

GRACE HILL MENNONITE CHURCH

December 4, 2011

Whitewater, Kansas

Worship 9:30 a.m.

Sunday School 10:45 a.m.

Pastor: Peter Goerzen

Associate Pastor: Katherine Goerzen

Song Leader: Andrew Voth

Worship Leader: Brian Hilgenfeld

Musicians: Jordan Ortman, Rosewood Winds

Second Sunday of Advent

God's coming alters the landscape of our lives

Gathering

Prelude

Rosewood Winds

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.

Choral Call to Worship

My soul is filled with joy

Adult Choir

Call to Worship based upon Psalm 85:8-13

One: Let us hear what God the Lord will speak,
for God will speak peace to his people.

**Many: God will speak peace to the faithful,
to those who turn to him in their hearts.**

One: Surely God's salvation is at hand for those who fear him,
that his glory may dwell in our land.

**Many: Steadfast love and righteousness will meet;
righteousness and peace will kiss each other.**

One: Faithfulness will spring up from the ground,
and righteousness will look down from the sky.
The Lord will give what is good
and our land will yield its increase.

**Many: Righteousness will go before the Lord,
and prepare the path for him.**

All: Let us prepare a way for the Lord!

Gathering Prayer

Lighting the Advent Candle

Alia Enns

* **Gathering Hymn No. 174** *Bless'd be the God of Israel*

Offering our Gifts Mennonite Church USA

Offertory *We Three Kings* arr. by Gordon Schuster

Hearing God's Word

Old Testament Reading Isaiah 40:1-11

Casey Schunn

Choral Anthem *Comfort, comfort, O my people*

Adult Choir

Children's Story

Kim Claassen

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

Special Music

Christmas Medley arr. by Harold J. Moyer
Rosewood Winds

Gospel Reading

Mark 1:1-8

Pastor Peter

Sermon

Pastor Peter

Responding to God's Word

* **Hymn No. 184** *Hark! The glad sound!*

Sharing Our Stories and Congregational Prayer

Sending

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

* **Benediction**

One: Go into the world, knowing God's peace.

Many: We pass on the peace we have received.

One: Go into the world, carrying God's grace.

Many: We share the grace we have been given.

One: Go into the world, knowing that Jesus is Lord.

**Many: We proclaim, with John the Baptist,
that Jesus is the Messiah, the Holy One of God!**

Postlude

Go tell it on the Mountain arr. by Gordon Schuster

*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

Welcome to the Rosewood Winds! Members are Kristin Kliever, oboe; Amanda Friesen, flute; Valerie Klaassen, clarinet. Thank you for sharing with us this morning.

The church looks beautiful! Thanks to all of you who came to church November 23 to help put up the decorations. Also many thanks to those of you who brought soup, cookies, and rolls for the event. Together we made it happen.

I wish to express grateful thanks for the many expressions of caring that my church family has given me. The cards, calls, visits and food shared all help the time go by much faster. May God bless you all.

Gladys Reimer

Western District Conference: Pray for the quarterly fellowship of Oklahoma pastors meeting in Turpin, OK tomorrow hosted by Pastor Terry Rediger.

Mennonite Mission Network: Pray for wisdom as Phil and Terry Witmer of MMN discern where God would have them invest their energies in La Mesa, Colombia as many responsibilities at church, at school, to their family, to their neighbors, and to their own physical and spiritual health vie for attention.

Church Events

Today at noon All college students are invited to a meal at John and Valerie Klaassen's.

Today at 5:00 p.m. 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 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.

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

***Youth - Angel Tree Shopping:** This Wednesday (Dec. 7) we will plan to go Angel Tree shopping as a group following the all church meal. Please bring \$10 per person so that we can purchase clothes and toys for our 2 children that we are sponsoring.

Next Sunday at 1:30 p.m. All High School and Junior High Youth are invited to go caroling with Spiritual Council and other members of the congregation.

Wednesdays December 14 & 21 at 7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve program practice.

