednesday at 8:00 p.m. Meeting of the Councils – The Org Structure Task Force will meet with the Gifts Discernment Council and the incoming Leadership Council.

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

November 27, 29 & December 1 Grace Hill week at the Harvey County Homeless Shelter. Please see the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board to help provide food or volunteer.

2015 Harvest Thanks Offering

MENNONITE CHURCH USA

Total Mission of Mennonite Church USA	7,525.00
MC USA Executive Board	1,500.00
Mennonite Mission Network (Missions)	1,500.00
Mennonite Education Agency (MEA)	250.00
Mennonite Colleges & Seminaries	
Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary	1,500.00
Bethel College	200.00
Hesston College	100.00

WESTERN DISTRICT CONFERENCE

Total Mission of the WDC	8,975.00
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OTHER INSTITUTIONS

Camp Mennoscah	3,775.00
Casa Betania	2,000.00
Harvey County Homeless Shelter	2,695.00
Kidron Bethel Health Care Centre	250.00
Mennonite Central Committee	11,050.00
Drilling for clean water	100.00
Refugee Aid	300.00
Mennonite Disaster Service	200.00
Offender Victim Ministries	895.00
Wheat State Manor	1,820.00
Dove Nest	400.00
Gideon's	300.00
New Tribe Missions/Rhonda Schmidt	100.00

LOCAL CHURCH SUPPORT

Local Church Missions	62,705.08
Care Fund	1,930.00
Flower Fund	200.00
Library	318.76
Mennonite Men	100.00
Mid-Kansas MCC Relief Sale	1,850.00
Mission Partners: Wes/Deb Bergen	1,900.00
Relief Canning	2,650.00
Mission and Service Inquiry Fund	110.00
Memorials: Marie Wiebe Scholarship	2,000.00
Music Fund	100.00
Landscape Fund	650.00
Scholarship Fund	<u>3,280.00</u>

TOTAL RECEIVED (and pledged) **\$ 123,228.84**

2014 Harvest Thanks Offering	\$138,398.00
2013 Harvest Thanks Offering	\$127,247.39
2012 Harvest Thanks Offering	\$152,828.23

Et Cetera

Readers theater presentation, *I Have Not Forsaken the Word of God*, November 15 at 3 p.m., Kauffman Museum. Carrie and Gerald Mast of Bluffton University wrote the piece on commission from the Mirror of the Martyrs Trust, based on the confession of Jacques d'Auchy and celebrating the recent purchase of the Jan Luyken etching plate that depicted d'Auchy's confession in the Martyrs Mirror.

The Newton Chorale will present its annual concert on Sunday, November 15 at 7 p.m. at the Bethel College Mennonite Church in North Newton. Under the direction of Renae Schmidt Peters, the program is entitled, "Psalm Settings: Gratitude for abundant life & yearning for the Divine Mystery." Admission is free, an offering will be taken to help support the concert expenses. Join us for an evening of inspirational music.

International Mission Workers in Newton area to share about their work You are invited to join MC USA staff in the Newton offices (718 N Main St, Newton) hear from Mennonite Mission Network workers Wayne & Jeannie Larson on November 17 from 9-10 a.m. We will have coffee, and hear a presentation from the Larsons about their work. They are long time international workers, serving the last eight years in Dubai in the United Arab Emirates. Wayne and some previous associates established the Creative Arts Community for teenagers in the Arabian Peninsula (CACtap). The goal of CACtap is to create constant connections with local Arab youth and build relationships for ongoing influence. Please join us. - Mennonite Mission Network Newton Staff

The Worship and the Arts Symposium at Bethel College concludes with a hymn festival worship service open to all; November 21 at 7:30 p.m., Memorial Hall. Non-perishable food items and monetary gifts accepted for Harvest of Love. (To register for the day-long symposium, visit bethelks.edu/worshiparts, or call Denise Krase at 316-284-5239.)

Western District Annual Assembly Information about the assembly is posted on the WDC website at: <http://mennowdc.org/annual-assembly/>.

