

Mennonite Mission Network Prayer Request: Mennonite Mission Network requests prayer for Alfonsina and José Oyanguren, who have walked alongside To-ba-Qom churches and communities in the Argentine Chaco since 2004. Pray for them as they provide continuity in long-term relationships and encourage the preservation of Indigenous languages and cultures.

Western District Conference Prayer Request: Pray for WDC's Ministerial Leadership Commission as they meet this week, and as they provide support and resources for credentialed ministers in our conference.

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 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
- Pastor Roger Neufeld Smith
Cell phone: 785-220-1968; Email: roger@bethelcollegemennonitechurch.org
- Elizabeth Schmidt, Pastor of Congregational Care
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

December 10, 2023



PEACE

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

December 10, 2023

Second Sunday of Advent: Peace

Prelude *O Come, All Ye Faithful* (VT 214)
Ding Dong! Merrily on High (Dobrinski)
Coventry Carol (Eithun); Lucy Burch, Flute
Amen, Amen (Lamb)
Chancel Bell Choir, Verlene Garber, director
Members of the Chancel Bell Choir: Lucy Burch, Suzanne Burch, Ben Lichti,
Marlene Ewert, Jane Schmidt, Janet Lubbers, Brenda Turner,
Carol Gerbrand, Nathan Garber, Ron Garber, Gyles Garber, Caleb Garber

*Advent Candle Hymn *Hope Is a Candle* VT 211
verses 1-2

Advent Candle Lighting Lucy & Faith Burch

*Advent Litany *Peace* VT 916

Welcome and Prayer Adam Robb

*Hymn *Comfort, Comfort, O My People* VT 212

Children's Conversation Esther Koontz

Scripture Reading Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13 Suzy, Lucy & Faith Burch

Sermon *A God of Peace* Nathan Koontz

*Hymn *Unexpected and Mysterious* VT 229

Prayers of God's People

*Hymn *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming* VT 216

Benediction

Postlude *Variations on In Dulci Jubilo* (Theodore Beck)
Karen Schlabaugh

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

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 currently in Topeka. He will return to Newton this coming Wednesday, December 13 and will preach at BCMC on Sunday, December 17. 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).

The library's theme for the month of December is Advent/Christmas. We have quite a number of fiction/nonfiction choices for all ages. You might want to consider checking out books for visiting family members. We have so many good choices. Also, due to the Advent/Christmas Everybody books in the children's section of the library, all the puzzles are now located in the library on the west wall. There are some wonderful choices for holiday family time. A suggested donation of \$5 for a puzzle helps support the supplies needed to run the library.
Also on the west wall are a number of new books that were recently purchased through our budget and sale at Faith and Life Bookstore. Come check out the new selections in all genres. A brief write up of the new books is available by the library computer. Happy Holiday reading!
— *Library Committee*

The bulletin covers for Advent are used by permission from Salt Project, <https://www.saltproject.org/>

BCMC Women's Fellowship Executive Board meets Tuesday, December 12 at 9 a.m. in Room 14.

Save the Date - Sponsored by BCMC Women's Fellowship
"Prairie Bronze Ensemble Bell Choir" will perform Christmas music at BCMC Tuesday, December 19 at 7 p.m. More details will follow next week.

BCMC Offering for December 3, 2023: General Fund \$8,964.33; Plant Fund \$200; Gen Fund 2024 \$25; Caring Fund \$1,267; Library Reserve Fund \$17; Kitchen Fund \$21; Solar Fund \$5,000; Gladys Niles Memorial \$100.

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 the Annual Christmas Brass Choir Concert at Alexanderwohl Mennonite Church, today, Dec. 10 at 7 p.m., 1304 K-15 Hwy, Goessel for some Good Old Fashioned Christmas Festive Music and Cheer!

Mennonite Central Committee Material Resources Center in North Newton is 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: contact brociamueller@mcc.org or 316.283.2720. A full list of MCC kit contents can be found at mcc.org/kits.

The Deacons Commission is working on a “Thinking of You” campaign for people who are isolated due to health concerns. For the next few Sundays, we will have a table at the back of the sanctuary with pages for your comments to members of our church whom we haven't been able to see for a while. Please stop by and write a short greeting or sign your name to let them know we are thinking about them. For those of you who are unable to attend worship but can stop by the church during the week, these letters will be in the library during the week for anyone to write a note before we send them out. Thank you!

