

GRACE HILL MENNONITE CHURCH

December 10, 2006

Whitewater, Kansas

Worship 9:30 a.m.

Sunday School 10:45 a.m.

Pastor: James Voth

Youth Pastor: Brett Klingenberg

Keyboard: Chelsea Vaught

Chorister: Suzy Burch

Second Sunday of Advent

Love invites repentance

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

A special welcome to each of our guests! 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** *Facts not Fairy Tales* Kids in Praise

* Opening Words

1: From the darkness we seek repentance

2: From the darkness we seek love

All: From the darkness we seek God

1: When will we come out of the dark?

2: When will we find repentance and love?

All: When will we find God?

1: God is coming, says the Lord of hosts,

But who can endure the day of God's coming?

2: God is coming, says the Lord of hosts,

But who can stand when God appears?

All: God is coming, says the Lord of hosts -

Like a refiner's fire, like fullers' soap.

1: Now look for repentance.

2: Now look for love.

All: Now look for God

* **Invocation**

* **Hymn No. 186** *Fling wide the door, unbar the gate!*

Old Testament Reading Malachi 3:1-4 Reader: Emily Burch

Hymn of Response No. 567 *How firm a foundation* Verses 1 & 2

Children's Moments Deb Regier

Anthem *Presents* Kids in Praise

Worship in Giving Local Church Missions
Offertory *O Holy Night* Tara Harms-Becker

Anthem *O Come, O Come Emmanuel* Adult Choir

Gospel Reading Luke 3:1-6 Reader: Matt Regier

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

Advent Sermon *God is Making Things Right!*

Dramatic Reading and Lighting of Second Advent Candle

Carl, Kris and Lucas Goossen

Advent Candle Lighter: Hunter Hill

* **Hymn No. 189** *To us a Child of hope is born*

Sharing Joys, Thanksgivings and Prayers

* **Benediction**

* **Choral Benediction** *An Advent Prayer* Adult Choir

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!**

Today is Harvest of Love Dollar Day. During Advent churches throughout Harvey County are participating in Harvest of Love Dollar Days. These dollars help families in need to purchase meat at a local grocery store. A Harvest of Love envelope is in your mailbox and there are also envelopes available in the foyer. You are invited to donate \$1.00 for each family member and place the envelope in the offering plate during worship. This year's Harvest of Love goal is \$35,000 and 50,000 pounds of nonperishable and canned food.

For Sharing and Prayer

Willie H. Klingenberg, Brett's grandfather, went to be with the Lord on Sunday, December 3. Graveside and memorial services were held Thursday, December 7, at the Zion Mennonite Church in Elbing.

Western District Conference: Pray for the WDC Executive Committee (Jay Goering, moderator; Brenda Glanzer Lilliston, moderator-elect; Marlene Faul, secretary; and Dorothy Nickel Friesen, conference minister) as they provide for the "orderly and timely conduct of WDC agenda".

Mennonite Mission Network: Thank God for more than 100 children, youth and adults who studied in English classes at a church in Nanchong, China. MMN workers Jeanette and Todd Hanson request prayer for the families of these students who see the church in action and are attracted to the love shown by the people they meet there.

Church Events

This afternoon at 2:15 p.m. Spiritual Council Caroling with high school and junior high youth groups. Meet at the church at 2:15 p.m. We will plan to eat a chili supper around 5:30 p.m. at the church.

Monday afternoon Quilting on the MCC quilt.

Monday at 7:00 p.m. Hands of Friendship meet at church. Program: Address Christmas Cards and Carol Singing; Devotions: Marge Harms; Everyone bring a plate of goodies; Financial Project: Offering for a family adopted through the Newton Salvation Army Christmas Assistance Program and mittens for the Mitten Tree.

Wednesday 7:00 p.m. Christmas Program Practice
7:00 p.m. Youth Programming
7:00 p.m. Business Council will meet
7:00 p.m. High School Youth Parents meeting
under the balcony

Next Sunday, December 17 at noon – 2:30 p.m. Mentoring Christmas Dinner at church

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

Sunday, January 28, 2007 at 12:45 p.m. Church Annual Business meeting

Announcements

The Health Resource Team will do blood pressure checks the second Sunday of each month in the library at 11:30 a.m. (following Sunday school). If you have any questions please contact Kaye Penner or Barb Voth.

The Rosewood Winds Christmas CD, *Winds of Christmas*, is available in the lobby for \$15.

