

Mennonite Mission Network Prayer Request: Austin Roberts, who is serving through Mennonite Mission Network, requests prayer for Northern Ireland, where Queen Elizabeth's death has fueled tensions between Catholics and Protestants. Inflation and the rise in heating oil prices and electricity, a result of Russia's war in Ukraine, add to the unrest. He asks us to join him in his plea for "a swift and peaceful end to this aggression," for the benefit of the people of Ukraine, all of Europe and the world.

Western District Conference Prayer Request: We are about to finish this year 2022, I surely believe that our God has led us, and care in the process and stages of life within the kingdom of God. And we continue to face each challenge, but God has also opened doors, relationships and many more things, the work was not only of one, but all in unity and harmony of the Spirit of God. We present to God the new challenges that will come, so that He may take care of all of us, in this Church Plant Commission and the other WDC Commissions. In the name of Jesus, Amen. -WDC Church Planting Commission

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.

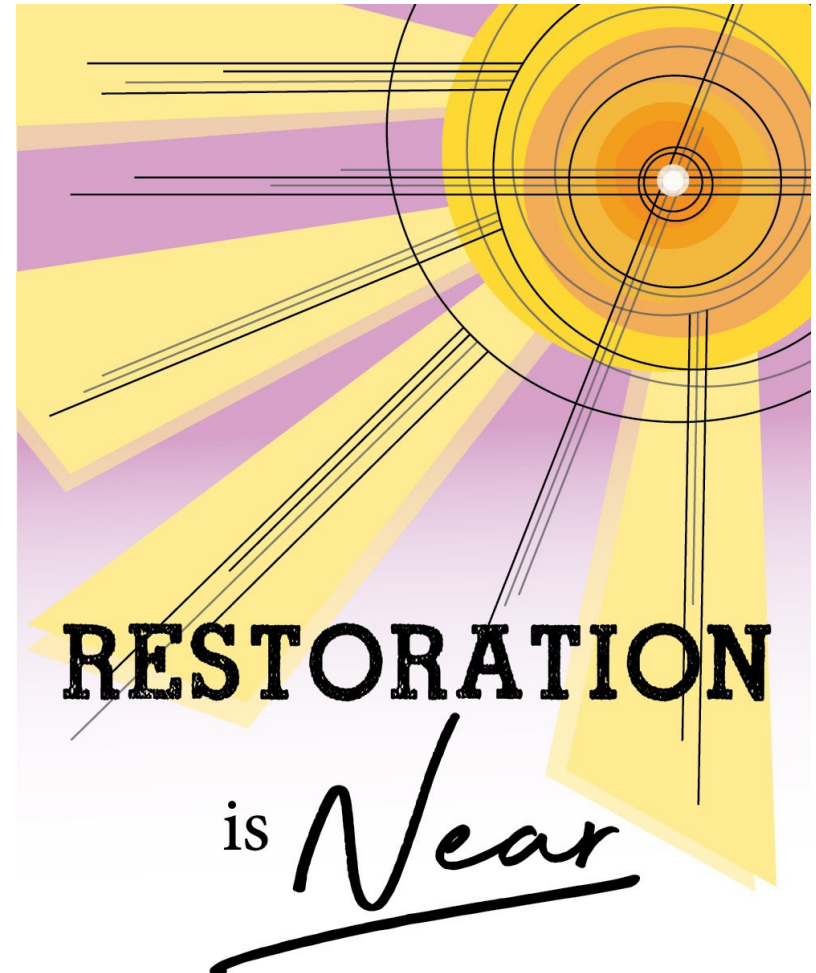
Bethel College Mennonite Church welcomes into fellowship and membership all persons who confess faith in Jesus Christ, without regard to their race, ethnic background, gender, age, sexual orientation, education, ability, and other factors which give rise to discrimination and marginalization.

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 Ringers Director: Suzanne Burch

Bethel College Mennonite Church November 27, 2022

First Sunday of Advent



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
First Sunday of Advent November 27, 2022
Watch: The Day is Almost Here

Prelude Rebecca & Matt Schloneger

Advent Candle Lighting Justina Neufeld

Hymn *O Come, O Come, Immanuel* VT 210
Congregation sings verses 1 & 6 during processional and lighting

Candle lighting liturgy

Leader: Watch! You know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep.

People: The night is far gone, the day is near.

Leader: As we watch, we light this candle as a sign of our hope.

People: Bring your restoration to your people, we pray.

Welcome Brad Kohlman

Leader: Hear us, O Shepherd of Israel; you who sit on the mercy seat between the cherubim, we stand in your presence, seeking your face.

People: Shine forth, O Lord, in the sight of your people, that we may see you clearly. Stir up your strength in us; come, rescue us.

Leader: The time is near, we are watching; restore us again, O God.

People: Cause your face to shine and we shall be saved, made whole by your gracious love and kindness.

All: We are watching and waiting for you, O Lord.

*Hymn *Hark! The Glad Sound!* VT 217

Children's Conversation & Christmas Ornaments Jill Robb

Scripture Readings Psalm 122 Lincoln Kohlman
Matthew 24:36-44 Megan Kohlman

Sermon *Watch, Pray, Believe* Jim Robb

*Hymn *Comfort, Comfort, O My People* VT 212

Communion Megan Kohlman, Carolyn Penner, Nathan Koontz

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.

