

Mennonite Mission Network Prayer Request: Alfonsina and José Oyanguren, serving through Mennonite Mission Network, request prayer for the more than 40 people from 15 communities in Argentina's Chaco region who are helping voice dub the Jesus Film in the Toba Qom language. Pray that those who participate will be led into a deeper understanding of who Jesus is and his love for all people.

Western District Conference Prayer Request: Give thanks for WDC's Resource Library, and pray that children, youth, adults and ministry leaders would be enriched in faith and discipleship through library resources.

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
- Pastor Roger Neufeld Smith
Cell phone: 785-220-1968; Email: roger@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

May 7, 2023



Vincent Van Gogh's "Sower" ("Sower with Setting Sun") 1888

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
May 7, 2023

Prelude	Will Wiebe-Friesen	
Anthem	<i>Come Ye Disconsolate</i> (Terre Johnson) Chancel Choir; Riley King, director; Will Wiebe-Friesen, accompanist	
Christ Candle Lighting		
Welcome and Prayer	Jim Robb	
Land Acknowledgement	Darlene Dick	
*Hymn	<i>Summoned by the God Who Made Us</i> —VT 1	
Anthem	<i>In This Still Room</i> (Gwyneth Walker) Chancel Choir	
Children's Conversation	Megan Kohlman	
Scripture Reading	Isaiah 43:16-21 Ani Koontz, Megan Leary Matthew 13:1-9,44-45,51-52	
Sermon	<i>Our Entrepreneurial God</i> Roger Neufeld Smith	
*Hymn	<i>You Are Salt for the Earth</i> VT 297	
Prayers of God's People		
*Hymn	<i>Be a Sower</i> VT 789 People with April birthdays come forward for a blessing, please bring a hymnal	
*Birthday Blessing & Benediction	VT 1050 (congregational response " <i>Jesus, now lead on</i> ")	
Choral Benediction	<i>Amen</i> (John Rutter)	Chancel Choir
Postlude	Will Wiebe-Friesen	

You are invited to stand
VT—*Voices Together*
Audio visual—Ben Lichti

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.

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.

***In This Still Room* by Gwyneth Walker**

"And so I find it well to come for deeper rest to this still room
For here the habit of the soul
Feels less the outer world's control;
For strength of mutual purpose pleads more earnestly our common needs;
And from the silence multiplied
By these still forms on either side,
the world that time and sense have known
Falls off and leaves us God alone."

Roger's Whereabouts - Roger will be in Newton until Monday afternoon (May 8). He will be back in Newton on Wednesday, May 24. Roger checks his phone messages and texts daily while he is in Topeka, so feel free to contact him via phone or email.

It is time to register for Vacation Bible School. For children in Pre-K (4 years) through entering 5th grade. Please invite grandchildren and friends to fill out the form so they can attend. We would love to have them! If you have any questions, please email or talk to Mary Ellen Hodge (hodge_mar@yahoo.com or Jill Robb (jill@bethelcollegemennonitechurch.org) or). The link to the Registration Form is https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSepSN8cyMISPivc5JTk2H_FYfqNJVVXO-E_NlmlJwDApBsHTg/viewform



Or Click on the QR Code

Bethel College Announcements:

- **Sun., May 7 – Woven and Open Road** joint concert at BCMC, 7 p.m.
- **Bethel College commencement weekend is Sat.-Sun., May 13-14.**
Events: **Nurse Pinning Ceremony, 2 p.m., May 13**, Krehbiel Auditorium;
Baccalaureate, 10 a.m., and **Commencement, 4 p.m.,** May 14, both in Memorial Hall.
- **Thurs.-Sat., May 18-20** – Pop-up exhibit, “Mennonites in East Germany,” Kauffman Museum (2801 N. Main St., North Newton 67117); hours are 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. weekdays, 1:30-4:30 p.m. weekends. Sat., May 20 – Pastor Bernhard Thiessen from the University of Hamburg will speak on “Mennonite Peace Efforts Under Communist Observation,” 4 p.m. in the museum auditorium.

