

# GRACE HILL MENNONITE CHURCH

November 22, 2015

Whitewater, Kansas

Worship 9:30 a.m.

Sunday School 10:45 a.m.

Musician: Ellen Mosiman

Song Leader: Penny Hiebert

Transition Pastor: Randy Smith

## *The Spirit and Church in Acts*

Gathering Music Ellen Mosiman  
Welcome and Announcements Randy Smith  
Prelude to Worship

\*Call to Worship Psalm 34:1-3

I will bless the Lord at all times.  
God's praise will constantly be on my lips.

**My soul will boast in the Lord.**

**Let the afflicted hear and rejoice.**

Proclaim with me the Lord's greatness

**Let us praise the name of the Lord together**

Praise Hymns  
*We praise thee, O God* Hymnal 99  
*For the fruit of all creation* Hymnal 90

Confession and Forgiveness  
Psalm 34:4-8  
Silent Confession  
Psalm 34:15-18  
*Holy Spirit, truth divine* Sing the Story 105 (purple)

Worship Music Samantha Claassen and Ellen Mosiman  
*Now Thank We All Our God/Let All Things Now Living*

Offering and Offertory

Children's Story Michelle Hilgenfeld  
*Children to age 5 may be dismissed to the library for child care*

Scripture Russell Janzen  
Acts 28: 16 -31

Sermon  
*What If . . .*  
\*Lord, speak to me Hymnal 499

Sharing and Prayer

\*Sending Hymn Sing the Journey 61(green)

*How can we be silent*

\*Benediction

Postlude

\*Indicates those comfortable in doing so, please stand.

This morning's offering is designated for Western District Conference.

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!**

*"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**

**Western District Conference:** Give thanks for God's faithfulness to WDC through times of transition, challenge and new opportunity.

**Mennonite Mission Network:** Colleen and Pablo Fast of Mennonite Mission Network are rejoicing because of church growth in Brazil! Pray for continued commitment of six members of a small group who all made a decision to follow Christ this summer.

## **Church Family News**

. . . **Pauline Balzer** is out of Newton Medical Center and back at Kidron-Bethel . . . **Rob Schunn's** dad, Bob Schunn, has pneumonia and sepsis and is in ICU in Phoenix. Rob and his sister traveled to Phoenix this week...

## Church Events

**Thanksgiving** worship service at Wheat State Manor is Tuesday, 7:00 p.m., led by the Remington Area Ministerial Association.

**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.

**Next Sunday** we will mark the first Sunday of Advent with communion. Worship services for Advent/Christmas will follow the denominational resources worship theme, "Freedom Bound." In Christ we are freed. In sin we are bound. In Christ we are simultaneously "freedom bound."

**December 14** Hands of Friendship will be meeting at 11:30 a.m. Monday, December 14 for our Christmas luncheon. Details will follow later.

**April 8 & 9, 2016** Kansas Mennonite Relief Sale in Hutchinson. Mark your calendars!

**Nursery This Sunday:** Jane Washburn and Catina Wiebe

**Nursery Next Sunday:** Joyce Wedel and Quinn Dove

**Ushers Next Sunday:** Josh Patterson and Rob Schunn

**Offering Last Sunday:** Local Church \$3,280.00

**Offering Next Sunday:** Care Fund

## Announcements

**Some people have not** been receiving the Grace Hill group emails sent by Debbie Claassen. A test email was sent on Friday, November 20. If you are on the group email list and did not receive the email, please check your spam emails. If it is in the spam file, check Debbie Claassen as an acceptable sender – this may need to be done more than once. The gmail accounts seem to be the ones most affected.

**Wheat State Manor** has begun a weekly worship service each Wednesday morning at 11:00, with area pastors in a preaching rotation. Area pastors also will continue leading Wednesday afternoon Bible study at 3:00. Sunday afternoon vespers will be offered as congregations have interest in providing. The Administrative Council has recommended that Grace Hill direct its support to the Wednesday worship and study. Randy is scheduled for Wednesday worship and afternoon Bible study on December 16.

**Hands of Friendship Christmas projects.** Plans are to have a mitten and glove tree again and adopt a family all sponsored by Harvey County Salvation Army. You have until Christmas to bring mittens and gloves to place on the tree in the Fellowship Hall. A family has been selected and an offering will be taken at the Christmas Hands of Friendship meeting.

**“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”. **Melinda will be picking these up this week.**

**A Post Assembly 2015 Letter** from WDC Conference Minister, Heidi Regier Kreider and Moderator, Richard Gehring is posted on the WDC website: <http://mennowdc.org/annual-assembly/>. Copies are also available on the table in the foyer.

