

# GRACE HILL MENNONITE CHURCH

December 21, 2014

Whitewater, Kansas

Worship 9:30 a.m.

Sunday School 10:45 a.m.

Musician: Ellen Mosiman

Song Leader: Bonita Schroeder

Transition Pastor: Randy Smith

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

**Isaiah 64:1**

**Reveal Your Love**

**Advent 4**

Gathering Music

Ellen Mosiman

Welcome and Announcements

Randy Smith

Prelude to Worship

*O come, O come Emmanuel*

Call to Worship

Psalm 89:1-4

I will sing of the Lord's great love forever;

I will make your faithfulness known

through all generations.

**I will declare that your love stands firm forever,**

**that you have established your faithfulness in heaven itself.**

You said, "I have made a covenant with my chosen one,

I have sworn to David my servant,

'I will establish your line forever

and make your throne firm through all generations.'"

***The heavens praise your wonders, Lord,***

***your faithfulness too, in the assembly of the holy ones.***

\*Caroling

*O come all ye faithful*

Hymnal 212

*Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming*

Hymnal 211

Music of Christmas

Samantha Claassen & Ellen Mosiman

*Greensleeves*

*Stille Nacht*

Waiting In Love

Isaiah 11:1-9

Kris Goossen

Prayer

Silent Waiting

Luke 1:26-38

Dove Family

The Love of Mary

Candle Lighting

*My soul proclaims with wonder*

Hymnal 181

Offering

Children's Story

Grant Claassen

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

Reflecting on Love

*Surprise!*

*Love came down at Christmas*

Hymnal 208

Sharing and Prayer

\*Sending Hymn

Hymnal 197

*Angels we have heard on high*

\*Benediction

Postlude

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

\*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:** Praise God for the outpouring of his love in the sending of his Son Jesus Christ. Pray that each of our churches will be open channels of sharing that love in their communities.

**Mennonite Mission Network:** Some young adults working with Mennonite Mission Network's short-term mission programs, like Mennonite Voluntary Service and Service Adventure, will be going home for the holidays. Pray for safe travels. Pray also for those who will be experiencing Christmas far from their families this year.

## Church Family News

**Tim, Lisa, and Eli Schmidt** are grieving the sudden death of their nephew and cousin, Graham, this past Monday . . .

**Tara Harms-Becker** leaves Friday for a short term mission trip in Mexico to help build houses . . .

**Communion** will be part of the worship service on January 4 to celebrate Epiphany and beginning the new year.

**Come and be part** of the combined Sunday school January 4 through February 1. Using Bible study, discussion, and table talk activities we will explore the gifting within Grace Hill and the Bible's guidance for how to organize for ministries and leadership around our gifting. This is the third section in the transition process and strong attendance is important to make this section effective.

## Church Events



**CHRISTMAS**

**Wednesday 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.

## Announcements

**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.

**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:** Kris Janzen and Jo Frye

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

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

**Offering Last Sunday:** Local Church \$6,544.00

**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)

**Church Secretary:** *Debbie Claassen*

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

Randy & Ann Smith: 115 W. 27<sup>th</sup> St., North Newton, KS 67117

## Et Cetera

**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.

**The Tabor Mennonite Youth Fellowship** will share their annual living nativity, **Night in the Barn**, on December 21 from 6-8 p.m. 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 150<sup>th</sup>, ¾ north on Falcon. (Follow these directions and not GPS directions.) For more information, call 620-386-0709.

**The Wheat State Manor Christmas Party** will be December 22 at 7:00 p.m. Come enjoy the message, singing, food and Santa!

**Thank you** so much for your very generous gift to MCC! We are blessed by your support, especially this holiday season. Thank you for being an important part of MCC's work around the world!

**Following the announcement of Clarence Rempel's retirement** next summer, the WDC Executive Board has appointed a Search Committee to conduct the search for a new Conference Minister. The committee is chaired by Sondra Bandy Koontz, who also serves on the Staff Relations Committee. Other members include Moderator-Elect Anita Kehr, Executive Board Members Norma Johnson and Johann Reimer, Violeta Ajquejay from the Church Planting Commission, Weldon Schloneger from the Ministerial Leadership Commission, and Pastor Ryan Koch. Your prayers for the committee are greatly appreciated as they prepare to begin their work early in the New Year.

**Combine faith with your career!** Serve for a year with Mennonite Voluntary Service and join a team of talented people making a positive impact in communities across the U.S. [www.MennoniteMission.net/Serve](http://www.MennoniteMission.net/Serve).