

GRACE HILL MENNONITE CHURCH

November 27, 2011

Whitewater, Kansas

Worship 9:30 a.m.

Sunday School 10:45 a.m.

Pastor: Peter Goerzen

Associate Pastor: Katherine Goerzen

Song Leader: David Janzen

Worship Leader: Russ Janzen

Musicians: Sara Unruh and David Janzen

First Sunday of Advent *Learning To Pay Attention* **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.

Call to Worship

One: As quietly as the winter steals upon us,
the season of joy approaches.

**Many: We wait for our Redeemer,
for God's love to come in fullness.**

One: The day is coming quickly;
the God of mystery draws near.

**Many: Therefore we wait expectantly, alert and awake,
so that we might be attentive to all the signs of his presence
breaking in to the world.**

**All: Come, Lord Jesus, let your face shine upon us that we may see
your presence among us!**

Gathering Prayer

Lighting the Advent Candle

Bethany Regehr

* **Gathering Hymn No. 178** *Come, thou long-expected Jesus*

Offering our Gifts Western District Conference

Hearing God's Word

Old Testament Reading Isaiah 64:1-9

Carine Claassen

* **Hymn No. 172** *O come, O come, Immanuel*

Children's Story

Melinda Regehr and Katie Regier

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

Special Music *Sleepers, wake*

Pastor Peter

Gospel Reading Mark 13:24-37

Pastor Peter

Sermon

Pastor Peter

Responding to God's Word

* **Hymn No. 182** *Oh, how shall I receive thee*

Sharing Our Stories and Congregational Prayer

Sending

* **Sending Hymn No. 206** *Infant holy, infant lowly*

The lyrics of this hymn remind us of Jesus coming into the world in the midst of ordinary things: cattle and oxen, flocks and shepherds. As we go from this place, may we keep our eyes open for the ways that God is being revealed in the ordinary places of our lives.

* **Benediction**

One: Go into the world, awake and aware of God's presence.

Many: We go into the world, listening for God's voice.

One: Go into the world, watching for God's awesome deeds.

Many: We go into the world, following in the footsteps of Jesus.

One: Go into the world, receiving the hope of salvation.

Many: We go into the world, reflecting the radiance of the Spirit.

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.

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

For Sharing and Prayer

Western District Conference: Pray that God would open our hearts during this Advent season to new spiritual blessings and new missional initiatives. The Mennonite Church USA Advent theme is “Awesome Deeds We Do Not Expect.”

Mennonite Mission Network: Thank God for Union Biblical Seminary, a MMN partner in India. Pray for rural Mennonite students, who face academic and cultural challenges in the city, as they study the Bible and theology.

Nursery This Sunday: Barbara Schmidt and Kylee Schunn

Nursery Next Sunday: Joyce Wedel and Katrina Regehr

Ushers Next Sunday: Terry Klassen and Dean Patterson

Offering Last Sunday: Local Church \$3,383.00

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

E-mail: pastor@gracehillmc.org

Associate Pastor: Katherine Goerzen

E-mail: youthpastor@gracehillmc.org

Church Secretary: Debbie Claassen

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

Church Events

Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. Worship Council meets at church.
at 7:30 p.m. Spiritual Council meets at church.

Wednesday 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

Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. Business Council meets.
at 7:45 p.m. Administrative Council meets.

Next Sunday, December 4 College Meal: All college students are invited to a meal at John and Valerie Klaassen's on Sunday December 4. If anyone is interested in helping provide food for this meal, please speak with either Valerie or Pastor Katherine. Thanks!

Next Sunday, December 4: Youth Group Christmas party at Pastors Katherine and Peter's from 5 to 8:30! Be sure to bring your White Elephant gift for the exchange (\$5 or less please). Holiday snacks and goodies will be provided.

Monday, December 5 at 11:30 a.m. Hands of Friendship will meet at church for a Christmas Luncheon. Bring one: main dish, salad or dessert. Program: "See what you can do with string" by Pauline Toews. Hostess and Devotions: Rita Patterson; Financial project: Adopt a Family through Salvation Army & Mitten Tree.

December 11: For All High School and Junior High Youth: Caroling with Spiritual Council and other members of the congregation.

Announcements

College Care Packages: On Wednesday, Nov. 30, the Youth Group will be assembling care packages for our college students. If you would like to contribute anything for this, please speak with Pastor Katherine. There are 27 college students that we will prepare care packages for. Thank you!

Youth and Parents: Please remember to turn in your forms for Snow Camp today. If you have any questions, please see Pastor Katherine. Thanks!

Mittens/Gloves - Hands of Friendship is inviting you to bring new mittens and gloves to decorate the Christmas tree in the Fellowship Hall by December 11. They will be donated to the Salvation Army, Newton. All sizes are welcome.

Salvation Army Christmas Project. Help Hands of Friendship provide for "Adopt a Family" this Christmas with donations. Make checks payable to Hands of Friendship and bring to Hands of Friendship meeting or give to Joyce Stuart or Agnes Harder by Sunday, December 11.

***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 4.

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.

call at [620-297-3290](tel:620-297-3290) and we can help you out. Thanks for helping us out!

Et Cetera

This afternoon from noon – 6:00 p.m. the Red Cross bloodmobile will be set up in the Swiss Church parking lot in Whitewater. Walk-ins are welcome. Donations typically drop way off in December so the need is great.

Advent/Christmas events at Bethel College:

- ◆ **Friday, Dec. 2** – Annual “Messiah” sing (Christmas portions) with Bethel College Chamber Orchestra and student soloists, 11 a.m., Bethel College Mennonite Church; scores provided.
- ◆ **Friday, Dec. 2** – Christmas Gala Jazz, 8 p.m., Krehbiel Auditorium; free with a freewill offering taken.
- ◆ **Saturday, Dec. 3** – Special events at Goerz House and Kauffman Museum as part of “Six Places of Christmas,” 10 a.m.-2 p.m.; children's activity at Kauffman Museum, 10 a.m.-noon; free admission to exhibits including "...the eyes of a stranger: India images and experiences by Cookie Wiebe".
- ◆ **Sunday, Dec. 4** – 26th annual Lighting of the Green, with candles provided; 8 p.m., with refreshments following in cafeteria.

Camp Mennoscah Gathering - All late-night donut junkies who are fans of Camp Mennoscah are invited to a gathering of Camp Mennoscah folks on December 2 beginning at 11 p.m. at Druber's Donut Shop in Newton. The first 40 people to arrive wearing a Camp Mennoscah tee shirt get a coupon for a free donut! (Be prepared to pay sales tax and any amount over the coupon amount.) Outgrown your last Camp Mennoscah tee shirt or worn it to shreds? No problem--make your own tee shirt! Use duct tape and a marker or whatever you choose. Best homemade Camp Mennoscah tee shirt/tee shirt design wins a prize!

The Bethel College Women's Association is hosting one of the Six Places of Christmas on December 3 at Goerz House, 2512 College Avenue, North Newton from 10 to 4. Please come tour the beautiful home decorated for Christmas, browse through our gift shop, and select some baked goods to enjoy at home! We will also be selling homemade candy by the pound. Hope to see you there!

Bluestem Wish List—Just in case you've forgotten, Bluestem is the house on the new camp property (to the east). We've been working hard here at Camp Mennoscah to get it ready for small groups or families, but now that we're nearing the end of this project, we find we need a few items. Most of these items are for the kitchen. Our Bluestem Wish List can be found on the Camp webpage at www.mennowdc.org or give us a