

Bethel College Mennonite Church
December 8, 2019 — Prelude 9:00 am; 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 Garber Family
Introit	<i>While we are waiting</i> (Don Cason)	
	Chancel Choir; William Eash, director; Verlene Garber, accompanist	
Call to worship, prayer		Nathan Koontz
*Advent Hymns	<i>Bless'd be the God of Israel</i>	HWB 174
	<i>Comfort, comfort, O my people</i>	HWB 176
		Verlene Garber, organ
	(children come forward during second hymn for children's conversation)	
Children's conversation		Renee Reimer
Prayer of Illumination (unison)	<i>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.</i>	
New Testament Reading	Matthew 3:1-12	Rachel Pannabecker
Advent Hymn	<i>Maranatha, come</i>	STS 2
	Congregation sings the refrain; Chancel Choir sings verses 3 & 4	
Lighting of the Advent Candle		Emma Gering, Emerson Gering
Worship music	<i>And the glory of the Lord</i> (G.H. Handel)	Chancel Choir



Bethel College Mennonite Church
December 8, 2019—Advent 2

Christmas Eve at BCMC

7:00 pm Intergenerational Christmas Enactment

This family friendly worship service will bring to life the Christmas Story by putting on an unrehearsed all-church Christmas pageant. All attenders will be invited to participate in the telling of the story by taking on roles within the story (stable animals, sheep & shepherds, angels, magi, or townspeople). Bring your own costume or pick one up when you arrive for the service. Clear instructions will be available upon arrival! Readers will be pre-picked before the service. Come tell the story of Christ being born through word, song, and action.

11:00 pm Lessons and Carols

Candlelight service of Lessons and Carols with music by Chancel Choir and congregational singing.

Save the Date for a Christmas program by Family and Friends Quartet. *It is a brother and sister, the sister's husband and a friend!* Program is Dec. 17 7 pm. This Christmas event is hosted by Women's Fellowship in the sanctuary and is followed by refreshments in Fellowship Hall. All are welcome!

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 TODAY or preferably on-line.

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 under the balcony. This project will run from Dec. 1 through Dec. 29. Also under the balcony there are Harvest of Love envelopes if you would like to donate to the Salvation Army's Harvest of Love-Dollar Days. Thanks for your support.

Thanks for visiting the Climate Change Challenge table in the Gathering Space! Check it out this month for ideas about celebrating a "Green Christmas!"

December 1 at BCMC: Attendance 226. General Fund \$13,084.56; Living Stones \$4,095; Gen Fund 2020 \$5,500; Caring Fund \$325; Flower Fund \$159.50; Women's Fellowship \$60.

The Next Week at BCMC: December 8-15, 2019

Sunday, December 8, 2019—Advent 2

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 continued
- **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—*Sojourner home churches*

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

Monday, December 9

11:30 am to 1:30 pm Bethel College Admissions Staff Lunch in Fellowship Hall

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

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

6:30 pm Faith Formation Commission—Renee Reimer's, 609 S. Kansas Ave.

Tuesday, December 10

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

2:00 pm Women's Fellowship Executive Board—Rm 14

2:00 pm Hospitality Commission—Rm 23

3:00 pm Pastor's meeting—Room 14

Wednesday, December 11

8:00 am Staff worship planning —Rm 14

10:00 am Bulletin announcement deadline

4:00 pm Visual Arts Committee—Rm 14

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 12

10:30 am Safe Sanctuaries Task Force—Rm 14

7:00 pm Finance Committee—Rm 14

9:00-11 am Community Playschool Christmas Celebration—Fellowship Hall

Calendar continued

Friday, December 13

9:00-11 am Community Playschool Christmas Celebration—Fellowship Hall

11:30 am to 2:30 pm Low German Task Force Luncheon—Fellowship Hall

Sunday, December 15—Advent 3

9:00 am Advent Prelude by Howard Glanton, guitar

9:30 am Worship with sermon by Eric Massanari; music by Chancel Bells

10:30 am Fellowship in the Gathering Place

10:50 am Faith Formation

Library News: The Library Committee is missing two books; *Five Smooth Stones* by Ann Fairbairn and *The Pastor Wears a Skirt* by Dorothy Nickel Friesen. If you find either book, please return as soon as possible. Thank you! In **other Library news**, we have all but completed cataloging the books in our library. You can now place a hold on a book from any computer. To access the BCMC Library, go to the BCMC website and click on “Library” under the tab “Resources.” Search for the book you wish to hold. After clicking on the Place Hold button, everyone has the same password: BCMCRead. You will then need to find your name and click on it to complete the hold process. We are so excited to have this new system in place. Please come and see what our library has to offer – we have many wonderful books for young and old that need to be read and enjoyed. Merry Christmas!

