

GRACE HILL MENNONITE CHURCH

December 7, 2014

Worship 9:30 a.m.

Musician: Tara Harms-Becker

Transition Pastor: Randy Smith

Whitewater, Kansas

Sunday School 10:45 a.m.

Song Leader: Matthew Graber

Prayer

Silent Waiting

Matthew 1:18-25

The Peace of Joseph

Candle Lighting

O come, O come, Immanuel (verses 1 & 6)

Dove Family

O that you would rend the heavens and come down. . .

Isaiah 64:1

Reveal Your Peace

Advent 2

Gathering Music

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude to Worship

Come, come Emmanuel

Randy Smith

Ensemble

Sung Call to Worship

Ring the Bells (Bollback)

Choir

Call to Worship

Psalm 85:4, 7-13

Restore us again, O God our Savior.

Put away your displeasure toward us.

**Show us your unfailing love, Lord,
and grant us your salvation.**

We will listen to what God the Lord says;

**God promises peace to his people,
his faithful servants—**

but let them not turn to folly.

Surely God's salvation is near those who fear him,
that the Glory of God may dwell in our land.

Love and faithfulness meet together;

righteousness and peace kiss each other.

**Faithfulness springs forth from the earth,
and righteousness looks down from heaven.**

The Lord will indeed give what is good,
and the land will yield its harvest.

***Righteousness goes before the Lord
and prepares the way for his steps.***

*Caroling

Infant holy, Infant lowly

What child is this

Hark, the herald angels sing

Shepherds on a Hill (Nygard)

Hymnal 206

Hymnal 215

Hymnal 201

Choir

Waiting In Peace

Isaiah 2:3-5

Kris Goossen

Offering

Children's Story

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

Katrina Regehr

Reflecting on Peace

A Tribute to Joseph

Still, still, still

Choir

Sharing and Prayer

*Sending Hymn

Silent night, holy night

Hymnal 193

*Benediction

Postlude

Ensemble: Matthew Graber, Tara Harms-Becker, Penny Hiebert, Valerie Klaassen, Curt Regehr

This morning's offering is designated for Mennonite Church USA.

*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

Western District Conference: Pray God's blessing on the Western District Church Planters Retreat on December 12 and the Church Planting Dreamers Advance on December 13.

Mennonite Mission Network: Pray for the transition government in Burkina Faso after violent demonstrations forced Blaise Compaoré to relinquish presidential power. Anne Garber Kompaoré of Mennonite Mission Network, requests us to pray "that the Lord will lead to a wide consensus for a person full of integrity and wisdom and courage to lead the country to elections next year."

Church Family News

. . . **Edgar Harder** "graduated" from physical therapy and is back home with **Agnes'** help . . . **Gladys Harms** continues her stay at Via Christi-St Francis waiting a procedure at Wesley Medical Center to assist toward a diagnosis and treatment plan . . . **Elaine Patterson** designed and provided the advent wreath display on the communion table . . . **Kristen (Toews)** and **Brandon Faul** became mom and dad to daughter **Karsyn Avery** born Thursday in Okinawa Japan . . . **Mary (Washburn)** and **Nathan Blasi** became mom and dad to son **Kodiac (Kody) Ray** born the Wednesday before Thanksgiving . . . **Adrian Nethercot** will graduate from K-State this Saturday.

Corrected address: Justina Smith, 343 North Country Acres, Wichita, KS 67212.

Church Events

Monday at 11:30 a.m. Hands of Friendship will meet at church for their Christmas Luncheon. Bring salad or dessert. Program by the Rosewood Winds. Hostess & Devotions: Gladys Reimer, Joyce Stuart and Miriam Claassen. Financial Project: Mitten Tree & Mennonite Women USA.

Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. Youth Group will meet.
Administrative Council will meet.

Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Program practice – we would like for ages Pre-K through 8th grade to attend. Practices will take place on December 10 & 17 at 7:00 p.m. If you have questions, contact Lisa Schmidt or Debbie Claassen.

Thursday at 8:00 a.m. Senior Breakfast at Charlie's, Newton.

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

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

Announcements

Mittens/Gloves - Hands of Friendship are 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. All sizes are welcome.

The Whitewater Area Chamber of Commerce is collecting food to distribute for Christmas. Please deliver your donations to Krueger Insurance, Bank of Whitewater or Countryaid Vet Service by December 17. If you have questions please contact Vickie Beck at 316-799-2163. Or you may leave the items in the basket in the foyer.

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 by next Sunday, December 14.

