

## Prayer Requests

**Mennonite Mission Network:** Pray for safe travels for Mennonite Mission Network's Christian Service participants going home for Christmas.

Remember in a special way those who are not able to travel home and who will celebrate far from their families. May they experience the love and support of the communities they serve.

**Western District Conference:** Give thanks for the gift of Christ's birth, and for WDC congregations embodying the presence of Christ in their local communities.

**This congregation:** Advent 4 presents the unexpected news from a young Mary that something new is about to be born. Pray that our congregation will surprise our community with acts of love--to strangers, friends, and family.

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  
North Newton, KS 67117

Phone: 316-283-3667

Fax: 316-283-2079

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 13 at BCMC:** Attendance 243. General Fund \$7,711.25; Living Stones \$1,430; Media Supplies \$40; MCC Meat Canning \$200; General Fund 2016 \$5,140; Caring Fund \$350; Flower Fund \$180.



**Bethel College Mennonite Church  
December 20, 2015**

**Bethel College Mennonite Church**  
**December 20, 2015 – 9:15 a.m. Prelude**  
**9:30 a.m. Worship**

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**ADVENT 4: Freedom Bound: The Path of Love**

**GATHERING**

**Prelude** Kara Tann and Rebecca Schloneger, violins  
**Introit** *There is more love somewhere* **STJ 109**  
(Congregation sings twice)

Nancy Hilty, keyboard

Candle lighting: Francis Toews and Christian Rodriguez

**Call to worship / prayer** Susan Wheeler, worship leader

**\*Hymn** *Let all mortal flesh keep silence* **HWB 463**  
(a capella) Rebecca Schloneger, violin  
(children come forward during hymn)

**LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD**

**Children's conversation** John Tyson and "Mary" and "Elizabeth"

**Worship Music** *Wind through the olive trees* arr. Mayo  
Junior Choir; director Elizabeth Schrag

**Scripture readings** Luke 1:39-56 Roger Juhnke

**Hymn** *My soul proclaims with wonder* **HWB 181**

**Sermon** *What's this Love got to do with it* Dorothy Nickel Friesen

**RESPONDING IN FAITH**

**\*Hymn** *My soul is filled with joy* **STJ 13**  
(green)

**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** *Away in a manger* McChesney  
*Joy to the world* Thompson  
Menno Ringers; Suzanne Burch, director

**\*Dedication hymn** *For God so loved us* **HWB 167**  
(vs. 1 and 4 only; sing German or English)

**Dedication prayer**

**SENDING**

**Words of Liberation** Francis Toews and Christian Rodriguez  
**\*Hymn** *Hark! The herald angels sing* **HWB 201**  
(a capella)

**\*Benediction**

**\*Benediction response**

**\*Postlude**

\*All who are able are invited to stand

<b>HWB</b> = <i>Hymnal: A Worship Book</i>	<b>STJ</b> = <i>Sing the Journey</i>
<b>STS</b> = <i>Sing the Story</i>	

<p><b>Welcome visitors and friends!</b> May you sense God's presence at BCMC. <u>Personal hearing devices</u> are at the north sanctuary entrance. <u>The nursery</u> 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).</p>
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**Thanksgivings:** to guest violinist Kara Tann; 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, Francis Toews and Christian Rodriguez for candle-lighting; to Monica Lichti for bulletin design; to children's conversation speakers George Leary, Cliff Dick, Doug Siemens, LuAnn Zook and Zoe Siemens; and to musicians who invite us to worship with special anthems.

**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.

**Receiving medical care this week:** Lawrence Yoder, Bonnie Neufeld and Howard Buller, Newton Medical Center; Bonnie Krehbiel, Kansas Surgery and Recovery Center, Wichita.

<p><b>The Lead Pastoral Search Committee</b> met this week, and will be meeting again on January 6, 2016. We appreciate your continuing prayers. ~ Rosalind Andreas, chair; Judy Friesen, Jennifer Koontz, Dale Schrag, Jon Zerger</p>
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**The BCMC office will be closed** from 8-10 a.m., Wed., Dec. 23 for a staff breakfast; the BCMC office will be closed and building will be locked Dec. 25 and Dec. 26. Office hours for Dec. 28-31 will be 9 a.m.-12 noon; closed in the afternoons. Office will be closed and building will be locked on New Year's Day, January 1, and 2, 2016.

