

Mennonite Mission Network Prayer Request: Mennonite Mission Network requests prayer for Lora Nafziger and Mitch Rhodes, who began a three-year assignment in September with United Mission to Nepal (UMN), working from the United States. Pray for this family, as Lora, Mitch and two of their four sons take up residence in Kathmandu, Nepal, this month. Lora is serving as UMN's staff support and counseling advisor, and Mitch serves as the expatriate coordinator.

Western District Conference Prayer Request: Pray for WDC and all its congregations as we begin a new year, remembering that the steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, and God's mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning!

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

January 4, 2024

Epiphany



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 7, 2024

Epiphany

Christ Candle Lighting

Centering Music *We Three Kings* (D. Bish) Will Wiebe-Friesen

Land Acknowledgement

Welcome and Prayer Dale Schrag

*Hymn *Arise, Your Light Is Come!* VT 273

Children's Conversation Trent Voth

Anthem *See Whose Glory Fills the Skies* (George Elderkin)
Chancel Choir; Riley King, director; Will Wiebe-Friesen, accompanist

Scripture Reading *Malachi 4:1-5; Mark 1:1-11* Addie Zerger

Sermon *Epiphanies with David, Mark, and Jesus* Trent Voth

*Hymn *Spirit of the Living God* VT 740

Prayers of God's People

*Hymn *O Beautiful Star of Bethlehem* VT 275

Benediction

Postlude *Nun ist sie erschienen* (S. Vincent)
Will Wiebe-Friesen

* You are invited to stand

VT—*Voices Together*

Keyboard- Will Wiebe-Friesen

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.

Welcome Guest Speaker Trent Voth

We extend a warm welcome to Trent Voth as he preaches and facilitates the children's conversation on January 7. Trent just completed his first semester as professor of Bible and Religion at Bethel College. He grew up in the Halstead area but he and his wife, Stephanie, and two sons, Devereaux (De-Ver-Row) and Darien moved back to the area from Toronto, Ontario, where Trent completed his PhD at the University of Toronto. Trent has a particular interest in The Gospel of Mark, anabaptist theologies, vocational discernment, and indigenous justice.

Roger's Whereabouts : Roger will be back in Newton on Wednesday, January 10. 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).

Land Acknowledgement *compiled by Florence Schloneger from words by Mark Charles and VT #878*

*As we do on the first Sunday of each month,
we acknowledge that we worship
on the land of the Kanza, Osage, and Wichita.
We thank them for their care and respect for this land
and acknowledge the injustice of their forced removal.
We ask the Spirit to heal our histories
and find new paths of right relationships with them
and all of creation.*

BCMC Offering for December 31, 2023: General \$9,684.29; Memorial Fund \$25; Plant Fund \$50; Library Reserve Fund \$55; Kitchen Fund \$13; Solar Fund \$1,000.

Bethel College Announcements

- **TODAY (Sun., Jan. 7) – Sunday-Afternoon-at-the-Museum**, “The Western Meadowlark: The State Bird, but Not the Only Exceptional Bird in Kansas,” with local birding expert Gregg Friesen, 3 p.m., Kauffman Museum at Bethel College.
- **Sun., Jan. 21 – Bethel College Music Department Honors Recital, 4 p.m.**, Administration Building chapel, featuring freshman, sophomore and junior vocal and instrumental students who performed exceptionally during the fall 2023 semester.
- **Bethel College’s Faculty Speaker series begins Friday, Jan. 26**, and continues through April 19. During that time, seven different Bethel faculty members will discuss how listening opens up opportunities for learning as well as pathways for building, renewing and repairing relationships. All lectures are from 11 a.m.-noon in Kidron Hall at Kidron Bethel Village in North Newton, and are open to the public. Watch for further details!

Footsteps of Paul in Greece + 3-Night Cruise May 27 – June 6, 2024. Led by Pastor Weldon Martens, Grace Hill Mennonite Church; Whitewater, KS. This is a 11-Day Tour & Cruise to Athens, Thessalonica, Philippi, Corinth, Crete, Patmos, Ephesus, Mykonos & Santorini. Cost: \$3,219 + flights. Registration: Due by January 18, 2024. Contact Pastor Weldon Martens at: weldon.martens@gmail.com / 402-202-9276. Complete tour information & registration at www.tourwithweldon.com

Rocky Mountain Mennonite Camp Scrapbook Retreat, Jan. 26-28 - Creating paper or digital photo books and sharing ideas and conversation is just another day for scrapbook participants. You still have time to register and spend the weekend documenting life memories and fellowshiping with others. Register at rmmc.org!

