

GRACE HILL MENNONITE CHURCH

December 6, 2009

Whitewater, Kansas

Worship 9:30 a.m.

Sunday School 10:45 a.m.

Pastor: Peter Goerzen

Youth Pastor: Katherine Goerzen

Keyboard: Katherine Goerzen

Chorister: Gladys Reimer

Worship Leader: Jo Frye

Get ready! God calls us to choose the path of peace

The anticipation of God's "bursting in" means that we must be ready. God's agenda is radical, it brings down what was high and lifts up what was low.

*God's light will guide us in continuing along the path of peace,
a path fulfilled by God's coming.*

Gathering and Praising

Prelude

Welcoming Guests 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.

Lighting the God Candle

* **Call to Worship** based upon Malachi 3:1-4 & Luke 1:68-79

One: We live in troubled times, waiting for God's light to burst into our dark world. Get Ready! God calls us to choose the path of peace.

Many: As we prepare, we acknowledge that we still live in the darkness of discontent. We repent and rise to walk with God in the paths of peace. We choose to live as people of healing and hope.

One: May every valley be filled and every mountain and hill be made low. May the crooked paths be made straight and the rough ways smooth.

All: Let us worship the God whose fire ignites our lives and makes us holy through and through. The one who calls us is faithful and will do it.

* **Opening Prayer**

* **Gathering Hymn No. 176** *Comfort, comfort, O my people*

Proclaiming

Scripture Reading

Focus Texts: Luke 1:68-79 & Luke 3:1-6

Text of Hope: Philippians 1:3-11

Lon Hiebert

Candle Lighting

Carson Dove

The first candle reminds us to take heart. The second candle of Advent anticipates God's bursting in and breaking out: God bursts in and calls us to break out of the cycles of hatred and revenge. Scripture teaches us that the one who began this good work in you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. We light this candle as a reminder to get ready, and choose the path of peace. God reveals the path for our feet to follow. Beloved of God, get ready and choose the path of peace.

Special Music

 Valerie Klaassen, Curt Regehr, Peter & Katherine Goerzen

The Coventry Carol Courtney Claassen and Samantha Claassen on flute

Nun ist sie Erschienen Congregation is invited to sing on the third time

Nun ist sie erschienen, die himmlische Sonne,

Und strahlt durch die irdische Nacht;

Darum trocknet die Thraenen und jauchzet vor Wonne;

Denn den Menschen ist Heil nun in Christo gebracht.

CHORUS: Dem Heiland sei Ehre, Heiland sei Ehre, Frieden und Heil

der Welt In Christo dem Retter, Christo dem Retter,

Ist Frieden und Heil uns bestellt.

Children's Moments

Kris Goossen

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

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

Sermon

Pastor Peter

Responding

Litany of Response based on Malachi 3:1-4 & Philippians 1:6-8

One: Lord, in this time of Advent, we long for your coming. We rejoice that you send messengers to prepare the way and announce the light of peace.

Many: Purify us, Lord. Clean out our souls and get rid of all that blocks our relationship with you. Help us to follow your ways, to love justice and pursue peace.

North: We confess that we have tried many paths and that our wandering has made us weary. We have turned away from your ways.

All: Guide us with your grace.

South: Lord, in your loving kindness, draw near and finish the good work that you have started in us.

Many: We are prepared to choose the path of peace.

All: Thank you for your tender mercy toward us as you guide us. Amen.

* **Hymn of Response No. 183** *On Jordan's banks the Baptist's cry*

Offering Mennonite Church USA

Prayers of the People

Sending

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

* **Benediction** Philippians 1:9-11

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

Western District Conference: Pray for the WDC Leadership Commission as it interviews candidates for pastoral leadership in WDC.

Mennonite Mission Network: Pray for the peace witness of Mennonite churches in Bolivia today during the presidential elections and that the elected president will implement policies that benefit all regions of the country.

Church Events

Today at 1:30 p.m. Middle school and high school Christmas caroling with the Spiritual Council. Meet at the church at 1:30 p.m. We plan to return to the church by 4:30 p.m. for chili and all the fixins. Jr. Youth can be picked up from church between 5:00-5:30 p.m.

This afternoon at 4:00 p.m. Wheat State Manor Vesper Service – Explorers S.S. class is in charge. Also this week at Wheat State: Tuesday at 9:00 a.m. – mending; Friday at 3:00 p.m. – Bingo.

High School Youth Christmas Party: Following the Caroling with Spiritual Council, we will have our annual Christmas Party at Katherine and Peter's house from 6-9. Please bring a White Elephant Gift (\$5 or less) for a White Elephant Gift exchange.

Monday at 2:00 p.m. Hands of Friendship meet at church. Program: *Holy Night* presented by Elaine Patterson; Please bring a nativity set, if you have one that can be transported, and tell something about it. Also bring a plate of goodies. Hostess & Devotions: Elaine Patterson; Financial Project: Adopt a Family through Salvation Army & Mitten Tree.

Monday at 7:30 p.m. Administrative Council meets at church.

Tuesday afternoon Quilters: You are welcome to come to the church and quilt on Tuesday afternoons anytime from 1-5 p.m.

