

**Mennonite Mission Network Prayer Request:** Tomorrow, Barb Thuma will complete a seven-week Mennonite Mission Network assignment at La Casa Grande, a children's home in Benin. Pray that the love she shared with the children, through teaching English and working with them on the agricultural program, will bear fruit in the lives of each person she learned to know.

**Western District Conference Prayer Request:** Give thanks for changing seasons, and pray that WDC congregations may discern God's presence and guidance in the midst of the opportunities and challenges that they face.

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](mailto:office@bethelcollegemennonitechurch.org)  
Website: [bethelcollegemennonitechurch.org](http://bethelcollegemennonitechurch.org) Notary public service is available in the church office  
Church office hours: 9 a.m.—12 p.m. Mon—Fri; 1 p.m. —5 p.m. Mon—Thur

**Church office is closed Friday afternoons**

Building is locked weekdays at 5 p.m. unless evening activities are scheduled

**Saturdays—building is locked**

Sundays—building is locked at 2 p.m. unless afternoon/evening activities are scheduled

- 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, Pastor of Congregational Care  
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

**November 19, 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.

**BETHEL COLLEGE MENNONITE CHURCH**  
**November 19, 2023**  
**Twenty Fifth Sunday After Pentecost**

Prelude	<i>Little Prelude and Fugue in C</i> (JS Bach) <i>Now Thank We All Our God</i> (Bach/Fox)
	Will Wiebe-Friesen

## Christ Candle Lighting

Welcome and Prayer Elizabeth Schmidt

*Hymn	<i>Guide My Feet</i>	VT 816
-------	----------------------	--------

Children's Conversation Jeanette Leary

Anthem *A Song of Thanksgiving* (John Ferguson)  
Chancel Choir; Riley King, director; Will Wiebe-Friesen, accompanist

Scripture Reading      Psalm 105:4-13; Luke 3:4-9; Deut. 26:1-5  
Emma Gering

Sermon                      *Fugitives in the Family Tree*                      Lauren Friesen

\*Hymn *Lift Every Voice and Sing* VT 611

## Prayers of God's People

\*Hymn                      *Praise to the Living God*                      VT 204

## Benediction

Postlude      *Precious Lord Take My Hand* (arr. Schrader)  
Will Wiebe-Friesen

\* You are invited to stand  
VT—*Voices Together*  
Keyboard—Will Wiebe-Friesen  
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.**

## Welcome to Lauren Friesen

**We welcome Lauren to deliver the sermon at BCMC today.** Lauren and his partner Janet joined BCMC last May. Previously they had been active at Chicago Community Mennonite Church where Lauren often preached. Prior to their time in Chicago, Lauren was a professor at the University of Michigan. We are glad that he and Janet have wandered their way into this community!

**We offer sympathy to the family of Gladys Niles and Gail Stucky.** Gladys died November 5 at Kidron Bethel Village. Gladys' daughter, Gail, died Nov. 15, at Paramount Community Living in Newton. A celebration of life is scheduled for both Gladys and Gail at 4 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 26, at Shalom Mennonite Church, Newton. In lieu of flowers, those who wish to honor Gail's and Gladys' memories are encouraged to make a gift to support Bethel College, Bethel College Mennonite Church, or Shalom Mennonite Church.

**Roger's Whereabouts :** Roger will be back in the BCMC office Monday morning (11/20) until Wednesday (11/22). He will return to Topeka for a Smith Thanksgiving celebration, then be back in Newton on Saturday (11/25) to preach on Sunday (11/26). Whether he's in Newton or Topeka, Roger checks his email and phone regularly, so feel free to contact him via email, text or phone call (785-220-1968).

