

**Mennonite Mission Network Prayer Request:** Today is Anabaptist World Fellowship Sunday. Mennonite Mission Network invites you to join in Mennonite World Conference's prayers for the global church: to work together in harmony, to reduce suffering, and to become God's people, who sow peace, love and truth.

**Western District Conference Prayer Request:** Give thanks for generous financial contributions to WDC, supporting our mission of empowering Anabaptist/Mennonite congregations to witness and invite others to faith in Jesus Christ, dwell in just and loving relationships, and connect to God's mission in the world.

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

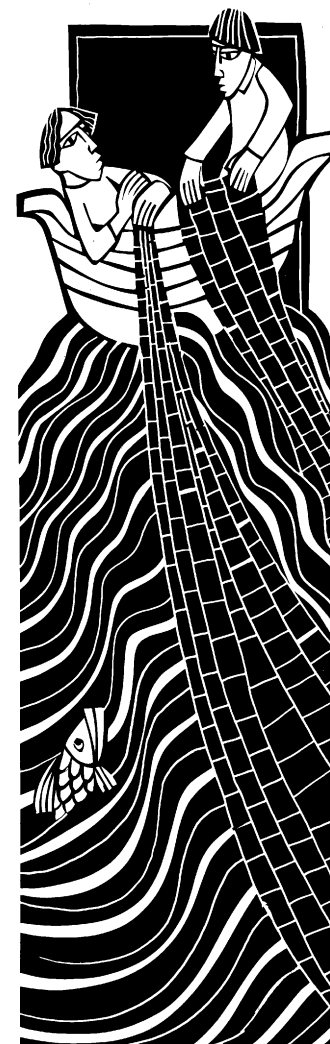
**Saturdays—building is locked**

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

### January 21, 2024



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**

**January 21, 2024**

**Third Sunday after Epiphany**

Christ Candle Lighting

Centering Music

Will Wiebe-Friesen

Welcome and Prayer

Jon Zerger

\*Hymn

*Could It Be That God Is Singing*

VT 42

Children's Conversation

Kevin Neufeld

Anthem

Chancel Choir

Scripture Reading

*Psalm 62:5-12; Mark 1:14-20*

Carol & Jerry Buller

Sermon

*Image of God, Activity of God*

Nathan Koontz

\*Hymn

*O God, Great Womb*

VT 176

Child Blessing for Elizabeth Robb

VT 970

Prayers of God's People

\*Hymn

*Will You Come and Follow Me*

VT 540

Benediction

Postlude

Will Wiebe-Friesen

\* You are invited to stand

VT—*Voices Together*

Audio visual—Ken Lamp

**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.**

---

**Interested in becoming a member of Bethel College Mennonite Church?**

If you are interested in becoming a member, or transferring membership, or learning more about membership at BCMC, please contact Elizabeth Schmidt, Pastor of Congregational Care. She will be happy to visit with you!

**Roger's Whereabouts :** Roger will be back in Newton on Wednesday, January 24. 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).

**BCMC Offering for January 14, 2024:** General \$5,915.83; Bell Choir \$100; Plant Fund \$8.33; Metta Lieb Mem. \$100; Nancy Hilty Mem. \$50.

**Results of the Solar Panel Project Phase 1 Survey:**

Good news for the future of solar at BCMC! We received 79 responses to the Phase I Solar questionnaire submitted on behalf of 114 people. Of the 79 responses, 78 (98.7%) were in favor of the project and 1 (1.3%) was not in favor of the project. A total of \$180,990 was pledged over 3 years, of which \$127,990 was pledged by the 6/30/24 installation date. Recall, the total project cost was quoted at \$192,000. Up to \$96,000 had been designated as available from the bequest fund. Additional grants or subsidies may be awarded. More detailed information and a chance for final approval of the contract will be provided at the annual meeting. We are grateful to the Creation Care solar subcommittee of Dwight Krehbiel, Lorna Harder, and Hugo Boschmann as well as Jon Zerger and Margaret Toews from the Board and the Finance Committee, chaired by LaVern Stucky, for all their careful homework, collaborative deliberations, and clear communications. We of course are also thankful for the many people from our congregation who are supporting the project. — *Ada Schmidt-Tieszen, Church Board Chair/Moderator*

## Bethel College Announcements

- **TODAY (Sun., Jan. 21)** – Bethel College Music Department Honors Recital, 4 p.m., Administration Building chapel, featuring vocal and instrumental students who performed exceptionally during the fall 2023 semester.
- **Fri., Jan. 26** – First event in the Bethel College Faculty Lecture Series, “Walking the Talk: Listening in Our Disciplines,” at Kidron Bethel Village, 11 a.m., Kidron Hall. Dr. Rachel Epp Buller, Bethel professor of visual arts and design and series organizer, will introduce the series and speak on “Walking and Listening in/as Artistic Practice.”
- **Sat., Jan. 27** – Kauffman Museum annual Kansas Day event, “Kansas Critters,” noon-4 p.m., museum parking lot and grounds. Featuring food trucks, exhibits and activities indoors and out, and much more. For more information, see the Kauffman Museum Facebook page or [kauffmanmuseum.org](http://kauffmanmuseum.org)
- **Sat., Feb. 3** – Bethel College Faculty Recital: Dr. Christina Liu, piano, 2 p.m. [note time change], Administration Building chapel
- **Now in the Regier Gallery in Luyken Fine Arts Center** at Bethel College – “Forest Listening,” a sound art installation by Liz K. Miller, through Feb. 9. Gallery hours are Mon.-Fri. 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Sun. 2-4 p.m.

