

**Mennonite Mission Network Prayer Request:** Mennonite Mission Network praises God for the 40 SOOP participants who are serving this month in places like Kykotsmovi, Phoenix, and Tucson, Arizona; Gotha, Florida; Americus, Georgia; Meridian, Mississippi; Mt. Pleasant, Pennsylvania; and San Antonio, Texas. Pray that they will be instruments of God’s justice, peace and love.

**Western District Conference Prayer Request:** Pray for generous contributions to WDC as the fiscal year ends in January, to support conference ministries of equipping ministers, resourcing congregations, and networking church planting partnerships.

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.**

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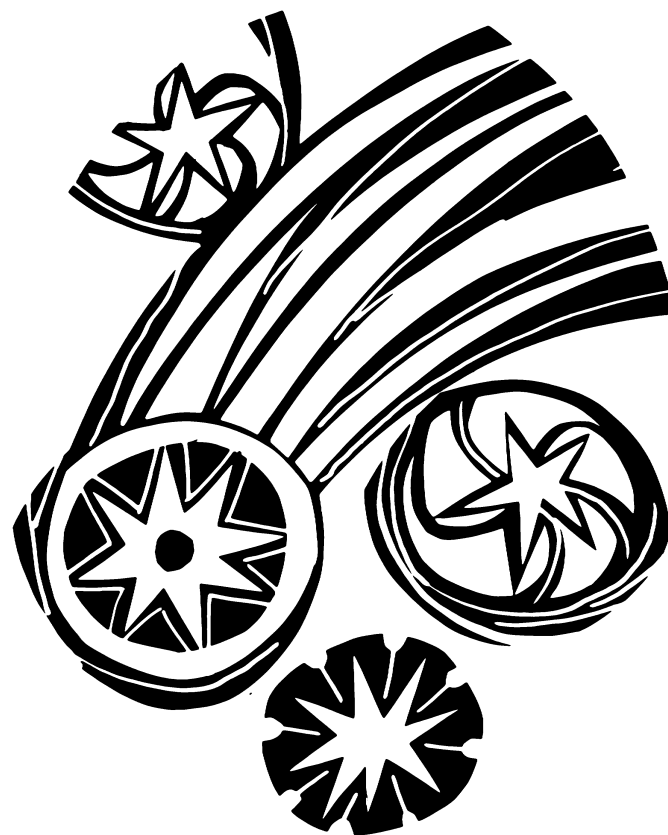
Bethel College Mennonite Church, 2600 College Ave., Box 364, North Newton, KS 67117  
Phone: 316-283-3667—Fax: 316-283-2079 Email: [office@bethelcollegemennonitechurch.org](mailto:office@bethelcollegemennonitechurch.org)  
Website: [bethelcollegemennonitechurch.org](http://bethelcollegemennonitechurch.org)  
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](mailto:nathan@bethelcollegemennonitechurch.org)
- Pastor Roger Neufeld Smith  
Cell phone: 785-220-1968; Email: [roger@bethelcollegemennonitechurch.org](mailto:roger@bethelcollegemennonitechurch.org)
- Elizabeth Schmidt, Congregational Care Coordinator  
Email: [elizabeth@bethelcollegemennonitechurch.org](mailto:elizabeth@bethelcollegemennonitechurch.org)
- Jill Robb, Faith Formation Coordinator  
Email: [jill@bethelcollegemennonitechurch.org](mailto:jill@bethelcollegemennonitechurch.org)
- George Leary, Youth Coordinator  
Email: [george@bethelcollegemennonitechurch.org](mailto:george@bethelcollegemennonitechurch.org)
- Office/Facilities Manager: Monica Lichti, Cell phone 316-249-9652  
Email: [office@bethelcollegemennonitechurch.org](mailto: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

