

# GRACE HILL MENNONITE CHURCH

December 20, 2015

Whitewater, Kansas

Worship 9:30 a.m.

Sunday School 10:45 a.m.

Musician: Ellen Mosiman

Song Leader: Gladys Reimer

Transition Pastor: Randy Smith

## ***Fourth Sunday of Advent Freedom Bound: the Path of Love***

Gathering Music Ellen Mosiman  
Welcome and Announcements Randy Smith  
Prelude to Worship

Candle Lighting  
Isaiah 9:2-7 Josh Patterson  
*O come, O come Immanuel (verse4)* Hymnal 172  
Silence

\*Call to Worship  
We are in trouble. We wait for God.  
We wait for the Light to burst forth into our darkened world.  
**We gather. We wait, assured that God so loves the world.**  
Freeing God, sustain us in this wait and keep us  
bound to walking the path of your way.  
Because of your faithfulness,  
today may we be freed to praise you,  
because we love you,  
because you first loved us.

**Christ comes to set us free.**  
**Today we wait, and we follow - freedom bound.**  
***We worship God, renewed by God's love and  
the promise of new life.***

\*Caroling  
*To us a Child of hope is born* Hymnal 189  
*My soul proclaims with wonder* Hymnal 181  
*My soul is filled with joy* Sing the Journey 13

God's Faithfulness, Our Trust  
Psalm 80:1-7  
Silence  
Micah 5:2-5a

Prayer  
Christmas Carols Lily Hilgenfeld, Valerie Klaassen

Offering and Offertory

Children's Story  
*Children to age 5 may be dismissed to the library for child care*  
Scripture K. John Klaassen  
Luke 1:26-56

Sermon  
*Apple Cart Upset*  
Removing the Chains

The light of the Fourth Candle of Advent reminds us of our hope –  
God is love. God so loves the world. So we love God,  
confident God has freed us from the bondage of sin.

**Come Lord Jesus.**

**Sent, not to condemn the world, but to save the world  
through yourself.**

Hope, that in the midst of this world of sin, God longs to set us free  
from the chains that bind us –

To free us by the power of his love;  
To free us to love the Lord our God with all  
heart, soul, mind, and strength;

To free us to love our neighbor as ourselves.

**We will walk in that light –**

***In the freedom of his love. Bound in Christ. Freed from sin.***

*Loving Spirit*

Sing the Journey 34

Sharing and Prayer

\*Benediction

\*Sending Song Hymnal 201

*Hark! The herald angels sing*

Postlude

\*Indicates those comfortable in doing so, please stand.

This morning's offering is designated for Kidron Bethel Health Care.

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!**

*“Our vision at Grace Hill Mennonite Church is for a revitalized ministry seeking authentic community that honors Christ by:*

*discerning our gifting;*

*developing a leadership team;*

*deepening our core ministries of*

*care, education and hospitality.”*

### **For Sharing and Prayer**

**Western District Conference:** Give thanks for the gift of Christ’s birth, and for WDC congregations embodying the presence of Christ in their local communities.

### **Church Family News**

. . . **Marjorie Harms** returned to Kidron-Bethel after being a patient at Newton Medical Center last week . . . **Tara Harms-Becker** participated in a fundraiser at First Congregational Church in Maize on Saturday for Actors, Models, and Talent for Christ, an organization promoting Christian role models in arts, entertainment, and performance. . .

## Church Events



**Thursday, December 24 at 7:00 p.m.** The Grace Hill Christmas Eve Program will be on Thursday, 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.

## Announcements

**Mittens/Gloves** – Hands of Friendship Christmas Project - You may place mittens and gloves on the Christmas tree in the Fellowship Hall until Christmas. They will be distributed by the Harvey County Salvation Army throughout the coming year.

**Nursery This Sunday:** Kris Janzen and Courtney Nethercot

**Nursery Next Sunday:** Marge Harms and Quinn Dove

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

**Offering Last Sunday:** Local Church \$5,299.00

**Offering Next Sunday:** Western District Conference

## 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](mailto:transitionpastor@gmail.com)

**Director of Youth Ministry:** *Joshua Janzen*

Email: [joshuadjanz@bethelks.edu](mailto:joshuadjanz@bethelks.edu)

**Church Secretary:** *Debbie Claassen*

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

## Et Cetera

**The Tabor Mennonite Youth Fellowship** will share their annual living nativity, *Night in the Barn*, on December 20 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 a program in the barn, Christmas carols around a bonfire, hot drinks and snacks. 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, <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> north on Falcon. (Follow these directions and not GPS) For more information, call 620-386-0709.

**Rural Ministry Discussion Group: Price Reduced** - The registration cost for AMBS-Kansas Center's Rural Ministry Discussion Group (both in-person and online) has been reduced to the low price of \$75 if you register before January 3. Registration is limited, so please register as soon as possible to ensure participation. The in-person discussion group begins January 12, 2016 and is facilitated by Dorothy Nickel Friesen. The online discussion group begins January 14, 2016 and is facilitated by S. Roy Kaufman. For registration and more information, please see: <https://www.ambs.edu/academics/rural-ministry-discussion-group.cfm>.

**The Camp Mennoscah Board of Directors** has accepted the resignation of John Stoesz, executive director. John will be available to continue assisting Camp with marketing and advancement initiatives until the next executive director is hired. John shared "Camp Mennoscah is a wonderful organization and everyone - board, staff and volunteers - have been great. However, I would like to spend more time on Native American justice issues, particularly Dakota land return in my home state of Minnesota. I wish camp all the best in the future". If you are interested in the Executive Director position at Camp Mennoscah, please contact David Weaver, recruiting consultant at Career 1 Source at [620-327-0371](tel:620-327-0371) or [DavidWeaver@career1source.com](mailto:DavidWeaver@career1source.com). Please keep Camp in your prayers as we search for a new Executive Director to focus on advancement and marketing.

### **Books added to library:**

Richard Paul Evans, "The Mistletoe Promise 2014" and "The Mistletoe Inn 2015" - Two books dealing with persons needing to write about the deep emotions they are experiencing.