



Grace Hill Mennonite Church

March 17, 2024

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

Fifth Sunday in Lent

Prelude

"He Shall Feed His Flock Like a Shepherd"

G. F. Handel

Greetings & Announcements

GATHERING

*Call to Worship (Responsively)

based on Jer. 31:31-34; John 12:20-33

L: "The days are coming," declares the Lord, "when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel. No longer will they teach their neighbors, or say to one another, 'Know the Lord!' because they will all know me, from the least to the greatest."

P: This new covenant is being offered to us.

L: "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds."

P: Death must come before resurrection. A seed fallen to the soil and broken open can become life for many.

All: This new covenant is being offered to us: let us lay down our life and follow.

L: This is the life-giving ways of God placed within our minds and written on our hearts, where we are forgiven and our sins remembered no more, where we are God's people and God is our God.

**"Oh, For a Thousand Tongues to Sing"*

HWB 110

CONFESSING AND RECONCILING

Prayer of Confession

adapted from Psalm 51

L: O God, we gather before you, seeking your mercy.

Hear us, we pray.

P: We confess that we sin against you.

L: O God, wash us, make us clean, create in us a new spirit.

P: Stay close to us, restore us to your truth.

All: So that we can cry out with joy, cleansed in your abundant mercy.

"O Christ, the Lamb of God" - HWB 153

PROCLAMATION

Prayer for Illumination (Unison)

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

"Come and See"

HWB 20

Children's Story

Gospel Reading

Mark 13

* *"Christ, We Do All Adore Thee"* – HWB 105

Special Music

"Jesus Paid it All/O Sacred Head Now Wounded"
arr by Brant Adams

Sermon

"Take Heed, Be Alert, Be Careful!"

RESPONSE

* Hymn

"I Bind My Heart This Tide"

HWB 411

Offering to God

Mission Partner Fund

Offertory

* *Doxology*

HWB 119

Congregational Sharing and Prayer / Lord's Prayer

"Come and Fill our Hearts" - SJ 59

SENDING FORTH

*Benediction

*Sending Song

"Now Go in Peace"

SJ 74

Postlude *“Every Valley Shall be Exalted”* by G.F. Handel

*Indicates those comfortable in doing so, please stand.

Pastor: Weldon Martens

Piano: Ellen Youngman Song Leader: Penny Hiebert

Clarinet: Valerie Klaassen Usher: Mike Balzer

For Sharing and Prayer

Western District Conference: Pray for representatives from WDC traveling to attend Mennonite Church USA Constituency Leaders Council meetings this week, as they join with others from across the church to listen, learn and discern together.

Mennonite Mission Network: Today, youth from northern Indiana are gathering to hear about service options that Mennonite Mission Network is offering them to grow in their spiritual lives and test career directions. Pray for the youth as they plan for their next steps. Pray also for Eric Frey Martin, as he leads the event and as he makes connections in Mennonite high schools and colleges.

Church Events

Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. Worship Council meets

Next Sunday, March 24 at 7:00 p.m. Palm Sunday Service at Zion Mennonite

March 28 at 7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday Service at Grace Hill

Offering Next Sunday: Western District Conference

Announcements

MCC partner Team Brownsville welcomes your gently used winter coats and jackets! Team Brownsville seeks to share God's love by welcoming asylum seekers, including providing them with warm coats. Missions Council is collecting coats for this project. Please leave donated coats/jackets on the table in the foyer by March 31.

SEEKERS in SNEAKERS: DISCOVER JESUS will take place at Zion Mennonite on June 3-6 for all PreK 3-year-olds to 6th graders from 9:00 am to 11:30 am. Grace Hill and Zion are partnering for this experience and we are seeking volunteers to have a successful Vacation Bible School. We are looking for adults to assist with Music, Station Temple Study (Bible story activity), Station Seaside Exploration (art/science activity), Station Mountain Movements (motion activity), Pre K3/K4 classroom teacher, Group Leader K-2, Group Leader 3-4, and Group Leader 5-6. All 7th-12th grade youth will have a place to assist if they are able to attend. Please let Deb Regier (regierd51@gmail.com) know if you are available to assist.

