

# GRACE HILL MENNONITE CHURCH

November 25, 2012

Whitewater, Kansas

Worship 9:30 a.m.

Sunday School 10:45 a.m.

Pastor: Peter Goerzen

Associate Pastor: Katherine Goerzen

Song Leader: Gladys Reimer

Worship Leader: Donna Balzer

Musicians: Jordan Ortman, Paul Voran,

Samantha Claassen, David Janzen

Seek Shalom and Pursue It: Shalom for the Whole World

## Gathering

### Prelude

### 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.*

### Psalm Reading Psalm 34

### Call to Worship based on Isaiah 2

One: In the days to come, the mountain of God's house will be established as the highest of the mountains and raised above all other hills; all nations will stream toward it. Many people will come and say:

**Many: "Come, let us climb God's mountain; that we may be instructed in God's ways and walk in God's paths."**

One: Out of Zion will go forth instruction, and the word of God from Jerusalem. God will judge between the nations, and render decisions for many countries. They will beat their nuclear bombs into plowshares, and their guns into gardening tools; nation will not raise weapons against nation, and never again will they train for war.

*All: May we be co-creators with God in making that day a reality. May it begin today. Let us worship God!*

### Prayer for Shalom and Lighting the Peace Lamp

\* **Gathering Hymn No. 372** *O healing river*

### Sharing Joys and Concerns

## Congregational Prayer

### Listening

**Gospel Reading** Luke 1: 46-55

Pastor Katherine

**Worship Music** *It Came Upon a Midnight Clear* arr. Olstad  
Paul Voran and Jordan Ortman

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

**Old Testament Reading** Isaiah 2: 1-5

Paul Janzen

**Sermon** *Swords into Plowshares and a Future of Hope*

Pastor Katherine

### Responding

\* **Song of Response Sing the Journey No. 13** *My soul is filled with joy*

### Prayer of Confession

One: Merciful God, we mourn the violence and injustice that takes root in many forms and in many places near and far.

**Many: Merciful God, we long for your shalom.**

One: We recognize the roots of conflict in ourselves and our complicity in systems of power and control.

**Many: Merciful God, we long for your reconciliation.**

One: We confess that stereotypes, envy, suspicion, and racism shape our perceptions and influence our actions.

**Many: Merciful God, we long for your truth.**

One: We acknowledge that at times we fear our neighbors.

**Many: Merciful God, we long for your love.**

One: We repent of the ways we contribute to suspicion, fear and violence. Guide us as we reaffirm our calling as your peacemakers. Grant us courage to risk loving each of our neighbors at home and around the globe. Empower us to walk in the ways of your shalom. Amen.

### Assurance of Pardon

**Song of Assurance** *My soul cries out*

Curt, Amanda and Melinda Regehr

**Offering Our Gifts** Western District Conference  
**Offertory** *The First Noel* arr. Olstad

\* **Sending Hymn No. 189** *To us a Child of hope is born*

**Blessing**

**Postlude** *O Holy Night* arr. Olstad

\*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.

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

**For Sharing and Prayer**

**Western District Conference:** Give praise to God for our pastors serving with conviction and compassion in our churches and communities. Philip Schmidt will be licensed towards ordination at Tabor Mennonite Church today.

**Mennonite Mission Network:** Pray for Dustin and Tiffany Wyse-Fisher and their three sons, serving with MMN, as they orient 12 new volunteers into the rhythms of life at Corrymeela Community in Northern Ireland.

## Announcements

**The Mennonite subscription list is being updated.** The church has a group-rate policy and each subscription costs the church \$37.00. If you are not receiving *The Mennonite* and would like to, or if you are currently receiving it and would like to discontinue your subscription, please contact Debbie Claassen by December 16.

**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:** Mary Ann Wiebe and Kylee Schunn

**Nursery Next Sunday:** Joyce Wedel and Katrina Regehr

**Ushers Next Sunday:** Terry Klassen and Dean Patterson

**Offering Last Sunday:** Local Church \$3,275.00

**Offering Next Sunday:** Mennonite Church USA

## CHURCH OFFICES

Pastors' Office Hours:

Tuesday-Friday 9:00 a.m. – noon, 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. or by appointment

**Pastor: Peter Goerzen**

E-mail: [pastor@gracehillmc.org](mailto:pastor@gracehillmc.org)

**Associate Pastor: Katherine Goerzen**

E-mail: [youthpastor@gracehillmc.org](mailto:youthpastor@gracehillmc.org)

**Church Secretary: Debbie Claassen**

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

## Church Events

**Today at 11:45 a.m.** Hanging of the Greens – the afternoon will begin with a soup sampler lunch at 11:45 a.m. followed by decorating the church and ending with Christmas caroling around the Christmas tree. Ornament making is being planned for the children. Everyone is welcome!

**Tuesday afternoon** Quilters are welcome to come to the church and quilt on the MCC quilt anytime from 1-5 p.m.

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

**7:00 – 8:15 p.m.** Youth Programming

**7:00 p.m.** Adult Choir

**7:00 p.m.** Adult Study with Pastor Peter

**Wednesday at 8:00 p.m.** Administrative Council meets.

**Wednesday** The Youth Group will be assembling care packages for our college students. If you would like to contribute food or goodies for these care packages, please speak with Pastor Katherine. Thank you!