— *Deacon Commission*

Creation Care: While you are active in your Christmas shopping please remember to save plastic bags for recycling. We have collected 345 pounds with a goal of 1,000 pounds. — *Vern and Jane Goering*

This Week at BCMC: December 10—17, 2023

Sun., Dec. 10, 2023—Second Sunday of Advent

9:30 a.m. Worship Brief congregational meeting after worship

10:45 a.m. Faith Formation

Worship YouTube Link for this Sunday:

<https://youtube.com/live/NqmMP6oZAcY?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); Catacombs (Rm B5); Fellowship (B7); Fine Arts (Rm 22); Issues and Christianity (Rm 23); Open Circle (Room 21) Seekers (Rm 28)

Mon., Dec. 11, 2023

5:30 p.m. Faith Formation Commission meeting at Mary Ellen Hodge's home

Tues., Dec. 12, 2023

9 a.m. Womens' Fellowship Executive Board meeting in Fellowship Hall

11 a.m. Staff Meeting

12 noon Mid Kansas Investment Club meeting in Fellowship Hall

7:15 p.m. Pastoral Search Committee meeting in Room 14

Wed., Dec. 13, 2023

7 p.m. Rehearsal for Christmas worship service in Fellowship Hall

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

Thurs., Dec. 14, 2023

9 a.m. Community Playschool Christmas celebration in Fellowship Hall

Sun., Dec. 17, 2023—Third Sunday of Advent

9:30 a.m. Worship with sermon by Roger Neufeld Smith; music by Chancel Choir; 10:45 a.m. Faith Formation

Preparing for Worship

As we gather for worship each Sunday in the sanctuary, the Worship Commission invites and encourages us to become quiet as the prelude centers us for worship. Conversation is welcome and encouraged in the Gathering Place outside of the sanctuary during the prelude. We invite all who are present in the sanctuary to find their seats and quietly participate in preparing for worship.

The church board is calling a brief special congregational meeting following worship in the sanctuary, today, 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 was distributed to mailboxes the week of November 27.

BCMC Women's Fellowship Birthday Calendars are available from WF Executive Board members:

Lois Brubacher 620-837-3281; Lois Preheim 316-804-4713

Brenda Turner 316-283-8131; Janet Voth 316-283-1922

The suggested donation price is \$10. This calendar project is designed to help build community and the donation is used to support WF Ministries.

Mark Stucky, daughter Marike Stucky and son Matt Stucky would like to thank the BCMC community for your support after Gladys and Gail's passing. Cards, emails, texts and hugs were appreciated a great deal. Your kind words sustained us through this difficult journey.

Registration for the upcoming Kansas Mennonite Men's Chorus season is at hand. Please consider joining. Some of you are already on the list and we certainly encourage new members. For further details please contact Joe Peters. BCMC Contact call or text (316) 288-7031 or email joelilp@cox.net

Congregants are welcome to bring Christmas snacks to share for our coffee time in the gathering place after the worship service on **December 24**. There will be no Sunday School on December 24.

The church office will be closed during the week between Christmas and December 30.

New BCMC directories are available. There is a box in the Gathering Place between the mailboxes and two boxes in the south entrance on the glass table.

Bethel College Announcements

- **Today, Dec. 10 – 38th annual Lighting of the Green , 8 p.m.** on the Bethel College campus
- **Last week to view the annual Senior Art Exhibit I** in the Regier 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). Exhibit closes Thurs., Dec. 14. Gallery hours are 9 a.m.-5 p.m. weekdays. To see "Solace in the Story," e-mail rachelegeyer@bethelks.edu for an appointment.
- **Kauffman Museum at Bethel College invites you to visit during the holidays.** Open hours are Tues.-Fri. 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. and weekends 1:30-4:30 p.m. (closed Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve). The current special exhibit is "Climate and Energy Central," along with the permanent exhibits "Of Land and People," "Mirror of the Martyrs" and "Mennonite Immigrant Furniture." The museum store is also open during those hours, with books, games, art and other gift items for sale (see kauffmanmuseum.org/museum-store/).
- **Sun., Dec. 17 -- Kauffman Museum celebration of the 75th anniversary of the longest running community science project in the world, the Harvey County Christmas Bird Count.** Come and go at the museum from 1:30-4:30 p.m. to see the progress of the special exhibit "A Day with the Birds," with brief remarks at 3 p.m.

Hesston College Announcements

- **Melva Kauffman Lecture Series: Dismantling the Doctrine of Discovery**
This year the Melva Kauffman Lecture Series is pleased to host Mark Charles who will present on the topic of Dismantling the Doctrine of Discovery. Charles is the son of an American woman (of Dutch heritage) and a Navajo man. He teaches with insight into the complexities of American history regarding race, culture and faith in order to help forge a path of healing and conciliation for the nation. The public is invited to hear his presentation at Hesston Mennonite Church Sunday, January 21, 2024, at 7 p.m.
- **Take a Bible Class at Hesston College**
Interested in auditing a Bible course beginning in January? This spring semester Hesston College has opportunities to audit Biblical Literature, Jesus and the Gospels, and Peacemaking and Justice courses. Acceptance is based upon availability of open seating. If you are interested in enrolling in or auditing a Bible course, please contact amber.hett@hesston.edu before Jan. 9 to register. Spring courses are in session Jan. 10 to May 9. Be sure and ask about discounted rates for senior citizens.