

**Mennonite Mission Network Prayer Request:** Mennonite Mission Network's service programs are welcoming new participants. Mennonite Voluntary Service just completed online orientation, and Service Adventure begins orientation on Friday. Pray that God's spirit will prepare participants hearts and minds, as they step out of their comfort zones and risk living out their faith in Anchorage, Alaska; Tucson, Arizona; San Francisco, California; Alamosa and Colorado Springs, Colorado; and Johnstown, Pennsylvania.

**Western District Conference Prayer Request:** Pray for God's gift of renewal and fellowship for WDC members attending the Women and Girls' Retreat next weekend at Camp Mennoscah, sponsored by Western District Women in Mission.

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

September 3, 2023



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.



**Want to be a story catcher, story keeper, and story sharer? Find out more by attending the Western District Women in Mission Women's & Girls Retreat Sept. 9-10 at Camp Mennoscah!** Activities will be available for all ages (no specific girls programming). A brochure and registration form are available to download, print and send in at <https://www.westerndistrictwomeninmission.org/> events. We hope you can join us! This year's theme is Women Talking, Listening, and Creating, with our scripture theme being 2 Peter 1:12-21. Registration is due by September 5. Questions, email [westerndistrictwomen@gmail.com](mailto:westerndistrictwomen@gmail.com). See bulletin board for forms.

**The Schowalter Singers, the resident choir at Schowalter Villa, will perform a concert** Thurs., Sept. 7, 7 p.m., at Whitestone Mennonite Church, 629 Crescent Dr., Hesston. The program entitled "Look at the world: A celebration of God's creation," is a multi-media presentation weaving photos with choral pieces from various genres of music. The choir is under the direction of Leland Flickinger.

**Register now for the fall 2023 Bluestem U semester courses.** Bluestem U is lifelong learning partnership program between Bluestem Communities, Bethel College and Hesston College for those age 55 and better. Courses are taught by former or current Bethel College or Hesston College instructors or local experts. The fall 2023 courses are:

- "Music through the ages" taught by Ken Rodgers, Tuesdays from 1 to 2:30 p.m., September 12 through October 17 at the Schowalter Villa Chapel.
- "Oops. We got here again! Communication and conflict" taught by Kevin Wilder, Thursdays from 10 to 11:30 a.m., September 14 through October 12 at Schowalter Villa's Mullet Place Theater.

Each course is \$50. Register at [bluestemu.org](http://bluestemu.org).

### **Camp Mennoscah Announcements**

- **Save the date! Camp Mennoscah will host a kick off event to celebrate our 75th Anniversary on September 24!** (Note the change of date.) There will be a day of fun activities down by the river, so mark your calendars now! Watch Camp Mennoscah's website - [www.campmennoscah.org](http://www.campmennoscah.org) - for more details as the date approaches!
- **Registration for the Fall Scrapbook and Crafts Retreats is open.** The retreats are scheduled for Nov. 3-5 and Nov. 10-12. All retreat activities will happen at the Main Camp facilities with cropping and crafts in the dining hall and lodging in the bunkhouses. You are welcome to bring a camper/RV and use a gas generator (no hookups available). The Retreat Center will be undergoing HVAC renovations. Single rooms are not available. Contact us at 620-297-3290 with questions or issues. We'll see you in the fall!

### **This Week at BCMC: September 3—September 10, 2023**

#### **Sun., September 3, 2023**

9:30 a.m. Worship

10:45 a.m. Official start of Sunday school

YouTube Link for worship service:

**<https://youtube.com/live/-qBAhuUqH9w?feature=share>**

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

10:45 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); Open Circle (Room 21) Seekers (Rm 28)

#### **Mon., September 4, 2023—Labor Day—Church building and office will be closed for the holiday**

#### **Wed., September 6, 2023**

6:30 p.m. Gifts Discernment Committee meeting in Room 14

7 p.m. Youth Group meeting

7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal in the Sanctuary Chancel area

#### **Thurs., September 7, 2023**

11 a.m. Staff meeting in Room 14

5:30 p.m. Community Playschool Open House in the Playschool rooms

6:30 p.m. Chancel Bell rehearsal in Room B7

7 p.m. Church Board meeting in Room 14

#### **Sat., September 9, 2023**

**11 a.m. Memorial service for Frances Siemens in the Sanctuary**

#### **Sun., September 10, 2023**

9:30 a.m. Worship with sermon by Roger Neufeld Smith; Back Pack Blessing

10:45 a.m. Faith Formation

12 p.m. Fundraiser Lunch served by the Youth Group

1 p.m. Congregational meeting in the Fellowship Hall

#### **For Your Calendars:**

- **BCMC/Bethel College Ice Cream Social September 17, 6:30 p.m.** on the BCMC front lawn. Come to enjoy ice cream with Bethel students and faculty. The Bethel College Relations Team (Darlene Dick, Ron Flickinger, Tim Hodge, Matt Koontz) ask that you bring a dessert or toppings to go with the ice cream.
- **September 17: A mentor/mentee event** in Fellowship Hall with pizza and games from 2 to 4 p.m.
- **The BCMC Congregation is invited to a Baby Sprinkle** for Adam and Jill Robb, **October 1, 2-4 p.m.**, BCMC Fellowship Hall. Registry is: [www.target.com/gift-registry/gift/surpriserobb](http://www.target.com/gift-registry/gift/surpriserobb)  
Kathy Stucky (316-772-2479) & Elaine Prouty (316-772-2572)

**Children and youth of BCMC read 14 books to earn 14 books for children and youth at the New Hope shelter in Newton.** These books will be added to books purchased with donated funds and funds raised by children attending VBS. The books will stock the shelves in the family activity room of the newly built facilities scheduled to open later this year.

