

Mennonite Mission Network Prayer Request: Alfonsina and José Oyanguren, who are serving through Mennonite Mission Network, have lived among Indigenous communities in Argentina’s Chaco region since 2004. Pray for them as they promote Indigenous culture and languages through Bible-study materials and educational opportunities, among other ministries of presence.

Western District Conference Prayer Request: In this Thanksgiving week, offer a prayer of gratitude for members of WDC congregations and communities who care for the land, grow and harvest food, prepare meals, and share generously with a hungry world.

BCMC Offering for November 13, 2022: General \$6,445; Wed. Night Supper \$334; MCC Meat Canning \$225; Library Reserve Fund \$10; Living Stones \$5; Bequests \$92,764.08; Women’s Fellowship \$50.

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

- Pastor Nathan Koontz, Day off: Wednesday
cell phone: 316-212-4593; Email: nathan@bethelcollegemennonitechurch.org
- Office/Facilities Manager: Monica Lichti, cell phone 316-249-9652
Email: office@bethelcollegemennonitechurch.org
- Custodian: Michael Crawford—day off Tuesday
- Music Coordinators: Barbara Thiesen and Verlene Garber
- Chancel Choir Director: Riley King
- Chancel Bells Director: Verlene Garber
- Menno Rings Director: Suzanne Burch

Bethel College Mennonite Church



November 20, 2022

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
November 20, 2022
All Abilities Belong in the Kin-dom of God

Prelude	<i>The Thanksgiving Suite</i> (Callahan)	Verlene Garber, organ
Christ Candle Lighting		
Welcome and Prayer		Todd Schlosser
*Hymn	<i>We Praise You, O God, Our Redeemer</i>	VT 34
Children's Conversation		Barb Koontz
Anthem	<i>Hark the Glad Sound</i>	
	Chancel Choir; Riley King, director; Verlene Garber, accompanist	
Scripture Reading	2 Samuel 4:4, 9:1-13	Todd Schlosser
	Luke 5:17-26	Emma Gering
	Matthew 11:1-6	Metta Lieb
Sermon	<i>The Accessible Kin-dom</i>	Elizabeth Schmidt
*Hymn	<i>Summoned by the God Who Made Us</i>	VT 1
	(Verses 3 & 5 in unison)	
Prayers of God's People		
Litany of Release and Blessing for Todd Schlosser		See Insert
	Ada Schmidt-Tieszen, Nathan Koontz	
*Hymn	<i>The Lord Lift You Up</i> (3 times)	VT 832
*Benediction		Todd Schlosser
Postlude	<i>Nettleton</i> (Steffen)	Verlene Garber
* You are invited to stand		
VT = <i>Voices Together</i>		
Audio visual— Ken Lamp		
Pastors—Nathan Koontz, Todd Schlosser		

Welcome visitors and friends! May you sense God's presence at BCMC. The nursery at the back of the sanctuary is available during worship for families with infants and toddlers.

We light the Christ candle to welcome God's presence among us. Sent out from worship, we carry the light of Christ with us into the world.

Welcome Elizabeth Schmidt and the Accessibility Resolution

We are glad to have Elizabeth Schmidt preaching this Sunday and introducing the MCUSA Accessibility Resolution. This resolution passed unanimously in May of 2022 at the Special Delegate Assembly and gives specific suggestions on how MCUSA communities can grow in grace, joy and peace without barriers that prevent individuals with disabilities from participating in church life. Elizabeth has a passion for promoting accessibility and affirmation of all people of all abilities. Elizabeth recently stepped down from being Executive Director of Harvey-Marion County Community Developmental Disability Organization (CDDO) and currently serves as a part-time Quality Assurance Specialist for the organization. We are glad she can share with us this Sunday!

Thanks and Farewell for Pastor Todd:

We have greatly appreciated Pastor Todd Schlosser for his strong and collaborative leadership, wise counsel, optimistic and calm steadiness during transition, and the warm relationships he has built during his time as our interim pastor. He will be missed, but we wish him well as he moves down the road to Tabor Mennonite Church. There will also be an extended coffee time with refreshments in the Gathering Place with a basket for cards or notes. Thank you so much, Todd!

A note to all of you!

As we begin this week of Thanksgiving and as we part ways, it is appropriate for me to voice my gratitude and appreciation for the time we have spent together. BCMC is a wonderful place with dear people and a future full of potential. Please know, these last many months as your interim pastor have been a life-giving blessing to me. Thank you! As you continue your journey of faith together, may God's presence rest gently among you and may the Holy Spirit stir within and guide you as you continue to engage the calling of being followers of Jesus. Until we meet again...

It will soon be time to share a poinsettia for the sanctuary during the Christmas season. Look for an announcement in next week's emails and bulletin.