"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.**

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. *Finance Committee*

Safe Sanctuary Video

You are encouraged to watch this year's safe sanctuary video created by Jill Robb and Bethany Schrag from BCMC's Abuse Prevention and Response Committee. Those who work directly with children and youth are required to watch this video as part of their yearly training, but this resource is helpful for all in our church as we seek to create a culture of safety within our congregation. For those of you who work with youth and are required to watch this video, please contact jill@bethelcollegemennonitechurch.org, for follow-up material.

Roots of Justice Anti-Racism Training

Newton Community for Racial Justice invites you to join in the work of building racial understanding, justice, and equity in our local community by participating in our next Roots of Justice Anti-Racism training coming during the MLK weekend, January 13-15. The goal of the training is to be exposed to an analysis of racism and build a common understanding of racism, to work together as a team to develop team relationships, and to deepen the philosophical foundations for antiracism work. Bethel College Mennonite Church is happy to financially sponsor your participation. Please contact Pastor Nathan if you would like more details. Early registration is December 1.

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.

Prayers of God's People

*Hymn *Now the Heavens Start to Whisper* VT 237
People with November birthdays come forward for a blessing,
please bring a hymnal

*Birthday Blessing & Benediction Jim Robb

Postlude *Wake, Wake, for Night Is Flying* (Paul Manz)
Karen Schlabaugh, organ

* You are invited to stand

VT = *Voices Together*

Audio visual— John Thiesen

Keyboard—Karen Schlabaugh

Pastor—Nathan Koontz

Welcome and thank you Jim Robb for bringing us our sermon today.

This Week at BCMC: November 27—December 4, 2022

Sun., Nov. 27—First Sunday of Advent

9:15 am Prelude by Rebecca and Matt Schloneger

9:30 am Worship with sermon by Jim Robb; November birthday recognition

10:15 am Coffee/Water/Fellowship in the Gathering Place

10:30 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/xSz3N8vYIj8>

Tues, Nov. 29

7 pm Deacon Commission meeting in Room 14

Wed., Nov. 30

7:30 pm Chancel Choir practice in the sanctuary

Thurs., Dec. 1

6:30 pm Chancel Bell practice in Room B7

7 pm Church Board meeting in Room 14

Sun., Dec. 4—Second Sunday of Advent

9:15 am Prelude by the Schowalter Villa Choir; Leland Flickinger, director

9:30 am Worship with sermon by Nathan Koontz

10:15 am Coffee/Water/Fellowship in the Gathering Place

10:30 am Faith Formation

Change in COVID-19 Protocol

The Church Board has changed its policy regarding open windows in the sanctuary during gatherings. The windows will no longer be opened during worship or other gatherings in the sanctuary unless Harvey County moves into Red status for COVID-19 based on the CDC guidelines. As long as Harvey County is in green or yellow status, windows will remain closed.

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 activit, are or will be on the north wall of the library. Come check us out!

BCMC Offering for November 20: General \$10,357.67; MCC \$25; Wed. Supper \$322.10; MCC Meat Canning \$200; Gen. Fund 2023 \$1,525; Caring Fund \$50; Living Stones \$108.33; Kitchen Fund \$1; Women’s Fellowship \$417.

Bethel College Announcements

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.)

All bakers and craft makers are invited to make items for 5 Places of Christmas on Saturday, December 3 at Goerz House, Bethel College, Bethel College Women’s Association will again be selling baked goods, candy, craft items and poinsettias. Christmas candy, cookies, zwieback, peppernuts, poppyseed rolls and cinnamon rolls are always great sellers. Please bring your items on Friday, December 2 from 1:30-4:30pm or Saturday, December 3, from 8:30-10:00am to Goerz House. Thank you for your support of Bethel College.

From the Board:

Applications Sought for Congregational Care Coordinator: Closing December 1
The half-time Congregational Care Coordinator, a new lay position, will develop ways we can support each other, coordinate visitation for those in need of care, and work at welcoming and integrating those new to our congregation and at all stages of life. The person will work in collaboration with pastors and their visitation plans. The position is set to begin January 1. Please contact the church office for application and job description. Applications for the position will be taken through December 1.

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!

Graciela Tijerina, the pastor of Casa Betania, is retiring and moving back to her home community in Texas. Her last Sunday at Casa Betania is this Sunday, Nov 27, with a 3 pm reception, 4 pm worship with release/blessing, and supper following. All are welcome to attend. Translation services are provided.

You are invited to share a poinsettia for the sanctuary for the Christmas season. The Worship Decorating Committee will purchase the poinsettias, and have them delivered to the church. To contribute, email the following to the office or fill it out and put it in the offering plate:

Donor's name: _____
In memory of: _____

Or in honor of.: _____
Make a payment of \$10.00 (made out to BCMC and designated “Flower Fund”) place in the offering plate or bring to church office by Dec. 4. There will be forms at a table in the back of the sanctuary this Sunday, Nov. 27, if you wish to fill out a form in person. Contributors may pick up a poinsettia Dec. 24 after the 5 pm Christmas program or after the Christmas Eve, 9 pm program; or, if you can, leave them for the service on Dec. 25.