



**Bethel College Mennonite Church
December 1, 2019—Advent 1**

**Bethel College Mennonite Church
December 1, 2019 — Worship 9:30 am**

**Our faith in a God of love leads us, by the power of the Spirit,
to follow Jesus in doing justice, loving mercy, and walking humbly with God.**

**PREPARING FOR PEACE
GATHERING**

*The prelude invites us into a time of silence
as we open ourselves to God’s presence among us.*

Prelude The Bethel College Mennonite Church Orchestra

Call to worship, prayer Helen Nachtigal

*Advent Hymns *Come, thou long- expected Jesus* **HWB 178**
Hail to the Lord’s anointed **HWB 185**
Verlene Garber, organ
(children come forward during second hymn for children’s conversation)

Children’s conversation Renee Reimer

Prayer of Illumination
In the beginning was the Word. And the Word was with God, and the Word was God. For the Word of God written for the Word of God proclaimed, for the Word of God made flesh, Alpha and Omega, we give you thanks. May that everlasting Word be written on our hearts this day. Amen.

New Testament Scripture Reading Matthew 24:34-44 Sondra Koontz

Advent Hymn *Maranatha, come* **STS 2**
Congregation sings the chorus; Trio sings verses 1 & 2

Lighting of the Advent Candle Anne Marie Koontz and Lily Schloneger

LISTENING FOR GOD’S WORD

Old Testament Scripture reading Isaiah 2:1-5 Renee Reimer

Sermon *Practicing for a new life* Renee Reimer

Please pray for strength and a speedy recovery for Monica Gross who had hip replacement surgery at Newton Medical Center this week.

We offer sympathy to Bob and Vernetta Regier on the death of Bob's sister, Lola Friesen, Nov. 21, at Kirdon Bethel Village. The memorial service will be Sun., Dec. 29, 1:30 pm at Faith Mennonite Church, Newton.

We offer sympathy to Evelyn Lehman and family on the death of Evelyn's husband Ralph, Nov. 21, at Kidron Bethel Village. The memorial service will be Jan. 11, 2020, 11 am, at BCMC.

We offer sympathy to the family of Adelheid (Heidi) Anna Louise Friesen Enszt who died Nov. 22. The memorial service will be Dec. 7, 10:30 am at the Emmaus Mennonite Church, 9070 NW Meadowlark Rd, Whitewater.

The Gifts Discernment Committee has distributed a survey which aids in identifying and calling on BCMC participants to share their gifts with the congregation and the community. Everyone aged 12 and up is encouraged to fill out a survey—either on paper or on-line by going to bethelcollegemennonitechurch.org and clicking on **READ MORE** in the Gifts Discernment Survey article. The GDC uses this tool to identify leaders for the next two years along with commissions, committees, task forces and Church Board. Additional surveys are available by the mailboxes. Please return the surveys to the box in the Gathering Place or preferably on-line by Dec. 8.

The BCMC Witness Commission invites you to join in this year's Advent Project benefitting the newly formed Bethel College food pantry. A donation box and list of items needed is underneath the balcony. This project will run from December 1 through December 29. Thanks for your support.

Thanks for visiting the Climate Change Challenge table in the Gathering Space! Check it out this month to learn about Energy Vampires and add your reflections on going meatless to the Community Journal!

2019 budget update: As of October 31, expenses were \$28,509.69 in excess of contributions. Based on history, we do expect to reduce this shortfall by December 31, but not eliminate it completely. We ask everyone to prayerfully consider their giving through the end of the year. ~ *Finance Committee*

November 24 at BCMC: Attendance 211. General Fund \$9,289.50; Living Stones \$1,540; Women's Fellowship \$589; Wed Supper \$290; Community Playschool \$550; MCC Meat Canning \$150; Plant Fund \$100; Gen Fund 2020 \$4,420; Caring Fund \$2,826; Flower Fund \$63.93; Transfer-Funeral \$888.04; Coffee \$14.

The Next Week at BCMC: December 1-8, 2019

Sunday, December 1, 2019—Advent 1

10:30 am Fellowship time in the Gathering Place

10:50 am Faith Formation

- **2 & 3 year olds**—Room B6
- **K through 4th grade** in Room B3; **5–8th grade** in Room 26
- **Senior High students**—Room 22
- **Agape**—Rm B8
- **Bible Study**—Rm 14—Book study: *Fire by Night*
- **Catacombs**—Rm B5—*Mennonite Novelists: A look at Miriam Toews*, Brad Born
- **Fellowship**—Room B7
- **Fine Arts**—Room 24
- **Issues & Christianity**—Room 23
- **Mosaic**—Room 20—Sermon reflection and other current topics
- **Open Circle**—Room 21—Worship reflection and response
- **Seekers**—Room 28—*White Fragility* book study
- **Sojourners**—Chapel—*Sojourners Home Churches: Whitewater area: Grace Hill, Emmaus, and Forty Years a Presbyterian*

