

GRACE HILL MENNONITE CHURCH

December 11, 2011

Whitewater, Kansas

Worship 9:30 a.m.

Sunday School 10:45 a.m.

Pastor: Peter Goerzen

Associate Pastor: Katherine Goerzen

Musician: Linda Harms

Song Leader: Pastor Katherine

Worship Leader: Kylee Schunn

Third Sunday of Advent

Transforming Our Sorrow

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.

Call to Worship

One: We bring to God this day the truth of who we are,
our scarred and broken hearts,
our grief-filled, shattered dreams.

**Many: We bring to God this day the truth of who we are,
our brokenness and fears
our hungry longings and our weeping.**

One: The One who called us here is faithful; God will bring us to the light, for light penetrates the darkness and prepares the way of the Lord. When God's glory shines forth, then our mouth is filled with laughter and our tongue with shouts of joy; then it is said among the nations, "The Lord has done great things!"

Many: We worship as we wait for the day when those who once were weeping shall come home with shouts of joy.

All: Lord, transform us through your Son, the True Light who is coming into the world.

Gathering Prayer

* **Gathering Song STJ No. 54** *Longing for light*

Lighting the Advent Candle

Alia Enns

Offering our Gifts Local Church

Hearing God's Word

Old Testament Reading Isaiah 61: 1-4, 8-11

Camille Claassen

* **Hymn No. 185** *Hail to the Lord's anointed*

Children's Story

Lisa and Eli Schmidt

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

Special Music *In the bleak midwinter*

Tara Harms-Becker

Gospel Reading John 1: 1-14

Pastor Peter

Sermon *Light of the World*

Pastor Peter

Responding to God's Word

* **Hymn No. 195** *It came upon a midnight clear*

Sharing Our Stories and Congregational Prayer

Sending

* **Sending Hymn No. 209** *Oh, how joyfully*

* **Benediction** 1 Thessalonians 5: 23-24

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

Western District Conference: Pray for First Mennonite Church, Clinton, OK as they host a community appreciation and farewell for Pastor Dave Gerbrandt today.

Mennonite Mission Network: Thank God for MMN's SOOP volunteers serving as tutors and maintenance workers at the Navajo Brethren in Christ Mission in Bloomfield, NM. Pray that they may be blessed as they bless others through their ministries.

Additional money has come in for the Harvest Thanks offering - bringing our total to \$143,216.04!

Church Events

This afternoon at 1:30 p.m. All High School and Junior High Youth are invited to go caroling with Spiritual Council and other members of the congregation.

Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. Pastor Relations Committees & Pastors meet.

Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve program practice.

Thursday at 6:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast at Charlie's in Newton.

December 24 at 7:00 p.m. Grace Hill Christmas Eve Program – “Light of the World Candlelight Service” will be presented. Offering will be for Community Playschool and Harvey County Health Ministries. There will be a time of fellowship following the program. Everyone is welcome to bring family and friends!

December 25 No Sunday School classes will be held.

December 28 The Youth Group will serve the meal at the Homeless Shelter on Wednesday, December 28 (during Grace Hill's week at the shelter).

Harvey County Homeless Shelter volunteer schedule for December 28 – January 3 is on the bulletin board. Please sign up to staff the shelter during Grace Hill's shifts and to provide the meals. If any college

students would like to volunteer during their Christmas vacations, contact Donna Balzer.

Announcements

Et Cetera

If you are interested in singing in a Women's Ensemble on Christmas Morning for the worship service, please talk with Pastor Katherine.

Christmas Cheer When you are sending your Christmas cards this year or sending your letters by e-mail, we are suggesting that you include our brothers and sisters in Dallas, Texas. They would like to know that you are thinking of them and praying for their congregation and community. Randy and Ana Rodriguez were the members that visited this summer. The addresses are as follows: Pastor Damian Rodriguez, Comunidad Esperanza, 1721 N. Garrett Ave., Dallas, TX 75206, randy-ana@hotmail.com.

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 \$1,584.00

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

Note: The toll-free number for the church secretary has been discontinued.

Those interested in the proposed merger between Kidron Bethel Village and Schowalter Villa are invited to a meeting at 7 p.m. Monday, December 12, at Bethel College Mennonite Church. Attendees will have the opportunity to give feedback, as well as ask questions, about the proposal.

Night In The Barn, the annual living nativity event by the youth of Tabor Mennonite Church, is December 17-18, from 6:00-8:00 p.m. on the farm of Maynard Knepp and Carol Duerksen. This year's program will feature the story of Joseph and will include original music by Doug Krehbiel and script by Carol Duerksen. 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 150th, ¾ mile north on Falcon. Directions from Hillsboro: 4 miles south on Indigo, 3 miles west on 150th, ¾ mile north on Falcon. Call [620-367-8432](tel:620-367-8432) or [620-386-0709](tel:620-386-0709) if you have questions.

The Western District Conference Ski Retreat is just around the corner! The trip leaves on Friday evening, January 27, and returns Tuesday morning, January 30. We will again be skiing at Copper Mountain ski area in Colorado. The cost of the trip includes sleeper bus transportation from North Newton, two nights lodging, ski rental, and lift tickets for three days of skiing. Costs have actually gone down a little, and we are working hard to make this more family friendly. Adult package costs \$480, 13-17 year-olds cost \$440, and 12 and under cost \$330. We offer discounts if you prefer to drive in on your own and if you own your own equipment. This is a first come/first served event, so please respond promptly by calling or emailing your reservation to the WDC office ([316-283-6300](tel:316-283-6300) or wdc@mennowdc.org). And it makes a great Christmas gift, too!

Kits for Christmas *A gift of joy with some assembly required.* Share the joy of Christmas with others around the world. Mennonite Central Committee urgently needs 10,000 school kits and 10,000 hygiene kits to replenish its supply. Shipments to places like drought-affected East Africa have largely drained MCC's warehouses. Please consider donating a kit this Christmas (details about MCC kits can be found at www.mcc.org/kits). Explore all the MCC gift options and discover more ways to share the joy at www.mcc.org/christmas or make checks payable to MCC and send them to MCC Central States, PO Box 235, North Newton, KS 67117.

It's time to register for the Kansas Mennonite Men's Chorus for the spring concerts. Scholarships are available. Contact Willard Wiebe.