The Newton Treble Clef Annual Vespers will be Sun., Dec. 4, 3 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church, 900 Columbus, Newton. The prelude will begin at 2:45 with Vada Snider, flute; and Karen Loucks, piano. Program includes the prelude; Treble Clef Chorus; Hearts 4 Him—Men's Ensemble; Josue Coy Dick, violin solo; Prairie Bronze Handbell Ensemble. A freewill offering will be taken for the scholarship fund that will be awarded to high school seniors pursuing a music major.

Mennonite Central Committee Announcements

- **Mennonite Central Committee Buckets of Thanks** - This Thanksgiving season, show your gratitude and provide hope to those in need by collecting relief supplies for MCC. The supplies you donate will fill a Bucket of Thanks (aka an MCC relief kit) for people affected by conflict or disaster around the world. For more information, including supply lists and a ready-to-use curriculum for children, visit: mccbuckets.org.
- **MCC Material Resources Center in North Newton critically low on inventory:** Supplies for MCC kits are so low that kits cannot be processed for shipping. You can help by helping to fill the following needs: New infant onesies and sleepers (3-12 month sizes); shampoo (20 oz or more), thin sanitary pads (28 count minimum) and dark colored bath and hand towels. Buy online and ship it to MCC or bring item to MCC in North Newton (121 E. 30th St, North Newton, KS 67117). Questions are always welcome, contact katemast@mcc.org or 316.283.2720. A full list of MCC kit contents can be found at mcc.org/kits.
- **MCC is seeking a Constituency Engagement Manager:** This new role is designed to help the MCC's in the U.S. plan and implement a cohesive engagement strategy for specific priority audiences including alumni, churches, congregations of color, plain communities and young adults. With a focus on convening and strategizing, this person will be part of the Communications and Donor Relations network and will work in close collaboration with other departments and regional MCC's. This full-time position will preferably be located in Akron, Pa., but location is flexible within any MCC office in the U.S. Apply online by Nov. 18 at mcc.org/constituency-engagement-manager. For more information contact Amber Falcón at 574-534-4133 or AmberFalcon@mcc.org.

Everence and MCC to host hygiene kit-making event on Nov. 29

You can help make the world a better place by joining Everence® and MCC to assemble hygiene kits on Tuesday, Nov. 29, 6:30-8:30 p.m. The kits will be distributed through worldwide relief organizations to places like crowded refugee camps where unclean conditions can lead to the spread of serious diseases. The event will take place at Hesston Mennonite Church Community Center.

You can also help by donating supplies to MCC or your Everence office in North Newton or by making a financial contribution to MCC. For more details, contact MCC at 316-283-2720 or Everence at 316-283-3800.

Litany of Release and Blessing for Todd Schlosser

Church Board Chair: As sisters and brothers in this faith community, today we give thanks for your interim ministry among us, Todd. We say farewell to you and we ask God to bless the journey ahead – yours and this congregation's work to move forward.

Congregation: All praise be to our God. In God there is one Body, one Spirit. There is one hope in God's call to us all.

Todd: We have shared much significant ministry together in the time I have been your Interim Pastor.

Church Board Chair: Because of this, the goodbyes are hard. Be assured we are grateful for all that we've accomplished together. We thank God for you and your vital Interim Ministry among us.

Todd: I leave with cherished memories, as well as gratitude. You took a chance on me, when I had been out of pastoral ministry for several years. Thank you for your trust in me.

Nathan: God has blessed us richly through your ministry. I will personally miss you as a ministry partner. We now bless you as you begin a new chapter in your life and ministry journey.

Church Board Chair: Do we now release Todd as our Interim Pastor?

Congregation: With the help of God, we do. We give thanks for Todd's faithful leadership and now acknowledge this transition in the life of our congregation. We will pray for God's continued guidance in his life.

Church Board Chair: Todd, do you release us from our loyalty to you as our Interim Pastor? Do you release the members from turning to you and depending on you to provide the pastoral ministries they seek?

Todd: With the help of God, I do. When we meet in the future, we will be brothers and sisters in Christ, not Interim Pastor and church members. I will hold the congregation and its ministries in my prayers.

Church Board Chair: Todd, may God bless and guide you on the next steps of your journey. May you ultimately form new, caring relationships in a new and beloved faith community. May God bless you and guide you in your next ministry. May God bless and guide this congregation into a hopeful future as it continues kingdom work and seeks new leadership. May God bless and guide each of us in the new relationship that we now will share. Amen.