Wednesday **7:00 – 8:15 p.m.** Children's and Youth Programming
 7:00 – 7:40 p.m. Adult Choir
 7:45 – 8:15 p.m. Adult Bible Study with Pastor Peter

High School Youth: Wednesday December 9, we will be going to Kidron Bethel Village to visit with the members from Grace Hill who live there. We will leave from the church at 6:45 and plan to arrive at Kidron Bethel around 7 p.m. in the evening.

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

Announcements

Poinsettias for the Youth Group Fundraiser can be picked up today after the worship service.

The Harvey County Food Pantry is in need of items this Christmas season. Please bring canned and dry goods to donate. A basket for goods is located in the foyer by the front entrance.

Junior Youth: Just a reminder that Snow Camp Forms should be put in Pastor Katherine's box by Sunday December 13th.

Mittens/Gloves - You are invited to bring new mittens and gloves to decorate the Christmas tree in the Fellowship Hall by next Sunday, December 13. They will be donated to the Salvation Army, Newton. All sizes are welcome. The project is sponsored by the Hands of Friendship.

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: Penny Hiebert and Mikayla Hiebert

Ushers Next Sunday: Doug Hiebert and Terry Klassen

Preaching Next Sunday: Pastor Katherine

Special Music Next Sunday: Adult Choir

Keyboard Next Sunday: Sara Unruh

Offering Last Sunday: Harvey County Homeless Shelter \$1,914.00

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

Youth Pastor: Katherine Goerzen

E-mail: youthpastor@gracehillmc.org

Church Secretary: Debbie Claassen

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

Church Website: www.gracehillmc.org

Et Cetera

Support Offender/Victim Ministries while you do your holiday shopping on Thursday, December 10 at Ten Thousand Villages in Newton. Already finished with Christmas shopping? Then stock up on fair trade coffees and teas! Twenty percent of all purchases made between 5:30-8 p.m. will be donated to support the work of OVM.

Harvey County Homeless Shelter presents the Fourth Annual Christmas Dinner Theatre on December 10, 11 and 12 at 7:00 p.m. at Shalom Mennonite Church, 800 E. 1st, Newton. Individual tickets are \$15, \$250 per table sponsor or \$500 per event sponsor. For more information or reservations contact Darla or Christa at Regier Construction 316-283-3729 or event@hchs-ks.com. More information is on the bulletin board.

Hymn Sing For Christmas - Mark your calendars now for a special musical evening on Saturday, December 12, 7:00-8:30 p.m. at Bethel College Mennonite Church led by Dr. William Eash. This is a fundraiser with proceeds divided 50% for Western District Conference Vision 2012 and 50% for Bethel College. Let's sing together!

Volunteer for M-2 in 2010 - Training December 21 The M-2 (Match Two) program of Offender / Victim Ministries seeks new volunteers to be involved in prison visitation. Ministry in prison requires a training session given by both prison staff and the M-2 director. The upcoming training will be Monday, December 21 from 7:00 – 11:00 a.m. Other opportunities will be available in January. Call OVM. M-2 is a supervised in-prison friendship program. Your friendship, love and concern can be a crucial element in a successful life following incarceration. Most of the inmates in M-2 receive no other visits than those of their M-2 friend. More than 50 men are waiting to be matched. A volunteer commits to visit one evening per month. No special skills are needed to be a friend. Contact OVM (316-283-2038) or email (ovm.ks@sbcglobal.net) for further information or to submit your name and other required information so that clearances may be obtained for admission to training. Please contact us by Dec. 14.

Camp Mennoscah—Summer camp surveys are closing! Remember those evaluations that all the campers received at the end of their camp week? Well, the online version of these surveys will be closed on December 15. Please take this last (online) opportunity to help us make our summer camps better. The online strategic planning survey will remain open until the beginning of January. Questions? Contact Camp Mennoscah at campmno@mennowdc.org or 620-297-3290.

A table of Christmas books is located in the foyer. Feel free to check these books for your enjoyment during this season.

Donated books that have been added to the library.

Home Town Tales Philip Gulley 1998. Short stories of a small town and how each celebrated Christian values and virtues.

The Christmas Wish Richard Siddoway 1998. Will discovers kindness, forgiveness, and love in the lives of his grandparents.

The Christmas Tree Julie Salomon 1996. A "tree" becomes Anna's best friend but the tree has to battle many elements.

Christmas in My Heart Joe L. Wheeler, ed. 2004. A compiled collection of fifteen Christmas short stories from Focus on the Family.

Corrie's Christmas Memories Corrie ten Boom 1976. A collection of Christmas stories shared by the author.

Upcoming music events at Bethel College:

December 6 at 3:00 p.m. Wind Ensemble concert in Krehbiel Auditorium

December 6 at 7:00 p.m. Deutsche Weihnachten at Bethel College Mennonite Church

December 8 at 7:30 p.m. Concert Choir Christmas Pops with Wichita Symphony Orchestra at Century II

December 11 at 11:00 a.m. Messiah Sing at Bethel College Mennonite Church

December 11 at 8:00 p.m. Christmas Gala Jazz Concert at Krehbiel Auditorium

December 13 at 4:00 p.m. Christmas Organ Recital in the Chapel

December 14 at 7:30 p.m. Mid-Kansas Jazz Ensemble in Krehbiel Auditorium