

## Prayer Requests

**Mennonite Mission Network:** Alisha and Joshua Garber of Mennonite Mission Network request prayers for wisdom for LCC International University in Lithuania and for all Mission Network personnel in Europe as they try to find appropriate and Christ-centered responses to the massive influx of refugees.

**Western District Conference:** Give thanks to God for all who contribute generously of their financial gifts, prayers and volunteer time to support the work of WDC.

**This congregation:** Jesus is born! Pray that the gifts of service, reconciliation and compassion will be shared freely among family, neighbors, and communities near and far.

To request prayer or a visit, or if a family member is hospitalized, please contact the church office or a pastor so that visits and prayer support can be offered. Names of people receiving medical care are printed in the BCMC bulletin only by permission of the patient or a guardian/family-member. This is part of the caring network at BCMC, which includes support among members of Sunday school classes and small groups, as well as the Prayer Network, Visitation Team, and Caring Fund sponsored by 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.*

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Bethel College Mennonite Church, 2600 College Avenue, Box 364  
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Email: [office.bcmc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:office.bcmc@sbcglobal.net)

Web site: [bethelcollegemennonitechurch.org](http://bethelcollegemennonitechurch.org)

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

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

Notary public service is available in the church office.

**Pastor:** Dorothy Nickel Friesen, [dorothy.bcmc@gmail.com](mailto:dorothy.bcmc@gmail.com)

Home phone 281-9364, office hours Monday-Friday 9:00 a.m. to noon

**Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care:** Susan Wheeler [susanmwheeler@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:john.bcmc@sbcglobal.net)

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

**Administrative Assistant:** Monica Lichti, [office.bcmc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:office.bcmc@sbcglobal.net)

**Custodian:** Michael Crawford, 316-727-9840

**Music Coordinator:** Rebecca Schloneger, 316-772-6084

**Chancel Bell Choir Director:** Vada Snider, 283-5231

**Menno Ringers Director:** Suzy Burch    **Chancel Choir Director:** William Eash

**Cherub Choir director:** Jill Siebert    **Junior Choir director:** Elizabeth Schrag

**December 20 at BCMC:** Attendance 293. General Fund \$16,012.15; Living Stones \$3,640; Kitchen Fund \$1,000; Transfer-General \$250; General Fund 2016 \$2,125; Columbarium Fund \$1000; Caring Fund \$1,227.74.

REJOICE  
JOY TO THE WORLD  
SHOUT FOR JOY  
Trust Mercy  
JOY Justice  
WONDROUS LOVE



When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great JOY. Matthew 2 verse 10

freedom bound

Bethel College Mennonite Church  
December 27, 2015

**Bethel College Mennonite Church**  
**December 27, 2015 – 10:00 Prelude and Worship**

**Sunday After Christmas: The Path of Service**

**GATHERING**

**Prelude** *In dulci jubilo* Dupre, Dello Joio  
*Hail, brightest of days* J.S. Bach  
*Noel Suisse* Daquin  
*Rise Up Shepherds* Osertlund  
*The King of Glory* Childs  
*O how joyfully* Blumenthal  
Roseann Penner Kaufman, organist

**Introit** *There is more love somewhere* **STJ 109**  
(Congregation sings twice)

Candle lighting: Suzanne Burch and Elizabeth Lamp

**Call to worship / prayer** Esther Kreider Eash, worship leader

**\*Hymn** *Joy to the world* **HWB 318**  
(children come forward during hymn)

**LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD**

**Children's conversation** Margaret Goering  
(dedication of Advent offerings of soap and towels)

**Hymn** *Away in a manger* **HWB 194**

**Hymn** *Infant holy, Infant lowly* **HWB 206**

**Scripture readings** Luke 2:1-20 Sondra Bandy Koontz

**Worship music** *Cantata 39-Hochster, was ich habe* Bach  
Christine Lehman, soprano  
Vada Snider, flute

**Meditation** *The timely gift* Dorothy Nickel Friesen

**RESPONDING IN FAITH**

**\*Hymn** *Hark! The herald angels sing* **HWB 201**

**Hymn** *O little town of Bethlehem* **HWB 191**

**Prayer of God's people**

**Offering**

*During the offering, please sign and pass the friendship register in your pew. When all have signed, return it to the first person.*

**Offertory**

People with December birthdays are invited to come forward during the offertory to receive a blessing (bring *Sing the Journey*).