This Week at BCMC: November 20—November 27, 2022

Sunday, November 20

9:30 am Worship with sermon by Elizabeth Schmidt; music by Chancel Choir; this is Pastor Todd Schlosser's last Sunday at BCMC, there will be a cookie reception in the Gathering Place after the worship service

11 am Faith Formation—Intergenerational class of pre-school through high school meets in Fellowship Hall — Adult Classes: Agape Class (Nursery); 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)

YouTube link for today's service: <https://youtu.be/UBHFNUcm4A8>

Mon.-Tues., Nov. 21- 22—Community Playschool is not in session this week.

Wed., Nov. 23—No Choir practice or other events this week

Thurs., Nov. 24—Thanksgiving Day Church will be locked and office closed

Fri., Nov. 25—Office will be closed today

Sun., Nov. 27—First Sunday of Advent

9:30 am Worship with sermon by Jim Robb; November birthday recognition; communion will be served; Advent prelude by Rebecca Schloneger

10:30 am Faith Formation

"Restoration is Near!" is the theme of the Advent at Home 2022 worship guide which can be found at the Mennonite Church USA (MC USA) website: <https://mennoniteusa.org/adventathome>. Using the theme developed for *Leader* magazine, the guide offers weekly and daily Scriptures from the lectionary texts, worship rituals, prayers, activities, and background information to help individuals and households of all ages prepare for Advent through Epiphany. **If you prefer printed copies of the worship guide, these are located on the ledge between the mailboxes in the Gathering Place.**

All Mentors/Mentees are invited to a Newton Salvation Army Food Pantry food drive on Nov. 20, 2-4 p.m. Meet at Frank and Kathy Stucky's house at 721 Bobtail Court. If possible, bring a wagon. We will be collecting nonperishable items from the Sand Creek Station neighborhoods.

Please remember Alice and John Suderman in your prayers as Alice has lost two of her sisters in the past few days. Alice's sister Anette (Kaufman) Eisenbeis of Freeman, SD, died Nov. 11 at the age of 88 years. A celebration of life service will be at 10:30 a.m., Nov. 22, Salem-Zion (North) Mennonite Church, 27844 443rd Avenue, rural Freeman. Alice's sister Lorraine (Kaufman) Ortman of Bennington, NE died Nov. 14 at the age of 96 years old. Lorraine lived for many years in Marion, SD. Lorraine's memorial will likely be at Bethesda Mennonite Church of Marion.

Thank you so much for your participation in the 2022 edition of the bcmcXpress Stewardship Campaign. Soon we will know the level of success of the effort. If you have not returned a pledge of support. You may still do so and please do. Many Biblical passages reflect on the importance of giving and generosity. Anne Frank said, "No one ever became poor by giving." Remember, "A GIFT OPENS DOORS." Thank you again for your support. *The Finance Committee*

BCMC Library Announcements

Sixteen books have been recently added to our collection either through our budget or donation. Come find your next new read. As always, Sondra Koontz has written a brief summary of each book to help you make your decision. The book summaries are near the library computer.

Also, the Library Committee will be highlighting books added to our collection though the Dismantling the Doctrine of Discovery study group. These books, along with the handouts from the Loss of Turtle Island activity, are or will be on the north wall of the library. Come check us out!

Bethel College Announcements

Mon., Nov. 21 – Bethel College Wind Ensemble concert, directed by Joel Boettger, 7 p.m., featuring works by Bernstein, Vaughn Williams, Sweeney, Sparke and Ticheli, *Krehbiel Auditorium, Luyken Fine Arts Center*

Sat., Dec. 3 – Five Places of Christmas, the annual holiday open house, includes Kauffman Museum and Goerz House on the Bethel College campus, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. No charge for admission. The Bethel College Women's Association (BCWA) is the host at Goerz House, where there will be baked goods, candy by the pound and other items for sale. Kauffman Museum features Ten Thousand Villages and many other gift items in the museum store, a Weave Your Own Ornament activity, the special exhibition "Reeds and Wool: Patterned Screens of Central Asia" and the permanent exhibits indoors and out. (Other Five Places of Christmas locations: Warkentin House, Harvey County Historical Museum and Carriage Factory Gallery, all in Newton.)

Invitation to support our sister church: Iglesia Menonita Casa Betania in Newton plans to welcome a Mennonite pastoral couple from Mexico to provide transitional ministry beginning Jan. 2023, for up to 6-12 months. Casa Betania is working with Western District Conference to seek affordable lodging and transportation for the pastoral couple, and to invite financial contributions to help cover expenses during this time. If you know of a small, low-cost apartment (e.g. one that is part of someone's home) or a car available for loan, please contact WDC at 316-283-6300 or wdc@mennowdc.org. Financial contributions may be sent to Iglesia Menonita Casa Betania, Box 102, Newton, KS, 67114. Thank you for sharing in support for this Anabaptist ministry among Spanish-speaking members of our community!