

Prayer Requests

Mennonite Mission Network: On this Christmas day, pray for Nazareth Village near where Jesus grew up 20 centuries ago. Mennonite Mission Network partners with Nazareth Village in peeling away the layers that distort Jesus' message of peace in a world torn apart by conflict.

Western District Conference: As we celebrate the birth of Jesus, give thanks for the congregations of WDC as local communities of faith where God's Word becomes flesh.

This congregation: As we celebrate the birth of Jesus, pray that we might be attentive to the new life God is birthing among us.

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.

Bethel College Mennonite Church, 2600 College Avenue, Box 364,
North Newton, KS 67117 Phone: 316-283-3667 Fax: 316-283-2079

Email: office@bethelcollegemennonitechurch.org

Web site: bethelcollegemennonitechurch.org

Church office hours: 9:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m. on Mon–Fri; 1:30 –5:00 p.m. on Mon – Thur
Church office is closed on Friday afternoons

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

Saturdays—building is locked at noon; Sundays—building is locked at 2 p.m.

Notary public service is available in the church office

Pastor: Dawn Yoder Harms, dawn@bethelcollegemennonitechurch.org;
Phone: 316-283-3667; cell phone: 316-212-1847; Day off is Friday

Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care: Susan Wheeler

susan@bethelcollegemennonitechurch.org; cell phone: 316-706-0887;

Day off is Monday

Associate Pastor for Faith Formation: John Tyson,

john@bethelcollegemennonitechurch.org; Phone: 316-283-3667; Day off is Monday

Administrative Assistant: Monica Lichti, office@bethelcollegemennonitechurch.org

Custodian: Michael Crawford, 316-727-9840; day off is Tuesday

Music Coordinator: Barbara Thiesen **Chancel Bell Choir Director:** Vada Snider

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

Junior Choir Director: Monica Schmidt **Cherub Choir Director:** William Eash



CHRISTMAS DAY

Bethel College Mennonite Church

December 25, 2016

Dec. 18 at BCMC: Attendance 249. General Fund \$13,135.41; Living Stones \$6,555; Sr Hi Youth \$440; Gen Fund 2017 \$5,125; *The Mennonite* \$37; Caring Fund \$30; Homeless Shelter \$115; Flower Fund \$12.

BCMC supports the Harvey County Homeless Shelter (recently re-named the New Hope Shelter) through help with volunteer staffing, meals, and money given through the Witness Commission budget. The Shelter is launching an attempt to raise \$300,000 for 2017, and is asking supporting churches to keep them in mind with their end of year contributions. Some of this money would be used to hire a family to live on the Shelter grounds and would serve to staff the facility overnight, making the need for us to recruit overnight volunteers unnecessary. Please consider helping New Hope Shelter in planning your charitable contributions. Checks can be made out to BCMC with New Hope Shelter on the Memo line.

Registration for the 2017 season for Kansas Mennonite Men's Chorus has begun. If you sang in the chorus last year you will find a registration form in your church mailbox. Complete it and return to Joe Peter's mailbox. If you have not sung in the chorus before and have some interest, contact Joe or complete a registration form found on the poster on the bulletin board. The blessings of participating are many. "We sing that others may live" supporting MCC. ~ *Joe Peters, KMMC contact*

Bethel College is offering many of its classes for community audit, for \$50 per credit hour (compared to the normal audit rate of \$85 per hour) OR, if you're age 62 and older, a flat rate of \$30. For more information, go to www.bethelks.edu/audit, where there are links for interterm 2017 course schedule (enrollment deadline Jan. 4) and spring 2017 course schedule (enrollment deadline Feb 13).

Coming this summer: MennoTalks! A new feature for the Mennonite Church USA Convention 2017, the talks will feature 20 slides for 20 seconds each in a fast-paced presentation on topics such as "Celebrating Women," "Race, Religion and Justice" and "Global and Local Peacemaking." Come to Orlando July 4-7 to experience this and much more. For additional information, visit: <http://convention.mennoniteusa.org/mennotalks/>.

Prairie View Lunch & Learn - Jan. 17, 12-1:15 p.m., 1901 E 1st St, Newton. Come learn about "Warning Signs of Post-Holiday Stress" and enjoy lunch (free will donations accepted). Hear about the chaplaincy ministry, other resources, and take a tour of the campus.

This Week at BCMC: December 25, 2016—January 1, 2017

December 25, 2016—Merry Christmas!

No Sunday school today

Monday, December 26—Office will be closed; building will be locked

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

Tuesday, December 27—Office is open in the morning—closed in the afternoon

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

Wednesday, December 28 through Friday, December 30—Office will be open in the mornings—closed in the afternoons

Sunday, January 1, 2017—Happy New Year!

10:00 a.m. Prelude by Mark Kreider; Worship with sermon by Dawn Yoder Harms; music by Andrew Thiesen, trombone

In this season of Christmas, Mennonite Church USA invites you to remember all those around the world working on behalf of the church for peace and justice to make the light and love of Jesus Christ real for all those seeking hope.

