

**Mennonite Mission Network Prayer Request:** Mennonite Mission Network rejoices with the Mennonite Church in Burkina Faso for the peacebuilding ministries of Calixte Banzararo and Siaka Traoré, who helped negotiate an agreement through which Mennonites will provide care for internally displaced people and provide trauma healing, instead of paying war taxes. Pray for an end to violence.

**Western District Conference Prayer Request:** Pray that children and their caregivers may grow in faith and joy as they attend summer Story Day activities at the WDC Resource Library on August 3.

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

July 23, 2023

VOICES  
*Together*

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**  
**July 23, 2023**

Prelude *Salut d'Amout* (Edward Elgar)  
Rebecca Schloneger, violin and Karen Bauman Schlabaugh, piano

Christ Candle Lighting

Welcome VT 851

Invocation VT 857

**Songs For Gathering**

*Let's walk together*—VT 6 (Verse 1 Octet, verse 2 & 3 congregation)  
*Come, Christians, join to sing*—VT 28—(Verse 1 and 3 with organ, verse 2 acapella)

**Song with Children**

*Like a rock* —VT 63

**Song of Praise**

*Sing praise to God who reigns*—VT 101 (Verse 1 and 4 unison, 2 and 3 parts)

**Telling God's Story**

From the OT: (Psalm 104)—VT 185  
*Planets humming as they wander*—VT 175

From the NT: (Matthew 5:3-12)—VT 295  
*Blessed are you*—VT 290

**Confessing Our Faith**

*Great is thy faithfulness* (acapella)—VT 419

**Sharing Our Stories**

*Far above the noise of life*—VT 625—(Octet sing verse 1, congregation sing verse 2, Octet sing the second ending)

Prayers of God's People VT 996

**The Lord's Prayer**

*Abana Alathi*—VT 675 (Octet sing each phrase, congregation sing repeat)

Benediction—VT 822 (Romans 15:5-6)

**Sending Song**

*Now I know*—VT 769—(Ron Garber, leader, congregation echo)

Postlude *When in our Music God is Glorified* (Robert A. Hob  
Cynthia Neufeld Smith

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**Thank you to the participants of this Sunday's hymn sing:**

Song Leader—Cynthia Neufeld Smith  
Audio-visual—Ken Lamp  
Violin—Rebecca Schloneger  
Flute—Susie Swartley  
Guitar—Roger Neufeld Smith  
Scripture Reader—Elizabeth Schmidt  
Octet—Ron Garber, Verlene Garber, Cynthia Linscheid, Dave Linscheid,  
Virginia Mininger, Joe Peters, Bill Swartley, Susie Swartley  
Accompanists—Verlene Garber and Karen Schlabaugh

**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.**

**Roger's Whereabouts :** Roger is in Newton this weekend. He will drive back to Topeka on Monday (7/24). He will be back in the BCMC office on Wed., Aug. 2. Roger will be checking his email and text messages daily while he is in Topeka. So feel free to email, text or call (785-220-1968.)

**You did it again! June was a great month with a positive balance of about \$3000.** That's three in a row! Congratulations! If this trend continues we will wind up with a fantastic year. *Finance Committee*

## Greetings from Faith Formation!

Faith Formation is asking that ALL who are interested in being a part of building intergenerational relationships within the church fill out the survey listed below. If you are a parent of a youth who will attend the Intergenerational Sunday school class or who will be a part of Jr High Club or Senior High Youth Group, you may fill out the Release Form for the 2023-24 school year. Intergenerational Sunday school will follow this format from week to week. Teachers may decide to switch up the weeks to fit their needs.

Week 1: Introduction of the Bible story. Activity related to the Bible story.

Week 2: Reader's Theatre or continuation of the Bible story.

Week 3: Craft or games

Week 4: Interview an adult who has joined us for the month (ask the week prior to interview)

The weekly schedule will follow the format below:

### Following the service until 10:45 am

Arrival and snack (groups will be mixed ages at each table)

Questions of the day to discuss at table groups

Opening prayer and announcements

10:45 am - 11:15 am Bible Story/Activity

11:15 am - 11:30 am Clean up, Journal, or other activity with the teachers

### Closing prayer and dismissal

### Mark your calendar for the Sunday School Orientation/Safe Sanctuaries

**Date: August 20 from 12:00-1:00 pm. We will have a pizza lunch.**

**Intergenerational Survey:** <https://forms.gle/upn5yizoKEUvqumZ7>

**Youth Release Form:** <https://forms.gle/AfyQ7fV5RXHUJZqp7>

**Thank you and have a wonderful summer!**

*Faith Formation Sunday School team*

*Jill Robb, Kathy Stucky, Rebecca Tschetter, Deb Gering, Mary Ellen Hodge*

**(This is easier to do on-line from the BCMC Church emails which come out on Wednesdays and Saturdays; there just click on the links.)**



You can use this QR code to access the Faith Formation Survey referenced in the previous Faith Formation announcement.

## This Week at BCMC: July 23-August 6, 2023

### Sun., July 23, 2023

9:30 a.m. Our worship will be getting more acquainted with *Voices Together*.

YouTube Link for this Sunday is:

[https://youtube.com/live/i\\_L0L-s4B28?feature=share](https://youtube.com/live/i_L0L-s4B28?feature=share)

The church nursery is staffed during worship and Sunday School

**10:45 a.m.** Faith Formation—High School (Room 24) Adult Classes: Agape Class meets in the nursery; Fellowship (B7); Fine Arts (Rm 22); Issues and Christianity (Rm 23); Open Circle (Room 21) Seekers (Rm 28)

### Mon., July 24, 2023

7 p.m. Facilities Committee meeting in Fellowship Hall

### Tues., July 25, 2023

6 p.m. Pastor Search Committee meeting in Room 14

### Thurs., July 27, 2023

4 p.m. Witness Commission meeting in Room 14

7 p.m. Deacon Commission meeting in Room 14

### Sun., July 30 2023

9:30 a.m. Worship with sermon by Pastor Nathan Koontz; music by Joan Griffing; July birthday recognition

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**BCMC Offering for July 16, 2023:** General Fund \$3,008.33; Caring Fund \$250; Memorial Funds \$100; Living Stones \$258.33; Francis Funk Memorial \$50.

