



Grace Hill Mennonite Church

December 4, 2016

Worship – 9:30am

Sunday School – 10:45am

Advent 2016

**God's harmony is at hand.
Come, walk in the way of God's heart.**

Prelude

* Gathering Song *"O Come, O Come, Immanuel"* (vs. 2) HWB 172

Greetings & Announcements

Gathering Interlude

"Rejoice, Rejoice, the Savior Comes" *Choir*

Gathering Words

Leader: In the nighttime of fear, we build walls and defenses.

People: Rather than showing hospitality, we keep the stranger away. We forget the truth that God's love is for everyone.

Leader: O God, show us the way of your heart.

All: *Come quickly, show us.*

* *"O Come, All Ye Faithful"* HWB 212

* *"Come Light of the World"* STS 3

Lighting of the 2nd Advent Candle – Jacob Hilgenfeld

Advent Reading: Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19

"Dona Nobis Pacem" HWB 346

Prayer of confession

L: God of harmony,

P: we yearn to walk in your way but often choose our own path of turmoil and pain. Save us, Lord, from the pride and foolishness of choosing our own course, that we may humbly and confidently follow your lead, through Jesus Christ, Amen.

- Silence -

L: Throughout the tumult of life, God holds you close in love. Rejoice, because God's wisdom is your guide, God's compassion is your strength. God's love is your redemption.

ALL: Come, let us walk in the way of God's heart!

Song *"Spirit of the Living God"* HWB 349

Offering to God Mennonite Church USA

Offertory

* *Doxology* (Psalm 100) HWB 119

Children's Story "A Bundle of Sticks"

Sharing and Congregational Prayer

Anthem *"Still, Still, Still"* Choir

Scripture Reading Isaiah 43:14-19; Matthew 26:26-29

Sermon *"Behold, I am Doing a New Thing"*

* *"Peace, Peace"* Choir

"Silent Night" (HWB 193)

* Benediction

Come! Walk in the way of God's heart. The dawn is breaking! Christ is coming to set us free from chaos and sin. He will show us the way. Amen.

*Indicates those comfortable in doing so, please stand.

- After the Children's story children to age 5 may be dismissed to the library for childcare.
- 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!

Serving in Worship

Pastor	Weldon Martens
Scripture Reader	Samantha Claassen
Keyboard	Rebecca Schrag
Choir Director/Song Leader	Matthew Graber
Greeters	Allen & Elaine Patterson
Ushers	Terry Klassen & Dean Patterson
Nursery	Kris Janzen & Bethany Regehr

For Sharing and Prayer

December Graduates:

Matthew Hiebert, Kansas State University, Business Admin.
Russell Lanzrath, Kansas State University, Masters in Food Science

Western District Conference: Pray for the WDC Church Planting Commission meeting this week, as they seek God's leading in supporting new and emerging congregations in WDC.

Mennonite Mission Network: Mennonite Mission Network requests prayer for the Colorado Springs Service Adventure unit as participants work alongside Beth-El Mennonite Church to live out an Anabaptist perspective in a community with a large military population. Pray for David Borbely, Nora Charles, Marle Moellenbruck and Kate Unruh, and leaders Daniel and Meg Smeltzer Miller.

Church Events

Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Program practice for preschool through high school age. Please talk to Josh Patterson or Courtney Nethercot if you have questions.

Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. Leadership Council meets.

Monday, December 12 at 11:30 a.m. Christmas Luncheon- Hands of Friendship are inviting all ladies to a Salad Christmas Luncheon on Monday, December 12 at 11:30 a.m. Bring a salad and or plate of goodies. Offering for "Adopt a Family".

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

Announcements

Needed! New Mittens, Gloves, Scarfs and Hats- Please hang on the Christmas tree in the Fellowship Hall. Bring by Christmas Day after which they will be donated to The Salvation Army in Newton.

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 Christmas luncheon Monday, December 12 or give to Joyce Stuart.

The Whitewater & Potwin Food Pantries are in need of items throughout the year. A basket for goods is located in the foyer by the front entrance.

Nursery Next Sunday: Katherine Claassen and Kaye Penner

Ushers Next Sunday: Doug Hiebert and Russell Janzen

Greeters Next Sunday: John and Miriam Claassen

Offering Last Sunday: Western District Conference \$822.00

Offering Next Sunday: Local Church

CHURCH OFFICES

Pastor's Office Hours:

Tuesday & Thursday - Mornings, Wednesday - Afternoon, Friday - day off

Pastor: Weldon Martens

Email: weldon.martens@gmail.com

Church Secretary: Debbie Claassen

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

Et Cetera

31st Annual Lighting of the Green at Bethel College, this evening at 8 p.m.

The McPherson Community Brass Choir under the direction of Jerry Toews will be giving a Christmas Brass Concert in the Historic Alexanderwohl Church Sun., December 11 at 7 p.m. Alexanderwohl is located 1 mile north of Goessel on K-15 Hwy.

The Tabor Mennonite Youth Fellowship, Newton, will share their annual living nativity, Night in the Barn, on December 17 and 18 from 6-8 pm. The friendly goat, the large cow with her little calf, the peaceful sheep, and the baby and big donkeys that share their love of people—these are a few of the critters who will assemble in the barn of Maynard Knepp and Carol Duerksen between Goessel and Hillsboro. The story this year will be from the perspective of a sheep that witnessed the first Christmas, and is from a new book by Kim Funk called “Christmas at the Stable.” The come-and-go event includes Christmas carols around a bonfire, hot drinks and snacks. Admission is free and donations to the youth group will be accepted. Directions to Night in the Barn: From Goessel: 3 miles north on Hwy 15, 4 miles east on 150th, $\frac{3}{4}$ north on Falcon. (Follow these directions and not GPS.) For more information, call 620-386-0709.

Paying down Christmas debt? LSS Financial Counseling can help you work through your bills and decide how to address them. LSS offers free services thanks to a partnership with faith-based Everence Financial that has helped over 1,600 households. Visit everence.com/lss.

Join the #MennoLove fun! Participate in the “Love is a Verb” storytelling project by submitting a Love Your Selfie! Send us a photo of yourself practicing self-care and a brief explanation, and we will share it across the church online. Send emails to alyssabs@mennoniteusa.org.

A revised version of the Israel-Palestine resolution first brought to delegates at the Mennonite Church USA assembly in 2015 is now available for review. Visit www.mennoniteusa.org/menno-snapshots/seeking-peace-israel-palestine to view the document and provide feedback by December 20.

Kauffman Museum at Bethel College seeks artifacts, letters, photos and documents that tell the story of conscientious objectors during World War I. To learn more, or if you have an item for donation or long-term loan, please contact museum director Annette LeZotte at alezotte@bethelks.edu or 316-283-1612.