



**Grace Hill Mennonite Church**  
**First Sunday of Advent**  
**December 1, 2024**  
Worship – 9:30am / Sunday School – 10:45

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**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent: Tomorrow's World**

**GATHERING**

- Prelude
- Greetings & Announcements
- Lighting of the 1st Advent Candle                      Isaiah 40:1-2  
Reader: Isabella Lehman
- \* *"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"*                      HWB 178
- Sharing and Congregational Prayer + Lord's Prayer  
*"Longing for Light"*                      SJ 54
- Special Music *"O Come All Ye Faithful"* arr. by Dan Musselman

**PROCLAMATION**

- Children's Story  
*"Good King Wenceslas"*
- Prayer for Illumination (*in unison*)  
**God for whom we watch and wait, tear open the heavens  
and come down to this world of darkness, despair, and  
death. Send now your Holy Spirit to prepare the way for  
your Word in our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.**

- Scripture Reading                      Jeremiah 33:14-16
- Sermon                      *"God Does Right by Us"*

**RESPONSE**

- \* *"O Come, O Come, Immanuel"* (vs 1-2)                      HWB 172

- Offering to God                      Mennonite Church USA  
Offertory  
\* *Doxology* (Psalm 100)                      HWB 119

**SENDING FORTH**

- \* Benediction
- \* *"Go, My Children"*                      HWB 433

- Postlude  
\* Indicates those comfortable in doing so, please stand.

*Pastor: Weldon Martens    Guest Preacher: Kathy Neufeld Dunn*  
*Worship Leader: Valerie Klaassen    Piano: Ellen Youngman*  
*Song Leader: Bonita Schroeder    Usher: Kendall Claassen*

Welcome to Kathy Neufeld Dunn, she is the Associate Conference Minister for Western District Conference. Thank you for sharing with us this morning!

**For Sharing and Prayer**

**Western District Conference:** Pray for pastors, musicians, artists, teachers and worship leaders in WDC congregations, as they shape worship and other special activities during the special seasons of Advent and Christmas.

**Mennonite Mission Network:** Today, Mennonite Mission Network's Anchorage (Alaska) Service Adventure unit is participating in a community performance of Handel's *Messiah*. Pray for leader Samir Knego and participants Samuel Landis, Briana Nyveldt, Armando Perez and Aviva Setiawan as they worship and share the good news of Jesus' birth, ministry and salvation offered to all people.

**Church Events**

**Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.** Christmas Choir Practice (also Dec. 11)

**Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.** Education Council meets.

**Sunday, December 15** You are all invited to join a joint Zion/Grace Hill faspas and Christmas hymn sing on December 15 at Grace Hill. We will have faspas at 5, then sing Christmas songs together around 5:45. For those who wish to go caroling, there will be opportunity to form small groups to go caroling after the hymn sing. All ages are welcome!

**February 2 at 12:45 p.m.** Annual Business Meeting

### Announcements

**Collecting Non-perishable Food Items!** Beginning today and continuing during Advent, non-perishable food items will be collected during the worship service by the children for area food banks. Thank you for your donations! - The Missions Council

**Anabaptist World subscription list is being updated.** The church has a group-rate policy and each subscription costs the church \$39.00. If you are not receiving *Anabaptist World* and would like to, or if you are currently receiving it and would like to discontinue your subscription, please contact Debbie Claassen by **December 8**.

#### Offerings received November 1-30, 2024

Camp Mennoscah	100.00
Local Church	2,375.00
MCUSA	1,280.00
WDC	<u>1,090.00</u>
	\$4,845.00

Plus, Harvest Thanks Offering printed in November 17 bulletin – updated amounts to come.

**Offering Next Sunday:** Local Church

#### Grace Hill Treasury as of November 30, 2024

Total Local Church Support/Contributions	\$ 143,033.40
Expenses through November	(153,867.46)
Estimated expenses for December 2024	(14,500.00)
Harvest Thanks Money Pledged to Local Church	
- yet to be received	<u>10,000.00</u>
Estimated Deficit at the end of December 2024	\$ (15,334.06)

## Et Cetera

**Celebrate Museum Store Sunday at Kauffman Museum**, December 1 1:30-4:30 p.m. At 3 p.m., there will be a German Christmas singalong (Deutsche Weihnachtslieder) with William Eash, Merle Schlabaugh and Karen Bauman Schlabaugh in the museum auditorium. BYOP (bring your own peppernuts/pfeffernusse).

**Prairie Lights at Dyck Arboretum** The first of two weekends of Prairie Lights will kick off the holiday season December 1 from 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. Experience the quiet beauty of Kansas in winter while observing tens of thousands of twinkle lights adorning the arboretum path and illuminating the grounds. For tickets visit [www.dyckarboretum.org/events](http://www.dyckarboretum.org/events).

**Yule love this!** Join us for a live, online event on December 3, at 11:00 AM CST/10:00 AM MST as we take you behind the scenes of MCC's Christmas Giving Guide. Discover the impact behind each gift and how your generosity makes a difference. Learn more and register to join this event at [mcc.org/yule-love-this](http://mcc.org/yule-love-this).