**Centering Prayer meets every Monday, noon-1 p.m.** in the Richert House Agape Center, Bethel College. Note the December schedule: Will meet Dec. 21; will not meet Dec. 28. All are welcome, with no previous experience required. Try it once, come occasionally or regularly. For information, contact Nathan Koontz, 2nathankoontz@gmail.com, or Melanie Zuercher, mzuercher@bethelks.edu.

**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, jimandbeatyrobbs@gmail.com.

**John Stoesz, executive director of Camp Mennoscah** has resigned to pursue other interests. John will be available to continue assisting Camp with marketing and advancement initiatives until the next executive director is hired. If interested in the Executive Director position at Camp Mennoscah, contact David Weaver, recruiting consultant at Career 1 Source at 620-327-0371 or DavidWeaver@career1source.com.

**The annual living nativity, *Night in the Barn*** is Dec. 20 from 6-8 p.m. in the barn of Maynard Knepp and Carol Duerksen, (from Goessel: 3 miles north on Hwy 15, 4 miles east on 150th, ¾ north on Falcon. Follow these directions; not GPS.) Info, call 620-386-0709. Admission is free.

**Harvey County Homeless Shelter** needs volunteers willing to purchase Christmas gifts for their residents. Email or call James Wilson for more information: james@hchs-ks.com or 316-283-7711.

**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>

**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.

## **This Week at BCMC: December 20 – December 27, 2015**

### **Today—December 20—Fourth Sunday of Advent**

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

**10:30 a.m.** Children's snack & singing gathering in Fellowship Hall

**10:50 a.m.** Faith Formation – Visitors welcome!

- Children's Sunday School—Christmas Eve service rehearsal—Sanc.
- Junior High students (6–8 grade)—Christmas Eve service rehearsal—Sanc.
- Senior High students – Christmas Eve service rehearsal—Sanc.
- Agape— Fellowship Hall
- Bible Study—Rm 14-- *More than 40 days with the Holy Spirit*
- Catacombs—Rm B-5— Christmas Carols, Memories and Goodies
- Fellowship—Under the balcony
- Fine Arts—Rm 24
- Issues & Christianity—Rm 23— *Great Figures of the New Testament*, dvd
- Mosaic—Rm 20—Sermon reflection and other current topics
- Open Circle—Rm 28—Sermon reflection and response
- Seekers—Rm 21—*Dinah Roe Kendall's Christmas Images*
- Sojourners—Chapel—Christmas Carols and Memories
- Young Adult Fellowship—Meets Wednesdays at 8 p.m. at Agape Center

### **Monday, Dec. 21**

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

**7:00 p.m.** Worship Commission—Rm 14

### **Tuesday, Dec. 22**

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

### **Wednesday, Dec. 23**

**8:00 a.m.** Staff Christmas Breakfast—Dorothy Nickel Friesen's, 1100 N. Grandview, Newton

**6:30 p.m.** Cherub Choir (Rm 24) and Junior Choir (Rm 28) (No Menno Ringers practice tonight)

**7:00 p.m.** Senior High youth—Rm 22 **7:30 p.m.** Chancel Choir—Sanctuary

**8:00 p.m.** Young Adult Fellowship Group—Agape Center

**8:30 p.m.** Chancel Bells—Rm B-7

### **Thursday, Dec. 24**

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

**7:00 p.m.** **Christmas Program—*Christmas in our midst*—Sanctuary**

**11:00 p.m.** Lessons and Carols—Sanctuary

**Friday, Dec. 25—Merry Christmas! Office will be closed; building locked**

**Saturday, Dec. 26—Building will be locked**

**Sunday, Dec. 27—First Sunday After Christmas**

**10:00 a.m.** Prelude by Rosi Penner Kaufman followed by worship with meditation by Dorothy Nickel Friesen; Psalm 148; I Samuel 1:18-20; Colossians 3:12-17; Luke 2:41-52; Christmas carol singing; Christine Lehman, vocalist