**\*Dedication hymn**

*He came down*

**STJ 31**

Jonah Schloneger, percussion

**Dedication prayer**

**SENDING**

**Words of Liberation** Suzanne Burch and Elizabeth Lamp

**\*Hymn** *O, come all ye faithful* **HWB 212**

**\*Benediction**

**\*Benediction response**

**\*Postlude** *Postlude on Hark the Herald Angels Sing* Hobby

**All are welcome to refreshments in the  
Gathering Place**

\*All who are able are invited to stand

**HWB** = *Hymnal: A Worship Book*

**STJ** = *Sing the Journey*

**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 welcome** Roseann Penner Kaufman, Music Ministries Director at Rainbow Mennonite Church, Kansas City, KS as our guest organist today. Also, our guest soloist is Christine Lehman, daughter of Ralph and Evelyn Lehman. Christine is from San Marcos, CA.

**THE ADVENT OFFERINGS soap and towels will be dedicated** today and taken to the Mennonite Central Committee resource center and then bound for refugee camps--most likely in Syria and Jordan. Offerings resulted in 127 bath towels, 60 hand towels, and 178 bars of soap (and still counting!). May this mercy offering bring hope and healing. Thank you to Faith Formation Commission and Witness Commission for their coordination of this project.

**New Year Memorial and Communion service** will take place next Sunday, Jan. 3, at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. During the service, candles will be lit for BCMC members and loved ones who have died during 2015, and communion will be observed. Family, friends and community members are welcome to attend.

**Centering Prayer meets every Monday, noon-1 p.m.** in the Richert House Agape Center, Bethel College. We will not meet December 28. For information, contact Nathan Koontz, 2nathankoontz@gmail.com, or Melanie Zuercher, mzuercher@bethelks.edu.

**Harvey County Homeless Shelter. Deck the Halls – A Fundraising Non Event through December 31, 2015.** A fun way to contribute to the ministry of the Harvey County Homeless Shelter. No gift too small as each dollar is a blessing to the ministry of the Harvey County Homeless Shelter. Send donations to HCHS, PO Box 978, Newton, KS, 67114. Prayerfully also consider how you can financially support the ministry of HCHS in 2016. See the card on the church bulletin board for more information.

**Rural Ministry Discussion Group:** The registration cost for AMBS-Kansas Center's Rural Ministry Discussion Group (both in-person which begins Jan. 12 and is facilitated by Dorothy Nickel Friesen and online which begins Jan. 14 and is facilitated by S. Roy Kaufman) has been reduced to the low price of \$75 if you register before Jan. 3. Size of the group is limited, so register as soon as possible to ensure participation. For information, see: <https://www.ambs.edu/academics/rural-ministry-discussion-group.cfm>

**Sister-Care Seminar, *Equipping Women for Caring Ministry*,** will be in the BCMC Fellowship Hall, Fri., Jan. 29, from 7-9 p.m., and Sat., Jan. 30, from 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Presenters will be Rhoda Keener and Carolyn Heggen. Reservation of \$45 due before Jan.11 or \$50 after the 11<sup>th</sup> made payable to WDW, Nancy Krehbiel, 1563 Cimarron Rd, McPherson, KS 67640 (620-245-2471). Hosted by Western District Mennonite Women. Forms are on the bulletin board in the Gathering Place. Questions: Marlene Faul, 216-283-3342.

