



# Grace Hill Mennonite Church

December 10, 2017

Worship – 9:30am  
Sunday School – 10:45am

## Advent 2017

### Advent 2 - “Let it Be So”

Prelude

Greetings & Announcements

\* Song “Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness” STS 1

Gathering

Leader: Awake! The call comes to prepare the way of the LORD.  
**All:** **O LORD, your call is uncomfortable and puzzling. How can we who are weak and preoccupied remove the rough and rugged places of our lives?**  
(pause for silence)

Leader: From our chaotic and feeble lives empower our worship.  
**All:** **Lead us into your presence so all can see the glory of the LORD.**

Leader: Let it be so.

Lighting of the 2nd Candle: Isaiah 40:3-5 Esmi Hernandez

“Comfort, Comfort, O My People ” HWB 176

Offering to God Local Church

Offertory  
\*Doxology (Psalm 100) HWB 119

Children’s Story “Woodworker’s Visit”

Sharing and Congregational Prayer

Scripture Reading Mark 1:1-8

Drama “Wisdom & Wonder”

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

Sermon “Prevenient Grace”

Prayer of Confession

- L: O God of the universe, speak tenderly to us. Speak peace and comfort for all our sins. Reveal your glory to us.
- P: We confess the sin of busyness; not slowing down or waiting or making space for your presence.
- L: Bring us to the wilderness away from the contentment of our sin and idols. May the glory of the Lord be revealed.
- P: “Let it be so.”

Silence... Words of assurance

- L: O God, Emmanuel in Jesus, the Christ, you have come among us.
- P: You have given us life, redeeming us from sin. We are restored.

\* Hymn “Oh, How Joyfully” HWB 209

\* Benediction

As you go, may God’s voice of comfort speak peace and promise to you. May God’s grace spring up from troubled ground and righteousness shine down from the sky. May the light of Christ dwell within you, and may you see clearly the path the God’s Spirit blazing for you. Amen.

\* Sending Song “Go, My Friends, in Grace” STS 57

\*Indicates those comfortable in doing so, please stand.  
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- Following the children’s story children to age 5 may be dismissed to the library for childcare.
- The Adult Sunday School classes will begin 10 minutes after the service is over. Everyone is welcome!

#### Serving in Worship

Pastor	Weldon Martens
Scripture Reader	Lisa Harms
Keyboard	Ellen Mosiman
Flute	Samantha Claassen
Song Leader	Penny Hiebert
Greeters	Galen & Roberta Harms
Ushers	David Janzen & Rob Schunn
Nursery	Katherine Claassen & Kaye Penner

## **For Sharing and Prayer**

**Western District Conference:** As we prepare a place for the Christ-child in this Advent season, let us pray for WDC congregations undergoing construction projects to better serve their communities and members.

**Mennonite Mission Network:** Join Mennonite Mission Network in praising God for the recording of the entire New Testament in the Toba-Qom language, and for the 33 readers from eight denominations and 12 communities in the Argentine Chaco who volunteered to make this possible. Pray that God's word will find open hearts when it is aired on the radio.

## **Announcements**

The elementary school and preschool age children will be singing two songs on Christmas Eve. They will be practicing during the Sunday School hour during the month of December. We will not have any rehearsals for the Christmas Eve program this year. If you have questions, please see Courtney Nethercot or Valerie Klaassen.

**As winter weather season is here – a reminder of the contingency plan for weather cancellation of church services:** The congregation will be notified by email. The three local TV stations will be notified. If you would like to receive a phone call, please contact Tim Harms to be placed on the calling list.

**Nursery Next Sunday:** Marge Harms and Quinn Dove

**Greeters Next Sunday:** John and Miriam Claassen

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

**Offering Last Sunday:** Mennonite Church USA \$1,351.00

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

## Church Events

**Monday at 12:00 p.m.** Hands of Friendship Christmas Luncheon. Bring a salad or dessert. Casseroles, bread and drink will be provided.

There are several opportunities for sharing during the Christmas season:

- Through the Salvation Army, we will be assisting a family of four with a gift card for their Christmas shopping. Contributions will be accepted. (Checks made to Hands of Friendship.)
- A Christmas tree in our church fellowship hall will be available for hanging new mittens, gloves, caps. These will also be donated to the Salvation Army. Come prepared for an offering.

If you have questions, contact Elaine Patterson (283-6844), Marge Harms (283-4314), or Joyce Stuart (620-327-2578).

**Thursday, December 14 at 7:00 p.m.** you are invited to meet at church to make a gift for someone or yourself with scrabble pieces. Letters, bars, boards, and frames will be furnished for a minimal cost. Snacks available. Questions: contact Kathy Balzer 799-2008. Look on the table in the foyer to get your creativity started.



**Sunday, December 24 at 7:00 p.m.** Grace Hill Christmas Eve Program, followed by refreshments in the Fellowship Hall. Please invite neighbors and friends to be our guests to celebrate the Christmas Story! The offering will be for Community Playschool and Harvey County Health Ministries.

**January 28, 2018 at 12:45 p.m.** Church Annual Business Meeting

### CHURCH OFFICES

Pastor's Office Hours:

Wednesday - Afternoon, Friday - day off

**Pastor: Weldon Martens**

Email: [weldon.martens@gmail.com](mailto:weldon.martens@gmail.com)

**Church Secretary: Debbie Claassen**

Secretary's E-mail: [secretary@gracehillmc.org](mailto:secretary@gracehillmc.org)

## Et Cetera

**Bethel College Alumni Choir** performs a short Christmas concert this afternoon at 3:00 p.m., Trinity Heights United Methodist Church, Newton; punch and cookie reception follows.

**Brass Christmas: Come join us at Alexanderwohl Mennonite Church** on Sunday, December 10 at 6:30 p.m. for an evening filled with Christmas music! The evening will feature the McPherson Brass Choir under the direction of Jerry Toews along with the Elbiata Singers from Goessel High School under the direction of Andrew Voth. A freewill offering will be received to support the ministries of the Goessel Ministerial Alliance. We hope to see you there!

**32nd annual Lighting of the Green at Bethel College**, Sunday, December 10 at 8 p.m.

**Camp Mennoscah Volunteer Christmas Gathering!** Everyone who has volunteered at Camp Mennoscah over the years and their families are invited to join us December 16 at 2:30pm-ish for cookies, conversations, and controlled craziness. There will be games (if you want) and a white elephant gift exchange (if you want). Bring whatever lost item you find in the back of your closet. Come and go as you please! Call 620-297-3290 or email [olivia.bartel@campmennoscah.org](mailto:olivia.bartel@campmennoscah.org) with questions.

**Looking for a unique gift idea?** Give a book to the WDC Resource Library in honor of your loved one this Christmas! A book given in their name can enrich the faith of individuals all over the conference. The library's wishlist can be found at Faith & Life Bookstore in Newton or on their website at [www.faithandlifebookstore.net](http://www.faithandlifebookstore.net) (when ordering online, make "store pick up" to avoid paying shipping).

**The board of The Mennonite, Inc.** is accepting applications for the position of Executive Director. The Executive Director functions as chief executive officer for The Mennonite, Inc. The Executive Director brings broad vision to The Mennonite as a content delivery system for MC USA constituents and beyond, helping the organization to develop programs and services appropriate for the digital age. The Executive Director is responsible for publishing and administration, management of staff, and maintaining denominational relationships. The Mennonite is a multimedia and print publication and organization connected to Mennonite Church USA. To read the full description and to apply, visit: <https://themennonite.org/mennonite-inc-seeks-next-executive-director/>.