Youth ages 12 to 17 are invited to be a Junior Volunteer at Kidron Bethel Village in North Newton or Schowalter Villa in Hesston June 1 through July 28. Junior Volunteers help facilitate activities with residents in health care and/or assisted living, including playing games, reading, going on walks and more. An application is required and must be submitted by May 10. Spaces are limited. Proof of complete COVID-19 vaccination series required. For application, contact 620-327-4821 or shelleyl@bluestemks.org.

The Kansas Mennonite Relief Sale Annual Dinner and Meeting will be Thursday, May 25, 6:00 pm at First Mennonite Church, McPherson. The cost of the meal is \$20.00. Please RSVP to Barb BJ Reeves at bj.reeves@live.com or call/text 620-543-6863 by May 21. Come celebrate the success of the MCC Sale!

Peace Connections is hosting **Bridges out of Poverty**, a free training to be a volunteer for Circle of Hope. The training is a three part workshop on May 5 (2-4 p.m.); June 2 (2-4 p.m.) and July 7 (2-4 p.m.) To RSVP for the workshop or for more information visit www.peaceconnections.org or call 316-284-0000. Harvey County Circle of Hope is a relationship-based initiative that seeks to improve the financial health and well-being of the community and our residents. Circle of Hope connects community volunteers with families ready and willing to begin their journey towards financial stability.

Hesston College’s Bel Canto Singers will be in concert commencement weekend Fri., May 12, 7 p.m. Join in person at Hesston Mennonite Church or watch the live stream at hesston.edu/livestream. **Riccardo Harris, executive director of Wichita GEAR UP at WSU, will present the Hesston College commencement address on May 13.** General seating in the sanctuary will begin at 3:30 p.m. Join in person at Hesston Mennonite Church or watch the live stream at hesston.edu/commencement.

This Week at BCMC: May 7-14, 2023

Sun, May 7 2023

9:30 am Worship YouTube Link for this Sunday is: <https://youtube.com/live/8TGAIWAx6gk?feature=share>

The church nursery is staffed during worship and Sunday School

10:45 am Congregational Meeting in the Sanctuary (No adult Sunday schools this Sunday) YouTube Link: <https://youtube.com/live/Tt1pRkGCfgk?feature=share>

7 pm Bethel College Woven and Open Road Ensemble Groups Concert in the BCMC Sanctuary—All are welcome!

Mon., May 8, 2023

9 am Women’s Fellowship Executive Board meeting in Fellowship Hall

11 am Staff meeting in Room 14

Wed., May 10, 2023

7 pm Senior High Youth Group

7:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal in the Sanctuary

Thurs., May 11, 2023

4 pm Creation Care Committee meeting in Room 14

6:30 pm Chancel Bell rehearsal in Room B7

Sun., May 14, 2023—Bethel College Baccalaureate

There will be no worship service at BCMC this Sunday; **Bethel College Baccalaureate will be in Bethel College’s Memorial Hall starting at 10 a.m.—All are invited!**

Bethel College Commencement is at 4 p.m. in Thresher Stadium (if rain, Memorial Hall)

The congregational meeting is today, at 10:45 a.m., during the Sunday school hour, in the Sanctuary. The agenda can be found in the annual program booklet. (There are printed copies available on the ledge between the mailboxes in the Gathering Place.) For those who are tuning in remotely, votes can be texted to [\(620\) 747-0185](tel:6207470185). The meeting will be live-streamed but will not be recorded. Agenda items will include approval of new commission, committee, and board members; updates from the Search Committee and Credence Report Task Group; and reports from several task groups and staff.

There will be a recognition of BCMC graduating high school seniors and a reception of new members of BCMC during the worship service on Sunday, May 21.

We offer sympathy to LuAnn Zook, Doug Siemens, Angus and Zoe Siemens and their extended family on the death of LuAnn’s father, Herbert Zook, May 4, 2023 at Schowalter Villa, Hesston.

Please pray for Myron Voran who is recovering from gallbladder removal surgery at NMC Health.

Women's Fellowship Executive Board meets in Fellowship Hall Monday, May 8 at 9:00 a.m.