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.

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

You may recall that Harry Neufeld died July 24. The memorial service for Harry is scheduled for Friday, **Jan. 3, 2020, 11 am**, here at BCMC.

FAREWELL TO MARVIN AND RUTHANN DIRKS: As we say goodbye to Marv and Ruthann and bless them on their upcoming move to Loveland, CO, we invite you to contribute to a farewell scrapbook. For the next two weeks a table will be set up in the back of the sanctuary for you to write a blessing or a memory. Marv and Ruthann are scheduled to move on December 27.

Bethel College announcements:

- **34th annual Lighting of the Green at Bethel College, Dec. 8, 8 pm.**
- **Kauffman Museum is open through the holidays** (closed Mondays, and Christmas Day, and New Year’s Day): weekdays, 9:30 am-4:30 pm, Sat.-Sun., 1:30-4:30 pm. Visit the current special exhibit “K is for Kansas: exploring Kansas from A to Z.” See www.bethelks.edu/kauffman/ or the Kauffman Museum Facebook page for more information.

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!

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.

First Mennonite Church, 429 E 1st, presents Handel's Messiah Dec. 15, 7 pm with a community chorus, orchestra and soloists Holly Swartzendruber, Monica Schmidt Spicer, Matthew Schloneger, and Christopher Kliewer.

Everyone is invited to come to Night in the Barn at Papa's Pumpkin Patch, 372 70th, Newton, **Dec. 21 and 22, 5-7pm** (come/go). Interact with the characters, sounds, lights, and animals of this timeless tale. A suggested donation of \$5 per person includes a hot drink and a snack. Presented by Tabor Mennonite Church Youth, with part of the proceeds going to the Tabor Mennonite Youth Fellowship. Call 620-367-2721 with questions.

Western District Women in Mission hosts the event "Let's Talk...Women, Money & Faith" Jan. 24 and 25 at Tabor Mennonite Church, Newton, featuring speakers from Everence who will address money and faith topics for women of all ages and stages of life. More information is on Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/WesternDistrictWomen/?modal=admin_todo_tour or the WDC web page <https://communicationswdwm.wixsite.com/wdwm>. Registration forms are on church bulletin board.

You are invited to join Mennonite Church USA staff for “Coffee and Conversation” at 718 N Main St, to hear from Mennonite Mission Network International Service Worker, Deb Byler, **Dec. 16, 11 am.** She will share about the ministries in which she is involved with Kekchi Mennonite women in Guatemala. A recent article on Deb’s ministry is available on-line: <https://www.mennonitemission.net/news/Spiritual-direction-in-Kekchi-context-brings-mutual-growth>

LISTENING FOR GOD’S WORD

Old Testament reading Isaiah 11:1-10 Dawn Yoder Harms
Sermon *Visions of Hope* Dawn Yoder Harms

RESPONDING IN FAITH

*Hymn of Response *Beyond a dying sun* **HWB 323**

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, look east* (Wood/Woll) Verlene Garber, organ

*Dedication hymn *Fill now our life, O Lord* **STS 107**

*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 Garber family and friends for the prelude this morning. Members are: Ron and Verlene Garber, Gyles Garber, Matthew Garber, Nathan Garber, Caleb Garber, Joel Garber, Kendrick Weaver, and Ethan Neufeld.

2019 budget update: As of Nov. 30, expenses were \$21,228.06 in excess of contributions. This is an improvement of \$7,281.63 over the situation at the end of October! But we are not out of the woods. Please continue to support BCMC in all ways you are able, and may you have a blessed Advent season and Christmas. ~ *The Finance Committee*

Prayer Requests

Mennonite Mission Network: David and Sophie Lapp Jost of MMN have moved from their ministry in the Middle East to Germany. Pray for them as they engage in language learning and a cross-cultural transition period. David serves with the German Mennonite Peace Committee and Sophie’s work is with the Bammental Mennonite community.

Western District Conference: Give thanks for pastors, musicians, teachers, and others who coordinate and lead special activities in WDC congregations during the Christmas season.

This congregation: As we are aware of the unrest in our lives and the world around us, we pray that God’s Spirit will guide us 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