

GRACE HILL MENNONITE CHURCH

November 29, 2015

Whitewater, Kansas

Worship 9:30 a.m.

Sunday School 10:45 a.m.

Musician: Ellen Mosiman

Song Leader: Bonita Schroeder

Transition Pastor: Randy Smith

First Sunday of Advent Freedom Bound: the Path of Justice

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

Candle Lighting
Isaiah 35:1-8 Josh Patterson
O come, O come Immanuel (verse 1) Hymnal 172
Silence

*Call to Worship
Times are troubled. We wait for God.
We wait for the Light to burst forth into our darkened world.
We gather. We wait. God's justice will come.
Freeing God, sustain us in this wait and keep us bound
to walking the path of your way.
Free us from the chains of prejudice and the bondage of sin
Christ comes to set us free.
Today we wait, and we follow, freedom bound.
***We worship God, who comes with justice and the promise
of new life.***

Caroling
Come thou long expected Jesus Hymnal 178
O little town of Bethlehem Hymnal 191
Good Christian friends, rejoice Hymnal 210

Jeremiah 33:11-18
Prayer

Offering and Offertory

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

Scripture K. John Klaassen

Luke 21: 25-36

Sermon
Fix It!

Removing the Chains
Hope Is a Candle. Sing the Story 15 (purple)

The light of the First Candle of Advent reminds us of our hope –
Hope that one day God's justice will fill the earth.

Thy Kingdom come.

Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Hope, that in the midst of this present reality, God longs to set us free
from the chains that bind us –
hardened hearts, deaf ears, closed eyes
to the plight of injustice to our brothers and sisters.

We walk in that light –

Away from injustice. Bound in Christ. Freed from sin.

Communion: Christ Comes to Us
Sharing and Prayer

*Benediction

*Sending Hymn Hymnal 199
The first Noel

Postlude

*Indicates those comfortable in doing so, please stand.

This morning's offering is designated for Care Fund.

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."

This 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."

Seminar Sunday school class will conclude the study of John today. Next Sunday in the fellowship hall begins a five week video and scripture study of the nativity stories in Matthew and Luke. Anyone with interest is welcome.

For Sharing and Prayer

Western District Conference: Pray for chaplains in WDC who provide pastoral care in retirement communities and hospitals, and for all through whom God's healing and hope flow to those who suffer in body, mind or spirit.

Mennonite Mission Network: Jason Boone of Mennonite Mission Network's Peace and Justice Support Network requests prayer for soldiers experiencing pain of "moral injury as a result of what they have done or seen in combat." Pray for Jesus' peace in their lives as Mennonites share from "our deep history of peacemaking."

Church Family News

. . . The wall hanging in the foyer was purchased at the MCC sale by **Mike and Kathy Balzer.**

Church Events

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

Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. Adult Choir practice
Youth Group meets
Education Council meets

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

Next Sunday All college students are invited to dinner at John and Valerie Klaassen's home on December 6 after Sunday School. Please let them know if you will be able to join them.

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.

Tradition-rich Celtic song and dance will help usher in the holiday season when *Cherish the Ladies* presents their Celtic Christmas program for Hesston-Bethel Performing Arts series on December 3 at 7:30 p.m. at Hesston Mennonite Church on the Hesston College campus. Reserved seating and general admission tickets for Cherish the Ladies are available online or by calling 620-327-8158. Ticket prices range from \$23-27 with discounts available for students and senior citizens.

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.

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 (look for Director of Programs -CS) or email Heidi Huber, Human Resources Coordinator, at heidihuber@mcc.org.

WDC Resource Library Director: Jennie Wintermote will begin as the new 1/4-time WDC Resource Library Director on December 1. She currently also serves as 1/2-time supply pastor at New Creation Fellowship Church in Newton, KS, and has previously worked as a summer library assistant at the WDC Resource Library, and as a 1st grade teacher. Jennie graduated from Hesston College and Bethel College, and is pursuing her master's degree in Library Science from Emporia State University. Welcome, Jennie!

Conference Ministers' comments regarding Syrian refugee concerns: Along with many in WDC and the wider church, I am deeply disturbed by the hostility toward refugees that has spread across our nation as a reaction to terrorist violence in France. While I share a concern for security for all people, I believe that as followers of Christ we must seek to honor scripture's call to care for the most vulnerable, and to recognize that we serve Christ in "the least of these." (Matthew 25). I am in conversation with Mennonite leaders, church-related groups and other organizations, to determine avenues for advocacy and support for refugees, and to discern further response and action within WDC. - *Heidi Regier Kreider, Conference Minister*

See also: A letter from Mennonite Church USA Executive Director Ervin Stutzman on the Paris attacks:

<http://mennoniteusa.org/menno-snapshots/letter-to-mennonite-church-usa-on-the-paris-attacks/>

- *Statement from Faith in Public Life* (signed by MC USA Executive Director Ervin Stutzman along with over 1500 other faith leaders): <http://www.faithinpubliclife.org/newsroom/18744/>

- Mennonite Central Committee: <http://mcc.org/get-involved/advocacy/alert/urge-congress-others-support-syrian-refugees>

Nursery This Sunday: Joyce Wedel and Quinn Dove

Nursery Next Sunday: Kaye Penner and Sara Westerfield

Ushers Next Sunday: Terry Klassen and Dean Patterson

Offering Last Sunday: Western District Conference \$1,269.00

Offering Next Sunday: Mennonite Church USA

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