

Bethel College Mennonite Church
December 15, 2019 — Prelude 9:00 am; Worship 9:30 am



Bethel College Mennonite Church
December 15, 2019—Advent 3

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 Pìu Mosso Guitar Duo
(Guitarists Howard Glanton and Excier Rodriquez)
- Introit *Jesus, Jesus, rest your head* (arr. Ben Lichti)
Chancel Bells; Suzanne Burch, director
- Call to worship, prayer Lee Suderman
- *Advent Hymns *O come, O come Immanuel* (verses 1, 3, 6) **HWB 172**
Hark! The glad sound! **HWB 184**
Verlene Garber, organ
(children come forward during second hymn for children's conversation)
- Children's conversation Renee Reimer
- Prayer of Illumination (unison) Dilores Rempel Suderman
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 Reading Matthew 1:2-11 Dilores Rempel Suderman
- Advent Hymn *Maranatha, come* **STS 2**
Congregation sings refrain and verses 5 and 6
- Lighting of the Advent Candle Addison Zerger and Payne Claassen
- Worship music *Behold the Star* (arr. Page) Chancel Bells

Today during the faith formation hour everyone is invited to gather in the fellowship hall to learn new Christmas hymns. We will be singing unfamiliar hymns from the purple *Sing the Story* and new songs that will be in the new *Voices Together* hymnal coming out in 2020.

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*

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.

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. A table is 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.

You're invited to the 'Family and Friends' musical Christmas Program Tues., Dec. 17, 7 pm, a Christmas event hosted by Women's Fellowship in the sanctuary, followed by refreshments in Fellowship Hall. All are welcome.

The BCMC Witness Commission invites you to join in this year's Advent Project benefiting 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! Look for ideas this month about celebrating a "Green Christmas!"

The Next Week at BCMC: December 15-22, 2019

Sunday, December 15, 2019—Advent 3

10:30 am Fellowship time in the Gathering Place

10:50 am Faith Formation—Adult Elective: Hymn Sing in Fellowship Hall

- **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—Will join hymn sing in Fellowship Hall
- **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—Will join the hymn sing in Fellowship Hall

Monday, December 16

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

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

Tuesday, December 17

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

4:00 pm Staff Congregation Relations Committee—Rm 14

7:00 pm Worship Commission—Rm 23

7:00 pm Women's Fellowship Christmas Program—Sanctuary

Wednesday, December 18

8:00 am Staff worship planning —Rm 14

10:00 am Bulletin announcement deadline

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 19

2:30 pm Bereavement Support Group—Rm 14

Saturday, December 21

3:00 pm Amahl and the Night Visitors—Sanctuary

4:30 pm Youth Group Rehearsal—Sanctuary

Sunday, December 22—Advent 4

9:00 am Advent Prelude by BCMC children and youth

9:30 am Children's Christmas Program with music by Menno Ringers, Junior and Cherub Choirs

10:30 am Fellowship in the Gathering Place

10:50 am Faith Formation: Traditional Christmas Carol Sing in the sanctuary

Poinsettias donated by:	In memory/honor of:
Rosalind E. Andreas.....	Carl R. Andreas
Dennis & Kathy Campbell.....	Orlando & Barbara Friesen; Willard Campbell
William & Esther Kreider Eash	Lorene & Elon Eash
Bonnie Epp.....	Weldon Epp
Dianne Epp	Anthony Epp
Bernice and John A. Esau.....	Keith Esau
Marlene V. Faul, Sharon, Mary & families	James O. Faul
Carol Flickinger	Clara Frances Gaeddert & Jackson Ray Gaeddert
Pat & Chuck Friesen	Ruth Boese & Maddox Crabtree
Richard & Dorothy Nickel Friesen.....	John Nickel, Arthur & Viola Friesen
Joann Funk.....	Francis Funk, Levi Funk, Our Parents
Martha Graber	Eldon Graber, Eric Friesen, Augusta Schmidt, Gerhard & Marie Schmidt Friesen, Howard & Leona Schrag
Paul & Eldine Harder.....	Rev. Henry N. & Hilda Harder, Timothy Harder, John J. & Sara Siemens Franz, Rev. Delton & Marian Franz
Paul M. Harms	Shirley Harms
Don & Marilyn Harrold	Janna Harrold
Reitha Klaassen	Glendon Klaassen
Matt and Jennifer Koontz	Imogene Scott
Philip and Sondra Koontz	Murray & Dessie Bandy & Elbert & Ruth Koontz
Dwight & Bonnie Krehbiel	Randy Krehbiel
Kreider Family	Lois & Robert Kreider
Gladys Niles and family.....	Clarence Niles
John & Rachel Pannabecker.....	In honor of Our families
Marles Preheim.....	Norma Preheim
Elizabeth Raid	Her husband, Lou Gomez, Jr.
Bob & Vernetta Regier.....	Zachary Regier
Jim & Beaty Robb	Orlo & Helen Goering; Stewart & Marge Robb
Ron & LaVonne Sawatzky.....	Henry & Edna Goossen
Valetta & Miner Seymour.....	Ruth, Lester, Lonnie & Dean Goering, Fern Goering, Anne & Miner Seymour, Emily Berend
John & Elsie Sheriff, Michelle & Jarrett Sheriff, Karen, David, Will, & Brett LeVan	J. Kent Sheriff
Richard & Frances Siemens.....	In honor of Our Grandchildren
Peggy Souder & Nathan Dick	Norman & Arvilla Souder and In honor of Nicholas & Harriet Dick
Frank & Kathy Stucky	Robert Jackson, Harley & Ruby Stucky
Marvin Thieszen	Shirley Thieszen
Lenore Waltner & family	James Waltner
Kip & Cherie Wedel.....	Arnold and Marie Wedel



