

# Grace Hill Mennonite Church

January 19, 2025

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

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Prelude

Greetings & Announcements

Gathering - Psalm 96: 1-3, 9-13 HWB 820

\* *From All That Dwell Below the Skies* HWB 49

Offering to God Kansas Mennonite Relief Sale

Offertory

\*Doxology (Psalm 100) HWB 119

Sharing and Congregational Prayer + Lord's Prayer

*"Come, Light of the World"* SS 3

Scripture Reading Romans 11:33-36

Special Music *"For We are Strangers No More"* Ensemble

Sermon *"God's Great Plan"*

\* *"Sing Praise to God Who Reigns"* HWB 59

Benediction

\* Sending Song *"God Be With You"* vs. 2 & 3 HWB 430

Postlude

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

*Pastor: Weldon Martens Scripture Reader: Marianne Eichelberger*

*Keyboard: Ellen Youngman Song Leader: Penny Hiebert*

*Usher: Kendall Claassen*

## Romans 11:33-36

O the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!

"For who has known the mind of the Lord?

Or who has been his counselor?"

"Or who has given a gift to him,

to receive a gift in return?"

For from him and through him and to him are all things.

To him be the glory forever. Amen.

## For Sharing and Prayer

**Western District Conference:** Give thanks for WDC congregations observing *Anabaptism at 500* (the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the beginning of the Anabaptist movement in 1525) through special events and celebrations during the coming year, and pray for faithfulness in our commitments to follow Jesus as Anabaptist / Mennonite Christians now and in the future.

**Mennonite Mission Network:** Mennonite Mission Network requests prayer for the South American celebration of Anabaptism at 500, taking place in Cusco, Peru. Pray that during these five days of worship, learning and fellowship, Anabaptists will experience renewed inspiration to carry their rich spiritual legacy into current contexts.

## Church Events

**February 2 at 11:30 a.m.** There will be a soup lunch before the Annual meeting. Please sign up on the paper in the foyer if you are willing to bring a soup or a coffee cake to share February 2.

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

**February 5 - Wednesday evening fellowship meals** and programming will take place from February 5 through March 12. Education Council is seeking volunteers to help prepare meals and also to clean up after each meal. Please see Deb Regier if you are willing to help.

**March 2** Pastor Weldon & Jenny's "a wish of well-being at parting"

## **Announcements**

**Missions Council** invites you to participate in the Winter Welcome Blanket and Coat Drive for International Rescue Committee, Wichita, during the month of January. Items needed include blankets, winter coats, jackets, gloves, hats, and scarves. They expect many arrivals now through March and any size item is welcome and appreciated. New and used in good condition items may be placed on a table in the foyer anytime this month.

**Reports for the church yearbook** – If you are responsible for a report, please get it to Debbie Claassen by January 31. Emailed reports are preferred, if possible. Thank you!

**Offering Next Sunday:** Western District Conference

### **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

## Et Cetera #1

**Anabaptism at Five Hundred Hymn Festival** The Hesston College Music Department invites the public to join in a historic celebration of faith, music and heritage at Anabaptism at Five Hundred: Hymn Festival on Sunday, January 19, at 3 p.m. at Hesston Mennonite Church. The Hymn Festival will feature a historical narrative by Ken Rodgers, music professor, tracing the evolution of hymns and texts central to Anabaptist worship over the past 500 years. Another highlight of the event is choral and congregational singing, with singers from surrounding churches combining with audience participation to create a communal expression of faith and song. This community-wide event is part of worldwide celebrations commemorating the 500th anniversary of Anabaptism. For more information, contact the Hesston College Music Department at [finearts@hesston.edu](mailto:finearts@hesston.edu) or 620-327-8141.

**Join the Bethel College community for the annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day celebration,** January 20 at 7 p.m., Krehbiel Auditorium in Luyken Fine Arts Center. Recently retired pastor and longtime community leader Larry Lee is the speaker, with music by Lincoln Moyo and contributions from Bethel students.

**Kauffman Museum annual Kansas Day event, "At Home on the Range,"** January 25 noon-4 p.m., museum parking lot and grounds. (27<sup>th</sup> & North Main, North Newton) Featuring food trucks, exhibits and activities indoors and out, and much more. For more information, see the Kauffman Museum Facebook page or [kauffmanmuseum.org](http://kauffmanmuseum.org)

**Hesston College will host pastor and author Greg Boyd** from Woodland Hills Church, St Paul, Minnesota, for the annual Melva Kauffman Lecture Series taking place on campus January 26 and 27. Boyd's topic for the three-part series is titled, "What's so bad about being a Christian nation?" Sessions will take place Sunday, January 26 at 7 p.m. and Monday the January 27 at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. All lectures will take place at Hesston Mennonite Church. The public is invited and welcome to attend all sessions.

**Bethel College will offer a new course, *Introduction to Hymnology*, in Spring 2025,** taught by Dr. Henry S. Waters, Director of Choral Music and Associate Professor of Music. The course will survey the history of hymns, mostly from the hymnal *Voices Together*, and analyze hymns through many lenses including music theory, poetry and theology. The class will meet weekly on Mondays at 6-7 pm, beginning Monday, Jan 27, in the Chapel of the Administration Building on the Bethel campus. Community members may Audit the course for \$100 (or \$50 for persons age 65+), or enroll for credit at a higher fee. To request the enrollment form, email [registrar@bethelks.edu](mailto:registrar@bethelks.edu) or visit the Registrar's Office in the Administration Building between 8 am -12 pm, or 1-5 pm. Bethel College is located at 300 E. 27th Street, North Newton.