Monday, December 2

1-5 pm Mission Quilters (all quilters welcome!)—Rm B5

2:30 pm BCMC worship DVD—Kidron Bethel Health Care

6:30 pm Newton Community Children's Choir Rehearsal—Sanctuary

Tuesday, December 3

12:45 pm BCMC worship DVD—Kidron Bethel Assisted Living

2:30 pm Caregivers Support Group—Rm 14

7:00 pm Creation Care Committee—Rm 14

Wednesday, December 4

8:00 am Staff worship planning —Rm 14

10:00 am Bulletin announcement deadline

11:00 am Annual sing through to portions of Handel's *Messiah*—Sanctuary

6:30 pm Cherub Choir and Junior Choir—Rm 28

7:00 pm Senior High Youth

7:15 pm Menno Ringers—Rm B7

7:30 pm Chancel Choir—Sanctuary

8:30 pm Chancel Bells—Rm B7

Thursday, December 5

7:00 pm Church Board—Rm 14

Saturday, December 7

1:30—3 pm Newton Community Children's Choir Rehearsal—Sanctuary

Sunday, December 8—Advent 2

9:30 am Advent Prelude by the Garber Family; Worship with sermon by Dawn Yoder Harms; music by Chancel Choir

10:30 am Fellowship in the Gathering Place **10:50 am** Faith Formation

3:00 pm Newton Community Children's Choir Concert—Sanctuary

To all Mennonite Men and friends: Please consider joining Kansas Mennonite Men's Chorus (KMMC) for the upcoming season. KMMC is a multi-denominational choir with men from Kansas, Colorado, Nebraska, Missouri and Oklahoma. All of the concert proceeds go to Mennonite Central Committee. More information is on the bulletin board or contact Joe Peters.

Everence® will hold an all-inclusive retirement planning workshop, Dec. 7, from 9 to 11:30 am on Medicare, Social Security and retirement income planning. Workshop presented by Everence staff at Everence Financial, 3179 N. Main St., North Newton. Reserve your spot soon by contacting Michelle Ramer at 316-283-3800, 877-467-7294 or michelle.ramer@everence.com.

Everyone is invited to attend the Winter Luminary Walk at Dyck Arboretum of the Plains in Hesston from 5:30 to 8 pm Nov. 29 and 30, and Dec. 6 and 7. (\$6 for adults, \$3 for children) Outdoor highlights include the walking path lit up by hundreds of luminaries, a nativity scene in the leaf house, and roasting marshmallows at the fire pits. Performances by local groups will include Lindsborg harpist RoJean Loucks at 7 pm, Nov. 30 and the Prairie Bronze Handbell Ensemble, directed by Vada Snider at 6:30 and 7:30 pm, Dec. 6. December 7 is FAMILY NIGHT, with free admission for accompanied children 12 and under.

The Newton Community Children's Choir's annual Winter Concert is Dec. 8, 3 pm in the BCMC Sanctuary. The Newton Community Children's Choir and the Newton Railaires will perform. Everyone is invited!

Check out the Anabaptist Advent at Home resources for children and families at <http://mennoniteusa.org/resource/advent-at-home/>

✂-----

You are invited to share a poinsettia for the sanctuary for the Christmas season. The Worship Decorating Committee will purchase the poinsettias, and have them delivered to the church. To contribute, fill out the section below, attach payment of \$7.99 to BCMC (designated "Flower Fund") and place in offering plate or bring to church office **by Dec. 1**. Contact Carol Buller, 283-6157, for more information. Contributors may pick up a poinsettia Dec. 24 after the 7 pm Christmas program or after the 11 pm Lessons and Carols program; or, if you can, leave them for the service on Dec. 29.

Donor: _____

In memory of: _____

Or in honor of: _____

Bethel College announcements:

- **All bakers and craft makers are invited to make items** for 5 Places of Christmas Dec. 7, at Bethel College Fine Arts Center. Bethel College Women's Association will be selling baked goods, (Christmas candy, zwieback, peppernuts, poppyseed roll and cinnamon rolls), crafts, and poinsettias. Please bring your items Dec. 6 from 1:30-4:30 pm or on Dec. 7, 7-8 am in the Fine Arts Center Room 140 which is behind the Box Office.
- **Annual sing-along to Christmas portions of Handel's Messiah**, with Bethel College instrumentalists, soloists and student conductors, Dec. 4, 11 am, Bethel College Mennonite Church; scores provided.
- **Bethel College Steel Drum Band Christmas concert**, Dec. 4, 7 pm, Memorial Hall (**NOTE: different from some printed calendars**).
- **Voice studio recital by students of Soyoun Chun**, Bethel College instructor of voice, Dec. 5, 5 pm, Administration Building chapel
- **Christmas Gala jazz concert with Bethel College Jazz Ensembles I & II**, Dec. 6, 8 pm, Krehbiel Auditorium in Luyken Fine Arts Center.
- **Kauffman Museum First-Saturday Bird Walk**, Dec. 7, 8 am, meet in the museum parking lot, corner of Main and 27th streets, North Newton, experienced birders will lead a walk of 1 to 1.5 hours.
- **Five Places of Christmas**, Dec. 7, 10 am-4 pm— **Kauffman Museum** offers free admission (including the special exhibit "K is for Kansas"), refreshments, and sale items in the museum store. Bethel College Women's Association will have holiday food and gift items for sale in Fine Arts Center.
- **34th annual Lighting of the Green at Bethel College**, Dec. 8, 8 pm.

