

GRACE HILL MENNONITE CHURCH

December 22, 2013

Whitewater, Kansas

Worship 9:30 a.m.

Sunday School 10:45 a.m.

Pastor: Peter Goerzen

Associate Pastor: Katherine Goerzen

Musician: Pastor Katherine

Worship Leader: Pastor Katherine

O, The Mystery of God's Dwelling
Advent 4 ... in the child that is born!

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 80: 1-7, 17-19

* **Gathering Theme Song No. 172** *O come, O come, Immanuel* vs. 1, 2, 4 & 6

Engaging the Mystery

Lighting the Advent Wreath

Alston Cunningham and Jacob Hilgenfeld

One: The very form of God has come to us in our own human flesh.

Let us pause to consider the mystery of the incarnation:

unto us a Child is born

unto us a Son is given.

The fourth Advent candle is the candle of joy.

All: This light reminds us that God does indeed dwell with us through the Child that is born!

* **Song No. 211** *Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming*

Sharing and Congregational Prayer

Worship Music *Silent Night* Carine Claassen and Lily Hilgenfeld

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

Scripture Reading Matthew 1: 18-25 Cody Claassen

Time of Silence

Celebrating the Mystery

Sermon Pastor Peter

* **Theme Song of Response No. 191** *O little town of Bethlehem* vs. 1, 3 & 4

Time of Anointing

One: Shepherd of Israel, you have given us life when we called on your name. You have restored us, O God.

All: In the light of your shining face, we are saved.

Offering Our Gifts Western District Conference

* **Sending Song No. 318** *Joy to the world* vs. 1, 2 & 4

* **Benediction**

One: In the mystery of God dwelling with us through the Child who has come there is joy!

All: God IS with us!

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

Thank you for the cards, flowers, food, visits, and especially your prayers. Your support is deeply appreciated and makes the journey easier.
Willard and Mary Ann Wiebe

Thank you, Grace Hill Mennonite Church! During this season of rejoicing and reflecting on our blessings, we extend our heartfelt thanks for the many ways you connect with our campus. Your encouragement and support makes a difference in the lives of others! The gifts and talents you share are an extension of our mission to focus on quality of life and personalized care with Christian compassion. Wishing you hope, love, joy and peace as you celebrate Christmas and the New Year!
-Kidron Bethel Village staff and residents

Western District Conference: Praise God for his indescribable salvation gift – Jesus Emmanuel, God saves and God is with us. Merry Christmas from the WDC Staff! Together with you, we celebrate the coming of Jesus, the one who gives us joy, love and hope! We wish you many blessings during this holy season.

– Clarence, Gilberto, Marlene, Nancy, Phyllis, Sandra, Dwight

Mennonite Mission Network: Lois and Wayne Hochstetler, pastoral counselors to MMN personnel around the world, were based in London, England, for five years. In November, they returned to Illinois to complete the last four months of their assignment before retiring. Pray for the Hochstetlers in the many adjustments they are experiencing.

Church Events



Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. The Grace Hill Christmas Eve program will be on Tuesday at 6:30 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.

Friday at 10:30 a.m. All college-age young adults are invited to a College-Age Brunch at Peter and Katherine's house on Friday, December 27 at 10:30 a.m.

Next Sunday is the 5th Sunday of the month so there will be no Sunday School classes.

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.

Nursery This Sunday: Jo Frye and Kris Janzen

Nursery Next Sunday: Marge Harms and Rita Patterson

Ushers Next Sunday: Josh Patterson and Rob Schunn

Offering Last Sunday: Kidron Bethel Health Care Center \$1,855.00

Offering Next Sunday: Harvest of Love

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

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

Et Cetera

“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, this afternoon 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.

The Tabor Mennonite Youth Fellowship (rural Newton) will share their annual living nativity, Night in the Barn, this evening 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.

Kansas Mennonite Disaster Service invites you to their annual meeting and program January 19 at 2:00 p.m. at First Mennonite Church, 429 E. 1st, Newton. The program will feature the Partnership Home Project. Learn about the Partnership Home Project and how your church or churches in your community could get involved. Refreshments will follow the program.

How are congregations "conformed" to the culture and in what ways should they be "nonconformed"? How do Christians learn or shape new cultures? Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary - Great Plains Extension offers a three-hour credit (audit option) course, "Understanding the Church's Contexts" with Dr. Lois Barrett spring semester, Tuesday evenings, 6:30-9:30 p.m. beginning February 4, 2014. Register (online) by January 6 and receive a \$50 discount. Contact Dorothy Nickel Friesen, dnfriesen@ambs.edu or 316-283-7098 for information.