**The next congregational meeting will be Sun., Sept. 10, at 12:45 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. The senior high youth will serve a noon meal with the meeting to follow after a quick cleanup from lunch. To facilitate the clean-up please bring your own table service.** The agenda will include a round-table discussion led by the Indigenous Justice Task Group, and reports from the Credence Report Task Group on intergenerational activities, Creation Care Solar Panel sub-committee, and the Education and Service Scholarship Committee. If time allows, there may be a brief time for sharing “what is going well in our congregation?”

**A subcommittee within the Creation Care Committee of BCMC has been working diligently for the last several months to develop a project to bring solar energy to our church and to the community.** Many options have been explored – various possible sites for solar panels, collaborations with Bethel College and Kaufman Museum, bids from several installers, and several different funding approaches. Numerous individuals and groups within BCMC are participating in these discussions – members of the BCMC Board (especially Margaret Toews, Brad Kohlman, and Ada Schmidt-Tieszen), the Facilities Committee, the Finance Committee, and others on the Creation Care Committee.

These efforts have resulted in a proposal to place solar panels on portions of the south and east roofs of our building. More details about this project will be shared at the congregational meeting on September 10. On September 24 during the Sunday School hour there will be a follow-up meeting to provide additional information and opportunities for discussion and questions. The subcommittee members include Hugo Boschmann, Lorna Harder, and Dwight Krehbiel.

**We will be welcoming new members to Bethel College Mennonite Church this fall.** If you are interested in becoming a member, or transferring membership, or learning more about membership at BCMC, please contact Elizabeth Schmidt, Congregational Care Coordinator. She will be happy to visit with you!

## **Bethel College Announcements**

- **Life Enrichment, Bethel College Krehbiel Auditorium, September 6:**  
9:30 a.m. “Are You from Here? People, Place, and the Future of the Rural Church,” Brad Roth, pastor and author, Hesston  
10:50 a.m. “My Time at KWCH-Channel 12,” Rob Schunn, Wichita
- **Sun., Sept. 10 – Eat, Protest, Lift, a film by Caleb Stephens, 7**  
p.m., Krehbiel Auditorium, Bethel College; Mon., Sept. 11, Dr. Stephens speaks in convocation, 11 a.m., Krehbiel Auditorium; sponsored by Bethel College Social Work, the KIPCOR Film Series and the Bethel College Women’s Association’s Carolyn Schultz Lectureship.
- **Thurs., Sept. 21 – Bethel College Orchestra,** directed by Kris Hilding, 7 p.m., Memorial Hall
- **Now in the Regier Gallery, Bethel College – “Drinking from a New Well,”** ceramics by Tom and Pam Voth, through Thurs., Sept. 21. Gallery hours are Mon.-Fri., 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Sun. 2-4 p.m.
- **Bethel College’s annual online journal, Mennonite Life,** can be accessed at [ml.bethelks.edu](http://ml.bethelks.edu) – and there is a new item, “Elias Crosses the Mol-otschna,” a short story by Darrell Wiens. Also articles and reviews by Brad Born, Abigail Carl-Klassen, Daniel Shenk Cruz, Cheryl Denise, Josué Coy Dick, Nathan Garber, Rachel Waltner Goossen, Brad Gregory, Willmar Harder, Sheri Hostetler, Melanie Springer Mock, Hannah Neufeld, Kimberly Schmidt, Joe Smucker, Johnny Wideman and Ben Woodward-Breckbill.
- **Bethel College Academy of Performing Arts (BCAPA) is excited to offer an Adult Group Piano class** beginning Tues., Sept. 5, running 8 weeks through Oct. 10, 11 a.m.-noon in the piano lab in Luyken Fine Arts Center on the Bethel campus. This beginning piano class is the perfect starter course to develop basic piano skills. Every student plays on their own keyboard in the piano lab, and no prior piano experience is needed to join. Seats are limited, so please e-mail [bcapa@bethelks.edu](mailto:bcapa@bethelks.edu) or text/call us at 316-804-8864 if you are interested and/or have questions.

**In addition to the usual selling of plants, this fall's Flora Kansas Fall Native Plant Days at Dyck Arboretum will include a reading and book signing with author Raylene Hinz-Penner,** featuring her memoir, “East of Liberal: Notes on the Land”, a “deeply researched story of a place” and a “personal land acknowledgment by one who loves the land and celebrates all those for whom it has been homeland.” The book signing will be Sat., Sept. 9, 11 a.m. in the Arboretum Visitor Center. Raylene was born and raised in southwest Kansas near Liberal, with extended family and emotional roots in central Oklahoma. Before retirement she taught English at Bethel College, her alma mater, and Washburn University, (along with Kansas University in Lawrence and Wichita State University).