Debbie Claassen is planning to participate in the Kansas Mennonite Relief Sale 5K Run on April 13. If you would like to sponsor her and help raise money for Mennonite Central Committee, please give donations to her by April 10. Checks should be made to KMRS and labeled "Run for Relief" on the memo.

Kansas Mennonite Relief Sale is April 12-13 in Hutchinson.

Verenike Making day is April 6 at Parkview Mennonite Brethren Church in Hillsboro. Sign up to volunteer on the Sign-Up Genius. **Bakers - Pie tins and zwieback bags** are available on the table in the foyer. **Run for Relief** deadline to register is March 22, if you want a t-shirt. **MCC Sale Children's Auction** - Consider donating new, in-the-package, items to this year's auction! Talk with a youth to see what items they would like to bid on, but you can never go wrong with Hot Wheels, Barbie, board games, Lego sets, art kits, and sports equipment. Items may be given to those listed below for delivery to sale. **Items are needed to sell at the sale.** Need good to excellent quality items: cars, collectibles, sports memorabilia, experiences, farm equipment, golf carts, power tools, mowers, new furniture. See the list on the bulletin board for more ideas. **For more information about the sale**, go to www.kansas.mccsale.org. To volunteer, go the website and click on the volunteer tab to see all the options! Pick your choice slot now! Sharon Schmidt will also need workers for the cherry moos booth, see Sharon to volunteer. If you have questions, talk to Mike, Kathy, Kim, Debbie or K. John.

Et Cetera #1

Bible Lectures at Bethel College with César Garcia, general secretary of Mennonite World Conference, and Sandra Baez, pastor and executive assistant to the general secretary; Sunday, March 17 at 7 p.m., Administration Building chapel; Monday, March 18 at 11 a.m., Krehbiel Auditorium in Luyken Fine Arts Center. The overall topic for the lectures is "Contemporary Ecclesiologies."

Hesston College Bel Canto Singers' final concert of the spring break tour will be Tuesday, March 19, 7 p.m., Hesston Mennonite Church. The 19-voice mixed chamber choir, under the direction of Dr. Russell Adrian and accompanied by Ken Rodgers, will present a program titled "Common Ground." The program is inspired by the composition "On the Common Ground" written by Alice Parker out of concern for the many walls that have appeared to separate society. Audience members may also join via livestream at hesston.edu/livestream.

Everence® will hold an informative Social Security and retirement income workshop on Thursday, March 21, starting at 6:30 p.m. Topics will include, Social Security strategies, including when to begin taking benefits, risks that can impact your retirement savings plus strategies to help your income last throughout retirement. There will also be plenty of time for questions. The in-person workshop will be at the Everence office: 3179 N. Main St. Suite 1B, North Newton. Information will be presented by staff from the Everence offices in Central Kansas. To register contact Everence at 316-283-3800, 877-467-7294 or central.kansas@everence.com.

"A Goodly Heritage; a musical drama depicting the history of the Swiss Volhynians" will be performed on Saturday, March 23, at 7 p.m., and Sunday, March 24, at 2 p.m. at Eden Mennonite Church, Moundridge. One of the many groups of Mennonites moving to the United States in the 1870's, the drama seeks to explain the religious beliefs underlying the Anabaptist movement and the journey over centuries that brought this group to America. The cast is made up of Schweitzers and friends from McPherson County and surrounding areas. Jenny Schrag, who wrote the drama and composed some of the music, is directing, along with Dawn Abrahams. Bonita Howard is the choir director. Admission is free.

