

GRACE HILL MENNONITE CHURCH

December 16, 2012

Whitewater, Kansas

Worship 9:30 a.m.

Sunday School 10:45 a.m.

Pastor: Peter Goerzen

Associate Pastor: Katherine Goerzen

Song Leader: Gladys Reimer

Worship Leader: Pastor Peter

Musicians: Linda Harms, Samantha Claassen, David Janzen

Advent 3 – The Everlasting Light

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 and Lighting the Advent Candle

Alston Cunningham, Savannah and Isaac Frohlich

One: God's Word brings light; and in him is the light of all people.

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness will not overcome it.

All: As we wait for the living light, let us follow God's Word knowing that the true light, which enlightens everyone, is coming into the world.

Gathering Prayer

* **Gathering Hymn No. 212** *O come, all ye faithful* verses 1, 2 & 4

Offering Our Gifts Kidron Bethel Health Care Centre

Listening

Worship Music *Carol of the Bells* arr. Davis Samantha Claassen

Old Testament Reading Isaiah 60:1-5, 19-20 K. John Klaassen

* **Hymn No. 104** *Of the Father's love begotten* verses 1, 3 & 4

Children's Story *The Christmas Miracle of Jonathan Toomey: Part 3*

Kim Claassen, Alia Enns, Ashley Enns

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

Worship Music *O Holy Night* arr. Davis Samantha Claassen

Gospel Reading John 1: 1-18 Pastor Katherine

Sermon Pastor Katherine

Responding

* **Hymn of Response No. 215** *What Child is this*

Sharing Our Stories and Congregational Prayer

* **Sending Song Sing the Journey No. 54** *Longing for light* vs. 1, 2 & 5

Benediction

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

We would like to thank our Grace Hill Church family for all the support given to us during this time of mourning. You are appreciated. Many thanks.
Tom and Jane Washburn and family

Hands of Friendship offering for Salvation Army Adopt a Family and gift to Salvation Army was \$300. There were 60 mittens, gloves and caps also given to the Salvation Army. Thank you for your generous donations.

Western District Conference: Pray for Gilberto Flores, Associate Conference Minister, and the Church Planting Task Force as they support church planters and assess new possibilities.

Mennonite Mission Network: Pray for Sue and Wally Fahrer, associated with MMN in the United Kingdom, as Wally recovers from a stroke. The Fahrers provide an Anabaptist witness within a British charismatic church network called New Frontiers International. They promote peace through written materials, counseling and music.

Church Events

Today at noon Spiritual Council meets.

Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Program Practice for all children and all youth. Instrumental musicians who have been contacted should also attend. Mariners Sunday School class members should plan to attend.

December 19-25 Grace Hill/Zion week at the Harvey County Homeless Shelter. The volunteer and meal sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board.

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

December 24 at 6:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Program – The traditional Grace Hill Christmas Eve program will be on Monday, 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. Virgil and Kaye Penner have post card invitations that you can give or send. Pick up after church today. The offering will be for Community Playschool and Harvey County Health Ministries.

December 27 at 11:00 a.m. College-Age Brunch: All college students and young adults are invited to Pastors Peter and Katherine's home on Thursday, December 27 for brunch at 11 a.m.

Upcoming Wednesday Schedule: No Wednesday programming or meals on December 19, 26 and January 2. Next regular programming will be on January 9. Next meal will be January 16.

Et Cetera

Night In The Barn, the annual living nativity event by the youth of Tabor Mennonite Church, is this evening from 6:00-8:00 p.m. on the farm of Maynard Knepp and Carol Duerksen between Goessel and Hillsboro. The program will include unique perspectives on the Christmas story and Christmas carols. 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. (Follow these directions...do not follow your GPS.) Call 620-367-8432 or 620-386-0709 if you have questions.

Do you remember the annual Christmas Festivals at Bethel College? A new 2-CD set, "Nights of Wonder", is available at the Bethel College Bookstore featuring musical selections performed at 9 of the last 19 years (1979-1998). Performing groups include the Bethel College choirs, Sinfonia, Wind, Brass, and String Ensembles, 2nd Century (Madrigal) Singers, and the Newton Community Children's Choir. The Bethel College Women's Association is promoting this 2-CD package for \$20. Call the Bookstore for pickup (316-284-5205) or Donna Becker (316-284-5327) for mail orders. All proceeds go to Bethel College.

Looking for something different to give this Christmas? How about giving the gift of physical activity, family bonding, and meeting good folks from the area?! The **Western District Ski Retreat for Adults and Families** will be January 25-29, 2013 at Copper Mountain Ski Resort in Colorado. This trip leaves from North Newton, and the cost includes chartered sleeper bus, two nights lodging, ski rental, and lift tickets for three days of skiing. (Adults \$534, 17-13 yrs. olds \$518, and children 12 and under \$385). A limited number of spaces are also available for those who would rather drive on their own. For registration forms and/or additional information call the WDC office at (316) 283-6300. WDC Ski Retreat--One size that fits all!

Master Plan Now Available ONLINE! We'd love to tell you more, but that's about all there is to tell. The Camp Mennoscah Master Plan can now be found at www.campmennoscah.org through the link on the right side. Take a gander, have a look, tell someone about it, and spread the word. We also want to hear what you think about the master plan, so send us an email. You can email us from the website, too! Just click on "Contact Camp." (Isn't technology great?) Luddite? No problem. If you scorn the use of technology and would like a paper copy of the Camp Mennoscah Master Plan, give us a call at 620-297-3290. We'd love to send you one in the mail.

The latest issue of *On the Way*, Mennonite Church USA's online newsletter, is available at www.mennoniteusa.org/on-the-way. *On the Way* is a free, short, bilingual online resource—published about every six weeks—for everyone in Mennonite Church USA. Each issue focuses on one of the seven churchwide priorities. You can subscribe to receive *On the Way* directly at <http://eepurl.com/i8oX9>. The issue focuses on Undoing Racism and Advancing Intercultural Transformation, highlighting some processes that Mennonite Church USA is making available for congregations who desire to grow in intercultural competence (Communities of Hope) and for those who are responding to a call to deepen their support for immigrants in their setting (Bienvenido). We hope you'll enjoy the content and consider sharing your responses and ideas via our website or Facebook page.

Register now for the Kansas Mennonite Men's Chorus. Practices will begin in February for the spring concerts. See the poster on the bulletin board.

Announcements

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 by 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 Katie Regier
Nursery Next Sunday: Kris Janzen and Kathy Balzer
Ushers Next Sunday: Josh Patterson and Rob Schunn
Offering Last Sunday: Local Church \$8,950.00
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

Associate Pastor: Katherine Goerzen

E-mail: youthpastor@gracehillmc.org

Church Secretary: Debbie Claassen

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