

Mennonite Mission Network Prayer Request: Matthew and Toni Krabill, who are serving with Mennonite Mission Network, engage in ministries of relationship building and teaching in French-speaking countries around the world, through in-person and online classes, conferences, and seminars, from their base at the Paris (France) Mennonite Center. Pray for them as they encourage communication and understanding between Christians and Muslims.

Western District Conference Prayer Request: In this Advent season, give thanks for God's gifts of creativity and joy celebrated in the diverse cultural and ethnic traditions of congregations across WDC.

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
- 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

December 18, 2022

Fourth 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
Fourth Sunday of Advent December 18, 2022
Seek God's peace

Prelude Addison Zerger, Brett Gaeddert, Collin Gaeddert,
Lucy Burch, Lily Schloneger

Advent Candle Lighting Coralee Shenk

Hymn *O Come, O Come, Immanuel* VT 210
Congregation sings verses 1 & 4 during processional and lighting

Candle lighting liturgy

Leader: We cry out for restoration; we call upon God to give us life.

People: Do not be afraid, says the Lord. I have promised to be with you.

Leader: As we hold fast to God's promise, we light these candles as signs of hope, love, joy, and peace.

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

Welcome Dianne Epp

Call to Worship

Leader: Behold! Do not be afraid; God is with us. God is our strength and our salvation!

People: Lord, we stand in your presence in faith, not fear.

Leader: God will send angels to keep watch over you, to comfort you, to keep you.

People: Lord, our strong hope is built on your unfailing love. Our hearts yield to you and trust in your transforming power.

All: Praise ye the Lord

***Hymn** *Joy to the World* (verse 4 in unison) VT 240

Children's Conversation Jim Robb

Anthem *The Hills are Bare at Bethlehem* (arr. Ralph Johnson)
Chancel Choir; Riley King, director; Verlene Garber, accompanist

Scripture Readings Isaiah 7:10-16; Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19; Matthew 1:18-25
Cynthia & Dave Linscheid

Sermon *Longing and Fulfillment* Nathan Koontz

***Hymn** *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming* VT 216

Prayers of God's People

***Hymn** *My Soul Proclaims with Wonder* VT 222
People with December birthdays come forward for a blessing,
please bring a hymnal

***Birthday Blessing & Benediction** Nathan Koontz

Postlude *Wie Schon Leuchtet* (Tryggestad)
Verlene Garber, organ

* You are invited to stand

VT = *Voices Together*

Keyboard—Verlene Garber

Audio visual—Ken Lamp

Pastor—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.

The Witness Commission has selected The Salvation Army as our Advent project. We are collecting non perishable food items for the pantry and monetary donations. A table will be set up in The Gathering Place for food donations. A recent article in *Newton Now* showed the shelves empty in the food pantry.

The Deacons Commission is working on a "Thinking of You" campaign for people who are isolated due to health concerns. For the next few Sundays, we will have a table at the back of the sanctuary with pages for your comments to members of our church whom we haven't been able to see for a while. Please stop by and write a short greeting or sign your name to let them know we are thinking about them. For those of you who are unable to attend worship but can stop by the church during the week, these letters will be in the library during the week for anyone to write a note before we send them out. Thank you!
— *Deacon Commission*

For your calendar:

There will be two services on Christmas Eve, December 24.

- **4:30 pm The Children's Christmas Eve Service** in the Sanctuary
- **11 pm Lessons and Carols** and Candle-Lighting Service in the Sanctuary
- **There will be a Service of Remembrance** at 4 pm on January 8, 2023 to remember BCMC members and friends who died during 2022.
- **The Church office will be closed between Christmas and New Year's day this year. The Church office and building will be closed on January 2, 2023.**

Registration is beginning for the 2023 season of Kansas Mennonite Men's Chorus (KMMC). Those who sang last year will find a registration form in your church mail box. We are working to recover after the pandemic. Numbers were significantly down last year. Please consider joining this year. Please contact Joe Peters for registration forms. We sing that others may live.

