

**Mennonite Mission Network Prayer Request:** Jonah and Memee Yang began serving with Mennonite Mission Network in September. Pray for Jonah as he teaches Hmong and Thai students in Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary's Journey Program and for Memee as she offers Sister Care seminars. The Yangs live in Minnesota and will travel to Thailand twice each year.

**Western District Conference Prayer Request:** Pray for chaplains and other ministers in WDC who offer pastoral care for members of our communities experiencing pain, loneliness, loss or grief, particularly during this holiday season.

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) 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 26, 2023**

**Thanksgiving Sunday**



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 26, 2023**

|                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| Prelude                 | <i>Cello Suite No. 4</i> (J.S. Bach)<br><i>Bourrée</i> (J.S. Bach—Transcribed by Alamiro Giampieri)<br>Justin Mathis, clarinet        |
| Christ Candle Lighting  | Francis Toews   |
| Welcome and Prayer      | Margaret Toews  |
| *Hymn                   | <i>Sing to the Lord of Harvest</i> VT 122   |
| Children's Conversation | Jim Robb  |
| Special Music           | <i>Romance from Five Bagatelles for Clarinet and Piano</i><br>(by Gerald Finzi)<br>Justin Mathis, clarinet; Karen Schlabaugh, piano   |
| Scripture Reading       | Psalm 103:1-8,13-18; Philippians 1:1-7, 4:4-7<br>Richard Friesen and Dorothy Nickel Friesen   |
| Sermon                  | <i>Radical Gratitude</i> Roger Neufeld Smith  |
| *Hymn                   | <i>Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah</i> VT 606  |
| Prayers of God's People |   |
| *Hymn                   | <i>God, Whose Giving</i> VT 745<br><i>People with November birthdays come forward for a blessing,</i><br><i>please bring a hymnal</i> |
| Benediction             |   |
| Postlude                | <i>Postlude on Beata nobis gaudia</i> (Robert Powell)<br>Karen Schlabaugh   |

\*You are invited to stand ■ VT—*Voices Together* ■ Audio visual— John Thiesen  
■ Keyboard—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.**

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**We welcome clarinetist Justin Mathis to worship with us today.**

Instructor of clarinet at Colorado Christian University and principal clarinetist for Denver Pops Orchestra, Justin is married to Lyn and Naomi Krause's daughter, Cheri.

**Roger's Whereabouts :** Roger will be driving back to Topeka this afternoon. He will be back in Newton next Sunday for worship (his wife Cynthia will be playing the organ prelude!). He will be in Newton until Thursday night, December 7. 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 is on vacation from Nov. 22-26.**

**The church board is calling a brief special congregational meeting following worship in the sanctuary December 10, 2023 to act on the following board recommendation:**

Does BCMC approve the initiation of a pledge drive for the purpose of soliciting funds and support for the solar project? The details of a pledge drive will be worked out if an initial vote indicates significant support. The purpose of this vote is to determine the level of support from the congregation for a roof-top solar installation on our church. A review of the solar project as presented at the September congregational meeting and in two subsequent Sunday School hour meetings will be distributed to mailboxes the week of November 27.

**Thank you to Susie Swartley and Kathy Stucky for the Thanksgiving display on the steps of the Chancel Area.**

**BCMC Offering for November 19, 2023:** General Fund \$6,685.33; Community Play School \$250; Wed. Night Supper \$282.50; Plant Fund \$608.33; Gen Fund 2024 \$10,025; Caring Fund \$138.29; Flower Fund \$150; Kitchen Fund \$23.

**The bcmcXpress is lagging a bit. As of Monday Nov. 20, we had 84 intents for a total dollar amount pledged of about \$258,000.** That's a lot of money, but it is less than half of the proposed budget. The challenge is to get that total up. We know that many people have not pledged. Please consider your obligation and make a pledge. If you have already pledged consider raising the amount. BCMC has met these challenges in the past and we will again, but it means we all need to pull together. *Finance Committee*

**Peace Connections is 40 years old!** You are invited to an Open House Celebrating Peace Connections 40 years on November 30, 6 to 8 p.m. at 209 S. Pine Street, Newton. Share S'mores and Hot Chocolate while hearing stories of Peace Connections' past impact, current programs, and their future story.