Et Cetera #2

Spring Cleaning at Camp Mennoscah sponsored by Western District Women in Mission (WDWM) will be held on Saturday, March 23 from 10 am – 4 p.m. Come for part or all of the time. Women, men, kids, youth groups, Sunday school groups are all invited. If children younger than high school attend, they need to be supervised by their parents (no child care or children's activities will be provided). Projects will include cleaning staff houses, shower houses, cabins, t-shirt inventory, and other jobs. Dress warm, bring a full water bottle, \$5 to cover the cost of lunch (pizza), and the following cleaning supplies if you have them: rakes, long handled brooms for cobweb reaching. Other cleaning supplies will be provided. **To register send an e-mail by March 18 to westerndistrictwomen@gmail.com.** Space is capped at this event to manage the jobs, so don't delay in registering.

The dam at Camp Mennoscah will be put back in on March 24 at 2pm. Everyone is welcome to help or watch. The process of putting the boards back in is not for young ages due to the ungainly size and weight of the boards, but watching is great! The dam goes back in a couple of weeks before Men and Boys Retreat with the hope of washing out the fishing holes. Be there for the beginning of canoe and kayak fun!

Mennonite Heritage & Agricultural Museum will hold the Heritage Dinner, April 5, 6:30 pm, at Tabor Mennonite Church, after which Mayleen Thiesen Vinson will share an entertaining and insightful portrayal of Fru Schmidt's dilemma—what to pack for her family? Each adult ticket-holder was allowed to pack 27 cubic feet of baggage and freight. Consider that the Schmidts have ten children! Would you have packed a waffle iron, an anvil, or corncocks? Come find out! Tickets are on sale now! Contact the museum by April 1 (620-367-8200 or email goesselmuseum@gmail.com) to reserve your tickets for the Low German sausage meal catered by Goessel Grocery & Deli. Prices are \$75 per person, ages 12 and under are \$15, and first-time attenders are \$40.

You are invited to the Dedication and Ribbon Cutting for New Hope Shelter, 308 S. Meridian, Newton, on Sunday, April 7 at 3:00 p.m. Come celebrate with us in our new home that will continue to serve those in need for many years to come. Please park in the lots north of the property and bring lawn chairs. Following some brief remarks, tours will be given and light refreshments will be served. We are excited to say that we are settling in and ready to celebrate what God has done!

Women & Girls Save the Date! Edimental Gardening for Every Growing Space, featuring **Renata Goossen** will be sponsored by Western District Women in Mission at Faith Mennonite Church, Newton, on Friday, April 19. The schedule is: 5 p.m. - 6 p.m. Browse and purchase plants from Renata's Plant Bus. Bring a salad to share for supper to start at 6 p.m. The evening program, 6:30 - 7:30, will feature music by Prairie Highway and Renata speaking on her topic of edimental gardening, plants that are both edible and ornamental. Follow us on Facebook and Instagram for more details about the evening schedule and our other WDWM activities.

All interested singers are invited to participate in Bethel College's annual Masterworks concert, to be held April 28, featuring Benjamin Britten's *Rejoice in the Lamb* and Ralph Vaughn Williams' *Dona Nobis Pacem*. Scores are available starting March 18 and rehearsals begin Tuesday, April 2. Sign up online at <https://forms.gle/Auu4FaYBcaLwKDUF6> so that your contact information is available for digital rehearsal materials, etc., or come to the first rehearsal April 2, 6 p.m., Choir Room in Luyken Fine Arts Center at Bethel College.

Nurses needed at Camp Mennoscah for the weeks of First Camp, June 20-22; Junior High 2, July 7-12; and Junior 2, July 14-19. Nurses must be an RN and can receive a stipend or a parent discount. Contact us at 620-297-3290 or olivia.bartel@campmennoscah.org if you are interested. You are needed to make summer youth camps healthy and successful!

Western District Conference invites you to visit their website at <https://mennowdc.org/> to read the latest news, stories and announcements.

Church Offices

Pastor's Office Hours:

Wednesday – Afternoon, Friday – day off

Pastor: Weldon Martens

Email: weldon.martens@gmail.com

Church Secretary: Debbie Claassen

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

Church Website: www.gracehillmc.org

Church address: 10218 SE 12th, Whitewater, Kansas 67154