### **“Growing Up in Gaza—Bringing Peace and Justice to Israel-Palestine”**

will be presented by Tareq Abuhallima, Sun., Aug. 6, 10:45-11:45 a.m. at BCMC. The purpose of this event is to create a safe space for education and dialogue about the Israel-Palestine conflict. Tareq, a graduate student with Bluffton University, will share his experiences growing up in Gaza, working for the Youth Vision Society, and his “Gaza Twinning” relationship with Manhattan Mennonite Church. The presentation and following dialogue will also address antisemitism and other issues that surround this intractable conflict.

**It's time for the MCC School Kit Challenge!** Help us meet our goal of gathering 10,000 school kits in the month of August. By donating items like notebooks and pencils, you can help kids in places like Syria, Ukraine and South Sudan who have been forced to flee their homes or struggle to afford basic school supplies. Join this effort to share a tangible message of God's love with children around the world. Learn more about this challenge and download a free activity resource at [mcc.org/school-kit-challenge](https://mcc.org/school-kit-challenge).

**Lincoln and Lawrence Kohlman have joined the MCC School Kit Challenge!** Their goal is to pack and donate 100 school kits by the end of August. We estimate that they will need about \$850 (plus 100 bags) to meet this goal, although we will use the money we raise to make as many kits as we can! We hope that we can do more with the money when school supplies go on sale. **How can you help?** To donate, see Lincoln or Lawrence. To make bags for the school kits we want to pack, use the MCC website for directions and let us know how many you plan to make. We will plan to *host a time to pack school kits. Let us know if you want to be invited!*

**Children and Youth of BCMC: Read a book. Earn a Book.** This summer, you can earn a book for the New Hope Shelter for each book checked out, read, and returned. Visit the table outside the door to the children's room of the BCMC church library for more information. The challenge is to fill a whole shelf of books for homeless children and youth.

**The Library Theme for June and July are Library Committee suggestions for Everybody/Junior books for the summer reading contest.** As has been noted, this contest is for anybody who checks out a book from our library, reads it independently, reads it with someone or someone reads it to a child, and then returns it. We are excited to see how many books will be purchased for New Hope Shelter. —*The Library Committee*

**The Women's & Girls Retreat will be Sept. 9 & 10 at Camp Mennoscah** sponsored by Western District Women in Mission. Retreat theme is "Women Talking, Listening and Creating." Come for a time of friendship, fellowship, and story-telling with Tammy Duvanel Unruh, Wendy Funk Schrag and others. Registration information and more details will be on the Western District Conference website, in the church bulletin, on the church bulletin board. Follow the Western District Women in Mission on Facebook.

**Join us for the Western District Conference (WDC) Annual Assembly! It's for everybody on August 11-13, 2023 at Tabor Mennonite Church, Newton.** We'll worship, work, eat great local food, enjoy local music, connect with new and old friends, experience faith formation for all ages, and have many choices of great workshops. We hope you'll agree Annual Assembly is a great place to learn about and grow in faith in Christ, care for the broader church, and worship our God of love and justice with God's people in Western District Conference! **BCMC needs delegates for the WDC Assembly. Delegates can also attend virtually. BCMC would be eligible to send 15 delegates to the Assembly. If you would like to be a delegate contact the BCMC office.**

WDC Annual Assembly Delegate Session – Agenda for delegates will include an introduction to the conference-wide Listening Process, report on the Anti-Racism Audit, recognition of the closing of Trinity Mennonite Church and the introduction of two new church plants, update on conference facilities and finances, approval of the 2024 budget, highlights from the work of WDC commissions, election of new board, commission and committee leaders, and more! Delegate materials will be posted here as they are available: <https://mennowdc.org/2023-assembly-delegate-information/> ----

Register at <https://mennowdc.org/2023-wdc-assembly-registration/> to join others from around the conference in our work together. Visit: <https://mennowdc.org/2023-wdc-annual-assembly/> for more info on this summer's Assembly!

**Colorado Peaches are coming!** The Palisade peaches on the Western Slope should be a good crop this year thanks to the moisture during the winter and spring. Email [patsydirksen@mcc.org](mailto:patsydirksen@mcc.org) to place your peach order from **July 24-Aug. 5**. Two sizes are available: **10 lbs. for \$30 and 18 lbs. for \$41**. Checks should be made payable to **Beth-El Mennonite Church with "Peaches" in the memo line** and payment (cash/check only) due by **Aug. 5** to MCC in North Newton (121 E. 30<sup>th</sup> St.). Peaches will be available for pickup from the MCC Material Resources Center on **Mon., Aug. 21**. This is a fundraiser for the Rocky Mountain Mennonite Relief Sale held in Rocky Ford, Colorado Oct. 20-21.

#### **Plowing with Horses—(Swiss Volhynian Mennonite Celebration Event)**

The rains came Saturday evening July 15, and the field was turned to mud, so no plowing. But the Ag Committee decided to have Plowing with Horses and Vintage Tractors Saturday, July 29, just west of the Moundridge Museum, 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Concessions by Gospel Mennonite. We tasted their home-made ice cream and that really makes a trip to Moundridge double worthwhile. Come and see. —*Kathy Goering for 150th steering committee*