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.

First Mennonite Church, 429 E 1st, presents Handel's Messiah today, 7 pm.

You are invited to come to Night in the Barn at Papa's Pumpkin Patch, 372 70th, Newton, Dec. 21 and 22, 5-7pm (come/go). Questions: 620-367-2721.

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 Mennonite Church USA, 718 N. Main St., for "Coffee and Conversation" to hear from Mennonite Mission Network International Service Worker, Deb Byler, Dec. 16, 11 am. She will share about her ministerial involvement with Kekchi Mennonite women in Guatemala. A recent article on Deb's ministry is on-line: <https://www.mennonitemission.net/news/Spiritual-direction-in-Kekchi-context-brings-mutual-growth>

2020 is the 100 year anniversary of the Mennonite Central Committee. The Kansas Mennonite Relief Sale would like to celebrate this milestone by gifting MCC ONE MILLION DOLLARS. The Kansas Sale was founded to support the ministry of Relief, Development, and Peace in the name of Christ. This would require 1,000 people to each give \$1,000 to get to one million dollars by April 17, the first day of the 2020 Kansas Mennonite Relief Sale. Send your check made payable to KMRS earmarked "centennial gift" to Tim Miller, Relief Sale Treasurer, 4805 S. Broadacres Rd, Hutchinson, KS 67501. Questions: Contact BCMC liaisons Wes and Ada Schmidt-Tieszen (316) 283-1182, Kathy and Dennis Campbell (316) 283-5151, or Dale and Margo Schrag (316) 283-6031, or KMRS Board Chair Jim Robb (620) 747-0186.

The family band Five Times Harder will present a Christmas concert 4 pm, Dec. 22 at First Mennonite Church, 102 S. Ash, Hillsboro, featuring a blend of voices and instruments, in bluegrass, folk, jazz, and classical styles. No admission fee; free will offering will be collected for the work of Mennonite Central Committee.

December 8 at BCMC: Attendance 253. General Fund \$8,913.05; Living Stones \$180; Gen Fund 2020 \$1,000; Caring Fund \$200; Flower Fund \$15.99; Coffee \$14; Eldon Graber \$500; Ralph Lehman Mem. \$50.

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

Old Testament reading	Isaiah 35:1-10	Eric Massanari
Sermon	<i>Enduring availability</i>	Eric Massanari

RESPONDING IN FAITH

*Hymn of Response	<i>Praise the One who breaks the darkness</i>	STS 1
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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	<i>Greensleeves</i>	Più Mosso Guitar Duo
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*Dedication hymn	<i>Rejoice, rejoice, the Savior comes</i>	STS 4
	verses 1 and 4	

*Dedication prayer		
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SENDING

*Sending hymn	<i>Peace before us</i>	STS 16
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*Benediction

*Postlude

*All who are able are invited to stand
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HWB = <i>Hymnal: A Worship Book</i> (in rack)
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STS = <i>Sing the Story</i> (in rack) STJ = <i>Sing the Journey</i> (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 Bob Regier, for designing the Advent banners. This is the 40st year that a series of banners marks our movement through the Advent season. The banners present a gradual crescendo of light and color, along with polarities of horizontal, vertical and diagonal lines, and finally intersections. May the presence of this visual vocabulary during these Advent weeks continue to provide possibilities for insight, discovery and renewal. Thanks also to John Kliever and Matt Koontz for putting the banners in place.

Prayer Requests

Mennonite Mission Network: MMN requests prayer for DOOR's leadership development program, Discern, that works with local youth of color to help them expand their leadership skills through mentorship and workshops engaging justice issues. Pray for resources to broaden the current three-month program to nine months.

Western District Conference: Give thanks for the generosity of WDC congregations and donors, and pray for financial contributions to support this year's budget goals and ministry priorities.

This congregation: The Christmas holiday season can be difficult for those experiencing grief and loss. Pray for the comfort of God's comfort to surround those who enter this season of joy carrying deep sadness.

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