

Mennonite Mission Network Prayer Request: Cassidy Bush, Anna Lubbers, Rachel Miller and Eli Reimer make up Mennonite Mission Network's San Francisco (California) Mennonite Voluntary Service unit. Pray for them as they join First Mennonite Church of San Francisco in ministries that work toward reducing poverty and homelessness and promoting social justice, education, and health.

Western District Conference Prayer Request: In this Advent season, give thanks for God's gifts of wisdom, vision and hope for WDC congregations navigating transitions and other discernment processes.

Land Acknowledgement compiled by Florence Schloneger from words by Mark Charles and VT #878

*As we do on the first Sunday of each month,
we acknowledge that we worship
on the land of the Kanza, Osage, and Wichita.
We thank them for their care and respect for this land
and acknowledge the injustice of their forced removal.
We ask the Spirit to heal our histories
and find new paths of right relationships with them
and all of creation.*

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

December 4, 2022

Second 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
Second Sunday of Advent December 4, 2022
Prepare the way of the Lord

Prelude *O Come, O Come Emmanuel* (arr. Tom Fettke)
 Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus (arr. Robert Harkness)
 Scripture Reading
 Joy To The World (arr. Gordon Young)
 Infant Holy, Infant Lowly (Polish Carol; arr. W. Lezy)
Schowalter Singers, Hesston, KS; Leland Flickenger, director

Advent Candle Lighting Megan, Brad, Lincoln, & Lawrence Kohlman

Hymn *O Come, O Come, Immanuel* VT 210
Congregation sings verses 1 & 2 during processional and lighting

Candle lighting liturgy

Leader: Repent, for the kin-dom of heaven has come near.

People: Prepare the way of the Lord, make God's paths straight.

Leader: As we prepare, these candles are a sign of hope and peace.

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

Welcome Margaret Toews

Land Acknowledgement

Call to Worship^

Leader: In this season of prophecy, promise, and preparation, we come to be renewed and refreshed.

People: We come to be inspired by stories of a messiah who will change the world--and change us.

Leader: We come to listen for words of hope and joy, promise and challenge.

People: We come with open ears, open minds, and open hearts. We come to receive the blessings God has in store for us in this season of waiting.

Leader: Come! Let us worship our God--the One who brings all things to fulfillment.

***Hymn** *Poor of the Earth* VT 213

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 will be 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 the Newton Now showed the shelves empty in the food pantry.

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!**

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.

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.

BCMC Offering for November 27: General \$6,982; Gen. Fund 2023 \$145; Living Stones \$130; Flower Fund \$70; Kitchen Fund \$10.

Stewardship Campaign Update: As things stand, we are in big trouble. As of yesterday, we had about \$346,000 in pledges of support. That comes out to about 65% of the proposed 2023 budget of \$524,000. Historically we generally get about 12% more in contributions than we pledge. Assuming that, we can reasonably assume another 40 to 42 thousand dollars of income. That brings us, in the neighborhood of \$390,000. That's a shortfall of \$135,000. In order to close that gap we need your help now! If you haven't pledged, please do. If you feel like you could do more, please do.

Also as a reminder, we are into the final month of the 2022 budget. While the final tabulations are not completed, Mike tells me that we had a positive balance again last month and we have whittled down our deficit to about \$16,000. Congratulations on this string of positive months. We need one more big one to get us over the hump to finish our year in the black.

The finance committee is grateful for all that you do and have done to help our church meet its financial obligations and goals. Please do what you can to make the proposed budget work and the current year a financial success. Thank you very much! *The Finance Committee*

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 hopefully will be available at local retailers soon.

Children's Conversation

Adam Robb

Anthem *The Lord Is My Light* (Music: Lillian Bouknight)
(Setting arr. Martha Hershberger)

Scripture Readings Isaiah 11:1-11; Romans 15:4-13; Matthew 3:1-12
Abby Koontz, Ani Koontz

Sermon *From These Stones* Nathan Koontz

***Hymn** *The Angel Gabriel Called Mary Blessed* VT 221

Prayers of God's People

Congregational Response: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

***Hymn** *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* VT 218

***Benediction** Nathan Koontz

Postlude *Praise God From Whom* (Music: Lowell Mason)

* You are invited to stand

^from Ministry Matters (<https://www.ministrymatters.com>)

VT = *Voices Together*

Keyboard- Verlene Garber

Audio visual— Ken Lamp

Pastor—Nathan Koontz

Welcome and thank you to the Schowalter Singers for bringing us the prelude and other special music this morning!

"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.**

This Week at BCMC: December 4—December 11, 2022

Sun., Dec. 4—Second Sunday of Advent

- 9:15 am** Prelude by Hesston Seniors 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—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/zi_2zGcvyMs

Mon., Dec. 5

- 7 pm** Facilities Committee meeting in Fellowship Hall

Tues, Dec. 6

- 9-11 am** Community Playschool

Wed., Dec. 7

- 9-11 am** Community Playschool
11 am Bethel College *Messiah* Sing Through in the Sanctuary
6:30 pm Chancel Bell practice in Room B7
7:30 pm Chancel Choir practice in the sanctuary

Thurs., Dec. 8

- 9-11 am** Community Playschool
6:30 pm Chancel Bell practice in Room B7
6:30 pm Abuse Prevention & Response Committee meeting in Fellowship Hall
7:00 pm Finance Committee meeting in Room 14

Friday, Dec. 9

- 9-11 am** Community Playschool

Sun., Dec. 11—Third Sunday of Advent

- 9:15 am** Prelude by Chancel Bells
9:30 am Sermon by Patty Shelly
10:15 am Coffee/Tea/Water/Fellowship in the Gathering Place
10:30 am Faith Formation

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

It's Beginning to Look a Like Christmas: Thanks! Many people have contributed to the Advent and Christmas visuals at BCMC this year as we prepare for the birth of Jesus! 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. Thank you so much for your contributions to enrich our holiday season!

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.

Bethel College Announcements

- **Tues., Dec. 6 – Bethel College Steel Drum Ensemble concert**, directed by Brad Shores, 7 p.m., Krehbiel Auditorium in Luyken Fine Arts Center
- **Weds., Dec. 7 – Singalong to Christmas portions of Handel's Messiah, 11 a.m.**, with chamber orchestra and soloists, Bethel College Mennonite Church. Scores provided.
- **Fri., Dec. 9 – Christmas Gala Jazz concert**, directed by Joel Boettger, 8 p.m., Krehbiel Auditorium in Luyken Fine Arts Center
- **Sun., Dec. 11 – 37th annual Lighting of the Green**, 8 p.m. on the Bethel College campus
- **Now in the Regier Gallery in Luyken Fine Arts Center at Bethel College** – annual Senior Art Exhibit, featuring the work of Capri Bisom, through Fri., Dec. 15. Gallery hours are Mon.-Fri., 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Sun. 2-4 p.m.

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.