## Et Cetera

**Annual sing-along to Christmas portions of Handel's *Messiah***, with Bethel College orchestra and vocal soloists, December 2 at 11 a.m., Bethel College Mennonite Church; scores provided.

**The Senior Citizen Christmas Dinner** hosted by Remington High School will be Friday, December 4 at 12:45 p.m. Cost is \$3.50 per person, reservations due by November 30. Must include name, address, and phone number with \$3.50 per person, mail to Lola Coats, RHS, 8850 NW Meadowlark Rd., Whitewater, KS 67154. Or call Lola Coats at 316-799-2123 ext. 103.

**The Nativities are back!** As part of **Five Places of Christmas**, December 5, the Bethel College Women's Association will have a display of Nativity sets from around the world, set up "around the circle" in Luyken Fine Arts Center on the Bethel campus. At Kauffman Museum, director Annette LeZotte, an art historian, will speak on "Day or Night? Two Paintings of Christ's Nativity" at 11 a.m. Other places are Warkentin House, Carriage Factory Gallery and the Harvey County Historical Museum. All are open 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; admission is free.

**30th annual Lighting of the Green at Bethel College**, December 6 at 8 p.m., the Green in the center of campus; refreshments to follow in the cafeteria.

**Experience a Branson Christmas...in Newton!** Five year veterans of the Branson stage, the eleven-member Wissmann Family perform a unique blend of holiday carols showcasing acoustic instruments and tight, vibrant harmonies. Their full production Christmas show is a powerful portrayal of humor, wonderment, and the timeless message at the heart of this festive season. Friday, December 11 at 7:00 p.m. at Bethel College Memorial Hall. Doors open at 6:15 p.m. No admission fee. A free-will offering will be taken. A portion of the proceeds will benefit ministry to widows and orphans in India.

**If you have ever been a summer staffer at Camp Mennoscah** (anytime during the past 67 years), you are invited to a near-Christmas gathering on December 19 at 2:30 p.m. Meet in the dining hall at Camp Mennoscah to hang out, chat, play games, and tell stories with staffers across the years. We'll provide coffee, tea, hot chocolate, and some cookies. Feel free to bring a snacky thing to share. Spouses, significant others, and kids are all invited. Questions? Call us at 620-297-3290.

**Mennonite Central Committee Central States is accepting applications for a Director of Programs.** The Director of Programs will be responsible for the direction and oversight of all of MCC Central States Programs. This position is expected to connect with constituent churches and groups, as well as like-minded organizations to provide information about MCC. This position is open within the Central States Region. Find more details at [serve.mcc.org](http://serve.mcc.org) (look for Director of Programs -CS) or email Heidi Huber, Human Resources Coordinator, at [heidihuber@mcc.org](mailto:heidihuber@mcc.org).

**Congratulations to the WDC End Death Penalty Task Force**, which was honored as the Kansas Coalition Against the Death Penalty (KCADP) Champion Group of the Year! The task force has worked to keep this issue before our congregations and our legislative leaders, advocating for greater justice and more effective responses to crime and violence in our society. Peter Goerzen accepted the award on behalf of the Task Force at the KCADP Abolition Conference and Champions for Change Dinner in Topeka, KS on November 7.

**Does sexualized violence concern you?** If so, Mennonite Central Committee U.S. invites you to participate in an online survey about this issue. Your answers to the open-ended questions will be used to guide MCC U.S. in its creation of trainings and resources for pastors and leaders in the faith community. Log on to [mcc.org/wwso](http://mcc.org/wwso) to complete the survey by the end of December.

*The Mennonite* is the official publication of Mennonite Church USA. Their monthly magazine includes news, feature-length stories and reflections and opinion pieces featuring voices from across the denomination. They also have a website that gets updated several times a day ([www.TheMennonite.org](http://www.TheMennonite.org)) and fairly active Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/TheMennonite/>), Twitter (@TheMennonite) and Instagram (@TheMennoniteInc) feeds. *The Mennonite* is a key resource for keeping people informed of what's happening across the denomination, and also for providing inspirational, Christ-centered Anabaptist content.

### **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](mailto:transitionpastor@gmail.com)

**Director of Youth Ministry: Joshua Janzen**  
Email: [joshuadjanzen@bethelks.edu](mailto:joshuadjanzen@bethelks.edu)

**Church Secretary: Debbie Claassen**  
Secretary's E-mail: [secretary@gracehillmc.org](mailto:secretary@gracehillmc.org)