

GRACE HILL MENNONITE CHURCH

December 14, 2014

Whitewater, Kansas

Worship 9:30 a.m.

Sunday School 10:45 a.m.

Musician: Linda Harms

Song Leader: Penny Hiebert

Transition Pastor: Randy Smith

O that you would rend the heavens and come down. . .

Isaiah 64:1

Reveal Your Joy

Advent 3

Gathering Music

Welcome and Announcements

Randy Smith

Prelude to Worship

Jeff Toews

O come, O come Emmanuel

Call to Worship

Isaiah 61:1-3

The Spirit of the Lord is on me.

The Lord has anointed me

to proclaim good news to the poor.

God has sent us to bind up the brokenhearted,

to proclaim freedom for the captives;

release from darkness for the prisoners.

To proclaim the year of the Lord's favor,

and the day of God's vengeance,

To comfort all who mourn,

and provide for those who grieve in Zion—

to bestow on them a crown of beauty

instead of ashes;

the oil of joy instead of mourning;

To bestow a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair.

We will be called oaks of righteousness;

a planting of the Lord to be a display of God's splendor.

*Caroling

To us a child of hope is born

Good Christian friends rejoice

Hymnal 189

Hymnal 210

What child is this

Jeff Toews

Waiting In Joy

Isaiah 9:2-7

Kris Goossen

Prayer

Silent Waiting

Luke 1:39-55

Washburn/Westerfield Family

The Joy of Elizabeth and Mary

Candle Lighting

My soul is filled with joy

Sing the Journey 13

Offering

Children's Story

Penny Hiebert

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

Reflecting on Joy

What If . . .

Sharing and Prayer

*Sending Hymn

Hymnal 318

Joy to the world

*Benediction

Postlude

This morning's offering is designated for Local Church Missions.

*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

Thank you for all the prayers, visits and cards and a special thanks to Pastor Randy. Please continue to pray for me. Gladys Harms

Western District Conference: Pray for God's guidance in the search for a new WDC Minister led by the Executive Board appointed Search Committee.

Mennonite Mission Network: Alfonsina Oyanguren, who serves in Argentina with Mennonite Mission Network, has been diagnosed with thyroid cancer. She has to travel 800 miles for surgery and a treatment regimen. Pray for peace and healing for Alfonsina. Pray also for husband, José, and their four children as they miss Alfonsina at home.

Church Family News

. . . **Diana Schunn's** persistence and dedicated work was rewarded this week with a major step forward for the Child Advocacy Center when the Sedgwick County Commission voted \$1million dollars for the project . . . **Carl Goossen** recently presented at a business conference in Denver . . .

Church Events

Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. Youth Group will meet.

Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Program practice – we would like for ages Pre-K through 8th grade to attend. If you have questions, contact Lisa Schmidt or Debbie Claassen.

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

Wednesday, December 24 at 7:00 p.m. The Grace Hill Christmas Eve Program will be on Wednesday, December 24 at 7:00 p.m., followed by refreshments in the Fellowship Hall. There is a sign-up sheet for cookies in the foyer, 25 dozen are needed. 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. A prelude of Christmas music will begin at 6:30 p.m.

January 25, 2015 at 12:45 p.m. Annual Church Business Meeting

CHURCH OFFICES

Pastor's Office Hours:

Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday 9:00 a.m.-Noon, Thursday 1:00-4:00 p.m.

Transition Pastor: Randy Smith

Email: transitionpastor@gmail.com

Church Secretary: Debbie Claassen

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

Announcements

The following appointments were made by Administrative Council: Business Council – John Claassen; MCC Relief Sale Committee – Mike & Kathy Balzer; MCUSA Delegate & WDC Delegate – Valerie Klaassen. Positions are still open for MCUSA & WDC Delegates – please contact Kim Claassen or Tim Harms if you are interested.

Mittens/Gloves - You may continue to place your mittens and gloves under the Christmas tree in the Fellowship Hall until Christmas. They will be distributed by the Salvation Army throughout the coming year.