We are seeking to update the congregation's email address list. If your email address has changed in the last 6 months please let Pastor Jim or Debbie Claassen know. We are seeking to compile a master list for weekly mailings and special messages such as weather cancellations.

Attention Ladies: If you are not a current subscriber to *Timbrel* (the magazine for and by Mennonite Women USA), now is a great time to begin. Until the end of this year you can subscribe for half-price. Just send \$5 to Berni Kaufman, 722 Main, Newton, KS 67114. It is an excellent publication that is geared to interests of women and is published bi-monthly. Don't miss this opportunity.

Grace Hill Cookbooks: Consider giving Grace Hill Cookbooks as gifts this holiday season. The cookbooks are available in the lobby, cost \$10.00; make checks payable to 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: Diana Schunn and Emily Burch

Nursery Next Sunday: Nancy Harms and Jana Harms

Keyboard Next Sunday: Teresa Martin

Special Music Next Sunday: Praise Team

Ushers Next Sunday: Mike Balzer and Kendall Claassen

Offering Last Sunday: Mennonite Church USA \$1,374.10

Offering Next Sunday: Kidron Bethel Health Care Centre

Et Cetera

On December 11 from 4:30 - 6:00 p.m. there will be a "Welcome Tea" for Lori A. Seifert, the new Administrator at Wheat State Manor. All are welcome.

The annual "Night in the Barn" live nativity event will be held December 16 and 17 from 6:00-8:00 p.m. on the farm of Maynard Knepp and Carol Duerksen between Goessel and Hillsboro. This come-and-go event is put on by the youth of the Tabor and Goessel Mennonite churches, and features a large assortment of animals, a short program, and singing around a bonfire. Call 620-367-8432 or email Carol for more information at carold@mennoniteusa.org.

The Lorraine Avenue Mennonite Church presents the annual "Harder Family Christmas Concert" on Friday, December 22, at 7:00 p.m. at the church, 655 S. Lorraine, Wichita. This family of five sings and plays a variety of instruments, featuring classical, traditional, folk - guaranteed to get you into the true spirit of Christmas. Refreshments will follow the concert. A free-will offering will benefit Youth Development Services, a 30 year-old program promoting social justice and education for at-risk urban youth. You may call the church at 316-682-4555 for more information.

As churches prepare to celebrate Christ's birth, Goshen College again offers an online spiritual resource to help believers make time and space in their hearts and minds to welcome Advent. Through December 29, Goshen College students, faculty and staff will provide weekday reflections based on lectionary Scripture passages and the theme "Love's revelations," available online or by daily e-mail. To access the devotions or sign-up to receive them in your inbox, go to: www.goshen.edu/devotions.

Musical Christmas Gift idea that supports the work of Mennonite Media and Mennonite Mission Network. "Singing in the Spirit" is a new 28-song 2-CD reissue of camp-meeting songs, spirituals and folk tunes celebrating a diverse spiritual heritage a 12-voice men's ensemble from the long-running Mennonite Hour radio broadcast. \$18.95 US for 2-CD set. All proceeds benefit the overall ministry of Mennonite Media. To order call 800-999-3534, or order online at our secure website www.mennomedia.org/resources after December 1.

Mennonite Central Committee has invited three persons to go to Burundi, Africa to observe the distribution of canned turkey. Tim Friesen, MCC Meat Canning Coordinator, Shawn Hunter, videographer for MCC, and Maynard Knepp, meat canner volunteer, will then return to share their experiences and promote the meat canner program with communities and congregations. Because MCC is a lean organization with low overhead, they are asking Maynard to raise his own expenses for the trip--approximately \$4000. Anyone wishing to contribute may send a check, payable to MCC, to Tabor Mennonite Church, and include a note stating it's for the Africa trip.

Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary – Great Plains Extension is offering several classes beginning in January and February. See the sheet on the bulletin board for more details or contact: Lois Barrett, Director, AMBS-Great Plains Extension, P.O. Box 306, N. Newton, KS 67117 Phone: 316-283-7098 E-mail: lbarrett@amb.edu.

The Spring Seminar 2007 of Mennonite Central Committee U.S. Washington Office - "Living with hope", a seminar to challenge Anabaptists to act and advocate in ways that are consistent with our Christian hope - even amidst a world that despairs from poverty, violence, oppression and injustice, includes plenary sessions by John Paul Lederach, Angie Lederach and Rep. John Lewis (D-GA). March 1-2, 2007; early registration is \$65; lodging options; registration at mccwash@mcc.org.

CHURCH OFFICES

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