

# GRACE HILL MENNONITE CHURCH

December 15, 2013

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: Gladys Reimer

Worship Leader: Kyle Regier

O, The Mystery of God's Dwelling  
*Advent 3 ... in transformation*

## *Inviting the Mystery*

### **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.*

### **Prayer of Invocation**

**Call to Worship** Psalm 146: 5-10

\* **Gathering Song No. 208** *Love came down at Christmas*

## *Engaging the Mystery*

**Gospel Reading** Luke 1: 46-55 Pastor Katherine

**Lighting the Advent Wreath** Alia & Brandi Enns

One: In the coming of Jesus, we see God's majesty;  
life springs out of death,  
desperation yields to hope,  
hatred grows into love,  
that which is broken will be restored.  
We place our hope in the redemptive power of God.

The third Advent candle is the candle of love.

*All: This light reminds us that God dwells in the midst of Transformation.*

\* **First Theme Song No. 172** *O come, O come, Immanuel* vs. 1, 3 & 5

## **Sharing and Congregational Prayer**

**Worship Music** *Helpless and hungry* Aaron Tschetter

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

**Scripture Readings** Isaiah 35: 1-10 K. John Klaassen  
Matthew 11: 2-11

### **Time of Silence**

## *Celebrating the Mystery*

**Sermon** Pastor Peter

\* **Song of Response Sing the Journey No. 13**  
*My soul is filled with joy* vs. 1-4

**Offering Our Gifts** Kidron Bethel Health Care Centre

\* **Sending Song Second Theme Song No. 191**  
*O little town of Bethlehem* vs. 1, 2 & 4

**Benediction** James 5: 7-8

### **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:** In the midst of this busy season, attend one of the many special programs that celebrate the arrival of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Celebrate in song, art, drama and worship! Thank God for church staff and volunteers who have dreamed and planned and offered their gifts to make these celebrations come alive.

**Mennonite Mission Network:** Justin Shenk and Valerie Showalter of MMN request prayer for the Round Chapel where they worship and serve in the East End of London. Pray for unity of vision as members discern how God is calling the congregation to proactive discipleship.

## Church Events

**Today at 5:00 p.m.** Wheat State Manor Vesper Service – Mariners S.S. Class is in charge. Also at Wheat State this week: Tuesday at 9:00 a.m. – mending; Friday at 3:00 p.m. – Bingo.

**This evening at 5:45 p.m.** Grace Hill Night at the Movies – *The Nativity Story* The story of Jesus' birth, starring Keisha Castle-Hughes and Oscar Isaac. 101 min. PG.

**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 6:30 p.m.** The Grace Hill Christmas Eve program will be on Tuesday, December 24 at 6:30 p.m., followed by refreshments in the Fellowship Hall. Please invite neighbors and friends to be your guests to celebrate the Christmas Story. The offering will be for Community Playschool and Harvey County Health Ministries.

**January 26 at 12:45 p.m.** Annual Church Business Meeting.

## Announcements

**The offering on December 29** will be designated for Harvest of Love. Also, it is suggested that everyone bring non-perishable food items that Sunday to be donated to the Whitewater Food Pantry.

**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 Katie Regier

**Nursery Next Sunday:** Kris Janzen and Jo Frye

**Ushers Next Sunday:** Josh Patterson and Rob Schunn

**Offering Last Sunday:** Local Church \$4,000.00

**Offering Next Sunday:** Western District Conference

## 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](mailto:pastor@gracehillmc.org)

**Associate Pastor: Katherine**

*E-mail:* [youthpastor@gracehillmc.org](mailto:youthpastor@gracehillmc.org)

**Church Secretary: Debbie Claassen**

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

## 2013 Harvest Thanks Offering - Final

### Mennonite Church USA

Total Mission of Mennonite Church USA	\$6,675.00
Mennonite Mission Network	4,700.00
Mennonite Education Agency (MEA)	100.00
Mennonite World Conference	350.00
Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary	1,400.00
Bethel College	250.00
Hesston College	600.00

### Western District Conference

Total Mission of the WDC	6,575.00
Home Missions (WDC church plants)	800.00
Education (WDC)	250.00
Youth Ministry (WDC programs)	25.00

### Other Institutions

Africa Inter-Mennonite Missions	2,000.00
Camp Mennoscah	2,655.00
Casa Betania	1,400.00
Gideons	400.00
Harvey County Homeless Shelter	5,155.00
Kidron Bethel Health Care Centre	280.00
Mennonite Central Committee	12,050.00
MCC – Philippines	300.00
Mennonite Disaster Service	1,200.00
Mennonite Men of the Plains	200.00
Offender Victim Ministries	1,280.00
Union Biblical Seminary, India	800.00
Wheat State Manor	2,380.00

