

GRACE HILL MENNONITE CHURCH

December 1, 2013

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: Valerie Klaassen

Musicians: Ellen Mosiman & Samantha Claassen

O, The Mystery of God's Dwelling

Advent 1 ... in our midst

Inviting the Mystery

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.

Prayer of Invocation

Call to Worship

One: Come, let us walk in the light of the Lord;

Many: Let us learn God's ways.

One: God's instruction goes out from Zion;

Many: God's word from Jerusalem.

One: Let us awaken to hope:

Many: The salvation of our God is near.

All: God dwells in our midst!

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

Engaging the Mystery

Lighting the Advent Wreath

Bethany Regehr

One: As we look with hope to the coming of Christ,

we pause to remember God

who came into our darkness with marvelous light.

The first Advent candle is the candle of hope.

All: This light reminds us that God does indeed dwell in our midst.

Worship Music

O Holy Night

Samantha Claassen and Ellen Mosiman

* **First Theme Song No. 172** *O come, O come, Immanuel* vs. 1, 3 & 5

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

Sharing and Congregational Prayer

Scripture Reading Matthew 24:36-44, Romans 13:11-14

Levi Goossen

Time of Silence

Celebrating the Mystery

Sermon *The Mountain of Transformation*

Heidi Wiebe

* **Song of Response No. 189** *To us a Child of hope is born*

Offering Our Gifts Mennonite Church USA

* **Second Theme Song No. 191** *O little town of Bethlehem* vs. 1 & 4

Benediction

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

To our friends at Grace Hill, thank you for your financial and prayerful support for Wes and Deb Bergen. They are very grateful for the time they had to spend with your congregation, and are looking forward to sending you updates from Ghana! Wes and Deb's Ministry Support Team continues to seek \$6,000 in financial commitments to secure their departure to Ghana in January 2014. If you would like to make a personal commitment, it can be made at this web address: www.bit.ly/bergencommit.

Thanks! – The Bergens & their Ministry Support Team

Western District Conference: This week, area Conference Ministers meet in Denver, Colorado. Pray that this time of networking, listening and planning may be encouraging and life-giving to our leaders. Clarence Rempel, WDC Conference Minister and Gilberto Flores, Associate Conference Minister will be in attendance.

Mennonite Mission Network: Barbara and Tad Wulliman of MMN, who live in Manila, request prayer for the people of the Philippines. Many were still living in tents after an earthquake devastated their homes in October, when super-typhoon Haiyan pounded the islands. Pray that Christians will find tangible ways to share Jesus' love.

Church Events

This evening at 5:30 p.m. Please invite your friends and neighbors for our Advent Event tonight! The nativity display can be viewed from 5:30-6:30 p.m. At 6:30 p.m. we will have a carol sing let by Aaron Tschetter. Refreshments will be served at 7:30 p.m. We hope to see you all back at church with friends in tow this evening! - Worship Council

Tuesday afternoon Quilting on the MCC quilt from 1:30-5:00 p.m.

Wednesday 6:15 p.m. All Church Meal – everyone is invited!
7:00 – 8:00 p.m. Junior Dept. Programming
7:00 p.m. Youth Programming
7:00 p.m. Adult Choir
7:30 p.m. Adult Study with Pastor Peter
Cost of the meal: High School & Adults \$3.00 Children \$2.50

Next Sunday All college age folks are invited to Valerie and John Klaassen's for dinner next Sunday, December 8. Please let us know if you are able to join us!

Monday, December 9 at 11:30 a.m. Hands of Friendship Christmas Luncheon at church. Please bring a salad or dessert. Hostess & Devotions: Gladys Reimer, Joyce Stuart, Miriam Claassen; Financial Project: Adopt a Family through Salvation Army & Mitten Tree.

December 13, 15 & 17 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.

Announcements

Donated food items will go to the Potwin & Whitewater Food Pantries this month. Suggested items may include canned vegetables, canned fruit, cereal, peanut butter, canned meats, canned meals, boxed meals, soups, crackers, and other nonperishable items. Cash donations are accepted. A basket for goods is located in the foyer by the front entrance.

