

Children and Youth Sunday School for January

Due to the rise of COVID cases in our area and the increased percent positivity rate (15.3% as of January 11th) **children and youth Sunday School classes will be canceled for the rest of January.** We recommend adult Sunday school classes evaluate the safety of meeting in small classrooms in the church building on their own. As a reminder, the church has 2 zoom accounts available for groups to use and groups can also reserve the fellowship hall or sanctuary with the church office.

Mennonite Mission Network Prayer Request: This weekend, as we remember Martin Luther King Jr., who followed Jesus' way of nonviolent civil disobedience to bring hope to people who have been marginalized by society, pray for Mennonite Mission Network's ministry of dismantling racism in the United States and around the world.

Western District Conference Prayer Request: Pray for WDC congregations joining God's work of economic justice, racial equity and peace-building in our communities and world.

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 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

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

Associate Pastor for Faith Formation: Renee Reimer, Day off: Friday—

cell phone: 605-212-0081; Email: renee@bethelcollegemennonitechurch.org

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

Email: nathan@bethelcollegemennonitechurch.org

Office/Facilities Manager: Monica Lichti, cell phone 316-249-9652

office@bethelcollegemennonitechurch.org

Custodian: Michael Crawford—day off Tuesday

Music Coordinators: Barbara Thiesen and Verlene Garber

Chancel Choir Director: William Eash Menno Singers Director: Virginia Mininger

Chancel Bells Director: Verlene Garber Menno Ringers Director: Suzanne Burch

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.

BETHEL COLLEGE MENNONITE CHURCH

January 16, 2022

Prelude	<i>Joy To The Night</i> (Jim Brickman) <i>Pie Jesu, from Requiem</i> (Andrew Lloyd Weber) Erich Boschmann, piano
Lighting the Christ Candle	Dorothy Nickel Friesen
Welcome and Prayer	
*Hymn	<i>Arise, Your Light Is Come</i> VT 273
Children's Conversation	Mary Ellen Hodge
Scripture Reading	Isaiah 58:6-12 Richard Friesen
Sermon	<i>We Cannot Rest</i> Rosie Epp
*Hymn	<i>Lift Every Voice and Sing</i> VT 611
Prayers of God's people	Dorothy Nickel Friesen
*Hymn	<i>For the Healing of the Nations</i> VT 705
*Benediction	Dorothy Nickel Friesen
Postlude	Verlene Garber

VT = Voices Together

Audio visual—Ken Lamp

Pastors—Renee Reimer and Nathan Koontz

This Sunday we welcome our guest preacher, Rosie Epp. Rosie is a retired pastor, most recently at Zion Mennonite Church in Elbing, KS. She has been an ordained minister for over 40 years and was the second ordained woman in Western District Conference. We are grateful for Rosie (also Renee's mom!) to be leading us in worship this week.

The church nursery is staffed during worship—Children and youth Sunday School classes will not meet during the month of January. Koinonia class will not meet in January. The Agape Class will meet in Room B8
Adult Classes (If meeting): Bible Study (Rm 14); Catacombs (Rm B5); Fellowship (B7); Fine Arts (Rm 22); Issues and Christianity (Rm 23); Mosaic (Rm 20); Open Circle (Room 21); Seekers (Rm 28); Sojourners (Chapel)

This week at BCMC

- **Sunday, January 16, 2022**
9:30 am Worship Service in the Sanctuary
10:30 am Faith Formation
- **Monday, January 17, 2022—Martin Luther King Jr. Day—Office will be closed and church locked**
- **Tuesday, January 18, 2022**
9—11 am Community Playschool
7 pm Worship Commission by Zoom
- **Wednesday, January 19, 2022—No Youth Group or Chancel Choir in January**
7 pm Menno Ringers in B7
7 pm Dr. Jennifer Koontz COVID Zoom Call
- **Thursday, January 20, 2022**
9—11 am Community Playschool
2 pm Hospitality Commission meeting in Fellowship Hall
4 pm Witness Commission meeting in Room 14
6:15 pm Chancel Bells in Room B7
7 pm Deacon Commission meeting by Zoom
7 pm Bethel College Women's Association meeting in Fellowship Hall
- **Sunday, January 23, 2022**
9:30 am Worship Service in the Sanctuary
10:30 am Faith Formation

Pastor Renee Reimer will be on vacation from January 14-29.

Pastor Nathan Koontz will be at a "Roots of Justice" Training from Jan. 14-16, but will be available in case of emergencies.

Pastor Nathan Koontz is increasing his hours up to 3/4 time for the month of January to help cover pastoral staffing until Interim Pastor Todd Schlosser begins on February 1, 2022. Pastor Nathan will be working Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, with flexible work days on Friday and Saturday as needed.

Congregational Meeting will be January 30 The Jan. 30, 2022 congregational meeting will start at 1 p.m. and will be held by Zoom. It will not be a hybrid meeting. An agenda and Zoom link will be sent later.

Dr. Jennifer Scott Koontz has been a leading expert on COVID-19 throughout the pandemic. She received the 2021 Bethel College Outstanding Alumni Award for her consistent and clear communication of COVID-19 research and guidelines to the general public. She holds a Master's Degree in Public Health along with an M.D. from the University of Kansas and has practiced medicine in Newton for 12 years. She is also a member of BCMC. Dr. Koontz will be hosting a Question and Answer Session via Zoom for anyone interested in learning about the current landscape of COVID-19. Please come with your questions and plan to attend this Zoom meeting on **Wednesday, January 19 at 7pm**. A Zoom link will be sent out as we approach the 19th.

Save the date for the next Safe Sanctuary training on Sunday, February 6th from 10:30am-11:30am. This training will take place in the fellowship hall but will be available over zoom too. Please email Renee for a link if you'd like to join via zoom. Please plan to attend if you are a mentor, youth/child Sunday School teacher, sponsor, or Wednesday night club leader and did not attend a training this past fall.

▪ **Mon., Jan. 17 and Tues., Jan. 18 – Bethel College hosts two activities for the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday that are free and open to the public**, both in Memorial Hall: Jan. 17, 7 p.m., program with Jasmyn Elise Story as the featured speaker; Jan. 18, 2 p.m., screening of the Kellogg Foundation's 2022 National Day of Racial Healing event. Current Bethel COVID protocols require masking indoors regardless of vaccination status.

The new Library Theme is focusing on the state of Kansas. Check out the many books that celebrate Kansas. Also, a couple of 2000 piece puzzles in excellent condition have been donated to the library. We are using them as a fundraiser. We are asking for a minimum donation of \$5 for one puzzle. Just place your donation in the basket or give it to the committee person on duty. We look forward to seeing you in the library and let us know of any addition you would like us to add to our collection. *Library Committee*

Thanks to a generous donation to BCMC, we have high quality N95 masks available for those who need them. They will be available inside the south entrance of BCMC. These masks are particularly useful if you are at high risk of severe COVID 19 and you need or want to participate in a more high risk activity. While no mask creates absolute safety, wearing a well-fitted N95 mask can reduce your risk and make activities safer. Part of the rationale behind these masks offered at BCMC is to provide N95 masks for those who may not be able to navigate online purchasing options. N95 masks are not readily available in our local stores. If you know of someone who would benefit from an N95 mask, please pass this information on to them, or stop by the church and grab one for them.