**11:00 a.m.** Fellowship and coffee—bring goodies to share (No Sunday school)

**Poinsettias at the front of the church are**

<b>Donated by:</b>	<b>In memory/honor of:</b>
Ethel Abrahams .....	husband Norman and son David
Carl & Rosalind Andreas .....	Our parents
Ron & Virginia Benninghoff.....	George, Inez & Steve Koehn
Wade & Joan Brubacher Family.....	Harold & Elma Goering E. J. and Lucille Brubacher
Dennis & Kathy Campbell & family.....	Barbara & Orlando Friesen
Marlene Ewert, Nat Dick, Cliff Dick.....	Mary & Henry Dick Linda & Jake Ewert
William & Esther Kreider Eash .....	Elon & Lorene Eash
in honor of .....	Robert & Lois Kreider
Heidi Ensz.....	Henry, Olga, Sara Marie & Roland Ensz
Dianne Epp.....	Anthony Epp
John & Bernice Esau.....	Keith Esau
Marlene V. Faul, Sharon, Mary & Families.....	James O. Faul
Richard & Dorothy Nickel Friesen.....	John W. Nickel, Arthur & Viola Friesen
JoAnn Funk & Family .....	Francis Funk
Lou Gomez, Jr. & Elizabeth Raid.....	Pauline Krehbiel Raid & Howard Raid Lou Gomez, Sr.
Dorothy & Willis Harder.....	Kurt Harder
Paul & Shirley Harms-in honor of.....	Children: Doug & Dawn, Adley & Jen, Gwen & John
David and Rose Haury.....	Ben Haury
Dick & Barb Koontz.....	Ruth & Elbert Koontz Aldene Delk
Katherine and Elizabeth Lamp-in honor of.....	Evelyn Quiring
Evelyn Quiring.....	Frank Quiring
Merrill & Boots Raber.....	Ann Raber
Jim & Beaty Robb.....	Orlo & Helen Goering Stewart & Marge Robb
Peggy Souder & Nathan Dick.....	Norman & Arvilla Souder
In honor of.....	Nicholas & Harriet Dick
Ron & LaVonne Sawatzky, Sheri, Alan, Nick, Markus Leopard.....	Henry & Edna Goossen
Richard and Frances Siemens-in honor of.....	Our five Grandchildren
Frank & Kathy Stucky.....	Ruby Stucky
Myron & Mildred Voran.....	Kathleen J. Voran, daughter
Lenore Waltner & family.....	James Waltner



**Participate in this year's Advent giving project** for Mennonite Central Committee's aid to refugee camps. "Soap and towels" are useful in many settings. **Children bring soap:** new bars of bath soap—all sizes and brands of bar soap are welcome; please leave in wrapper. **Adults bring towels:** NEW bath and hand towels: good quality dark or bright colors, medium weight preferred; washcloths not needed. Baskets are located in the sanctuary for donations. Thanks to Faith Formation and Witness Commissions for coordinating the project. Donations will be dedicated on Christmas Sun., Dec. 27.

**The Deacon Commission** invites contributions to the **above-budget Caring Fund** to assist congregation and community members with needs such as utility and rent expenses, food or other emergencies. Contributions may be put in the regular offering, with checks made out to BCMC and designated "Caring Fund."

**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:**

- Dec. 20 – Christmas Eve service practice (11 a.m.) & White Elephant, Pizza, & Bowling at Tim & Bethany Schrags (5 - 8 p.m.)
- December 24 – Christmas Eve service (7 p.m.)
- 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:**

- Dec. 20 – Christmas Eve service practice (11 a.m.)
- Dec. 23 – Joint Cherub/Junior Choir practice (6:30 – 7:15 p.m.)
- Dec. 24 – Christmas Eve service (7 p.m.)
- January 22-24 – RMMC Junior High Snow Camp

**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.

**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 WDWM, 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