

Prayer Requests

Mennonite Church USA: Alfonsina Oyanguren, who serves in Argentina with Mennonite Mission Network, has been diagnosed with thyroid cancer, and has to travel 800 miles for surgery and treatment. Pray for peace and healing for Alfonsina and pray for husband, José, and their four children.

Western District Conference: Pray for God's guidance in the search for a new Western District Conference Minister led by an appointed Search Committee.

This congregation: Pray for God's love and care to surround and uphold those experiencing loneliness, grief, sadness or depression during this holiday season.

Prayer cards are in the literature rack in the foyer for the Tucson Mennonite Voluntary Service unit where BCMC member Megan Leary is currently serving.

If you would like to request prayer or a visit, contact the church office or one of the pastors. The Prayer Network and Visitation Team are ministries sponsored by the Deacon Commission.

Bethel College Mennonite Church welcomes into fellowship and membership all persons who confess faith in Jesus Christ, without regard to their race, ethnic background, gender, age, sexual orientation, education, ability, and other factors which give rise to discrimination and marginalization.

Bethel College Mennonite Church, 2600 College Avenue, Box 364
North Newton, KS 67117

Phone: 316-283-3667

Fax: 316-283-2079

Email: office.bcmc@sbcglobal.net

Web site: bethelcollegemennonitechurch.org

Church office hours: 9:00 a.m. – noon on Mon – Fri; 1:00 – 5:00 p.m. on Mon – Thurs.

Building is locked daily at 5 p.m. unless evening activities are scheduled.

Notary public service is available in the church office.

Pastor: Heidi Regier Kreider, heidi.bcmc@sbcglobal.net

Home phone 284-0448, day off is Friday

Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care: Susan Wheeler, susanmwheeler@gmail.com

Home phone 620-327-2295, cell phone 316-706-0887; day off is Monday

Associate Pastor for Faith Formation: John Tyson, john.bcmc@sbcglobal.net

Cell phone 215-896-1047; day off is Monday

Administrative Assistant: Monica Lichti, office.bcmc@sbcglobal.net

Custodian: Michael Crawford, 316-727-9840

Music Coordinator: Rebecca Schloneger, 316-772-6084

Bell Choir Director: Vada Snider, 283-5231

Chancel Choir Director: William Eash

Cherub Choir director: Jill Siebert

Junior Choir director: Elizabeth Schrag

December 7 at BCMC: Attendance: 260. General Fund \$12,525.61; Caring Fund \$475; Living Stones \$6871.49; Flower Fund \$300.

The nativity scene on display in the Gathering Place at BCMC during the Advent and Christmas season was a gift from Rex and Connie Esau.

~ *Worship Decoration Committee*

Third Sunday in Advent



Bethel College Mennonite Church
December 14, 2014

Bethel College Mennonite Church
December 14, 2014 - 9:30 a.m. Worship
Third Sunday in Advent: *Keep Awake!*

GATHERING

9:00 a.m. Prelude Howard Glanton, guitar
Introit *Let there be Peace on earth* Miller/Jackson
Greeting John Tyson
Hymn *O come, O come, Immanuel* (verses 1-3) **HWB 172**
Verlene Garber, organist
Lighting of Advent candles John and Mary Jane Waltner

Prayer of confession:

Merciful God, you love justice, yet we persist in wrongdoing and evil. You have given us the words of the prophets and the Word made flesh in Jesus, yet we ignore and disobey what we have heard from you. You have sent the light into the world, yet we have loved darkness rather than the light. Forgive us. Restore us. Till and tend us as your garden until righteousness and praise spring up, for the sake of Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

Words of assurance

***Hymn** *Hark! The glad sound!* **HWB 184**
(Children come forward during hymn)

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

Time with children Marlene Faul
Anthem *A Boy was born* Britten
Chancel Choir; William Eash, director

Old Testament reading Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

Psalms 126

When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion,
we were like those who dream.

**Then our mouth was filled with laughter,
and our tongue with shouts of joy!**

Then it was said among the nations,
"The Lord has done great things for them."

The Lord has done great things for us, and we rejoiced!

Restore our fortunes O Lord, like the watercourses in the
Negeb. May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy.

**Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing,
shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying their sheaves.**

New Testament reading John 1:6-8, 19-28

Sermon *Awakening to joy* Heidi Regier Kreider

RESPONDING IN FAITH

***Hymn** *Rejoice, rejoice, the Savior comes* **STS 4**

Prayer of God's people

Offering

To learn more about BCMC or share a prayer request, please fill out a card from the pew rack and place in offering plate.

Offertory *Sussex Carol* Wood

***Dedication hymn** *Hail to the Lord's anointed* (v.1, 4) **HWB 185**

***Dedication prayer**

SENDING

Anthem *Beautiful star* arr. Boyce
Chancel Choir

***Benediction** 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

***Benediction response**

***Postlude**

*All who are able are invited to stand

HWB = Hymnal: A Worship Book

STS = Sing the Story

Welcome visitors and friends! May you sense God's presence at BCMC. Personal hearing devices are at the north sanctuary entrance. The nursery at rear of sanctuary is available during worship for families with infants and toddlers. Following Time with Children, children receive activity bags to use during worship (return to baskets at the entrance as you leave). We invite members and visitors to fill out welcome/prayer cards in pew racks and place them in the offering plates for response by pastoral staff.

Keep Awake! is the theme for worship at BCMC during Advent. During this season we await and celebrate the coming of Christ. **Advent banners** mark our movement through Advent. Created by Robert Regier, they present a gradual crescendo of light and color, providing possibilities for insight, discovery and renewal. **Reflection questions** related to each Sunday's sermon will be posted on the BCMC website and listed in the bulletin for conversation in Sunday school or for personal reflection during the week. Today's questions: How do you define joy? Where do you see - or seek - God's good news of restoration and renewal? How might we at BCMC rejoice together in a way that displays God's glory?

Women's Fellowship of BCMC will have a Christmas program Tues., Dec. 16, 7 p.m., in the sanctuary with music provided by Karen Loucks, Vada Snider and Bethany Schrag followed by a Christmas Tea in Fellowship Hall. All women are invited to attend.

This Week at BCMC: December 14– December 21, 2014

Christian Peacemaker Teams: Last Sunday, Witness Commission and Seekers Sunday School hosted a Sunday school elective presentation by BCMC member John Bergen who has recently returned from Iraqi Kurdistan where he served with Christian Peacemaker Teams. Contributions to support CPT may be sent to PO Box 6508, Chicago, IL 60680-6508. For more information see www.cpt.org.

Sun., Dec. 21, 3:30 p.m., Kauffman Museum— Lisa Weaver, author of the new book *Swords to Plowshares: The Creation of John P. Klassen's Mennonite Central Committee Medallion*, will present a program, including slides of Klassen's artwork.

The BCMC winter congregational meeting will take place on Sun., Jan. 25, at 12:45 p.m. following a soup luncheon served by Senior High youth as a fundraiser. **In order to plan agenda for the congregational meeting**, the Board asks committees and commissions to provide a written motion or proposal for any topic they would like considered. This is also true for any member of the congregation who may want to make a motion. If the Board knows about your plans ahead of time it makes it easier to provide the congregation with accurate wording of motions, and to plan an agenda. The Board will review these requests and determine the congregational meeting agenda at the Jan. 8 Board meeting. Send any proposals, or motions to the church office or to me. Thank You. ~ *Jim Robb, BCMC Moderator*

Offender/Victim Ministries benefit: Support the ministries of OVM by using Dillons reloadable gift cards to purchase groceries, prescriptions and fuel. OVM receives 5% of each dollar spent. To purchase a reloadable Dillons card to benefit OVM, contact OVM at 283-2038, or stop by the office Mon.-Thurs., 8-5 p.m.

Lupe Magdaleno from Sunflower Community Action will present an update on the current status of U.S. immigration policy today, Dec. 14, 3-5 p.m. at Mennonite Church of the Servant, 2401 N Woodland (23rd & Woodland), Wichita. Free and open to the public. Event sponsors include Mennonite Church of the Servant and Iglesia Menonita Aposento Alto, Wichita.

