

GRACE HILL MENNONITE CHURCH

December 8, 2013

Whitewater, Kansas

Worship 9:30 a.m.

Sunday School 10:45 a.m.

Pastor: Peter Goerzen

Associate Pastor: Katherine Goerzen

Musician: Matthew Graber

Song Leader: Aaron Tschetter

Worship Leader: Kylee Schunn

O, The Mystery of God's Dwelling
Advent 2 ... in our relationships

Inviting the Mystery

Prelude

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 *Arise, your light is come!* Adult Choir

Prayer of Invocation

Call to Worship Psalm 72: 1-7, 18-19

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

Engaging the Mystery

Lighting the Advent Wreath Quinn Dove

One: The coming of Christ brings peace.

Let us remember the God who brings harmony from dissonance and speaks life into places of darkness and brokenness.

The second Advent candle is the candle of peace.

All: This light reminds us that God does indeed dwell in our relationships.

* **First Theme Song No. 191** *O little town of Bethlehem* verses 1 & 4

Sharing and Congregational Prayer

Worship Music *The First Noel/Pachelbel's Canon* arr. Clawson
Adult Choir

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

Scripture Readings Romans 15: 4-13 Rita Patterson
Isaiah 11: 1-10

Time of Silence

Celebrating the Mystery

Sermon Pastor Katherine

* **Song of Response No. 195** *It came upon a midnight clear* vs. 1, 3, 4 & 5

Offering Our Gifts Local Church

* **Second Theme Song No. 172** *O come, O come, Immanuel* vs. 1, 2 & 6

Benediction

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.

**The Adult Sunday School classes will begin
10 minutes after the service is over.
Everyone is welcome!**

For Sharing and Prayer

The Worship Council would like to thank all those who participated in the Nativity Display and Hymn Sing last Sunday: those who brought nativities to share, those who baked cookies, those who provided music and participated in the service, and those who helped set up and clean up. It was a wonderful way to begin the Advent Season. Thank you all!

Western District Conference: Byron and Hilde Pellecer have arrived in Wichita to lead the Hispanic church plant supported by the three WDC congregations in Wichita. Uphold them in prayer as they make connections, survey neighborhoods and begin to share God's good news with all they meet.

Mennonite Mission Network: Due to the onset of winter and the holidays, requests for assistance reach a peak this month in the nonprofit agencies for which MMN's Mennonite Voluntary Service participants work. Pray that the 57 MVSers in 17 locations will continue to serve their host communities with love and patience.

Additional Harvest Thanks offerings that were not included in the totals given in the bulletin on November 17: \$26,931.46. Making a grand total of \$127,247.39!

Church Events

Today All college age folks are invited to Valerie and John Klaassen's for dinner today following Sunday School.

Monday at 11:30 a.m. Hands of Friendship Christmas Luncheon at church. Please bring a salad or dessert. Hostess & Devotions: Gladys Reimer, Joyce Stuart, Miriam Claassen; Financial Project: Adopt a Family through Salvation Army & Mitten Tree.

Wednesday 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. Junior Dept. Programming
7:00 p.m. Youth Programming
7:00 p.m. Adult Study with Pastor Peter

Wednesday at 8:00 p.m. Administrative Council meets.

Next Sunday at 5:00 p.m. Wheat State Manor Vesper Service – Mariners S.S. Class is in charge.

Next Sunday at 5:45 p.m. Grace Hill Night at the Movies – *The Nativity Story* The story of Jesus' birth, starring Keisha Castle-Hughes and Oscar Isaac. 101 min. PG.

Wednesday, December 18 at 7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Program practice.

Announcements

Mittens/Gloves - Hands of Friendship is 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 on Dec. 10. All sizes are welcome.