The WDC Office and Conference Resource Library are closed beginning December 23 through January 2. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Women's Fellowship Board thanks those who so generously contributed funds this past year fulfilling our budget commitments. This gave us the opportunity to designate our full offering, from those in attendance at the Christmas Program, of \$600 for "Harvest of Love" in our community.

The 24" x 18" yard sign seen by the west and north sidewalks to BCMC that says in Spanish, English and Arabic, "No matter where you are from we're glad you're our neighbor" is available from KIPCOR for a donation (\$10 is suggested). The KIPCOR office at 2515 College Ave. is generally open 8-5 M-F. ~ *Witness Commission*

Centering Prayer will not meet Dec. 26, but resumes Jan. 2. Centering Prayer meets most Mondays from noon-1 p.m. in Agape Center in Richert House on the Bethel College campus. Try it once, come occasionally or join us regularly – all are welcome, with no previous experience required. For more information, contact Nathan Koontz, 2nathankoontz@gmail.com or Melanie Zuercher, mzuercher@bethelks.edu.

Thank you, congregation, for your faithful financial support.

- Giving through the end of November was \$413,247 compared to expenses of \$417,483. December is a big month both for income and expense.
- Contributions received by noon on Dec. 30 will be recorded for 2016.
- Living Stones II contributions are needed to repay internal borrowing of \$77,053. Additional bills are anticipated for current projects yet this year.
- Thank you to those who participated in the Pony Express. This gives the Finance Committee and Church Board a basis for developing the 2017 budget which will be voted on by the congregation on Jan. 29, 2017.

~ *Richard Friesen, treasurer*

Save the Date! The 2017 Western District Conference Annual Assembly will be held Aug. 4-6 at the Doubletree by Hilton Hotel Arlington DFW South, in Arlington, TX. Information about Annual Assembly is posted as it becomes available at: <http://mennowdc.org/annual-assembly/#2017annualAssembly>.

Invitation for stories: *Rooted and Built Up in Christ* (Colossians 2:6-7), will be the WDC theme for 2017, selected by the Executive Board to celebrate WDC's 125th anniversary year. As a way to kick off the year, the first issue of the WDC newsletter *Garden* in 2017 will plant some "seeds" by featuring several short stories from WDC congregations. Does your congregation have a creative idea to share, or have you recently been present for an interesting experience in witness, worship, faith formation or community building in another congregation? If so, please send in a 100-word story or description to the WDC office at wdc@mennowdc.org, by Jan.18, for consideration for the Feb/Mar issue of *Garden*.

The Bethel College Alumni Choir is looking for more singers interested in getting together for music, fun and fellowship. The next concert will be Sun., Feb. 5, 3 p.m. (you'll be out in time for football!), with one rehearsal, Sat., Feb. 4, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. If you're a Bethel choir alumnus and want to be involved, contact Andrew Voth, votha@usd411.org; see "Bethel College Alumni Choir" on Facebook for more information.

Harvest of Love Campaign is Nov. 1-Dec. 31. Write checks to Harvest of Love, 208 W. 6th, Newton, KS, 67114. Bring food to BCMC and place on the bench in the south entrance.

In the list in the bulletin last week of poinsettia donations, a poinsettia in memory of Sterling Shelly donated by Alma Shelly was inadvertently omitted.

Support for refugees in San Antonio: San Antonio Mennonite Church (SAMC), a member congregation of Western District Conference of Mennonite Church USA, requests support and prayers as they help to host hundreds of refugee women and children being released from immigration detention facilities in Texas. Western District Conference is providing financial assistance to SAMC from conference funds, and also encourages congregations and individuals to support SAMC directly. See the SAMC website at <http://www.sanantoniomennonite.org> for more information, and to make online financial contributions for needed supplies and facilities.

An event sponsored by the Newton Community for Racial Justice.

Racial Justice in Newton: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow A journey to remember the stories of Newton's racial and ethnic diversity, to celebrate our accomplishments, and to seek positive change. Jan. 16, 2017 Tours begin at 3:30 and 4:00 p.m. Meet in front of "The Imagineers" mural (near Anytime Fitness)

Register now for Hesston College's 2017 Anabaptist Vision and Discipleship Series conference, Feb. 17 to 19, with a bonus STAR-Lite training event on Monday, Feb. 20. The conference theme, When the Unthinkable Happens, will address a congregational and community response of dealing with trauma in its many forms. Register and see a full weekend schedule online at hesston.edu/avds. Registration discounts are available for members of sponsor congregations and groups of two or more from the same church or organization.

Kauffman Museum at Bethel College seeks artifacts, letters, photos and documents that tell the story of conscientious objectors during World War I. To learn more, or if you have an item for donation or long-term loan, please contact museum director Annette LeZotte at alezotte@bethelks.edu or 316-283-1612.

Kauffman Museum First-Saturday Bird Walk with experienced birders Gregg Friesen and Rod Wedel will be Jan. 7, 9 a.m. in the museum parking lot for a walk of 1 to 1.5 hours. Please be aware this is mostly on an unpaved trail and the terrain is sometimes sloping or steep.

Friends of the MLA presentation, Jan. 10, 7 p.m., with Ben Goossen, "Mennonites at War: Military Service, Ethnic Cleansing and Global Migrations During and After the First World War," at Kauffman Museum.