

# GRACE HILL MENNONITE CHURCH

December 23, 2012

Whitewater, Kansas

Worship 9:30 a.m.

Sunday School 10:45 a.m.

Pastor: Peter Goerzen

Associate Pastor: Katherine Goerzen

Song Leader: Penny Hiebert

Worship Leader: Samantha Claassen

Musicians: Sara Unruh, Valerie Klaassen

## Advent 4 – Welcoming the 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

Quinn Dove, Isaac and Savannah Frohlich

One: The time is fulfilled, the kingdom of God has come near;  
the True Light which enlightens everyone is coming into the world.

*All: As we anticipate the Light, let us be alert and let us watch for the glorious appearing of our God and Savior, Jesus Christ.*

#### Gathering Prayer

\* **Gathering Song Sing the Journey No. 54** *Longing for light*

**Offering Our Gifts** Western District Conference

#### Listening

**Worship Music** *Still, Still, Still* arr. Davis Valerie Klaassen

**Old Testament Reading** Isaiah 9: 2-7 Levi Goossen

\* **Hymn No. 190** *'Twas in the moon of wintertime*

**Children's Story** *The Christmas Miracle of Jonathan Toomey: Part 4*

Kim Claassen, Alia Enns, Ashley Enns, Tara Harms-Becker

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

**Worship Music** *I Wonder as I Wander* arr. Schuster Valerie Klaassen

**Gospel Reading** Luke 2: 1-20 Pastor Peter

**Sermon** *A Crying Babe* Pastor Peter

#### Responding

\* **Song of Response No. 191** *O little town of Bethlehem*

#### Sharing Our Stories and Congregational Prayer

\* **Sending Hymn No. 201** *Hark! The herald angels sing*

#### 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

**Western District Conference:** Praise God for life and salvation through the gift of God's Son. Pray that our congregations experience the true hope, wonder and blessing of the arrival of the Christ Child.

**Mennonite Mission Network:** Thank Jesus for his great love shown to the world through his willingness to submit to the suffering and indignities that humanity experiences. Pray that MMN ministries will allow that love to overflow in our lives to touch our neighbors across the street and around the world.

## Church Events



**Monday 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 our guests to celebrate the Christmas Story. The offering will be for Community

Playschool and Harvey County Health Ministries.

**Thursday 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.

**Next Sunday during the Sunday School hour** there will be refreshments in the fellowship hall. No Sunday School classes will be held.

**Next Sunday at 5:00 p.m.** Wheat State Manor Vesper Service – Mariners Sunday School class is in charge.

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

## Announcements

**Pastors Peter and Katherine** are planning to participate in a study sabbatical at Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary in Elkhart, Indiana February-May 2013. Weldon Martens will be serving as a half-time interim pastor during that time. Ben Kreider will be leading the youth on Wednesday nights.

**Mennonite Church USA Convention** will take place in Phoenix, Arizona, July 1-5, 2013. Grace Hill can appoint three delegates. If anyone is interested in serving as a delegate, please contact Kim Claassen.

**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 Kathy Balzer

**Nursery Next Sunday:** Marge Harms and Rita Patterson

**Ushers Next Sunday:** Terry Klassen and Dean Patterson

**Offering Last Sunday:** Kidron Bethel Health Care Centre \$1,190.00

**Offering Next Sunday:** Mennonite Disaster Service

## 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 Goerzen***

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

***Church Secretary: Debbie Claassen***

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

## Et Cetera

**There will be a "Five Times Harder" Christmas Concert** at Lorraine Avenue Mennonite Church, Wichita, this afternoon, December 23, at 4:00 p.m. The Harder's will perform classical, folk, bluegrass and jazz selections. A free-will offering will be taken to benefit the MCC Mideast Crisis Fund which offers help in the troubled areas of Gaza, Syria and Lebanon.

**Offender Victim Ministries Prison Arts' Choir** Men are needed to assist in Offender/Victim Ministries' Prison Art's Choir at the Hutchinson Correctional Facility. Practices are on Tuesday evenings at HCF beginning February 5 with performances on the weekend of April 13. Volunteer training is needed in order to volunteer in the prison and will be given mid-January for new volunteers. Returning choir members can receive annual training on Jan. 29 or Feb. 4. Contact Nathan Koontz at OVM, 316-215-1758 or [nathan.ovm@sbcglobal.net](mailto:nathan.ovm@sbcglobal.net).

**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.