Raylene Hinz-Penner's book *East of Liberal* released December 1.

"Through elements of memoir, history, and philosophy of land use, a lover of her Mennonite farm childhood looks critically at farming's impact on the land, comparing settler values of land ownership to those of first people who see themselves as owned by the sacred homeland." *East of Liberal* is published by Cascadia Publishing House. It is available through Amazon and in the Kauffman Museum store.

Mennonite Central Committee Christmas Giving! Give gifts of comfort and joy and help meet the basic needs of our global neighbors this Christmas. Choose from unique gifts such as goats, bees, backpacks and more. Give at mcc.org/delight, call 888.563.4676 or visit the MCC Central States office in North Newton, KS at 121 E. 30th Street. With each gift you can get a card and insert explaining the project. These gifts (from \$10-\$4,000) make wonderful hostess/teacher gifts, stocking stuffers and are ideal for those on your Christmas list that are hard to shop for!

College scholarships available: Everence offers college scholarships for Everence members and their children. Eligible students receive scholarships up to \$3,000 for the 2023-2024 academic year. Applications are accepted Jan. 1 through Feb. 28. Visit everence.com/scholarships for eligibility guidelines and application. Information is also available by contacting Jim Robb.

Everence Opportunities: In this season of joy, find ways to give back and support your favorite charity. Everence makes it easy. My Neighbor Card: Everence donates 1.50% of every purchase you make to the charity of your choice. Donor Advised Funds allows you to grow funds intended for charitable giving at any time. Please consider a charitable gift this holiday season.

This Week at BCMC: December 18—December 25, 2022

Sun., Dec. 18—Fourth Sunday of Advent

9:15 am Prelude by Addison Zerger, Brett Gaeddert, Collin Gaeddert, Lucy Burch, Lily Schloneger

9:30 am Sermon by Nathan Koontz; music by the Chancel Choir

10:15 am Coffee/Tea/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/U2K9OYbYK10>

Tues., Dec. 20

11 am Memorial for Paul H. Harder in the sanctuary

6:30 pm Suzuki Performance in the sanctuary

7 pm Women's Fellowship meeting in Fellowship Hall

Wed., Dec. 21

7:30 pm Chancel Choir practice in the sanctuary

Fri., Dec. 23—Christmas Eve Program Practice

5 pm Soup in Fellowship Hall for those practicing for the Children's Christmas Eve Program followed by practice

5:45 pm (approximately) Practice for the Christmas Eve Program

Sat., Dec. 24—Christmas Eve

4:30 pm Children's Christmas Eve Program in the Sanctuary

11 pm Lessons and Carols and Candle-Lighting Service in the Sanctuary

Sun., Dec. 25—Merry Christmas!

10 am **Worship Service in the sanctuary—No Sunday school**

BCMC Women's Fellowship meets December 20 at 7 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.

The South East door will be open. The meditation, 'You are not alone' will be followed with a decorating demonstration by Brenda. Hands on participation will follow. All BCMC women are invited to attend and if you can't attend please consider supporting the agreed upon ministries. Contributions may be left in Lois Goertzen's mailbox.

The worship services on Dec. 25, 2022 and Jan. 1, 2023 will begin at 10 a.m. There will be no Sunday school on these two Sundays. The congregation is encouraged to bring snacks/Christmas goodies on both Sundays to share and enjoy after the services. —Hospitality Commission

BCMC Offering for December 11: General \$12,552.66; Gen Fund 2023 \$350; Caring Fund \$500; Living Stones \$5; Flower Fund \$50; Kitchen Fund \$13.

The memorial service for Paul Harder will be Tuesday, December 20, 11 a.m. in the BCMC Sanctuary. Burial and meal will follow. It will also be live-streamed. The YouTube Live-Stream Link is: <https://youtu.be/mVE9Ony5qSo>

The Library Theme for the month of December is Advent and or Christmas.

