

Grace Hill Mennonite Church

December 14, 2008

Whitewater, Kansas

Worship 9:30 a.m.

Sunday School 10:45 a.m.

Pastor: James Voth

Youth Pastor: Katherine Goerzen

Keyboard: Pastor Katherine

Worship Leader: Josh Toevs

Third Sunday of Advent

The Restoring Face of God

*Restore us, O God; let your face shine,
That we may be saved. Psalm 80:3, 7, 19*

Amidst the ruins of our world God offers restoration. We reflect God's face as we become builders and planters of righteousness.

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.

- * **Hymn No. 184** *Hark! The glad sound!*
Lighting of the God Candle by Josh Toevs

- * **Call to Worship** Based on Isaiah 61:1-4 and Psalm 126

Leader: The Spirit of the Lord is upon us.

**People: You, me, us – the Spirit of the Lord
is upon us to bring good news.**

Leader: We bring good news to the oppressed and heartbroken.

**People: We bring good news to ruined cities
and scarred country sides.**

Leader: We bring good news to the weak and poor.

**People: We bring good news to those who are plenty
and yet are empty.**

Leader: Let the Spirit of the Lord be upon us
so seeds of tears can grow into harvest of joy.

All: *Let the Spirit of our God be upon us
to restore the face of the earth.*

- * **Opening Prayer**

- * **Hymn No. 185** *Hail to the Lord's anointed*
Lighting of the Third Advent Candle by David Janzen

Offering Local Church Missions

Offertory *Still, Still, Still*

Amanda Regehr

Membership Welcoming Service

Welcoming Peter Goerzen as Associate Member

Congregational Response Hymn No. 794

Hymn No. 560 *In lonely mountain ways*

Prayers of the Congregation

Leader: Restoring God, we bring to you our concerns

Sharing of concerns by the congregation

Prayer: Our broken relationships need mending -
With neighbors across the street and around the world.
Our bodies need healing, and our minds need restoring.
Our communities need fresh vision and new hope.
We long for all people to rebuild the ancient ruins.
To create communities of justice and peace.
Restoring God, we look to you as our architect,
Our master builder.

Restoring God, we bring to you our joys.

Sharing of praise and thanksgiving by the congregation

Prayer: Our homes can be filled with laughter and love.
Our communities can be repaired and thrive.
Wars can cease and peace can reign.
Although we have cried many tears
– for ourselves, for our friends.
And for those who we hear about in the news,
You promise to bring us all home with shouts of joy. Amen.

Children's Moments Kristine Goossen

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

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

Special Music Praise Team

*Of the Father's Love Begotten
Holy Child within the manger*

Gospel Reading John 1:1-14 Courtney Claassen

Sermon *God's Presence, Our Existence, The Brilliance of Life!*

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

* **Benediction** Pastor Jim

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

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!**

For Sharing and Prayer

Today we welcome Peter Goerzen as an associate member. Peter is the husband of Pastor Katherine. He is a member of the Tabor Mennonite Church where he was baptized in 2002 and was married to Katherine on June 16, 2007. His hobbies include baseball and electronics. He is presently employed as a software developer. He shares these words: "My faith means participating with and through the church as we seek to model our lives and witness after Jesus. It is a transformation of the heart that yields restored relationship with God and one another and points to the coming fullness of God's reign."

Today is Harvest of Love Dollar Days. You will find a Harvest of Love envelope in your mailbox. You are invited to donate \$1.00 for each family member and place the envelope in the offering plate today during worship. Canned and dry goods also make for a helpful contribution to the goal of \$35,000 and 50,000 pounds of food. We will be collecting food throughout December. Thank you for sharing the love of Christ in this great community need.

Western District Conference: Pray for the ministry of Marshall Anderson, Associate Pastor at Bethel Mennonite Church, Inman, as he is ordained today.

Mennonite Mission Network: Pray for Mennonite Voluntary Service participant Cari Holliday who serves at ProBAR as a paralegal in Harlingen, Texas. Ask the Lord to lead others to join her in this work for immigrant rights.