**Next Sunday** On the 1st Sunday of Advent, the Bel Canto Singers from Hesston College will be providing worship music for us and a HC Pastoral Ministries student will be providing the message. Everyone is invited to stay for the carry-in meal on this Sunday to welcome those from Hesston College who will be worshipping with us.

**Next Sunday at 11:30 a.m.** All church carry-in meal.

### Upcoming Youth Events:

**Nov. 25:** Commitment forms for the MCUSA Convention are due **today**.

**Nov. 28:** Assembling College Care Packages

**Dec. 5:** Angel Tree Shopping

**Dec. 9:** Christmas Party and White Elephant Gift Exchange

**Dec. 12:** Caroling at Kidron Bethel

## Et Cetera

**Sunday-Afternoon-at-the-Museum at Kauffman Museum** This afternoon at 3:30 p.m. in connection with the current special exhibit, "Threshing Stone: Mennonite Artifact and Icon" - David Vail, Kansas State University: "Of Fire and Steel: A Historical Sketch of 19th-Century Kansas Agriculture".

**The annual *Messiah* sing-along is on a different day** – Wednesday, November 28, 11 a.m., Bethel College Mennonite Church; with student soloists and chamber orchestra, and scores provided. All are welcome.

**Kidron Bethel Village Christmas Gift Market** – Saturday, December 1, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. in Menno Hall at 3001 Ivy Drive, North Newton. Residents and employees offer for sale their handmade arts and crafts plus homemade baked goods. Information: Susan Garofalo, 316-836-4837.

**Nativities Around the World** – Saturday, December 1, Fine Arts Center, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., sponsored by the Bethel College Women's Association as part of "5 Places of Christmas." BCWA will display 50 or more nativities, antique to modern, from all over the world. Admission is free. "5 Places of Christmas" also include Kauffman Museum on campus and in Newton, Warkentin House (211 East First Street), Carriage Factory Gallery (128 East Sixth Street) and the Harvey County Historical Museum (203 North Main Street).

**An organ recital honoring the late Alice Loewen Kreider** – Saturday, December 1, 4 p.m., with Rosanne Penner Kaufman, organist, starting in the Administration Building chapel and moving to the Teschemacher-Deknatel-van der Smissen organ in the Kauffman Museum auditorium.

**A Living Nativity: *Christ is Born*** Come and see the greatest story ever told unfold before your eyes December 1 and 2 from 5:30-9:00 p.m. at Wildcat Creek Ranch (3 miles east of Peabody on Hwy. 50 in the old stone barn). New tours will begin every 15 minutes and will take about 45 minutes to complete. Tickets are FREE and will be available at select locations as well as through the website. For more detailed information see the poster on the bulletin board or go to the website [www.ChristIsBorn.org](http://www.ChristIsBorn.org). Brought to you by Palmyra Baptist Church, Wildcat Creek Ranch and many others.

***Behold the Star: A Christmas Journey to the Light of Christ*** You are invited to participate (either by singing or speaking) in a Christmas cantata. Practices will be Dec. 2, 9 and 16 from 3:00-4:30 p.m. at Emmaus Church. The presentation will be December 25 at 10:00 a.m. If interested, contact Leland or Sharon Entz at 316-799-2362.

**Newton Et Cetera Shop** is looking to fill a full-time general manager position. Available immediately with some evening and weekend responsibilities. Qualifications include, but are not limited to: general administration management, promotion of the store, and ability to manage a large volunteer team. Good knowledge of retail business is helpful. Application deadline: December 10, 2012. For job description and application contact [marleneb@hesston.edu](mailto:marleneb@hesston.edu).

**Conference Resource Library - Advent, Christmas and Epiphany Resources - and candy canes.** For young family and home faith conversations and devotionals, our friends at Mennonite Church Canada have again published a wonderful (free-downloadable) resource: *Flood of Mercy: Year C, Advent to Epiphany, 2012/13* by Elsie Rempel and illustrated by Megan Kamei. This wonderful resource offers song, prayer, scripture, activities and a blessing for the Advent and Epiphany Sundays as well as Christmas Day. <http://resources.mennonitechurch.ca/ResourceView/43/14391?readmore=1>

**What a wonderful Thanksgiving blessing!** Camp Mennoscah has received official word that we are now officially a 501c3 organization. This means that the Internal Revenue Service recognizes the Camp Mennoscah Association as a publicly supported charity that is exempt from federal income tax. Arlin Buller, Valerie Klaassen, and the Transition Team get huge hugs and high fives for their work. This approval process moved so much more quickly than expected and without any of the feared bumps in the road. Thank you to everyone who has offered prayers and given time to this effort.

**Youth Venture 2013** service locations are now posted! Mennonite Mission Network is looking for young people ages 14-22 who want to spend 1-3 weeks learning through service this summer. You could serve with local Christians in Colombia, South Africa, or Spain or in Alaska, Texas or Florida. Go to [MennoniteMission.net/Serve](http://MennoniteMission.net/Serve) for more info and click on Youth Venture.