The Whitewater Area Chamber of Commerce is collecting food to distribute for Christmas. Please deliver your donations to Krueger Insurance, Bank of Whitewater or Countryaid Vet Service by December 17. If you have questions please contact Vickie Beck at 316-799-2163. Or you may leave the items in the basket in the foyer.

The Mennonite subscription list is being updated. The church has a group-rate policy and each subscription costs the church \$37.00. If you are not receiving *The Mennonite* and would like to, or if you are currently receiving it and would like to discontinue your subscription, please contact Debbie Claassen **today**.

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: Deb Regier and Katrina Regehr

Nursery Next Sunday: Kris Janzen and Jo Frye

Ushers Next Sunday: Mike Balzer and Kendall Claassen

Offering Last Sunday: Mennonite Church USA \$1,375.00

Offering Next Sunday: Kidron Bethel Health Care Center

Et Cetera

The Tabor Mennonite Youth Fellowship will share their annual living nativity, **Night in the Barn**, on December 20 and 21 from 6-8 p.m. The llama that gives kisses, the big cow with her little calf, the sheep wearing bells, and the 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. The come-and-go event will feature unique perspectives from the innkeeper and a shepherd, and Christmas carols. Visitors are welcome to gather around a bonfire and enjoy hot drinks as part of the evening's activities. Admission is free and donations to the youth group will be accepted. Directions: From Goessel: 3 miles north on Hwy 15, 4 miles east on 150th, ¾ north on Falcon. (Follow these directions and not GPS directions.) For more information, call 620-386-0709.

There will be a Special Christmas concert by Five Times Harder on Sunday, December 21 at 3 p.m. in the sanctuary of Lorraine Avenue Mennonite Church, Wichita. A free-will offering will be taken for the work of Mennonite Central Committee.

Help Support Offender/Victim Ministries! Income from the use of Dillons cards to benefit OVM is down over 20% from last year. Please help support the ministries of OVM by using Dillons reloadable gift cards to make your purchases for groceries and prescriptions, and for fuel at the Kwik Shop. OVM receives 5% of each dollar that you spend. It doesn't sound like much, but last year they received over \$16,000 from people using the gift cards. To purchase a reloadable Dillons card to benefit OVM, contact Ed Harms (316-283-4314).

Register now for PA 2015, the Mennonite World Conference Assembly to be held July 21-16, 2015 in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. Nearly 1,000 persons have registered already, including 150 from Zimbabwe! What about you? Make plans now. Go to www.mwc-cmm.org/pa2015 to visit the Assembly web page, then select "Register Now".

The Interim Thus Far . . .

Our agenda for the intentional interim has centered on worship themes and congregational conversations. The aim is to get people together to share and listen to each other about things important to Grace Hill Mennonite Church. So what have we shared and heard from each other?

Reciting Our History (section 1)

From our past, what do we want to take forward into the next chapter?

- Mission emphasis
- Christian education
- Worship and music
- Youth ministry
- Community life
 - (Agreeing to disagree; Positive attitude;
 - Communication and connection;
 - Welcome and hospitality; Outreach)

Claiming Our Values (section 2)

What are some key Grace Hill values?

- Service
- Mission
- Giving/generosity
- Diversity/inclusiveness
- Friendliness/hospitality
- Faithfulness
- Mennonite

With worship as the most important thing we do, what qualities make for “meaningful worship” at Grace Hill?

- Reverent and relational
- Sharing and prayer
- Participation of members

- Musical diversity
- Use of scripture
- Life-teaching/thinking sermons
- Coordinated, with theme and flow

These findings will be helpful for the pastor search process in completing the Congregational Information Form and interviewing candidates.

Coming in January

Leading Through Our Gifting (section 3)

Using the Sunday school hour for Bible study and surveying our gifting, the congregation will discover clearer focus, energy, and enthusiasm for the ministries of Grace Hill. This section will also set the stage for reorganizing the structure for ministries and leadership if the congregation chooses. Strong attendance is important to maximize the effectiveness of this section.

Future Sections Four and Five

Reaching Beyond Ourselves

Developing our ministry of hospitality with a mindset for inviting, welcoming, and including.

Leading With Vision

Establishing a team of leaders who lead the congregation toward a vision and goals.