Adult books are displayed behind the Library desk and Everybody/Junior books are displayed on the cart in the Children's Library. Speaking of the cart, all the puzzles are currently located on the west wall of the library. So, come on in and check them out. And, we've received a large donation of books recently. Look for new books added to our collection in the next couple of weeks and displayed on the west wall. **Happy Holiday Reading!**

I've been asked by The Etcetera Shop to ask for some extra volunteers for the next few weeks. Several volunteers have not returned to the shop and they have had one staff member leave and two are on emergency leave. If you could help out even for a few hours in the next few weeks, it would be very much appreciated. If you have not volunteered before, we could arrange orientation. **If you have any questions, please call Elaine Schurr, 402-980-1809**

Roots of Justice Anti-Racism training is being held January 13-15, 2023 at the Newton Rec Center. If you would like to help support this event by bringing snacks, or helping with snack setup and cleanup, please sign up at the following link:

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1EYyJPrblgCitrIp7Rg_8Zwsb0162YPU1NyDrePqdebug/edit?usp=sharing

If you want to help but don't want to use the link, call Margaret Toews at 316-258-8900, or email at mctoews1@gmail.com

Bethel College Announcements

- **Now at Kauffman Museum: "Reeds and Wool: Patterned Screens of Central Asia,"** revived from 20 years ago in memory of the late John Sommer, who collected the screens, made by nomadic Kyrgyz women, and organized the original exhibit. Regular Kauffman Museum hours are Tues.-Fri., 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Sat.-Sun., 1:30-4:30 p.m. The museum is closed Mondays and major holidays, so it will be closed Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year's Eve and New Year's Day. There is a small admission charge for non-members. The Museum Store is open during exhibit hours and is Harvey County's only source for Ten Thousand Villages fair-trade gifts, as well as a selection of books, puzzles, cards and many local gift and craft items. See kauffmanmuseum.org or the Kauffman Museum Facebook page.

Announcements From the Board:

Welcome to Elizabeth Schmidt, Congregational Care Coordinator!

The BCMC Board is excited to welcome Elizabeth Schmidt as our Congregational Care Coordinator! In addition to being our recent past church moderator, Elizabeth is a Bethel College graduate, has taken coursework for an MA in Theology at Illiff School of Theology, and has completed one unit of Extended Clinical Pastoral Education at Wesley Medical Center. She was also Executive Director of Harvey-Marion County Community Developmental Organization from 2007 to 2019. In this new half-time position, Elizabeth 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. Elizabeth will begin work on January 1.

Preparations Underway for Roger Neufeld Smith, our Interim Pastor

January 1 will mark the beginning of work for Roger Neufeld Smith, our new half-time Interim Pastor. He comes with 30 years of experience as pastor at Southern Hills Mennonite Church in Topeka and has recently been an interim pastor in Beatrice, Nebraska. We will welcome him officially during the worship service on January 8 with his first sermon planned for January 15. In addition to preaching about once per month, he will also work with committees and commissions and be involved with visitation in collaboration with Pastor Nathan and the Congregational Care Coordinator. We are so pleased to begin our work with him!

Custodial Position: Thanks to Mike Crawford

We are very grateful to Mike Crawford for his approximate ten years of work as our custodian and his care for our facility as well as help with set-up for numerous events in our church. His behind-the-scenes work has been so valuable in keeping our building clean and ready for worship and many other activities. Mike has resigned with his last day of work on December 16. The Facilities Committee has plans for temporary replacement while a more permanent replacement is sought.

Credence Report Task Group

The BCMC Board is constituting a small task group to oversee decisions and implementation of recommendations from the Credence and Company consultants. Their work will begin after the first of the year. If you would like to be involved with this group or a specific part of the recommendations, please feel free to contact Ada Schmidt-Tieszen, Moderator, or Brad Kohlman, Moderator-Elect. Your input is always welcome.