**Peace Connections is hosting a Bridges Out of Poverty Training** on January 31 and February 7. This training experience is a great way to invest in your community and expand resources, to help individuals understand the impacts of poverty. This FREE and ENGAGING training will explore the root causes of poverty, increase personal understanding and identify ways to reduce barriers between each other. For more information or to sign up for this two-part training, please visit [www.peaceconnections.org](http://www.peaceconnections.org)

**You're Invited to the Mennonite Disaster Service 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration 2024** MDS at Ridgepoint Church, 8000 West 21st North, Wichita, on Friday evening, February 14! Be inspired by stories from the past 75 years about MDS volunteers living into our mission to respond, rebuild and restore hope after disasters. This event is free and open to everyone. It begins at 5:30 with dinner followed by a program featuring guest speakers, highlights from the past decades and the combined voices of choirs from Bethel College, Hesston College and Tabor College. Please register by Jan 28 if you want to come to dinner (for free) so we can get a head count and plan accordingly. (No need to register if you plan to attend the program only.) Join us on Saturday, February 15 for the first reading of the new MDS children's book, "Mended" and the new 75th Anniversary history book, "Many Hands." Saturday activities will also include area tours plus volleyball and cornhole competition. Please visit [www.MDS.org/annual-celebration](http://www.MDS.org/annual-celebration) for more information (including Saturday events) and to register.

## Et Cetera #2

**The 2025 KNOW JESUS youth conference**, promoted by the WDC Resource Commission, will be February 22-23 at Hesston College. This year's theme is "Who am I? Jesus Knows!" The event will feature input from Derek King, lead pastor at Eden Mennonite Church. KNOW JESUS is an overnight retreat for 6th - 8th graders where students can learn more about their Anabaptist roots through worship, service, and interactive activities. Our goal is for youth to grow in their relationship with Jesus as they learn about the Anabaptist faith tradition. **The registration deadline is Feb 1.** <https://mennowdc.org/2025-know-jesus-registration-open/>

**Can a Book of Stories Bring Peace to Palestine and Israel?** Western District Conference (MC USA) Israel-Palestine Task Force invites you to join us for a book discussion group on February 25, 2025 at 7:00 pm CST held on Zoom. We will be reading *Apeirogon* by Colum McCann. An apeirogon is a polygon with an observably infinite number of sides. McCann is an award winning author who writes a book of tiny chapters, each one a breath, a feeling, a story. The book is based on the real life experiences of two friends, an Israeli who opposes the occupation and a Palestinian who studies the Holocaust. They meet in a parent grief support group, as both have tragically lost their daughters. Their raw stories and their ardent peace work buoy the heart as the book takes us on a journey through love, loss, reflection, and hope. As you read the book, note the artful connections between the stories and the theme of ending the occupation in Palestine. What stories of peace do you tell? We will take time in our discussion to reflect on the book's stories and our own. To register, email [wdc@mennowdc.org](mailto:wdc@mennowdc.org), and a Zoom link will be sent out. Limited copies of the book are available through the WDC Resource Library. Contact [crlib@mennowdc.org](mailto:crlib@mennowdc.org) to reserve a copy.

**The Camp Mennoscah Spring Scrapbook and Crafts Retreat** is March 14-16. Registration will open in February. All activities will take place at Main Camp in the dining hall and bunkhouses.

**WANTED:** Cars, Trucks, Motorcycles, Campers, Tractors, Farm Machinery and anything of value to be sold at this year's Kansas Mennonite Relief Sale. Your donations can be used as a charitable tax

donation. Call Jerry Toews, 620 367 8257 for more information. **The sale is April 11 & 12 in Hutchinson.**

**Camp Mennoscah Hoodies available for ordering!** Click here to order online (<https://forms.gle/QmPwMxrxD8ii9tRH6>) or contact [olivia.bartel@campmennoscah.org](mailto:olivia.bartel@campmennoscah.org). The camp sign logo will be on the chest. Youth sizes are \$40. Adult sizes S - XL are \$40 and sizes 2XL - 4XL are \$45. Colors can be found in the ordering form. Youth colors do not match adult colors exactly due to color availability. Contact Camp Mennoscah at 620-297-3290 with questions. **Ordering closes January 20.** We need a minimum of 15 hoodies ordered to proceed. Available ONLY through this online order.

**The Mennonite Disaster Service January edition of On the Level** is now available. In this edition, an update on the MDS response to the LA Wildfires, a new job opportunity with MDS, plus all the details for the upcoming MDS 75th Anniversary Celebration. Click on this link to read more: <https://conta.cc/40gJGz2>

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

**From Mennonite Church USA: Information on donating for those impacted by the fires in the greater Los Angeles area** - Please consider how you, your family and congregation might help in this time of great loss and need.

- To help [Pacific Southwest Mennonite Conference](https://www.pacificsouthwestmennoniteconference.org/) congregations and families, you can contribute to their wildfire fund (no PayPal account required): <https://bit.ly/3Puimbs>

- Support long-term recovery efforts in Southern California by donating to [Mennonite Disaster Service](https://www.mennonitedisasterservice.org/) (select "California Wildfires" from the dropdown menu): <https://mds.org/donate-usa/>