

GRACE HILL MENNONITE CHURCH

December 3, 2006

Worship 9:30 a.m.

Pastor: James Voth

Keyboard: Julia Washburn

Whitewater, Kansas

Sunday School 10:45 a.m.

Youth Pastor: Brett Klingenberg

Chorister: Gladys Reimer

First Sunday of Advent

Love lights the darkness

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

A special welcome to each of our guests! 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.

Bringing in the God Light

* Opening Words

1: From the darkness we seek light

2: From the darkness we seek love

All: From the darkness we seek God

1: When will we come out of the dark?

2: When will we find light and love?

All: When will we find God?

1: The days are surely coming, says the Lord,
when I will fulfill the promise.

2: The days are surely coming, says the Lord,
when I will reveal the light.

**All: The days are surely coming, says the Lord,
When I will reveal the love.**

* Invocation

Pastor Brett

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

Old Testament Reading Jeremiah 33: 14-16 Camille Claassen

Hymn of Response No. 538 *Lead me, Lord* Sing Twice

Children's Moments Rita Patterson

Worship in Giving Mennonite Church USA

Gospel Reading Luke 21:25-36

Readers: Amanda Regehr and Camille Claassen

Children to age 5 may be dismissed to the library for childcare

Advent Meditation Pastor Brett

Lighting of First Advent Candle Lucas Goossen

* **Hymn No. 185** *Hail to the Lord's Anointed* Verses 1 & 2

Sharing Joys, Thanksgivings and Prayers Pastor Brett

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

* **Benediction** Pastor Brett

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

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.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES BEGIN AT 10:45 A.M.
EVERYONE IS WELCOME!**

For Sharing and Prayer

The Harvest of Love Thanksgiving offering was \$872.25 and 85 pounds of food. Thank you for your contribution. Next Sunday December 10 is Harvest of Love Dollar Days. You will find a Harvest of Love envelope in your mailbox. You are invited to donate \$1.00 for each family member and place the envelope in the offering plate Sunday December 10 during worship. Canned and dry goods also make for a helpful contribution to the goal of \$35,000.00 and 50,000 pounds of food. We will be collecting food throughout December. Thanks again!

Western District Conference: Pray for conference ministers (Dorothy Nickel Friesen); associate conference ministers (Lee Lever, Dave Gerbrandt and Marco Guete) as they lead WDC.

Mennonite Mission Network: The Mission Network U.S. Ministries staff will meet tomorrow and Tuesday to assess its work during 2006 and set priorities for 2007. Ask God to help staff discern effective strategies that will engage congregations to further seek God's agenda for them.

Church Events

Wednesday 6:10 p.m. Kid's Meal at the church*
7:00 p.m. Christmas Program Practice
7:00 – 8:15 p.m. Pre-school/Kindergarten and Youth Programming
7:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study
7:45 p.m. Adult Choir will meet in the basement

*To make or cancel reservations for the meal please contact Tammy Regehr (799-2911) or Barb Voth (283-2644).

Cost of the meal: High School & Adults \$3.00 Children \$2.50

Thursday at 7:00 p.m. Worship Council meets at church

Next Sunday, December 10 at 2:15 p.m. Spiritual Council Caroling with high school and junior high youth groups. Meet at the church at 2:15 p.m. We will plan to eat a chili supper around 5:30 p.m. at the church.

Monday, December 11 at 7:00 p.m. Hands of Friendship meet at church. Program: Address Christmas Cards and Carol Singing; Devotions: Marge Harms; Everyone bring a plate of goodies; Financial Project: Offering for a family adopted through the Newton Salvation Army Christmas Assistance Program and mittens for the Mitten Tree.

December 17 at noon Mentoring Christmas Dinner at church

Sunday, December 24 at 7:00 p.m. Grace Hill Christmas Eve Program

Sunday, January 28, 2007 at 12:45 p.m. Church Annual Business meeting

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP

Angel Tree this afternoon. Meet at 4:00. Bring \$10 for gifts and about \$8 for eating. Our gifts will be going towards kids whose parents are either incarcerated or in domestic violence situations.

The Youth Group will be meeting in December at the regular times. Note the change from not meeting.

There will be a Parents meeting on December 13 at 7:00 p.m. under the balcony. Hopefully one person can make it from each family, but I will have a handout for those involved in the Christmas Eve program.