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 and Rita Patterson

Nursery Next Sunday: Deb Regier and Katrina Regehr

Ushers Next Sunday: Doug Hiebert and Russ Janzen

Offering Last Sunday: Harvest of Love/Local Food Banks \$1,662.00

Offering Next Sunday: Local Church

CHURCH OFFICES

Pastor's Office Hours:

Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday 9:00 a.m.-Noon, Thursday 1:00-4:00 p.m.

Transition Pastor: Randy Smith

Email: transitionpastor@gmail.com

Church Secretary: Debbie Claassen

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

Church Website: www.gracehillmc.org

Randy & Ann Smith: 115 W. 27th St., North Newton, KS 67117

Et Cetera

You are invited to Mennonite Central Committee's Christmas Open House on December 9 from 4-6 p.m. at the MCC Center in North Newton (121 E. 30th). Join us to meet the new people in MCC Central States, visit with MCC alumni and at 4:30 p.m. hear a reflection from Carol Duerksen about her recent MCC Learning Tour to Palestine/Israel. We'll have lots of Christmas goodies for you to enjoy while you're here! Drop by MCC on the 9th to enjoy some Christmas cheer!

Immigration Update - December 14, 3-5 p.m. at Mennonite Church of the Servant, 2401 N Woodland (23rd & Woodland), Wichita. Lupe Magdaleno from Sunflower Community Action will present an update on the current status of immigration policy in the U.S., Kansas, and Wichita. The afternoon will begin with a prayer service for immigrants and conclude with a light meal. Free and open to the public. Among the event sponsors are Mennonite Church of the Servant and Iglesia Menonita Aposento Alto, both in Wichita.

The Tabor Mennonite Youth Fellowship will share their annual living nativity, **Night in the Barn**, on December 20 and 21 from 6-8 p.m. The llama that gives kisses, the big cow with her little calf, the sheep wearing bells, and the 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. The come-and-go event will feature unique perspectives from the innkeeper and a shepherd, and Christmas carols. Visitors are welcome to gather around a bonfire and enjoy hot drinks as part of the evening's activities. Admission is free and donations to the youth group will be accepted. Directions: From Goessel: 3 miles north on Hwy 15, 4 miles east on 150th, ¾ north on Falcon. (Follow these directions and not GPS directions.) For more information, call 620-386-0709.

Visit Mennonite Church USA's Kansas City convention website: www.mennoniteusa.org/convention. As planning continues, this website will be the one-stop-shop for the many details you'll need to know to start planning your participation in next year's convention. Please bookmark it, forward the link to others and check back often to see the promo videos and find out the unique things we are planning for Kansas City 2015. Dates of the convention are June 30-July 5, 2015.

Offender/Victim Ministries is seeking applicants for the position of Director of Prison Ministries. This half-time position oversees the M-2 Prison Visitation and the Prison Arts programs at the Hutchinson Correctional Facility. Full position description available upon request. Interested candidates should submit resumes and cover letters to libby.ovm@sbcglobal.net.

The Interim Thus Far . . .

Our agenda for the intentional interim has centered on worship themes and congregational conversations. The aim is to get people together to share and listen to each other about things important to Grace Hill Mennonite Church. So what have we shared and heard from each other?

Reciting Our History (section 1)

From our past, what do we want to take forward into the next chapter?

- Mission emphasis
- Christian education
- Worship and music
- Youth ministry
- Community life
 - (Agreeing to disagree; Positive attitude;
 - Communication and connection;
 - Welcome and hospitality; Outreach)

Claiming Our Values (section 2)

What are some key Grace Hill values?

- Service
- Mission
- Giving/generosity
- Diversity/inclusiveness
- Friendliness/hospitality
- Faithfulness
- Mennonite

With worship as the most important thing we do, what qualities make for “meaningful worship” at Grace Hill?

- Reverent and relational
- Sharing and prayer
- Participation of members

- Musical diversity
- Use of scripture
- Life-teaching/thinking sermons
- Coordinated, with theme and flow

These findings will be helpful for the pastor search process in completing the Congregational Information Form and interviewing candidates.

Coming in January

Leading Through Our Gifting (section 3)

Using the Sunday school hour for Bible study and surveying our gifting, the congregation will discover clearer focus, energy, and enthusiasm for the ministries of Grace Hill. This section will also set the stage for reorganizing the structure for ministries and leadership if the congregation chooses. Strong attendance is important to maximize the effectiveness of this section.

Future Sections Four and Five

Reaching Beyond Ourselves

Developing our ministry of hospitality with a mindset for inviting, welcoming, and including.

Leading With Vision

Establishing a team of leaders who lead the congregation toward a vision and goals.