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

December 28 The Youth Group will serve the meal at the Homeless Shelter on Wednesday, December 28 (during Grace Hill's week at the shelter).

Announcements

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.

If you are interested in singing in a Women's Ensemble on Christmas Morning for the worship service, please talk with Pastor Katherine.

Donated food items will go to the Potwin Food Pantry 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.

Christmas Cheer When you are sending your Christmas cards this year or sending your letters by e-mail, we are suggesting that you include our brothers and sisters in Dallas, Texas. They would like to know that you are thinking of them and praying for their congregation and community. Randy and Ana Rodriguez were the members that visited this summer. The addresses are as follows: Pastor Damian Rodriguez, Comunidad Esperanza, 1721 N. Garrett Ave., Dallas, TX 75206, randy-ana@hotmail.com.

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.

Et Cetera

26th Annual Lighting of the Green at Bethel College - this evening at 8:00 p.m.; candles provided; refreshments following in cafeteria.

Those interested in the proposed merger between Kidron Bethel Village and Schowalter Villa are invited to a meeting at 7 p.m. Monday, December 12, at Bethel College Mennonite Church. Attendees will have the opportunity to give feedback, as well as ask questions, about the proposal.

Night In The Barn, the annual living nativity event by the youth of Tabor Mennonite Church, is December 17-18, from 6:00-8:00 p.m. on the farm of Maynard Knepp and Carol Duerksen. This year's program will feature the story of Joseph and will include original music by Doug Krehbiel and script by Carol Duerksen. The menagerie of animals will be hanging out in the barn, and hot drinks will be available to enjoy around the bonfire. This event is by donation and a fundraiser for the youth group. Directions from Goessel: 3 miles north on hiway 15, 4 miles east on 150th, ¾ mile north on Falcon. Directions from Hillsboro: 4 miles south on Indigo, 3 miles west on 150th, ¾ mile north on Falcon. Call [620-367-8432](tel:620-367-8432) or [620-386-0709](tel:620-386-0709) if you have questions.

Want to plant the seed of Christ's call to do service as a lifestyle? Bring your youth group to *Out of the Pew* on January 7, 2012 at Journey at Yoder. Your group will do hands on service with the Hutchinson MVS unit, connect with service agencies, worship together with a Christian rock band and have great fellowship and fun! And all this with lunch for only \$10. More information and a great poster by Jesse B at: <http://mennowdc.org/conference-life/youth/> Registration deadline is December 12!

Mennonite Education Agency has a website at www.MennoniteEducation.org/PRAYERS where monthly "Prayers for Faith and Learning" can be accessed. Individuals who are interested in a free subscription to *Prayers for Faith and Learning* (or other MEA publications) may subscribe online at www.MennoniteEducation.org/Subscribe.

The Western District Conference Ski Retreat is just around the corner! The trip leaves on Friday evening, January 27, and returns Tuesday morning, January 30. We will again be skiing at Copper Mountain ski area in Colorado. The cost of the trip includes sleeper bus transportation from North Newton, two nights lodging, ski rental, and lift tickets for three days of skiing. Costs have actually gone down a little, and we are working hard to make this more family friendly. Adult package costs \$480, 13-17 year-olds cost \$440, and 12 and under cost \$330. We offer discounts if you prefer to drive in on your own and if you own your own equipment. This is a first come/first served event, so please respond promptly by calling or emailing your reservation to the WDC office ([316-283-6300](tel:316-283-6300) or wdc@mennowdc.org). And it makes a great Christmas gift, too!

It's time to register for the Kansas Mennonite Men's Chorus for the spring concerts. Scholarships are available. Contact Willard Wiebe.

Nursery This Sunday: Joyce Wedel and Katrina Regehr
Nursery Next Sunday: Penny Hiebert and Mikayla Hiebert

Ushers Next Sunday: Doug Hiebert and Russell Janzen
Offering Last Sunday: Western District Conference \$ 1,144.00
Offering Next Sunday: Local Church

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