Announcements

We are seeking to update the congregation's email address list. If your email address has changed in the last 6 months please let Pastor Jim or Debbie Claassen know. We are seeking to compile a master list for weekly mailings and special messages such as weather cancellations.

Needed! New children's mittens and gloves to decorate a Christmas tree in the Fellowship Hall. Place the mittens/gloves on the tree. They will be donated to the Salvation Army. The project is sponsored by Hands of Friendship.

Grace Hill Cookbooks: Consider giving Grace Hill Cookbooks as gifts this holiday season. The cookbooks are available in the lobby, cost \$10.00; make checks payable to Hands of Friendship.

Quilting has begun on the MCC quilt; quilters join us on Monday afternoons.

The Mennonite subscription list is being updated. The church has a group-rate policy and each subscription costs the church \$31.00. 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: Kaye Penner

Nursery Next Sunday: Diana Schunn and Emily Burch

Keyboard Next Sunday: Chelsea Vaught

Special Music Next Sunday: Adult Choir, Celebration Singers
and Kids in Praise

Ushers Next Sunday: Doug Hiebert and Orville Schmidt

Offering Last Sunday: Western District Conference \$1,404.00

Offering Next Sunday: Local Church

Et Cetera

Steve Saint, son of one of the five missionaries killed by the Waodani (Auca) in Ecuador 50 years ago will be speaking at First Mennonite Church, Newton, 429 E. 1st St., on Sunday, December 3, at 7:00 p.m. Free tickets may be picked up at First Mennonite Church, Faith and Life Bookstore, and First Bank of Newton at three locations. The story was recently featured in the movie End of the Spear and in Beyond Gates of Splendor (PG-13), both of which are available for rental at local video stores.

The Bethel College Wind Ensemble and Chamber Orchestra annual holiday concert is Tuesday, December 5, at 7:30 p.m. in Krehbiel Auditorium on the Bethel campus. It will also feature a new percussion ensemble and a brass choir. The concert is free.

The Harvey County Homeless Shelter is hosting a Dinner Theater Event in support of the Shelter. Dates are December 7-10, tickets are \$15.00 per person. There is a poster on the bulletin board showing the details for this event.

The public is invited to sing along on Christmas portions of Handel's *Messiah*, with Bethel College students as soloists and instrumentalists, Friday, December 8, 11:00 a.m., Bethel College Mennonite Church. Scores provided or bring your own. (316) 284-5264.

The annual "Night in the Barn" live nativity event will be held December 16 and 17 from 6:00-8:00 p.m. on the farm of Maynard Knepp and Carol Duerksen between Goessel and Hillsboro. This come-and-go event is put on by the youth of the Tabor and Goessel Mennonite churches, and features a large assortment of animals, a short program, and singing around a bonfire. Call 620-367-8432 or email Carol for more information at carold@mennoniteusa.org.

As churches prepare to celebrate Christ's birth, Goshen College again offers an online spiritual resource to help believers make time and space in their hearts and minds to welcome Advent. Through December 29, Goshen College students, faculty and staff will provide weekday reflections based on lectionary Scripture passages and the theme "Love's revelations," available online or by daily e-mail. To access the devotions or sign-up to receive them in your inbox, go to: www.goshen.edu/devotions.

Musical Christmas Gift idea that supports the work of Mennonite Media and Mennonite Mission Network. "Singing in the Spirit" is a new 28-song 2-CD reissue of camp-meeting songs, spirituals and folk tunes celebrating a diverse spiritual heritage a 12-voice men's ensemble from the long-running Mennonite Hour radio broadcast. \$18.95 US for 2-CD set. All proceeds benefit the overall ministry of Mennonite Media. To order call 800-999-3534, or order online at our secure website www.mennomedia.org/resources after December 1.

Kansas Mennonite Men's Chorus is taking registrations in December for the 2007 season. The concert season will feature the music of Dr. Harold Moyer. KMMC has been a significant fundraiser for Mennonite Central Committee over the years. By our music, may we continue to inspire others that attend our concerts to give generously to comfort those who are suffering in our world. For more information contact Willard Wiebe.

CHURCH OFFICES

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Church Secretary: Debbie Claassen 1-888-516-8474

Secretary's E-mail: kimdebc@wheatstate.com

Church Website: <http://gracehill.ks.us.mennonite.net/>