**MCC Open House, Tuesday, December 3 from 2pm-4pm** all are welcome to come see the updated space at MCC Central States in North Newton. Bring your Christmas shopping list to get your alternative Christmas gifts purchased from our tree! Visit with MCC staff, get a tour while you enjoy some snacks. We can't wait to see you at the Open House, 121 E. 30<sup>th</sup> St, North Newton! [mcc.org/open-house](http://mcc.org/open-house)

**Giving Tuesday at MCC, Tuesday, December 3 from 6:30pm-8pm** we're excited to host this annual evening of service to kick off your holiday season! This all-ages event is focused on service and fellowship. *Please bring new dark colored hand towels with you* – the more you bring, the more hygiene kits we can pack! There will be Christmas cards to write in and comforters to tie AND snacks to enjoy. What a great way to give back on Giving Tuesday! [mcc.org/giving-tuesday](http://mcc.org/giving-tuesday)

**Singalong to Christmas portions of Handel's *Messiah***, December 4 at 11 a.m., with chamber orchestra and soloists, Bethel College Mennonite Church. Scores provided.

**All bakers and craft makers are invited to make items for 5 Places of Christmas** on Saturday, December 7, from 10:00 - 3:00 at Goerz House, Bethel College. Bethel College Women's Association will again be selling baked goods, candy, craft items and poinsettias. Your homemade cookies, zwiebach, cinnamon rolls, peppernuts and poppyseed rolls are always great sellers. This year we are especially asking for homemade candies such as fudge, peanut clusters, peanut butter balls and peanut brittle as well as other non-chocolate candies. We are also looking for Christmas craft items to sell. Please bring your items to Goerz House on Friday, December 6, from 2:00-5:00pm or on Saturday, Dec. 7, from 9:30-10:00am. Thank you for your support of Bethel College.

**Kidron Bethel Village** will host its annual Holiday Market from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Saturday, December 7, at Kidron Hall, 3001 Ivy Dr., North Newton. The event features local artisans selling handmade items, gifts and baked goods. Proceeds benefit the Kidron Bethel Village Health Care Benevolent Fund, which assists residents who, due to unforeseen circumstances, are unable to cover the full costs of their care.

**50,000 MEALS TO BE PACKAGED!** Your help is needed to help package 50,000 meals in one day. Each meal will be used to address local food security by donation to local food banks. [Buhler Mennonite Church](http://BuhlerMennoniteChurch.org) and [IdeaTek](http://IdeaTek.org) are partnering with [The Outreach Program](http://TheOutreachProgram.org) to again package non-perishable meals at the Sand Hills Event Center in Hutchinson. The meals will be packaged on Saturday, December 7, with the first shift beginning at 9 a.m. until 11 a.m. and the second from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.. You can work one or both shifts. Job orientation is provided and no previous experience is needed! The event is open to all interested in volunteering their time and energy. There are jobs for volunteers ages 4 to 124! *“What a great way to give of your time during the Holiday season and to help those who struggle to put food on the table,”* shared a volunteer at last year's event. To volunteer please go to [buhlerchurch.com](http://buhlerchurch.com). For more information please contact: [bmcpastor@gmail.com](mailto:bmcpastor@gmail.com).

**The Annual Christmas Brass Concert** will be held at the Alexanderwohl Mennonite Church (1304 K KS-15, Goessel), December 8 at 7:00pm. Come join a great evening of Brass Music with the McPherson Brass and the Goessel Elbiata Singers as well as enjoying audience participation in singing of familiar Christmas Carols. A free will offering with support the ministries of the Goessel Ministerial Alliance.

**39th annual Lighting of the Green**, December 8 at 8 p.m. on the Bethel College campus.

**[Reserve your tasty verenike casserole meal here!](#)** Camp Mennoscah is holding a Verenike Casserole fundraiser on December 14th at 5:30pm to support the many aspects of camping ministry! Your donations will help campers and guests "Build on the Rock and Play in the Sand!" The meal consists of verenike casserole, seasoned green beans, zweiback, and fruit crisp. Camp feeds your soul and this favorite youth camp meal will feed your belly! Meals will be available for pick-up or dine-in at Faith Mennonite Church between 5:30-6:30pm on December 14th. A whole pan of verenike casserole is also available for reservation (no sides, ~12 servings). Suggested donation of \$20 per meal or \$40 per pan.

**The Camp Mennoscah Board of Directors** has written a letter regarding the challenges Camp Mennoscah is facing. [The letter can be found here.](#)

**Mennonite Education Agency** 2024 Advent at Home worship guide. The theme for the 2024 Advent at Home worship guide, "Together on the Journey," is taken from Leader magazine. Available in English and Spanish. Download [here](#).

**WDC Staff position opening:** Western District Conference seeks a half-time Program Director for WDC's Kids Meet Christ (KMC) worship and faith formation initiative, beginning February 1, 2025. This program is made possible through Lilly Endowment Inc.'s Nurturing Children Through Worship and Prayer Initiative, designed to help congregations more fully and intentionally engage children in intergenerational corporate worship and prayer practices. The KMC Program Director will serve as a member of the WDC staff, collaborating with other staff and the Resource Commission to implement the KMC initiative over the 5-year grant period. For position description and application form, see <https://mennowdc.org/employment/>. Interested applicants please submit application form and letter of interest to the Conference Minister at [heidirk@mennowdc.org](mailto:heidirk@mennowdc.org).

**Join us! Kauffman Museum seeks a Visitor Services & Education Coordinator** to work with school groups, college students, senior volunteers and the general public. This is a half-time position. Kauffman Museum is a Bethel College affiliate in North Newton. View the full job description, application and contact info at [KauffmanMuseum.org/vsc](http://KauffmanMuseum.org/vsc)

**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](mailto:weldon.martens@gmail.com)

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

**Church Website:** [www.gracehillmc.org](http://www.gracehillmc.org)

**Church address:** 10218 SE 12<sup>th</sup>, Whitewater, Kansas 67154