**Pastor Nathan Koontz will be on vacation from Nov. 22-26.**

**bcmcXpress: If you have not done so already, please fill out your intent for giving to BCMC for the 2024 budget.** This is very helpful in setting the budget for the coming year. Your generous contributions for 2023 are greatly appreciated. *The Finance Committee*

### Historian to present 'Mennonites on the Silk Road' at Newton Public Library

The Newton Public Library hosts historian and pastor John Sharp for a talk focusing on the Mennonite experience in Central Asia, Tues., Nov. 21, 7 p.m. Sharp's presentation will begin with excerpts from Sofia Samatar's book "The White Mosque," which was the focus of a community book discussion that Sharp led at the library earlier this fall. Shortly after leading that discussion, Sharp accompanied a group of travelers on an educational tour in Uzbekistan, revisiting the regions discussed in the book. "Uzbeks cherish their history but also plan for the future, as was abundantly clear on our September tour," Sharp said. "Uzbekistan is promoting tourism with its new and upgraded hotels and restaurants. With photos and commentary, I will highlight the ways this is changing the sites related to the Mennonite story." This is a hybrid program. Participants can attend in person, join online via Zoom webinars, or go to the Newton Public Library Facebook page at the time of the event for a livestream.

**BCMC Offering for November 12, 2023:** General Fund \$11,542; MCC \$25; Wed. supper \$428; Library Reserve Fund \$10; Flower Fund \$20; Bethel College Scholarship Fund \$500; Kitchen Fund \$18.25.

**The BCMC Board continues to discuss the solar project and hopes to have more details about next steps sometime in December.** Thank you for your patience! *Margaret Toews and Jon Zerger for the board*

**Save the date, January 28, 2024 for Congregational Meeting and Soup Luncheon** prior to the congregational meeting and the next fun-filled congregation and youth activity!

**You are invited to share a poinsettia for the sanctuary for the Christmas season.** BCMC 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 Nov. 21. There will be forms at a table in the back of the sanctuary this Sunday if you wish to fill out a form in person.

### This Week at BCMC: November 19—26, 2023

#### Sun., November 19, 2023

9:30 a.m. Worship; 10:45 a.m. Faith Formation

**Brief Congregational Meeting will follow worship in the sanctuary**

Worship YouTube Link for this Sunday:

<https://youtube.com/live/YBJ3Ob2qAAU?feature=share>

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

10:45 a.m. 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)

#### Tues., November 21, 2023

3 p.m. Worship Commission meeting by Zoom

7 p.m. Women's Fellowship meeting in Fellowship Hall

#### Wed., November 22, 2023—No Chancel Choir rehearsal tonight

Thurs., November 23, 2023—Thanksgiving Day—Church office closed; building locked for the holiday

Fri., November 24, 2023—Church office will be closed today

#### Sun., November 26, 2023—Thanksgiving Sunday

9:30 a.m. Worship with sermon by Roger Neufeld Smith; music by Justin Mathis, clarinet; November birthday recognition

**BCMC Women's Fellowship meets Tuesday, November 21, in Fellowship Hall at 7:00 p.m. We will discuss mental health and teen motherhood. Use the south-east door.**

**The church board is calling a special brief congregational meeting following worship in the sanctuary today to act on the following board recommendation:**

"That Bethel College Mennonite Church join the Repair Network, a binational network of congregations engaged in efforts to repair damages done to indigenous groups over the last centuries. Joining the network entails, among other things, a commitment of funds within the witness commission budget to support the ongoing efforts of the organization. This commitment would involve a commitment of \$3,000 in the 2024 church budget, with the expectation that in 2025 the amount would be \$4,000 and 2026 and years following \$5,000, approximately 1% of the BCMC budget. It is understood that actions on budget beyond 2024 would follow normal budget development and action processes."