## Hesston College Announcement—Dismantling the Doctrine of Discovery

This year the Melva Kauffman Lecture Series hosts 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.

## January 27 is a work day on the Camp Mennoscah Retreat Center HVAC

**Project,** the start of “demolition.” Work will start at 9 a.m. and end at 5 p.m. Bring your own lunch and water bottle, please, and meet at the Retreat Center. Camp Mennoscah will provide tools needed. Space heaters will be used, but temperatures inside may be around 50 degrees. Please let us know you are coming so we can be prepared. Contact [olivia.bartel@campmennoscah.org](mailto:olivia.bartel@campmennoscah.org) or 620-297-3290, 316-293-7313 (text).

## This Week at BCMC: January 21—28, 2024

### Sunday, January 21, 2024

9:30 a.m. Worship YouTube Link for this Sunday:

<https://youtube.com/live/IGzMYP8srXw?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)

### Monday, January 22, 2024

10 a.m. Library Committee meeting in Room 14

### Wednesday, January 24, 2024

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

### Thursday, January 25, 2024

6:30 p.m. Chancel Bells Rehearsal in Room B-7

7 p.m. Deacon Commission meeting in Room 14

7:30 p.m. Hospitality Commission meeting in fellowship hall

### Sunday, January 28, 2024

9:30 a.m. Worship with sermon by Nathan Koontz; music by Chancel Bells

10:45 a.m. Faith Formation

11:45 a.m. Soup Luncheon in fellowship hall—Fundraiser served by Senior High Youth Group

12:45 a.m. Congregational meeting in the sanctuary

## **Preparing for Worship**

As we gather for worship each Sunday in the sanctuary, the Worship Commission invites and encourages us to become quiet as we light the Christ Candle. Prelude music has now been changed to Centering Music. The Worship Commission invites your feedback as we experiment with a new order of worship.

**The memorial service for Nancy Hilty has been re-scheduled** to Saturday March 9, 11 a.m. followed by a lunch in fellowship hall.

**Everence® will hold an informative Social Security and retirement income workshop** Thur., Jan. 25, 6:30 p.m. Topics will be Social Security strategies, including when to begin taking benefits, risks that can impact your retirement savings plus strategies to help your income last throughout retirement. There will also be plenty of time for questions.

In-person workshop will be at the Everence office: 3179 N. Main St. Suite 1B, North Newton. Information will be presented by staff from the Everence offices in Central Kansas. To register contact Everence at 316-283-3800, 877-467-7294 or [central.kansas@everence.com](mailto:central.kansas@everence.com).

**Come hear a short concert of choral music presented by the Occasional Singers, a chamber ensemble of talented musicians who don't have a lot of time on their hands!** Led by Andrew Voth, they will be singing choral standards as well as more contemporary pieces. The concert will occur at 2 p.m. on Sunday, January 21 at First Mennonite Church in Newton and will be free to attend.

**February 10, Saturday Library Book Sale & Open House:** Stop by the Western District Conference Resource Library on Saturday, February 10 from 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Browse the book sale, check out what's new for individuals, families, children and more for home and congregational use. Enjoy a hot drink and stories with Bethel College Students.

### **Congregational Meeting Set for January 28:**

The next congregational meeting will take place on Sunday, January 28, at 12:45 following a soup lunch prepared by the Youth Group. The meeting will be held in the sanctuary and made available live on YouTube only while the meeting is in progress; it will not be recorded. Votes from remote viewers can be texted to a number available in Sunday's bulletin and announced at the beginning of the meeting. Agenda items will include a finance report from 2023 as well as approval of the budget for 2024, action on the revised Welcoming Statement, action on the proposal to change the church's moderator model, report and proposal concerning the solar panel project, and an update on the Search Committee process.

### **Welcome Statement:**

The BCMC board has approved a recommendation from the Inclusion Task Group to revise our congregation's welcome statement which is in the church's constitution. The revised version follows:  
"Bethel College Mennonite Church is an open and affirming congregation centered in the life and teachings of Jesus. Embracing the divine within each person, we warmly welcome any and all into fellowship without regard to race, ethnic background, gender identity, sexual orientation, ability, economic status, marital status and age."

### **Change in Moderator Model:**

The Board has proposed a bylaws change to shift church officer positions from Moderator Elect and Moderator, each serving two-year terms with a total commitment of four years, to Moderator Elect, Moderator, and Past Moderator. In the new model, each position would be held for one year with the Moderator Elect moving on to Moderator and Past Moderator in the following years, thus serving a three-year commitment. In summary, the new model shortens the term of commitment by one year and establishes a three-person leadership team.

---

**WANTED—Cars, Trucks, Motorcycles, RV's, Campers, Tractors, Modern Farm Equipment, etc.** for the Kansas Mennonite Central Committee Sale. Items you no longer need can help feed and clothe thousands in desperate living conditions. ALL donations are Tax Deductible. Call Jerry Toews for info: 620 367 8257. Help make a difference.