

Mennonite Mission Network Prayer Request: Mennonite Mission Network offers a blessing for each member of your congregation on this Christmas Day. May we encourage one another to follow Jesus' example and become incarnations of God's love and peace in our communities, today and in the coming year.

Western District Conference Prayer Request: On this Christmas Day, give thanks for the gift of Christ's presence made tangible through the life and witness of WDC congregations.

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.

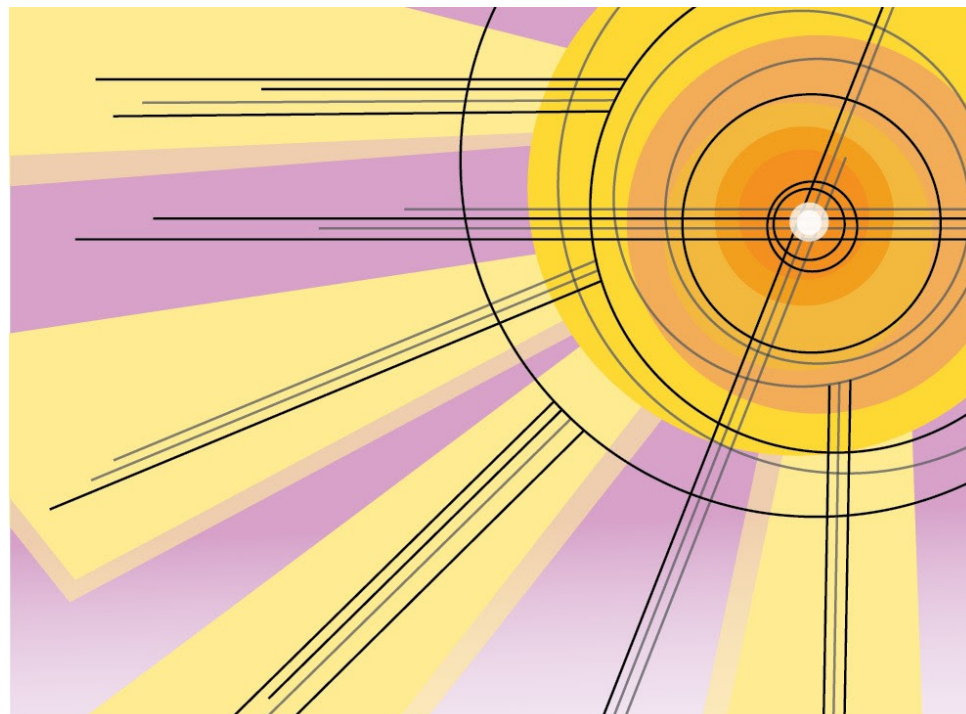
Bethel College Mennonite Church welcomes into fellowship and membership all persons who confess faith in Jesus Christ, without regard to their race, ethnic background, gender, age, sexual orientation, education, ability, and other factors which give rise to discrimination and marginalization.

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
- Elizabeth Schmidt, Congregational Care Coordinator
Email: elizabeth@bethelcollegemennonitechurch.org
- Jill Robb, Faith Formation Coordinator
Email: jill@bethelcollegemennonitechurch.org
- George Leary, Youth Coordinator
Email: george@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 Ringers Director: Suzanne Burch

Bethel College Mennonite Church December 25, 2022

Christmas Day



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
Christmas Day December 25, 2022
Sing for joy: Your God reigns

Prelude Mark Kreider

***Hymn** *Hark! the Herald Angels Sing* VT 247

Advent Candle Lighting Rebecca, Aaron, and Theo Tschetter

Welcome Matt Schloneger

Call to Worship

Leader: Sing and shout; how great is our God! The heavens praise your name; the earth proclaims your glory!

People: How beautiful are the feet on the mountain of those who bring good news.

Leader: Great is your peace, and great are your promises.

People: Your good news brings comfort to my soul. In my heart a new song cries out.

Leader: Sing hallelujah!

All: Our God reigns!

***Hymn** *Oh, How Joyfully* VT 254

***Hymn** *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly* VT 243

Children's Conversation Esther Koontz

***Hymn** *O Come, All Ye Faithful* VT 241

Worship Music Mark Kreider

Scripture Readings Isaiah 52:7-10; John 1:1-14
Adah Hodge, Barb Koontz

Meditation Nathan Koontz

***Hymn** *In the Beginning* VT 270

Prayers of God's People

***Hymn** *Angels We Have Heard on High* VT 249

***Benediction** Nathan Koontz

Postlude Mark Kreider

* You are invited to stand

VT = *Voices Together*

Audio visual—Ben Lichti

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.