### January 8, 2023

### Epiphany



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**

**January 8, 2023**

**Epiphany**

<b>Prelude</b>	<i>We three kings of orient are</i> (arr. D. Bish) <i>Nun ist sie erschienen</i> (arr. S. Vincent) Will Wiebe-Friesen, organ
<b>Christ Candle Lighting</b>	
<b>Welcome and Prayer</b>	Esther Kreider Eash
<b>*Hymn</b>	<i>Arise, Your Light Is Come!</i> VT 273
<b>Anthem</b>	<i>See Whose Glory Fills the Skies</i> (arr. Evelyn Simposon-Currenton) [VT 274] Chancel Choir—Riley King, director; Will Wiebe-Friesen, accompanist
<b>Scripture Reading</b>	Matthew 2:1-12 William Eash
<b>Children's Conversation</b>	Judy Harder
<b>*Hymn</b>	<i>On This Great Day of Days</i> VT 260
<b>Sermon</b>	<i>Divine Incognito</i> Keith Harder
<b>*Hymn</b>	<i>Unexpected and Mysterious</i> VT 229
<b>Installation</b>	Roger Neufeld Smith, Interim Pastor; VT 965 Elizabeth Schmidt, Congregational Care Coordinator
<b>Prayers of God's People</b>	
<b>*Hymn</b>	<i>Love Came Down at Christmas</i> VT 255
<b>*Benediction</b>	Keith Harder
<b>Postlude</b>	<i>Praise Ye the Lord of Hosts</i> (Saint-Saëns) Will Wiebe-Friesen

\* You are invited to stand Audio visual— Ken Lamp  
VT = *Voices Together* 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.**

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**We welcome Keith Harder, retired pastor and church leader, who is bringing the sermon today.**

**Thanks for your warm welcome this week as I began my ministry at Bethel College Mennonite Church.** I will be returning to Topeka this afternoon, but I will be checking my BCMC email regularly while in Topeka (roger@bethelcollegemennonitechurch.org). I'm also available by voice mail or text when necessary (785-220-1968). I will be back in the BCMC office from Thursday to Sunday this coming week, January 12-15. As I settle into ministry here, I hope to establish a regular pattern of when I will be in Newton. Thanks for your patience and prayers as we work together in the kin-dom of Christ. — *Pastor Roger Neufeld Smith*

**In order to recognize and mourn the loss of our loved ones from 2022, Bethel College Mennonite Church is hosting a Service of Remembrance today at 4 pm, in the BCMC sanctuary.**  
**YouTube Link: <https://youtu.be/F7Rb3ZGkXjg>**

**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.

**Celebration of Life for Gwen Claassen**

There will be a celebration of life for Gwen Claassen on Saturday, January 14, 3 p.m. at the Dyck Arboretum in Hesston, KS

**Pastor Nathan Koontz will be away January 14-16, 2023.**

**BCMC Offering for January 1:** General Fund \$3,560; Caring Fund \$50; Living Stones \$50; Kitchen Fund \$26.75; Women's Fellowship \$10.

**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.

**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 clean-up, please sign up at the following link:  
[https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1EYyJPrblgCitrIp7Rg\\_8Zwsb0162YPU1NyDrePqdebug/edit?usp=sharing](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](mailto:mctoews1@gmail.com)

**WANTED: Your stories. To share at the "Schweitzers and Friends" 150th celebration of Swiss Volhynian Mennonites coming to the U.S. in 1874, planned for Aug. 23-25, 2024.** Everyone loves the stories told about days gone by. This event gives us opportunity to collect ancestor stories. Brian Adams from Massachusetts would like to edit stories for a Swiss Volhynian book with the help of his daughter Casey Adams ([cpadams992@gmail.com](mailto:cpadams992@gmail.com)). Brian says no stories are too small or inconsequential. He has heard stories from his Grandfather Jacob (Red Jake) Krehbiel from Moundridge. Think of a story you could share and send to Brian. Themes could be family, faith, agriculture, language. We would all love to read those stories at the celebration event in 2024. Brian's contacts:  
[smolts123@yahoo.com](mailto:smolts123@yahoo.com). Phone: 413-586-3063 and he could interview you by phone. --Kathy Goering for the planners

**Everence Opportunities:** Everence makes it easy to find ways to give back and support your favorite charity. 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.