## **Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) Announcements**

- **An Evening of Service at MCC on Giving Tuesday, Nov. 28 from 6:30-8 p.m. at MCC in North Newton.** Bring new dark colored hand towels to pack hygiene kits. MCC partner Offender Victim Ministries will be here with supplies to write holiday greetings to prisoners, we'll have comforters to tie and delicious snacks to enjoy. A great way to give on Giving Tuesday.
- **SAVE THE DATE – The MCC Comforter Blitz** will be March 4-6 in Yoder.
- **Mennonite Central Committee responding to the Palestine and Israel conflict** - As conflict has escalated in the region, MCC laments the violence and mourns all lives lost in Palestine and Israel. MCC remains committed to a just peace for all, and we invite you to join us in praying for an end to the violence. MCC is planning an emergency response to the current crisis with existing partners. Our response will focus on the humanitarian needs in Gaza, given the vulnerability of the population and lack of resources available to families. MCC's work will build on previous responses to the ongoing conflict, including the distribution of food and bedding. We are also planning to offer trauma healing support and housing reconstruction. Donate online at [mcc.org/Palestine-Israel](https://mcc.org/Palestine-Israel) or call 1-888-563-4676.
- **MCC Material Resources Center in North Newton critically low on inventory:** An MCC kit cannot be distributed until each item for the kit is assembled, but some supplies in the Material Resources Center are so low that kits cannot be processed for shipping. You can help by filling the following needs: new infant onesies and sleepers (6-12 month sizes); new bath towels (dark colored, light to medium weight); new hand towels (dark colored). Locally, MCC distributes prisoner care and returning citizen care kits, for those kits we currently need: men's shirts (sizes XL, 2XL, 3XL -- any color) and men's underwear (sizes 2XL, 3XL -- any color). Buy online and ship it to MCC or bring items to MCC in North Newton (121 E. 30th St, North Newton). Questions are always welcome, please contact [brociamueller@mcc.org](mailto:brociamueller@mcc.org) or 316.283.2720. A full list of MCC kit contents can be found at [mcc.org/kits](https://mcc.org/kits).

## **Camp Mennoscah Announcement**

Volunteers are needed immediately to work (M-F) alongside the facilities director on general maintenance tasks. Working on these regular maintenance tasks will allow more time for planning and preparation for the Retreat Center HVAC project. Call or text Jordan at 316-613-1848. Volunteer hours are available from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. or a portion of that time. Please bring a water bottle and your lunch.

## **Bethel College Announcements**

- **TODAY (Sun., Nov. 19) – Joint junior recital by Emil Benavides and Dylan Yoder**, voice, 4 p.m., Administration Building chapel at Bethel College
- **Mon., Nov. 20 – Bethel College Wind Ensemble, directed by Chris Miertschin, 7 p.m.**, featuring the music of Satie, Smith, Bernstein and more; Krehbiel Auditorium in Luyken Fine Arts Center or livestreamed at <https://www.youtube.com/live/JTnHaK6jSkk?si=1FOZS2LEeGbC3ZAe>
- **Sat., Dec. 2 – Five Places of Christmas**, featuring Kauffman Museum and the Bethel College Women's Association at Goerz House, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Other locations are Carriage Factory Gallery, Harvey County Historical Museum and Warkentin House, all in Newton.
- **All bakers and craft makers are invited to make items for 5 Places of Christmas Sat., December 2, at Goerz House, Bethel College.** Bethel College Women's Association will again be selling baked goods, candy, craft items and poinsettias. Your home-baked cookies, zwiebach, cinnamon rolls, peppernuts and poppyseed rolls are always great sellers. This year we are especially asking for homemade candies such as peanut clusters, peanut butter balls, peanut brittle or fudge. Please bring your items to Goerz House on Friday, December 1, from 1-4 p.m. or on Saturday from 9-10 a.m.

## **Rocky Mountain Mennonite Camp Announcements**

- **Scrapbook Retreat, Jan. 26-28 is your opportunity to create paper or digital photo books** and share ideas and good conversation with other scrapbook participants. Lisa Longacher will return as our program resource for the retreat and help facilitate a variety of activities. Please come for retreat and community in God's creation here at Rocky Mountain Mennonite Camp. Register online ([www.rmmc.org](http://www.rmmc.org)) and save a space to join in.
- **Join us for Men's Retreat March 1-3, 2024** to spend time with God and fellow men in the beauty of creation with worship times, foosball, ping pong, chess, human curling, snowshoeing, musical jam sessions, great fellowship and more! The Friday before Men's Retreat, participants have a tradition of tackling necessary projects at camp. This day of volunteering helps RMMC better serve campers and guests. Register @ [rmmc.org](http://rmmc.org).
- **Mark your calendars now for Women's Retreat at RMMC, March 8-10, 2024.** Come to the mountains for a weekend away. Retreat, hike, explore, rest, and fellowship. This weekend is for women ages 18 and older to come together. Theme to be announced! Visit [rmmc.org](http://rmmc.org) to register.