**A CPR Training Course** will be offered at BCMC, Sat., Jan. 16 from 9 a.m. till noon, cost underwritten by the Deacon Commission. Ushers, SS teachers and others are encouraged to take the class. How to use an AED (Automatic External Defibrillator) will also be taught. Upon completion of the course, a "Certified Community CPR" certificate will be granted. Contact Marlene Faul, 316-283-3342 or email: marlene.violet@gmail.com

**Contact Joe Peters if you wish more information or registration forms** on the Kansas Mennonite Men's Chorus. Phone: 316-283-8529.

**Save the date!** Church retreat at Camp Mennoscah will be April 30 - May 1.

**Today—December 27—First Sunday After Christmas**

**No Sunday school this morning – Everyone is invited to come to the Gathering Place for Christmas goodies**

**Monday, Dec. 28—Office open in morning; closed in afternoon**

**10:00 a.m.** Governance Committee—Rm 14

**2:30 p.m.** BCMC worship DVD—Kidron Bethel Health Care

**Tuesday, Dec. 29—Office open in morning; closed in afternoon**

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

**Wednesday, Dec. 30—Office open in morning; closed in afternoon**

**Thursday, Dec. 31—Office open in morning; closed in afternoon**

**2:00 p.m.** BCMC worship DVD—Schowalter Villa

**Friday, January 1, 2016—Happy New Year! Office is closed; building is locked**

**Saturday, Jan. 2—Building locked**

**Sunday, Jan. 3**

**9:30 a.m. Prelude** by Sarunas Jankauskas, clarinet, Worship with sermon by Dorothy Nickel Friesen

**10:30 a.m.** Fellowship time **10:50 a.m.** Christian Education

**7:00 p.m.** New Year Memorial and communion service—Sanctuary

**Thanksgivings:** To Mike Claassen for hanging the Advent banners each Sunday; to Shirley Harms for her design of the foyer bulletin board; to the Decoration Committee for their imaginative design for Advent seasons; to the mentor pair, Suzanne Burch and Elizabeth Lamp for candle-lighting; to Monica Lichti for bulletin design; and to musicians who invite us to worship with special anthems.

**Thanks to Kara Tann,** who played violin with Rebecca Schloneger in last Sunday's (Dec. 20) prelude. Kara directs the Newton High School orchestras and co-teaches orchestra at the Santa Fe 5/6 Center. She recently moved from near Philadelphia, PA where she taught high school orchestra and other music classes, as well as private violin lessons K-12.

**The BCMC office will be closed and building locked** New Year's Day, January 1 and 2. Office hours for Dec. 28-31 will be 9 a.m.-12 noon; closed in the afternoons.

**Staff:** John Tyson will be on vacation from Dec. 25-Jan. 3.

**Nativity scenes** on display at BCMC during the Advent and Christmas season: The nativity in the Gathering Place was loaned by Barb, Jim and Terry Soth in memory of their son and brother Tim Soth. The nativity in the balcony foyer was made and donated by Ethel Abrahams. The nativity in the south entrance was donated by Rex and Connie Esau.

**From the BCMC staff:**

*Thank you to the Bethel College Mennonite Church family for the many expressions of care and joy this season. We have received cards, expressions of support and appreciation and, of course, lots of goodies too! Your prayers for us and for the BCMC ministry are the source of strength as we serve together in the name of Jesus Christ. Merry Christmas! Thank you!*  
(Dorothy, John, Susan, Monica, Mike, Rebecca, Vada, Bill, Suzy, Liz, Jill, Kent, Verlene, Karen L., Karen U., Nancy)

**The Sunflower Trio** will present a concert celebrating the life and work of Dr. J. Harold Moyer (1927-2012), long-time Professor of Music at Bethel College, **3 p.m., Sun., Jan. 10** at BCMC. The concert will feature the release of The Sunflower Trio's new recording *Reflections: The Music of J. Harold Moyer*. An offering will be taken to support the BCMC Organ Fund/Living Stones.