Mittens/Gloves - Hands of Friendship is inviting you to bring new mittens and gloves to decorate the Christmas tree in the Fellowship Hall. They will be donated to the Salvation Army, Newton on Dec. 10. All sizes are welcome.

Salvation Army Christmas Project Help Hands of Friendship provide for families 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, Dec. 8.

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 today.

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: Joyce Wedel and Katrina Regehr
Nursery Next Sunday: Kaye Penner and Angela Frohlich-Phipps

Ushers Next Sunday: Doug Hiebert and Russell Janzen
Offering Last Sunday: Western District Conference \$799.19
Offering Next Sunday: Local Church

Et Cetera

Give Hope on Giving Tuesday, December 3! Not sure what Giving Tuesday is? It's a day dedicated to kicking off the Christmas giving season, a reminder that Christmas is about more than buying gifts. Give a gift of hope by supporting the work of MCC this Christmas season. Want to double your money? All gifts from first time donors will be matched dollar for dollar on Giving Tuesday. Donate online at www.mcc.org/giving-tuesday or send checks to MCC, PO Box 500, Akron, PA 17501 with Giving Tuesday on the memo line.

Bethel College Christmas Events: December 4 – Sing along to Christmas portions of Handel's Messiah, 11 a.m., Bethel College Mennonite Church, with Bethel College soloists, conductors and instrumentalists; scores provided, and all are welcome. **December 7** The Bethel College Women's Association will be participating in the Newton area "Five Places of Christmas" on Saturday, Dec. 7. The event will feature 100 nativities in the hallway of the Fine Arts Center (handicapped accessible) on the Bethel campus. It will be open from 10 am – 4 pm. Cinnamon rolls, coffee, baked goods and candy by the pound will be available for sale. We invite donations of candy, baked goods and other ethnic Christmas delicacies for the bake sale to allow the BCWA to continue to financially support Bethel College. Questions can be addressed to Judy Schrag 316-283-0608. **December 8** – Lighting of the Green at Bethel College, 8 p.m. on the Green; refreshments follow in the cafeteria.

Remington High School will be hosting their annual Christmas Dinner for area Senior Citizens on Friday, December 6 at 12:45 p.m. Cost is \$3.50 per person; include names and addresses, reservations due by December 4. Mail to: Lola Coats, RHS, 8850 NW Meadowlark Rd., Whitewater, KS 67154.

Kidron Bethel Village Christmas Gift Market will be held Saturday, December 7 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Menno Hall Chapel, 3001 Ivy Drive, North Newton. Residents and employees will offer for sale their arts and crafts creations and food gifts, including peppernuts.

Christmas Open House at the Resource Library! We are celebrating the season with dozens of resources picked just for you! Stop in as we kick off our newly expanded hours - 10 am - to noon on the first Saturday of the month. Christmas stories for the children, hot cider and cookies for all. See you Sat. Dec. 7 from 10 - noon at 2517 N. Main Street, North Newton.

Join us for an evening of inspiration and joy at the annual Celebration of Hope Dinner & Program to benefit the Harvey County Homeless Shelter, December 12 and 13 at 6:30 p.m. at the Hesston Mennonite Church. Tickets are available by calling 283-3729 or by email at event@hchs-ks.com. Tickets are \$25 before December 2, \$40 after December 2.

The 2013 Harvest of Love Food and Cash Drive for Harvey County is underway. Food donations and assistance can be delivered to The Salvation Army social service office which is located at 208 W. 6th, Newton. Checks should be payable to Harvest of Love.

Learn outside of the box. Service Adventure is a one-year opportunity to learn about God, life, and yourself, while serving others. Info and applications at www.MennoniteMission.net/Serve.

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

Associate Pastor: Katherine Goerzen

E-mail: youthpastor@gracehillmc.org

Church Secretary: Debbie Claassen

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