Thank you to Verlene Garber who is retiring as accompanist to the Chancel Choir, a position she has filled admirably since 2014!

Welcome to Will Wiebe-Friesen who begins in January as accompanist to the Chancel Choir.

Menno Ringers—All students 4th grade through 8th grade interested in ringing handbells are welcome! Rehearsals begin Jan. 11, 2023, 6:30 pm in Room B7.

The Finance Committee thanks you for your contributions to BCMC and its ministries throughout 2022. Contributions received in today's offering and before December 31 will also be counted for 2022 giving.

As we are in the holiday season that brings joy with the promise of new life and love birthed into our world, there is also grief as we miss those who have passed from this world in 2022. In order to recognize and mourn the loss of our loved ones from 2022, Bethel College Mennonite Church is hosting a Service of Remembrance on January 8, 2023 at 4 pm, in the BCMC sanctuary.

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, one staff member has left 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 questions, call Elaine Schurr, 402-980-1809**

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.

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.

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/1EYyJPrblgCitrlp7Rg_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

This Week at BCMC: December 25, 2022—January 1, 2023

Sun., Dec. 25—Merry Christmas!

**10 am Worship Service in the sanctuary—No Sunday school
Monday through Friday—December 26 through December 30**

The church office will be closed this week.

There will be no Chancel Choir or Chancel Bells rehearsal this week.

No Youth Group this week.

Sun., Jan. 1, 2023—Happy New Year!

**10 am Worship Service in the sanctuary with reflection by Doug Penner—
No Sunday school**

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

New's Year Reflection in Worship

We welcome Doug Penner to share his reflections on Micah 6:8 next Sunday on New Year's day! As we prepare for a new year, let us be thinking about ways that we seek to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with God.

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.

BCMC Offering for December 18: General \$17,771.67; Gen. Fund 2023 \$9,000; Living Stones \$963.33; Flower Fund \$10; Kitchen Fund \$7; Screen Project \$1,000; Keith Sprunger Memorial \$50.

Thank you to all who purchased poinsettias and made our church more festive for the Christmas season. Thanks also to the many people who have contributed to the Advent and Christmas visuals at BCMC this year! A special thanks goes to Susie and Bill Swartley for the sanctuary and entryway decorations; to Carol Peters for the outside Advent banners; to Kathy Stucky for the sanctuary poinsettias; to Matt Koontz and Josh Brubacher for hanging the Sanctuary banners each week; to Brenda Turner for the Gathering Space window decorations; and Glen Ediger for the Gathering Space nativity scene. The nativity set in this scene was donated by Rex and Connie Esau. **Thank you so much for your contributions to enrich our holiday season!**

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!

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.

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!**

Poinsettias at BCMC



Donor

In memory of

Mary Ann BoschmannMarilyn Krehbiel
Dennis & Kathy Campbell Orlando & Barbara Friesen
William & Esther Kreider Eash Our Parents & Grandparents
Dianne EppAnthony R. Epp
John & Bernice EsauKeith Esau
Marlene V. Faul, Sharon, Mary & Families James O. Faul
Carol Flickinger & Roger Juhnke Our Parents—
Ray and Cornelia Juhnke & Virgil & Anna Grace Flickinger
Gary Franz & Elizabeth Raid Mary Franz & Lou Gomez
Richard Friesen & Dorothy Nickel Friesen.....
Arthur & Viola Friesen & John & Edna Nickel
Crystal & Joel Gaeddert Mary Enz
Willis Harder Dorothy L. Harder & Kurt A. Harder
David & Rose Haury Ben Haury
Joyce Holck Marvin Holck
Dick & Barb Koontz Elbert & Ruth Koontz; Phil Koontz;
Aldene Delk; and in Honor of Elmer "Bob" Delk, 100 years old!
Sondra Koontz Philip Koontz
David Kreider & Heidi Regier Kreider
Ken, Annette, Katherine, Elizabeth Lamp
In Honor Of Evelyn Quiring
John & Rachel Pannabecker Our Parents
Doug Penner & Raylene Hinz-Penner Our Parents
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John & Elsie Sheriff Kent Sheriff
Aldine, David, Charlotte, Mary, Rachid, Philip & Liz
Keith Sprunger
Marvin Thieszen Shirley Thieszen
Margaret Toews Meribeth & Henry Claassen
Lenore Waltner & Family James Waltner

Anonymous Donation in Honor of Pastor Nathan