## **This Week at BCMC: January 8-15, 2023**

### **Sunday, Jan. 8 2023**

**9:30 am** Worship with sermon by Keith Harder

**YouTube Link for this Sunday is: <https://youtu.be/SV5Uoaxy1IY>**

**The church nursery** is staffed during worship and Sunday School

**10:30 am** Faith Formation—Intergenerational class meets in Fellowship Hall; High School - Room 24;

Adult Classes: Agape Class meets in the 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)

**4 pm Service of Remembrance in the Sanctuary—all are welcome**

### **Mon., Jan. 9, 2023**

**9 am** Women's Fellowship Executive Board meeting in Fellowship Hall

### **Tues., Jan. 10, 2023**

**12 noon** Mid-Kansas Investment Club meets in Fellowship Hall

### **Wed., Jan. 11, 2023**

**7:30 pm** Chancel Choir Rehearsal in the Sanctuary

### **Thurs, Jan. 5, 2023**

**6:30 pm** Chancel Bell Rehearsal in Room B7

### **Sunday, Jan. 15, 2023-Martin Luther King, Jr. Sunday**

**9:30 am** Worship with sermon by Roger Neufeld Smith; music by Chancel Bells

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**BCMC Women's Fellowship Executive Board** meets Monday, January 9 at 9:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

### **Judy and John Kliewer—SOOP Assignment**

I am pleased to share with you that John and Judy Kliewer will be participating in a SOOP assignment (Service Opportunities with Our Partners) through Mennonite Mission Network. They will be serving in Tucson for the month of January, 2023. This will be John and Judy's first SOOP assignment. For more information about SOOP, please visit our website, <https://serve.mennonitemission.net/serve/Pages/SOOP.aspx>. Please join us in praying for John and Judy as they prepare for this assignment and while they are gone. — Arloa Bontrager, North American Regional Co-Administrator, SOOP/Youth Venture/Short-term Opportunities, Mennonite Mission Network

## **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 began work on January 1.

**Roger Neufeld Smith began work on January 1 as 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 welcome him officially today and his first sermon is 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.

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**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](https://everence.com/scholarships) for eligibility guidelines and application. Information is also available by contacting Jim Robb.

## **Bethel College Announcements**

- **Mon., Jan. 16 – Bethel College celebration of the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday,** featuring Marche Fleming-Randle, “Together We Can Be the Dream,” 7 p.m., Memorial Hall
- **Sun., Jan. 22 – Bethel College Music Department Honors Recital, 4 p.m., Administration Building chapel,** featuring freshman, sophomore and junior vocal and instrumental students who performed exceptionally during the fall 2022 semester.
- **Save the date: Sat., Jan. 28 – Kauffman Museum annual Kansas Day event, “Kansans Create!,”** noon-4 p.m., museum parking lot and grounds. For more information, see the Kauffman Museum Facebook page or [kauffmanmuseum.org](https://kauffmanmuseum.org)

### **New Hope Shelter Announcement**

We greatly need to increase our volunteer base as we head into the new year and with the new building only one year away, do as much as we can to provide two volunteers each evening per shift. If you have anyone who is interested in volunteering, please let me know. My volunteer training sessions are normally planned at the end of each month based on availability and need. — Shonda M Suddeth, Shelter/Volunteer Coordinator (316) 283-7711, [shonda@newhope-shelter.org](mailto:shonda@newhope-shelter.org) **Please contact Valetta Seymour if you can consider becoming a New Hope Shelter volunteer.** Generally, we have people to provide meals, but evening volunteers are needed. Contact: [seymour2314@gmail.com](mailto:seymour2314@gmail.com) 620-217-7536

**Western District Conference’s Hope Fund** assists WDC congregations and commissions in response to the impact of the COVID pandemic, natural disasters and other emergencies resulting in added expenses, stress, and loss of income. Thanks to generous contributions from WDC congregations, members and friends, 28 grants were made from 2020 to 2022, totaling over \$62,000. Nearly a third of WDC congregations and the Ministerial Leadership Commission have received grants (some receiving multiple grants) to assist with needs such as rent, utility bills, facility repairs, groceries, medical costs, transportation, children’s daycare, mental health counseling and coaching. The Hope Fund is running low and seeks new contributions in 2023! Donations designated “Hope Fund” may be made online at <https://forms.ministryforms.net/embed.aspx?formId=c50eb5b3-a9b7-4431-ba3c-bcb6744f74f1> or sent to WDC at PO Box 306, North Newton, KS 67117. For more information and application see <https://mennowdc.org/wdc-hope-fund-response-to-the-coronavirus-pandemic/>