It's time for men to register for a new season of singing with the Kansas Mennonite Men's Chorus; an opportunity to combine the love of singing with making a contribution to the mission of the church. All offerings received at KMMC concerts go to Mennonite Central Committee. Registration forms are available on the bulletin board, or call Omar Voran. *"We sing that others might live."*

Join the Harvest of Love to gather non-perishable food and donations to assist households in need in Harvey County. Make checks payable to Harvest of Love and send to Salvation Army at 208 W. 6th St., Newton, KS 67114, or bring food items to BCMC and place them on the pew in the south entrance under the coat racks.

Today—Third Sunday of Advent

10:30 a.m. Fellowship time in the Gathering Place; coffee/water available

10:50 a.m. Christian Education – Visitors welcome!

- 2-3 year olds through 4th grade—meet in Fellowship Hall for snack, then Room B-8 for singing before going to classrooms (2-3 year olds in B-6; Pre-K —1st grade in B-4; 2nd-4th grade stay in B-8)
- Grades 5-8 —Rm 26 • Senior High Youth—Rm 22

Adult classes:

- Agape— KIPCOR at 2515 College Ave.
- Bible Study— Room 14 – *Psalms*, Patty Shelly
- Catacombs—Rm B-5—*Martyr's Mirror*, Robert Kreider
- Fine Arts —Rm 24—*From Paul to Constantine* - Bart Ehrman d.v.d.s
- Mosaic—Meeting with Agape class at KIPCOR
- Issues & Christianity—Rm 23—*Understanding of the New Testament*
- Open Circle—Rm B-7—Sermon reflection and response
- Seekers—Rm 21— Sermon topic discussion
- Sojourners—Chapel— Peace Connections and Circle of Hope update

Monday, December 15

3:00 p.m. BCMC worship DVD—Kidron Bethel Health Care

7:00 p.m. Worship Commission—Rm 14

Tuesday, December 16

1:00 p.m. BCMC worship DVD—Kidron Bethel Assisted Living

6:00 p.m. Gifts Discernment Committee—Rm 14

7:00 p.m. Facilities Committee—Rm 14

7:00 p.m. Women's Fellowship Christmas Tea—Sanctuary; then Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, December 17

8:00 a.m. Staff meeting – Room 14

6:30 p.m. Cherub Choir (Rm 24), Junior Choir (Rm 28), Sr Hi Youth (Rm 22)

7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir—Sanctuary; Menno Ringers—Rm B-7

8:30 p.m. Chancel Bells—Rm B-7

Thursday, December 18

4:00 p.m. Visitation Team—Rm 14

7:00 p.m. Faith Formation Commission—Bonnie Krehbiel's, 2423 N. Main

Sunday, December 21—Fourth Sunday of Advent

9:00 a.m. Prelude by Chancel Bells

9:30 a.m. Worship with music by Menno Ringers and Chancel Bells; sermon by Heidi Regier Kreider

10:30 a.m. Fellowship time in the Gathering Place; coffee/water available

6:00 p.m. Rehearsal for children/youth Christmas Eve service —Sanctuary

Thank you to the Fine Arts Sunday school class for serving coffee during the fellowship time on Sunday morning during December, and to the Fellowship class for serving last month in November.

Staff: Susan Wheeler, Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care, will take a sabbatical leave Jan. 1–Feb. 7, 2015, to include travel with Jerusalem Seminar and personal retreat. Retired pastor and BCMC member Harold Thieszen has been appointed by Church Board to join the BCMC staff to provide pastoral care ministry during Susan’s absence.

Senior High Youth are requesting contributions for our first annual Christmas party with the children at the Harvey County Homeless Shelter on Dec. 21. We will be baking cookies with the children and hope to leave them with some simple gifts. HCHS often provides shelter for 5–10 children. The Director of HCHS, James Wilson, is enthusiastic and supportive of this idea. Monetary contributions are being accepted at the table in the back of the sanctuary. Any contributions exceeding expenses will be donated to the Harvey County Homeless Shelter.

~ John Tyson

Congratulations to Margaret and Francis Toews on the arrival of grandson, Oscar David, born Dec. 2 to daughter Joanna Toews and Matt Schmidt in Santa Fe, NM.