Offertory at BCMC

As a way of acknowledging our offertory during our Sunday morning worship, starting this second Sunday of Easter, the ushers will bring up the offertory trays to the communion table during the Hymn of Response. Then, as we have already been doing, the worship leader will give thanks for the offering during the Prayers of God's People. The offering trays are located in the back of the sanctuary on the tables near the ushers. You are invited to place your offering into the tray as you enter the sanctuary. If you happen to forget, offering trays will also be present at the end of the service in the same location. Thank you for your monetary contributions and all the many other ways that you contribute to the life and ministries of BCMC.

BCMC Offering for April 30, 2023: General Fund \$2,135; Living Stones \$50.

Progress with Pastoral Search

At its April 6 meeting, the BCMC Board approved the Congregational Information Form completed by the Search Committee and the job description for the new pastoral position. The Search Committee has sent these two documents to Western District Conference for official announcement and advertisement of our open pastoral position. Both Search Committee and Board appreciated the congregational input from the congregational priorities survey. Thanks to all who participated in this process; we ask for the congregation's ongoing support. The job description is for a full-time Co-Pastor. Primary areas of emphasis will be worship, facilitating the teamwork of pastors and staff, work with board and commissions/committees, and participating with other pastors and staff in the caregiving team. Within the context of a flexible pastoral and staff team, additional emphases may be added dependent upon the gifts and interests of the candidate.

The Library Theme till the end of May is Women's History. The Committee has pulled a few of the books available from our collection and is displaying them in back of the library desk or against the south wall in the children's section. Come check us out and be on the look out for a reading contest arriving in May!!

Register today for MennoCon23, MC USA's leading faith formation event July 3-6, the Youth & Young Adult Climate Summit on July 7, and the Delegate Assembly July 7-8. <https://convention.mennoniteusa.org/registration/>

Last Sunday, April 30, BCMC celebrated two baptisms.

Here are the faith statements.

Ani Koontz Faith Statement

Throughout my life I've attended different Mennonite churches and been a part of many different communities that seek to follow Jesus together. One of my earliest memories is crawling around in the pit next to Faith Mennonite Church. When I was six my dad got a job at First Mennonite in Hutchinson. The church became a solid community: one that I didn't really interact with outside the building, but one that I still loved very much. I remember coming home after my first Sunday there and counting on my fingers how many friends I made: I lost count. I especially loved the kids in my Sunday school class.

Throughout my Hutch time, I wasn't really able to participate in the Wednesday night activities because of how far away it was. Luckily, BCMC welcomed me with open arms into the choir and youth clubs. I loved my dual church experience, but I sometimes felt disconnected from both. First Mennonite in Hutch had a huge impact on me as a person, but the shift back to BCMC was comforting. I could interact with the BCMC community in ways more than just church on Sunday, and I didn't have to wake up so early. I love the people around me and the familiar environment that I get to grow in.

Faith has always been an important part of my life and I look forward to following Jesus and working to do good within my community and the world. Though I've been to many different churches, I am so happy to call BCMC my church, my congregation, and my community.

Abby Koontz Faith Statement

I am excited to become a member of Bethel College Mennonite Church by choosing baptism and committing to my ongoing faith journey with God. I am grateful for all the support and love this church family has given to me growing up, and I am ready to follow Christ through the acts of love, gratitude, service, and community. Attending church as a child with my parents and grandparents, I have been raised with Mennonite values. Loving others, community, inclusion, servant leadership, and practicing non-violence are values that I have learned in our church and that I believe are important when following Jesus. I strive to incorporate these values into my everyday life and spiritual practices. BCMC has also given me Camp Mennoscah, one of the places where I find my faith to be the strongest. It is here I feel connected with God through music, nature, and friendship, and I am grateful for the opportunity to be baptized here. Becoming a follower of Christ to me means that you serve your community, have compassion towards the people around you, and that you live your life through God. In times of hope, in times of gratitude, and in harder times when God gives us challenges, it is important to live life through God and turn to prayer as a regular practice. It brings me great joy to become a part of this congregation and continue my faith journey.