**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!

### **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.

### **This Week at BCMC: November 26—December 3, 2023**

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

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

Worship YouTube Link for this Sunday:

[https://youtube.com/live/YKjS\\_6uoRqo?feature=share](https://youtube.com/live/YKjS_6uoRqo?feature=share)

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

10:45 a.m. Faith Formation—Intergenerational class (Fellowship Hall); High School (Room 24) Adult Classes: Agape (nursery); Bible Study (Rm 14); Catcombs (Rm B5); Fellowship (B7); Fine Arts (Rm 22); Issues and Christianity (Rm 23); Open Circle (Room 21) Seekers (Rm 28)

#### **Mon., November 27, 2023**

10 a.m. Library Committee meeting in Room 14

#### **Wed., November 29, 2023**

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

7 p.m. Abuse Prevention and Response Committee meeting in Room 14

7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir rehearsal in the sanctuary

#### **Thurs., November 30, 2023**

7 p.m. Deacon Commission meeting in Room 14

#### **Sun., Dec. 3, 2023—First Sunday of Advent**

9:30 a.m. Worship with sermon by Nathan Koontz; music by Chancel Choir; communion will be served; 10:45 a.m. Faith Formation



The Kobzar, a folk minstrel who was both an entertainer and sage, was an institution in the life of the Ukrainian people. This Dancing Kobzar sculpture, part of the John Klassen art exhibit now on display in the Gathering Place, is on loan from Cynthia Neufeld Smith.

## **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](http://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](http://mcc.org/kits).

**Kauffman Museum will celebrate Museum Store Sunday today, November 26.** Museum members will receive 20% off their entire Store purchase and non-members will receive 10% off. More than 2,100 Museum Stores representing all 50 states, 25 countries and 5 continents take part in this event. For more information about and to find participating stores, go to [museumstoresunday.org/museum-store-sunday](http://museumstoresunday.org/museum-store-sunday)  
Kauffman Museum's normal business hours are Sunday 1:30-4:30 p.m.

## **Bethel College Announcements**

- **Fri., Dec. 1 – Senior Art Exhibit I opens in the Regier Art Gallery and the Drama Lab,** both in Luyken Fine Arts Center at Bethel College, featuring the work of Rachel Geyer (lab) and Edel Miller (gallery). Hours are Mon.-Fri., 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Sun. 2-4 p.m.
- **Friday, Dec. 1 -- Student-directed one-act plays, 7:30 p.m.,** Krehbiel Auditorium in Luyken Fine Arts Center at Bethel College. Please note: May contain adult language and themes and may not be suitable for children.
- **Sat., Dec. 2 – Kauffman Museum bird walk, 8 a.m.** start time in the museum parking lot at the corner of Main and 27th streets (2801 N. Main St., North Newton 67117). Experienced birders lead a walk of 1-1.5 hours in Chisholm Park and on Sand Creek Trail (terrain is mostly wood-chip path and sometimes uneven/sloping).
- **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.
- **Weds., Dec. 6 – Singalong to Christmas portions of Handel's Messiah, 11 a.m.,** with chamber orchestra and soloists, At Bethel College Mennonite Church. Scores will be provided.
- **Thurs., Dec. 7 – Gala Jazz, directed by Joel Boettger, 7:30 p.m.,** Krehbiel Auditorium in Luyken Fine Arts Center
- **Sun., Dec. 10 – 37th annual Lighting of the Green , 8 p.m. on the Bethel College campus**

**A Celebration of Life for Gladys Niles and Gail Niles Stucky is scheduled for 4 p.m., today, Nov. 26,** at Shalom Mennonite Church, Newton. In lieu of flowers, those who wish to honor Gladys' and Gail's memories are encouraged to make a gift to support Bethel College, Bethel College Mennonite Church, or Shalom Mennonite Church.