Remember in your prayers Margaret Friesen’s family who gathered Nov. 30 at the BCMC columbarium for an inurnment service for Bill Friesen. Bill’s memorial service was Mar. 29 at BCMC, following his death Mar. 26.

We are grateful to the church community for all the expressions of support and sympathy we’ve received following the recent death of my sister, Elaine Bartel. Please continue to think about us as we anticipate the memorial service on Jan. 3 at Rainbow Mennonite Church in Kansas City. ~ Ada and Wes Schmidt-Tieszen

Western District Conference staff news: Conference Minister Clarence Rempel has announced that he will retire from his role on June 30, 2015. The WDC Executive Board will appoint a search committee for a new conference minister. Howard Garver has accepted a call from the WDC Executive Board to serve as Associate Conference Minister for Texas and Director of Church Planting beginning Jan. 1, 2015.

BCMC Witness Commission calls attention to the issue of repealing the death penalty which will come before the Kansas state legislature in the session beginning Jan. 12. Kansas Coalition Against the Death Penalty (KCADP) calls for letters to the editor in the next few weeks. Witness Commission will sponsor letter-writing sessions to legislators Jan. 4 and 11. If you would like to write a letter to the editor and need some helpful facts, contact Valetta Seymour of Witness Commission.

It’s time to renew the group subscription plan to *The Mennonite* for 2015. To join the BCMC group plan, fill out this form; attach payment of \$37.00, made out to BCMC with “*The Mennonite* subscription” in the memo line. **Place this form, along with payment, in the offering plate or bring to the church office no later than, Dec. 21. I am subscribing to *The Mennonite* through the BCMC group plan: Name _____**

Poinsettias at the front of the church are

Donated by:

Carl & Rosalind E. Andreas	Walt & Florence Enns
Rosalind Andreas	William & Frieda Andreas
Wade & Joan Brubacher.....	Barbara Brandt Neufeld
Dennis & Kathy Campbell & family	Dr. Richard Haury Brandt
Dianne Epp	Harold and Elma Goering
John & Bernice Esau.....	E. J. and Lucille Brubacher
Marlene Ewert & Cliff Dick.....	Barbara & Orlando Friesen
Marlene V. Faul, Sharon, Mary & families.....	Willard & Florence Waltner
L. Deane Frey	Keith Esau
Richard & Dorothy Nickel Friesen	Linda & Jake Ewert
JoAnn Funk & family	Mary & Henry Dick
Jacob D. Goering.....	James O. Faul
Larry & Margaret Goering	Marlin Frey
and in honor of	John W. Nickel, Arthur & Viola Friesen
Dorothy & Willis Harder.....	Francis Funk & Our Parents
Paul & Shirley Harms	Beth Eldridge Goering
Don & Marilyn Harrold.....	Eldon C. Goering (father)
Dick & Barb Koontz.....	Bonnie L. Goering (mother)
Matthew & Jennifer Koontz.....	Kurt Harder
Bruce & Charlotte Kreider	Our parents
David & Heidi Regier Kreider	Janna Harrold
Howard & Evelyn Lohrentz	Elbert & Ruth Koontz & Aldene Delk
Ron & Carol Peters	Imogene Tomlin Scott
Merrill & Boots Raber	Allen, Esther and Ken Unruh
Jim & Beaty Robb.....	J. Robert Kreider
Charlotte Rutschman.....	Fremont Regier
Ron & LaVonne Sawatzky, Sheri, Alan, Nick, Markus Lepard.	Verna Mae Siemens
Alma Shelly & Family.....	Tina Ediger
Richard & Frances Siemens – in honor of	Stella Carrizosa
Peggy Souder.....	Orlo & Helen Goering
Milly Stucky	Stewart & Marge Robb
Omar & Carolyn Voran	James Rutschman
Lenore Waltner & family	Henry & Edna Goossen
	Sterling Shelly
	Their 5 grandchildren
	Barbara Souder, sister
	Keith Stucky
	Our parents
	James Waltner



Plan to attend Christmas Eve services at BCMC on Dec. 24:
At 7 p.m. worship will be led by children and youth, with musical selections by children, Cherub Choir and Junior Choir. At 11 p.m. will be a candle-light service of Lesson and Carols with anthems by Chancel Choir and congregational singing.