You are invited to the Treble Clef Christmas Vespers program, today, 3 pm (with a 2:45 pm prelude) at First Presbyterian Church, 900 Columbus Ave, Newton.

You are invited to the annual Mennonite Central Committee Christmas Soiree, Dec. 12 from 5-7 pm, at MCC, 121 E. 30th St., North Newton. Everyone is welcome to join them for snacks, fellowship and Christmas cheer!

Kidron Bethel Parkinson's Support Group meets Dec. 3 at 2 pm in Menno Hall. Dr. Sam Claassen, a retired internal medicine physician, and Dennis Schmidt will present "How to Have a Successful Doctor Appointment." All are welcome.

The McPherson Community Brass Choir under the direction of Jerry Toews will be performing Brass Christmas Music in the Alexanderwohl Mennonite Church, Dec 8, 7 pm. Also performing will be the Goessel High School Elbiata Singers. A free will offering for the Goessel Ministerial Alliance will be received with proceeds to help local needs. Everyone is invited.

RESPONDING IN FAITH

*Hymn of Response *Come! Walk in the light* **STS 10**
Congregation sings the chorus; Matt Schloneger sings the verses

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

*Dedication hymn *Praise the One who breaks the darkness* **STS 1**

*Dedication prayer

SENDING

*Sending hymn *Peace before us* **STS 16**

*Benediction

*Postlude

*All who are able are invited to stand
HWB = *Hymnal: A Worship Book* (in rack)
STS= *Sing the Story* (in rack) **STJ**=*Sing the Journey* (at end of bench)

Welcome visitors and friends! May you sense God’s presence at BCMC.

Personal hearing devices are at the north sanctuary entrance.

The nursery at the back of the sanctuary is available during worship for families with infants and toddlers.

Thank you to the Women’s Trio who helped with worship this morning: Colleen White, Anna Wedel, Dawn Yoder Harms, with accompanist Verlene Garber.

The bulletin cover image is by Jan Richardson entitled *Heart Coming Home*.

Love to knit? We want your help! The visual arts committee would like to create a knitted display illustrating temperature changes throughout the years in BCMC’s history (see www.tempestryproject.com for an example of a finished project). We will have limited space as each “tempestry” is 10-12” wide by 4’ tall, so we’re looking for interest to see how many knitters we can accommodate. If you’re interested in knitting a tempestry, please add your name to the sign up sheet at the back of the sanctuary before Dec. 11.

Prayer Requests

Mennonite Mission Network: MMN requests prayer for the Argentina Mennonite Church as it enters its second century. May its vibrant ministries of preaching, teaching, planting churches, and running businesses to support missions flourish. Pray specifically for a brick-making enterprise in Villa Mercedes, San Luis, that combines income-generating work with church planting.

Western District Conference: Pray for God’s care and strength for members of WDC congregations and communities who struggle with grief, trauma or mental health concerns, especially during the winter and holiday season.

This congregation: As we enter this Advent season of watching and waiting, consider beginning or ending your day with these words from Luke 1:78: *By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet in the way of peace.*

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 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 Ave., Box 364, North Newton, KS 67117

Phone: 316-283-3667—Fax: 316-283-2079

Email: office@bethelcollegemennonitechurch.org

Website: bethelcollegemennonitechurch.org

Church office hours: 9 am–12:00 pm Mon–Fri; 1:00 –5 pm Mon—Thur

Church office is closed Friday afternoons—Monica Lichti not in office Friday afternoons

Building is locked weekdays at 5 pm unless evening activities are scheduled

Saturdays—building is locked; Sundays—building is locked at 2 pm

Notary public service is available in the church office

Pastor: Dawn Yoder Harms, Day off : Monday—Phone: 316-283-3667

cell phone: 316-212-1847; Email: dawn@bethelcollegemennonitechurch.org

Associate Pastor for Faith Formation: Renee Reimer, Day off: Friday—Phone: 316-283-3667; cell phone: 605-212-0081; Email: renee@bethelcollegemennonitechurch.org

Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care: Nathan Koontz, Days off: Monday and Wednesday—Phone: 316-238-3667; cell phone: 316-212-4593

Email: nathan@bethelcollegemennonitechurch.org

Office/Facilities Manager: Monica Lichti, office@bethelcollegemennonitechurch.org

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

Music Coordinator: Barbara Thiesen

Menno Ringers Director and Chancel Bells Director: Suzy Burch

Chancel Choir Director: William Eash **Junior and Cherub Choirs Director:** William Eash