



Advent 2016

Grace Hill Mennonite Church

December 11, 2016

Worship – 9:30am

Sunday School – 10:45am

God's Healing is at Hand. Come, Walk in the Way of God's Heart.

Prelude

* Gathering Song *"O Come, O Come, Immanuel"* (vs. 3) HWB 172

Greetings & Announcements

Gathering Interlude

Gathering Words

Leader: **In the nighttime of sorrow, we become impatient and lose hope.**

People: Our joy disappears, and our songs become silent.
We forget the truth that God will restore all of creation.

All: ***Come! Walk in the way of God's heart!***

* *"To Us a Child of Hope is Born"* HWB 189

* *"Come Light of the World"* STS 3

Lighting of the 3rd Advent Candle – Bethany Regehr

Advent Reading: Psalm 146:5-10 & Luke 1:47-55

"What Child is This"

HWB 215

Prayer of confession

L: God of healing,

P: we yearn to walk in your way but often choose our own path of turmoil and pain. Save us, Lord, from the pride and foolishness of choosing our own course, that we may humbly and confidently follow your lead, through Jesus Christ, Amen.

- Silence -

L: *Throughout the tumult of life, God holds you close in love. Rejoice, because God's wisdom is your guide, God's compassion is your strength. God's love is your redemption.*

ALL: Come, let us walk in the way of God's heart!

Song *"Spirit of the Living God"* HWB 349

Dedication of MCC Hygiene Kits

Offering to God Local Church

Offertory

* *Doxology* (Psalm 100) HWB 119

Children's Story

Sharing and Congregational Prayer

* Scripture Reading Luke 1:26-38

Sermon *"The Disciple Mary"*

* *"Hark the Herald Angels"* HWB 201

* Benediction

Come! Walk in the way of God's heart. The dawn is breaking! Christ is coming to free us from pain. He will show us the way. Amen.

*Indicates those comfortable in doing so, please stand.

- After the Children's story children to age 5 may be dismissed to the library for childcare.
- 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!

Serving in Worship

Pastor	Weldon Martens
Scripture Reader	Deb Hiebert
Advent Readers	Samantha Claassen & Courtney Nethercot
Keyboard	Tara Harms-Becker
Song Leader	Penny Hiebert
Greeters	John & Miriam Claassen
Ushers	Doug Hiebert & Russell Janzen
Nursery	Kaye Penner & Katherine Claassen

For Sharing and Prayer

Willard Harms passed away on December 2, 2016. Funeral services were held at Grace Hill on Monday, December 5. Please keep Ruby and the family in your prayers at this time.

Western District Conference: Pray for the WDC Resource Commission as they meet this week to support congregations in witness, mission and faith formation.

Mennonite Mission Network: Mennonite churches in Bolivia have vacation Bible school this month. Margrit Kipfer Barrón, serving with Mennonite Mission Network, helps prepare the curriculum and train teachers. Pray that the Spirit of God will move in a powerful way among the children who attend and their families.

For updates (and ongoing posts) about our Mission Partners in South Africa, Dan and Kathryn Smith Derksen, visit their blog at <http://smithderksen.blogspot.com>.

Announcements

Needed! New Mittens, Gloves, Scarfs and Hats- Please hang on the Christmas tree in the Fellowship Hall. Bring by Christmas Day after which they will be donated to The Salvation Army in Newton.

Salvation Army Christmas Project. Help Hands of Friendship provide for "Adopt a Family" this Christmas with donations. Make checks payable to Hands of Friendship and bring to Hands of Friendship Christmas luncheon Monday, December 12 or give to Joyce Stuart.

Nursery Next Sunday: Marge Harms and Quinn Dove
Ushers Next Sunday: Mike Balzer and Kendall Claassen
Greeters Next Sunday: Doug and Katherine Claassen

Offering Last Sunday: Mennonite Church USA \$ 1,617.00

Offering Next Sunday: Kidron Bethel Health Care Centre

Church Events

Monday at 11:30 a.m. Christmas Luncheon - Hands of Friendship are inviting all ladies to a Salad Christmas Luncheon on Monday, December 12 at 11:30 a.m. Bring a salad and or plate of goodies. Offering for "Adopt a Family".

Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Program practice for preschool through high school age.

Wednesday at 8:00 p.m. Praise Team practice. Praise Team will sing next Sunday.

Thursday at 6:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast at Charlies, Newton.



December 24 at 7:00 p.m. The Grace Hill Christmas Eve Program will be on Saturday, December 24 at 7:00 p.m., 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 8 at 6:00 p.m. Hospitality Council is on a roll again and planning a fun evening of BUNCO for all!! More details to come.

January 29 at 12:45 p.m. Grace Hill Annual Business Meeting.

Et Cetera

The McPherson Community Brass Choir under the direction of Jerry Toews will be giving a Christmas Brass Concert in the Historic Alexanderwohl Church Sun., December 11 at 7 p.m. Alexanderwohl is located 1 mile north of Goessel on K-15 Hwy.

Retirement Income Seminar Everence Financial will present an informational seminar, *Creating your retirement income strategy*, at 7 p.m. on December 12. Everence Financial Advisor Robert Wall will speak about having enough for retirement, making your savings last and coping with the financial markets. There will also be time for your questions. The seminars will take place at Everence Financial, 371 N. Old Highway 81, Hesston. To reserve your spot, contact Darlene Buller at (620) 327-4043, (877) 467-7294 or darlene.buller@everence.com.

Christmas Gathering for Summer Youth Camp Volunteers! On December 17th at 2:30pm-ish, all summer youth camp volunteers from all years and their families are invited to come to Camp Mennoscah for an afternoon of stories, fun, and fellowship. We'll provide cookies and drinks, and there will be an all-ages white elephant gift exchange for those interested. Feel free to bring a tasty treat to share. We'll see you soon!

The Tabor Mennonite Youth Fellowship, Newton, will share their annual living nativity, Night in the Barn, on December 17 and 18 from 6-8 pm. The friendly goat, the large cow with her little calf, the peaceful sheep, and the baby and big 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 story this year will be from the perspective of a sheep that witnessed the first Christmas, and is from a new book by Kim Funk called “Christmas at the Stable.” The come-and-go event includes Christmas carols around a bonfire, hot drinks and snacks. 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.) For more information, call 620-386-0709.

Opportunity to Volunteer at Camp! Join us! Camp Mennoscah is seeking volunteers to come to camp for the day on Tuesday, December 20 to assist with a number of projects, including the salvage and demolition of “The Whale” playground and the old boys’ bathhouse. “The Whale” playground has become an iconic feature at Camp Mennoscah since it was completed in the mid 90’s. It has served camp well, but with repairs needed and updates to construction material codes, “The Whale” has reached the end of its lifetime. While we are disappointed to see it go, we are excitedly planning the new structure to come. The boys’ bathhouse has also served camp well for many years, but with the completion of the new bathhouse, the old bathhouse will be taken down. We will also be working on a few other projects we wish to complete by the end of the year. Please contact camp at 620-297-3290 or office@campmennoscah.org by Wednesday December 14 if you are interested in helping with these projects!

Bethel College is offering many of its classes for community audit. You pay \$50 per credit hour (compared to the normal audit rate of \$85 per hour) OR, if you’re age 62 and older, a flat rate of \$30. For more information, go to www.bethelks.edu/audit, where there are links for interterm 2017 course schedule (enrollment deadline Jan. 4) and spring 2017 course schedule (enrollment deadline Feb. 13).

CHURCH OFFICES

Pastor’s Office Hours:

Tuesday & Thursday - Mornings, Wednesday - Afternoon, Friday - day off

Pastor: Weldon Martens

Email: weldon.martens@gmail.com

Church Secretary: Debbie Claassen

Secretary’s E-mail: secretary@gracehillmc.org