Church Events

This afternoon at 2:00 p.m. Middle school and high school Christmas caroling with the Spiritual Council. Meet at the church at 2:00 p.m. We plan to return to the church by 5:00 p.m. for chili and all the fixins.

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

Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. Education Council meets at church.

There will be no meal on Wednesday evening.

Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. Adult Choir practice in the Fellowship Hall
7:00 p.m. Christmas Program Practice
7:30 – 8:00 p.m. Adult praise, prayer, biblical reflections

Next Sunday at 4:00 p.m. Wheat State Manor Vesper Service, Youth group is in charge.

December 24 at 7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Program

Sunday, January 4 Farewell for Pastor Jim and Barb – Carry-in meal at noon. Bread will be furnished. Bring Pastor Jim's favorite dishes.

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 elective Sunday school class on disciple-making using Brian McLaren's book More Ready than You Realize concludes today in the fellowship hall with chapters 16, 17 & 18.

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.

Et Cetera

Support the mission of HOPE Home Repair while doing Christmas shopping! HOPE, a faith-based non-profit organization, does home repairs and handicapped modifications for low-income homeowners. HOPE representatives will be at Ten Thousand Villages, Newton, Sunday afternoon, December 14 to share Christmas goodies and answer questions about HOPE's work. Twenty percent of the store's sales will be donated for needed home repairs for Harvey County's elderly and handicapped residents.

Annual organ vespers at Bethel College, December 14, 4:00 p.m., Administration Building chapel, featuring students, Bethel College Academy of Performing Arts (BCAPA) and alumni players. Free.

Everyone is invited to the ordination service for Marshall Anderson on December 14, 7:30 p.m. at Bethel Mennonite Church, Inman.

Harvey County Homeless Shelter December Volunteer Training and Information Session will be held on December 16 at 6:30 p.m. at the HCHS staff area. Questions, call Christa Jahay at 316-284-4205.

Registration for the 2009 Kansas Mennonite Men's Chorus is due December 21. Contact Willard Wiebe with questions or for a registration form.

The Relief Sale Fellowship Meals will be on Sunday, February 22, 2009 and Sunday, March 1, 2009. Please pick up a form in the foyer, fill it out, and return it to Barbara and DuMont Schmidt, preferably by January 4, 2009 but no later than January 25, 2009. If you cannot get it to Barbara or DuMont by January 25, please mail it directly to Marvin and Marjorie Stucky at 200 17th Village, Apt. 18, Moundridge, KS 67107-7002. The adult meals are \$15.00 each and children (6 – 12) are \$6.00. Children under 6 are free. Checks should be made payable to: Kansas Mennonite Relief Sale and handed in or sent in with the form. Gift certificates are available.

Mennonite World Conference will be held in Paraguay July 14-19, 2009. MWC is asking for donations for the MWC Travel Fund. If anyone would like to give to this fund please give donations to Doreen Harms by January 11, 2009 and designate for MWC Travel Fund.

Addictions Documentary Airing On ABC-TV. A documentary on addictions produced by Mennonite Media will air on ABC-TV from Jan. 4 to Feb. 15, 2009 at the discretion of local TV stations. Finding Hope in Recovery: Families Living with Addiction tells challenging and heartbreaking stories of families facing addictions and traveling the stages of recovery-and setback. For airing schedule, click "Airing Dates" at FindingHopeInRecovery.com (more dates will be added after Dec. 22). Or call 800-999-3534 for more information or to order a DVD for \$24.95. The program aired earlier on Hallmark Channel but this is its premiere on network TV.

Special Music Next Sunday: Adult Choir
Keyboard Next Sunday: Linda Harms

Nursery This Sunday: Penny Hiebert and Mikayla Hiebert
Nursery Next Sunday: Kaye Penner and Camille Claassen
Ushers Next Sunday: Mike Balzer and Kendall Claassen

Offering Last Sunday: Mennonite Church USA \$2,755.00
Offering Next Sunday: Kidron Bethel Health Care Centre

CHURCH OFFICES

Pastor: James Voth

E-mail: pastor@gracehillmc.org

Youth Pastor: Katherine Goerzen

E-mail: youthpastor@gracehillmc.org

Church Secretary: Debbie Claassen

Church Website: www.gracehillmc.org