**We offer sympathy to** Steven Regier and Gera Winsler, Claremore, OK and grandparents Bob and Vernetta Regier and families on the death of Zachary Regier, Dec. 19, Tulsa, OK. A memorial service for Zachary was Dec. 23 in the Chapel of the Garden at Rice Funeral Service, Claremore, OK.

**We offer sympathy to** the family of Harriet E. Bunting Shirley of Springfield, MO. Harriet died Dec. 13 at the age of 103. She was a professor at Bethel College and a member of Bethel College Mennonite Church from 1958 until 1970, when she changed to wider fellowship membership upon moving to Springfield, MO. Memorial contributions may be made to the Blanche Spaulding Children's Literature Scholarship Fund at Bethel College.

**Pray for those receiving medical care this week:** Bonnie Goering, Newton Medical Center; Bonnie Neufeld and Howard Buller, dismissed from Newton Medical Center; Lawrence Yoder, Schowalter Villa, Rapid Recovery Unit; Bonnie Krehbiel, dismissed from Kansas Surgery and Recovery Center, Wichita; Orletta Wiebe recovering at her sister's home in Hillsboro.

**Pastoral Search Committee Information Update.** Moderator Jim Robb reported that the completed BCMC Congregational Information Form now on the Western District Office website would be placed in the Church Library. Three copies are now available in the library. The form also appears on the BCMC website, under the tab "Who We Are"; "Vision and Structure".  
~ Rosalind Andreas, chair; Judy Friesen, Jennifer Koontz,  
Dale Schrag, Jon Zerger

**Thank you for your financial support of BCMC programs.** December usually brings higher expenses as we close out the year but we anticipate higher income as well. Contributions received prior to noon on Dec. 30 will be credited in 2015. Undesignated checks will be credited to the 2015 General Fund. A final contribution report for 2015 will be distributed in early 2016. Members and friends have contributed over \$1 million to Living Stones since the project began. Although we have no external debt, we have about \$116,000 in internal debt. Can we get that down to \$100,000 by the end of the year? Designate these contributions for "Living Stones". The Church Board and various commissions and committees are thinking about future needs for improving the front entrance and expanding the Columbarium. Hear more at the January 24 congregational meeting.  
~ Richard Friesen, treasurer

**Spotlight on Senior High:**

January 22 – Lock-in (TBD)

January 24 – Soup Fundraiser

Many Senior High students are involved in various school activities during this season, feel free to go and support them!

**Spotlight on Children & Emerging Youth:**

January 22-24 – RMMC Junior High Snow Camp

**Sunday school electives in January 2016:**

- **Jan. 10** - Ben Goossen: "From Aryanism to Multiculturalism: Mennonite Ethnicity and German Nationalism," examining the historic relationship between Nazi racial science and the Mennonite church. Goossen, who is a member of Southern Hills Mennonite Church in Topeka and a PhD student at Harvard University, first presented this material in July at the Mennonite World Conference in Harrisburg, PA. Presentation will be in the sanctuary.
- **Jan. 17** - Dave Osborne from Hesston College will present an historical and religious context of the spread of ISIS. Dave spent ten years with MCC in the Middle East, including Egypt and Jordan, and has kept in touch with the changes in the Middle East over the decades. Dave is the International Student adviser at Hesston College and every year travels extensively for the college. The power point presentation will be in the sanctuary.

**The BCMC winter congregational meeting** will be Sun., Jan. 24, 12:45 p.m. following a fundraiser soup luncheon served by the Senior High Youth. The Church Board asks committees, commissions or individuals to provide a written motion proposal for any topic for consideration by Jan. 2 so that the Church Board can plan an agenda at their Jan. 7 board meeting. Send proposals or motions to the church office, office.bcmc@sbcglobal.net, or to Jim Robb, church moderator, jimandbeatyrobb@gmail.com.