Everence® will hold an informative Social Security and retirement income workshop Thur., Jan. 25, starting at 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.

This Week at BCMC: January 7—14, 2024

Sunday, January 7, 2024—Epiphany

9:30 a.m. Worship Worship YouTube Link for this Sunday:
<https://youtube.com/live/VuqUJRWBAbQ?feature=share>

10:45 a.m. Faith Formation

1:30 p.m. Memorial Service for Jim Banman and Judy Coover in the Kidron Bethel Hall

4 p.m. Service of Remembrance in the sanctuary—All are invited
YouTube Link for the Service of Remembrance:

<https://youtube.com/live/-xBnxGYqLTU?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)

Tuesday, January 9, 2024

9 a.m. Women’s Fellowship Executive Board meets in Room 14

Wednesday, January 10, 2024

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

Friday, January 12, 2024

11 a.m. Memorial service of Nancy Hilty in the sanctuary followed by a light lunch in fellowship hall

Sunday, January 14, 2024

9:30 a.m. Worship with sermon by Roger Neufeld Smith

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 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.

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!

Service of Remembrance

In order to recognize and mourn the loss of our loved ones from 2023, Bethel College Mennonite Church is hosting a Service of Remembrance today, Jan. 7, at 4 p.m., in the BCMC sanctuary.

Memorial Service for Jim Banman and Judy Coover

Please remember in your prayers Jim's children, Steven, Susan, Christine, and T.J., and their families as they mourn the death of Jim on Dec. 9. A joint memorial service for Jim and his wife, Judith Coover, who died in 2020, will be held today, Jan. 7, 1:30 p.m. at Kidron Hall, Kidron Bethel Village.

We offer sympathy to the family of Nancy Hilty. Nancy died Dec. 30, 2023. Nancy fell and suffered a massive brain bleed. The memorial service will be at Bethel College Mennonite Church Fri., Jan. 12, 11 a.m. followed by a light lunch. Remember in your prayers Nancy's son Daniel, Daniel's wife Kristen, and their children along with extended family.

Humanitarian Crisis in Gaza: Call for Prayer and Action for Peace and Justice in Israel and Palestine. *Witness Commission*

On Dec. 19 Mennonite Action brought together nearly 2000 Mennonites and interfaith allies across North America to call for an immediate cease fire. Some of our members joined other Kansas Mennonites at the offices of Senators Moran and Marshall in Wichita and Topeka. Members can read Bob Atchison's article in the Jan. 2 issue of the *Newton Kansan*. Atchison chairs the Mennonite Palestine Israel Network and the Western District Task Force. On Jan. 16, Mennonite Action, see online, is organizing action in Washington D.C. Members might also consider registering on zoom for the "Emergency Summit for Gaza" Jan. 12-13 in Chicago organized by the Fellowship of Reconciliation (FOR). The Witness Commission urges: 1. Support for the MCC humanitarian relief effort in Gaza; 2. Prayer for President Biden and other political leaders to support an immediate and permanent cease fire in Gaza; 3. Phone calls to the Wichita offices of Senators Moran and Marshall.

Newton Community for Racial Justice is hosting its annual anti-racism training workshop from Jan. 12 - 14 at the Newton Rec Center. If you are willing to provide snacks, help setup and serve Sunday lunch, or monitor the coffee pot for 2 hours, enter the link below to sign up.

Thank you, *Margaret Toews for NCRJ*

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Ju4YUVBTm3fYaL8EG6R0sObQvmgkXQ25dBYi6pd8BI/edit>

Our next congregational meeting is at 12:45 p.m. , Jan. 28, 2024. The following two items will be on the agenda:

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. This announcement constitutes the required 30 day notice for a vote on a constitutional change. 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.

Pastoral News:

The Board has renewed Roger Neufeld Smith's half-time contract for an additional year (or less if a new regular pastor is found). We are so grateful for his willingness to continue offering his fine work, administrative and communication skills, and wisdom to our congregation in this transitional time.

The Board has also renewed Elizabeth Schmidt's half-time contract for an additional year. Since she is now credentialed, her title has been changed to Pastor of Congregational Care. Her job description, although revised, remains fundamentally the same. Feedback from those working most closely with her was overwhelmingly positive and confirmed her pastoral gifts, organizational skills, and caring concern for congregants. Thank you, Elizabeth!