

# GRACE HILL MENNONITE CHURCH

December 9, 2012

Whitewater, Kansas

Worship 9:30 a.m.

Sunday School 10:45 a.m.

Pastor: Peter Goerzen

Associate Pastor: Katherine Goerzen

Song Leader: Aaron Tschetter

Musician: Jordan Ortman

Worship Leader: Pastor Katherine

## Advent 2 – Light for the Journey Gathering

### 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

Adult Choir

*Helpless and Hungry/What Child is This* by Soper/Dix

### Call to Worship and Lighting the Advent Candle

Brandi and Alia Enns

One: The Lord is our light and our salvation, whom shall we fear?  
The Lord is the stronghold of our life; of whom shall we be afraid?

*All: Even when darkness covers the earth, we wait in hope for the light for the Lord will arise upon us and God's glory will appear over us. Let us be glad and rejoice in the Lord's salvation.*

### Gathering Prayer

\* **Gathering Song Sing the Journey No. 54** *Longing for light* vs. 1 & 2

**Offering Our Gifts** Local Church Missions

### Listening

**Old Testament Reading** Isaiah 60: 1-5

Pastor Katherine

\* **Hymn No. 211** *Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming*

**Children's Story** *The Christmas Miracle of Jonathan Toomey: Part 2*  
Kim Claassen, Alia Enns, Ashley Enns, Tara Harms-Becker

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

### Worship Music

*The Glory of the Father* by Hovland/Pooler

Adult Choir

**Gospel Reading** Matthew 2: 1-12

Pastor Peter

**Sermon** *The Guiding Light*

Pastor Peter

### Responding

\* **Hymn of Response** *Oh, beautiful star of Bethlehem* see insert

### Sharing Our Stories and Congregational Prayer

\* **Sending Hymn No. 199** *The first Noel, the angel did say* vs. 1-3

### 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

#### December College Graduates:

Emily Burch – Kansas State University  
Cory Hiebert – Wichita State University

**Western District Conference:** Pray for Brad Penner who is being installed as pastor of Goessel Mennonite Church today.

**Mennonite Mission Network:** Korean Anabaptist Center, a MMN partner, is searching for a teacher of Anabaptist ecclesiology. Korean Christians dissatisfied with the church structure are looking for new ways of doing church. Pray for a complete staff to model a ministry of reconciliation and peace as Korea goes through many transitions.

**Pastors Peter and Katherine** are planning to participate in a study sabbatical at Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary in Elkhart, Indiana February-May 2013. Weldon Martens will be serving as a half-time interim pastor during that time. Ben Kreider will be leading the youth on Wednesday nights.

## Announcements

**Mennonite Church USA Convention** will take place in Phoenix, Arizona, July 1-5, 2013. Grace Hill can appoint three delegates. If anyone is interested in serving as a delegate, please contact Kim Claassen.

**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. All sizes are welcome.

**Donated food items will go to the Potwin & Whitewater Food Pantries 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.

***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 December 16.

**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:** Penny Hiebert and Mikayla Hiebert

**Nursery Next Sunday:** Deb Regier and Katie Regier

**Ushers Next Sunday:** Mike Balzer and Kendall Claassen

**Offering Last Sunday:** Mennonite Church USA \$1,784.00

**Offering Next Sunday:** Kidron Bethel Health Care Centre

## Church Events

**This evening** Youth Christmas party, tonight from 5-8 p.m. at Pastors Katherine and Peter's house. Bring a white elephant gift for a gift exchange (\$5 or less). Goodies and a light supper will be provided.

**Monday at 11:30 a.m.** Hands of Friendship will have a Christmas Luncheon at church. Bring a salad or dessert, main course will be furnished. Program: "My Tea Cup Memories" by Alma Schmidt. Hostess: Gladys Harms and Alma Schmidt. Offering: Cash for Adopt a Family and mittens or gloves, given through the Salvation Army. Donations for Adopt a Family may be given in advance to Joyce Stuart or Agnes Harder.

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

**Tuesday 1:30-5:00 p.m.** Creativity Workshop at church.

**Wednesday 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.** Junior Dept. Programming  
**7:00 p.m.** Youth – Caroling at Kidron Bethel  
**7:00 p.m.** Adult Study with Pastor Peter

**Next Sunday at noon** Spiritual Council meets.

**Wednesday, December 19 at 7:00 p.m.** Christmas Eve Program Practice for all children and all youth. Instrumental musicians who have been contacted should also attend. Mariners Sunday School class members should plan to attend.

**December 19-25** Grace Hill/Zion week at the Harvey County Homeless Shelter. The volunteer and meal sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board.

**December 24 at 6:30 p.m.** Christmas Eve Program – The traditional Grace Hill Christmas Eve program will be on Monday, December 24, at **6:30 p.m.**, followed by refreshments in the Fellowship Hall. Please invite neighbors and friends to be your guests to celebrate the Christmas Story. Virgil and Kaye Penner will have post card invitations that you can give or send. Pick up after church today.

**December 27 at 11:00 a.m. College-Age Brunch:** All college students and young adults are invited to Pastors Peter and Katherine's home on Thursday, December 27 for brunch at 11 a.m.

## Et Cetera

**Sunday-Afternoon-at-the-Museum - this afternoon at 3:30 p.m.** at Kauffman Museum auditorium – Isaias McCaffery, Independence Community College, will present "Rural Kansas Women at Work (1850-1900)."

**Night In The Barn**, the annual living nativity event by the youth of Tabor Mennonite Church, is December 15-16, from 6:00-8:00 p.m. on the farm of Maynard Knepp and Carol Duerksen between Goessel and Hillsboro. The program will include unique perspectives on the Christmas story and Christmas carols. 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 150<sup>th</sup>, ¾ mile north on Falcon. Directions from Hillsboro: 4 miles south on Indigo, 3 miles west on 150<sup>th</sup>, ¾ mile north on Falcon. (Follow these directions...do not follow your GPS.) Call 620-367-8432 or 620-386-0709 if you have questions.

**Do you remember the annual Christmas Festivals at Bethel College?** A new 2-CD set, "Nights of Wonder", is available at the Bethel College Bookstore featuring musical selections performed at 9 of the last 19 years (1979-1998). Performing groups include the Bethel College choirs, Sinfonia, Wind, Brass, and String Ensembles, 2nd Century (Madrigal) Singers, and the Newton Community Children's Choir. The Bethel College Women's Association is promoting this 2-CD package for \$20. Call the Bookstore for pickup (316-284-5205) or Donna Becker (316-284-5327) for mail orders. All proceeds go to Bethel College.

**Looking for something different to give this Christmas?** How about giving the gift of physical activity, family bonding, and meeting good folks from the area?! The **Western District Ski Retreat for Adults and Families** will be January 25-29, 2013 at Copper Mountain Ski Resort in Colorado. This trip leaves from North Newton, and the cost includes chartered sleeper bus, two nights lodging, ski rental, and lift tickets for three days of skiing. (Adults \$534, 17-13 yrs. olds \$518, and children 12 and under \$385). A limited number of spaces are also available for those who would rather drive on their own. For registration forms and/or additional information call the WDC office at (316) 283-6300. WDC Ski Retreat--One size that fits all!