Salvation Army Christmas Project Help Hands of Friendship provide for families 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 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 and Angela Frohlich-Phipps

Nursery Next Sunday: Deb Regier and Katie Regier

Ushers Next Sunday: Mike Balzer and Kendall Claassen

Offering Last Sunday: Mennonite Church USA \$1,375.00

Offering Next Sunday: Kidron Bethel Health Care Centre

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

Et Cetera

Welcome in the season by joining your voice in song! Please join us at Kidron Bethel Village on Sunday afternoon, December 8, 3:30 p.m., for a special time of Advent worship and singing. The hymn-sing will be led by Elvera Voth, with readings and prayer led by Kidron Bethel Village chaplain, Eric Massanari.

The Heartland Ensemble will present a benefit Christmas show for the Harvey County Safe House on Sunday, December 8 at 4:00 p.m. at Salem United Methodist Church in Newton. Admission is by donation; your special gift underwrites this concert and supports the rebuilding of lives through the Harvey County Safe House. The Safe House provides crisis response and continued services for victims of domestic violence and /or sexual assault. The Safe House agency provided face-to-face, unduplicated services to over 921 victims and their children in the last twelve months.

Join us for an evening of inspiration and joy at the annual Celebration of Hope Dinner & Program to benefit the Harvey County Homeless Shelter, December 12 and 13 at 6:30 p.m. at the Hesston Mennonite Church. Tickets are available by calling 283-3729 or by email at event@hchs-ks.com. Tickets are \$40.

Come to First Mennonite Church in Newton on December 15 at 7 p.m. to experience Handel's Messiah. The program includes the church choir plus community members, an orchestra and Amy Schroeder, Kay Schroeder, Matthew Schloneger, and Christopher Kliewer as soloists.

MCC Christmas Open House December 17 - All are invited to come to the MCC Center in North Newton on Tuesday, December 17 from 3-6 p.m. Join us to meet Michelle Armster, our new Transitional Executive Director, dedicate our new solar panels at 4 p.m., visit with MCC staff, tour the MCC center and enjoy lots of Christmas goodies! The MCC Central States building is located at 121 E. 30th in North Newton. We hope to see you on December 17!

The Tabor Mennonite Youth Fellowship (rural Newton) will share their annual living nativity, Night in the Barn, on December 21 and 22 from 6:00-8:00 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 between Goessel and Hillsboro. 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 to Night in the Barn: 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 620-367-8432 or 620-386-0709.

Job Opening: Evening manager at Newton Et Cetera Shop, a community thrift store benefiting Mennonite Central Committee. Qualifications: Availability 4:00-8:00 p.m. Monday-Friday, skilled communicator, good with people, ability to multi-task, competent computer/technical skills, values in line with Mennonite Central Committee. College graduate preferred. Ability to lift 25 pounds and stand 2-3 hours recommended. Bilingual or cross-cultural experience, cash register skills helpful. Experience in promotion/advertising, design, or retailing a plus. Begins January 6, 2014. To apply, email a letter expressing your interest in the position and a resume including job history and 3 professional references, to newtonetc@sbcglobal.net by December 16.

Apply now for scholarships. If your family uses Everence Financial services, you may be eligible to apply for a college scholarship for the 2014-2015 school year. Everence wants to help you make full use of your God-given talents. Applications are due by Feb. 28. Learn more at Everence.com/scholarships.

Camp Mennoscah Sweatshirts! Did you know that Camp Mennoscah has sweatshirts that make great Christmas gifts? These snazzy sweatshirts have the camp sign in white on black or dark brown. The cost is \$25 for youth sizes, \$30 for adult sizes, and \$35 for XXL. What?!? You already have a sweatshirt? Well, we have mugs, tee shirts, and cookbooks, too! Contact us at 620-297-3290 to make someone happy.

Summer staff applications--Camp Mennoscah summer staff applications for 2014 are available on our website. We won't start filling positions until February, but early applications are welcome. We've discovered that interviews done in person are better for everyone and that some folks are only in the Newton area for the holidays. Questions? Contact us at 620-297-3290. We'll do our best to help you out!