### Local Church Support

Local Church Missions (undesignated)	59,177.53
Bible School/Education	150.00
Care Fund	910.00
Food Bank	163.40
Library	300.00
Mid-Kansas Relief Sale	1,955.00
Mission Partners – Wes & Deb Bergen	3,460.00
Mission and Service Inquiry Fund	10.00
Music	200.00
North-side Development	700.00
Relief Canning	3,686.46
Scholarship Fund	4,210.00
Ronda Schmidt Mission	500.00

**Grand Total** **\$127,247.39**

2012 Harvest Thanks Offering	\$152,828.23
2011 Harvest Thanks Offering	\$119,786.04
2010 Harvest Thanks Offering	\$113,680.09

## Et Cetera

**Come to First Mennonite Church in Newton** this evening at 7 p.m. to experience Handel's Messiah. The program includes the church choir plus community members, an orchestra and Amy Schroeder, Kay Schroeder, Matthew Schloneger, and Christopher Kliever as soloists.

**MCC Christmas Open House December 17** - All are invited to come to the MCC Center in North Newton on Tuesday, December 17 from 3-6 p.m. Join us to meet Michelle Armster, our new Transitional Executive Director, dedicate our new solar panels at 4 p.m., visit with MCC staff, tour the MCC center and enjoy lots of Christmas goodies! The MCC Central States building is located at 121 E. 30th in North Newton. We hope to see you on December 17!

**The Tabor Mennonite Youth Fellowship** (rural Newton) will share their annual living nativity, Night in the Barn, on December 21 and 22 from 6:00-8:00 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 between Goessel and Hillsboro. 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 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 directions.) For more information, call 620-367-8432 or 620-386-0709.

**“Five Times Harder,”** the family music ensemble featuring Tom and Lois Harder and their three daughters, will perform their annual Christmas Concert at the Lorraine Avenue Mennonite Church in Wichita, on Sunday December 22 at 4:00 p.m. Their program will feature an eclectic mix of Christmas favorites in bluegrass, folk, classical, and jazz styles. A free-will offering will be collected to benefit the work of Christian Peacemaker Teams.

**2 weekends of deep Bible study** in the midst of inter-generational community? 2 weekends of simulations, case studies and surprising historical background? 2 weekends discussing how to use biblical texts in worship and preaching? Learn about the Psalms, Epistles and 1st Corinthians with Michele Hershberger and other pastors, lay leaders and college students. It's all at Hesston College during these weekends: January 24-26 and March 20-23 (includes Thursday evening). Call 620-327-8290 for more info, special rates and to register.

*Reading the Bible in an Instagram World* is the theme for this year's Anabaptist Vision and Discipleship Series, Feb. 21 - 23, 2014, on the Hesston College campus in Hesston. In today's social media-saturated world, we hunger for something real, lasting and relevant. Connecting with the Mennonite Church USA Year of the Bible, this year's conference will provide a fresh take on the college's Biblical Literature curriculum with presenters Michele Hershberger, Marion Bontrager, Ted Swartz and Jeremy Kempf. Program, presenter and registration information can be found at [www.hesston.edu/avds](http://www.hesston.edu/avds). Excited? Call the Alumni and Church Relations Office at 620-327-8109 or toll free at 866-437-7866 to register.

**See Greece & Rome – “Footsteps of Paul” in 2014:** Join pastor and tour guide Weldon Martens on a trip to Greece and Rome, May 4-16, 2014. The “Footsteps of Paul” tour is a great way to experience locations from the Apostle Paul's travels recorded in Acts 17-18. The thirteen day all-inclusive trip includes visits to Athens, Corinth, Delphi, Meteora, Thessaloniki, Kavala, Phillipi, Veria and Ephesus. New on this tour is a stop in Istanbul. The tour concludes with three days in Rome! Detailed trip information and brochure is available at: [www.travelwithweldon.com](http://www.travelwithweldon.com) or call 402-202-9276.

**Job Opening:** Evening manager at Newton Et Cetera Shop, a community thrift store benefiting Mennonite Central Committee. Qualifications: Availability 4:00-8:00 p.m. Monday-Friday, skilled communicator, good with people, ability to multi-task, competent computer/technical skills, values in line with Mennonite Central Committee. College graduate preferred. Ability to lift 25 pounds and stand 2-3 hours recommended. Bilingual or cross-cultural experience, cash register skills helpful. Experience in promotion/advertising, design, or retailing a plus. Begins January 6, 2014. To apply, email a letter expressing your interest in the position and a resume including job history and 3 professional references, to [newtonetc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:newtonetc@sbcglobal.net) by December 16.