



Grace Hill Mennonite Church

December 31, 2017

Worship – 9:30am
Sunday School – 10:45am

Christmas 2017

Christmas - “Let it Be New”

Prelude Rosewood Winds
* Song “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice” HWB 210

Greetings & Announcements

Gathering (based upon Psalm 148)

Leader: Yes! We give thanks and rejoice!
All: **We will praise the Lord from the heavens, from the heights, and with the angels!**
Leader: We praise the Lord with the sun and moon! We praise the Creator of the shining stars!
All: **Fire and hail! Snow and frost! Mountains and hills! Fruit trees and cedar!**
Leader: Young men and women alike! Children and the aged ones too! Let us praise the name of the Lord.
All: **Praise the Lord!**
Leader: Yes! Let all things be new.

Gathering Prayer

Song “Away in a Manger” HWB 194

Prayer of Confession

L: O God, the waiting is over, the time has come: you dwell among us! We marvel at the mystery of your birth. We are filled and guided by the Spirit as you open our eyes, our hearts, and our arms to receive you.
P We say, “Yes,” and yet we confess that instead of being drawn into your infinite light, we labor in darkness and sin. We confess that instead of marveling at the vastness of your mercy, instead of rejoicing with Simeon

and Anna, instead of allowing your Spirit to move within and among us, we resist the mystery of your presence. We confess our struggle to step forth with honesty and courage before the newborn Christ.

All: Forgive us.

Silence... Words of assurance

L: O God, Emmanuel in Jesus, the Christ, you have come among us.

Special Music “Harold Moyer Medley”
Offering to God Harvey County Circle of Hope
Offertory “O Little Town of Bethlehem”
*Doxology (Psalm 100) HWB 119

Sharing and Congregational Prayer

* Scripture Reading Luke 10:25-37
Sermon “Who is My Neighbor?” Sara Dick
* Hymn “O Come, All Ye Faithful” HWB 212
* Benediction

As you go, may you rejoice greatly in the goodness of our God. May you go forth with Christmas joy and not be silent about the birth of Jesus Christ. Amen.

* Sending Song “Angels We Have Heard On High” HWB 197

Postlude

*Indicates those comfortable in doing so, please stand.

- Following the offering children to age 5 may be dismissed to the library for childcare.
- The Adult Sunday School classes will begin 10 minutes after the service is over. Everyone is welcome!

Serving in Worship

Pastor Weldon Martens
Worship Leader Katherine Claassen
Scripture Reader Doug Claassen
Music Rosewood Winds
Keyboard Kristin Kliwer
Song Leader Bonita Schroeder
Greeters Adrian & Courtney Nethercot
Ushers Mike Balzer & Josh Patterson
Nursery Debbie Claassen & Samantha Claassen

Welcome to Sara Dick and Rosewood Winds! Sara is the General Manager at the Newton Et Cetera Shop. Rosewood Winds members are Kristin Kliewer, oboe; Amanda Friesen, flute; Valerie Klaassen, clarinet. Thank you all for sharing with us this morning!

For Sharing and Prayer

Western District Conference: As we look ahead to the New Year, pray for God's guidance for WDC as it empowers congregations to witness and invite others to faith in Jesus Christ, dwell in just and loving relationships, and connect to God's mission in the world.

Mennonite Mission Network: Tonight is Watch Night in many African-American communities. At midnight on Jan. 1, 1863, the Emancipation Proclamation became law. Though written 154 years ago, that law has not yet been completely fulfilled. Join Mennonite Mission Network in proclaiming and working toward salvation and justice for all people in the coming year.

Announcements

The general Mennonite Relief Sale meeting will be held at Grace Hill on Thursday, January 11. We are needing 20 dozen cookies for refreshments. If you are willing to bring cookies, please sign up on the sheet in the foyer. Thank you!!

A bucket offering for My Coins Count will be taken on the first Sunday of each month, beginning January 7 until the Relief Sale on April 13-14. So save up your coins and bring them to church to place in the offering to support Mennonite Central Committee and the Kansas Mennonite Relief Sale!

Nursery Next Sunday: Kathy Balzer and Katherine Claassen

Greeters Next Sunday: Allen and Elaine Patterson

Ushers Next Sunday: Lucas Goossen and Lon Hiebert

Offering Last Sunday: Western District Conference \$1,677.75

Offering on Christmas Eve: Community Playschool \$700
Harvey Co. Health Ministries \$700

Offering Next Sunday: Mennonite Church USA

Et Cetera

Sunday-Afternoon-at-the-Museum, January 7 at 3 p.m.: Andrew Bolton, "Is the Community of Christ Becoming Anabaptist?"; Kauffman Museum, North Newton. Bolton has served for a number of years in administrative positions with the Community of Christ (formerly the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints) and was an organizer of the October 2017 symposium at the National World War I Museum and Memorial on conscientious objection to the Great War.

Everence to continue series of workshops Everence will continue its popular retirement workshop series in 2018, starting with *Your Medicare options* on Monday, Jan. 8, at 6:30 p.m. Attendees will learn about the various Medicare plans and what they cover; plans that supplement Medicare; and enrollment details and deadlines. The workshop will be presented by Everence staff and will be held at the Everence office at 3179 N. Main St., North Newton. Reserve your spot soon by contacting Michelle Ramer at (316) 283-3800; (877) 467-7294 or michelle.ramer@everence.com.

Everyone's invited to the Year of Evangelism Kick Off: Anabaptist Witness event January 19-20, 2018, sponsored by the Western District Conference Resource Commission! Want to give someone in your congregation a Christmas gift? Pay for their registration to attend this event. It's only \$30/person, or \$25/person when groups of four or more register together at: <http://mennowdc.org/year-of-evangelism/>

Registration is now open for the academic conference "Mennonites and the Holocaust," to be held on the Bethel College campus March 16-17, 2018, with speakers and scholars from Canada, Germany, the Netherlands, Ukraine and the United States. See mla.bethelk.edu/MennosandHolocaust for more information or to register online.

CHURCH OFFICES

Pastor's Office Hours:

Wednesday - Afternoon, Friday - day off

Pastor: Weldon Martens

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