All area churches are invited to attend this year's Winter Luminary Walk, focusing on the theme "Tis the Season for Giving" at Dyck Arboretum of the Plains in Hesston. The Luminary Walk will be from 5:30 to 8 p.m. on November 27 and 28 and again on December 4 and 5. Admission to the event is \$5 for adults, \$4 for members, senior citizens and college students, and \$2 for children ages 3 to 15. Traditional outdoor highlights include the walking path lit up by hundreds of luminaries, a nativity scene in the leaf house, and roasting marshmallows at the fire pits. There will also be opportunity to give donations to several local Harvey County organizations, including the Hesston Resource Center, CASA A Voice for Children, Inc. and the Harvey County Safe House. Performances by local groups will include the Moundridge-based dance troupe Angel Feet, Dave Anderson on hammered dulcimer, the McPherson Brass Quintet and the Konza Ringers handbell ensemble. Call 620-327-8127 or visit www.dyckarboretum.org for more information.

Hopeful Blues, a musical group from Hope Mennonite Church, Wichita, has recently compiled an instrumental CD of several musical numbers – many of which are from [Sing the Journey](#) and [Sing the Story](#) songbooks. The group, made up of 5 musicians, play an assortment of gospel, contemporary worship, and folk music. CDs can be purchased by calling Hope Mennonite at 316-722-0903. All proceeds from CD sales go to Camp Mennoscah.

Apply for 2016 Everence college scholarships. If your family uses Everence faith-based services, you are eligible to apply for college scholarships for the 2016-2017 school year. Submit your application by Feb. 29, 2016. Learn more at everence.com/scholarships or see Tim Harms for a copy of the application.

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

Director of Youth Ministry: Joshua Janzen

Email: joshuadjanzen@bethelks.edu

Church Secretary: Debbie Claassen

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

Organizational Structure Task Force Update

Where We're At

The Gifts Discernment group presented a slate for congregational vote at the semi-annual meeting on October 25 for the new Leadership Council.

The congregation voted to approve the slate, with each person receiving approximately a 90% vote.

The Leadership Council will serve as the central leadership group for the congregation, both coordinating the ministries and activities and setting vision and goals for the congregation's direction and future.

The Leadership Council will first convene in January.

The Leadership Council is composed of:

- Leadership Council chair (Tim Harms)
- Care Council chair (Kaye Penner)
- Education Council chair (James Regier)
- Hospitality Council chair (Katherine Claassen)
- Mission Council chair (Roberta Harms)
- Stewardship Council chair (Kim Claassen)
- Worship Council chair (Courtney Nethercot)
- Gifts Discernment Council chair (Deb Regier)
- Church Secretary (Debbie Claassen)
- Pastor (Weldon Martens)

Next Steps for the Task Force

Develop clearer descriptions of the roles and tasks for each of the ministry councils and each of the council chairpersons.

Convene a meeting with the members of the Gifts Discernment Council and the new members of the Leadership Council to orient, clarify, and outline the next steps.

Next Steps for the Council Chairs

Begin forming their councils with persons who want to serve in this way.

Begin forming the various committees and positions within their council's area of ministry with persons who want to serve in these various ways.

Councils will function much as they do now, as overall steering committees for their areas of ministry, with other committees and positions grouped within the appropriate area of ministry for communication and coordination purposes.

Next Steps for the Gifts Discernment Council

Continue interviewing individuals to understand their particular interests, talents, and sense of calling for serving Christ and his church.

Document the discoveries from these interviews as a helpful resource for knowing how individuals would like to serve.

Assist the Council chairs in filling out their areas of ministry.

Next Steps for You

How do you feel called to serve?

Continue in your current role or committee, or position?

Ready to try something new or different?

Make your interest known to a Council chair or the Gifts Discernment Council (Deb, Dean, Katherine, Marge).

The Philosophy – Starting with People

A structure that is flexible and adaptable to the interests and sense of calling of the people available.

Openness for individuals to choose and volunteer where and how each wants to serve.