

**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, or age.**

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.

**Mennonite Mission Network Prayer Request:** Mennonite Mission Network has launched a new fellowship and learning program, Just Peace Pilgrimages, to help participants enter more fully into God's justice and shalom. Pray that God's spirit will prepare the hearts and minds of all who join in the healing work of dismantling the oppressive structures in the United States.

**Western District Conference Prayer Request:** Pray for WDC congregations and listening teams participating in WDC's conference-wide listening process to learn how God is at work in a diversity of church contexts, and to consider what resources WDC can offer to support congregational hopes and priorities for the future.

\*\*\*\*\*

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)
- Office/Facilities Manager: Monica Lichti, Cell phone 316-249-9652  
Email: [office@bethelcollegemennonitechurch.org](mailto:office@bethelcollegemennonitechurch.org)
- Faith Formation Coordinator: Jill Robb—Email: [jill@bethelcollegemennonitechurch.org](mailto:jill@bethelcollegemennonitechurch.org)
- Youth Coordinator: George Leary—Email: [george@bethelcollegemennonitechurch.org](mailto:george@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**

### **February 11, 2024**

### **Transfiguration 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**

**February 11, 2024**

**Transfiguration Sunday**

Christ Candle Lighting

Centering Music      *I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say* (Burkhardt)  
Karen Unruh

Welcome and Prayer      Tim Hodge

\*Hymn      *Come Away from Rush and Hurry*      VT 9

Children's Conversation      William Eash & Esther Kreider Eash

\*Hymn      *I Know Not Why God's Wondrous*      VT 590

Scripture Reading      2 Kings 2:1-12; Mark 9:2-9      Doug Penner

Sermon      *It is Good For Us to Be Here*      Julianna Schrag

\*Hymn      *You, Lord, Are Both Lamb and Shepherd*      VT 432

Prayers of God's People

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

Benediction

Postlude      *A Rejoicing* (Fedak)  
Karen Unruh

---

\* You are invited to stand

VT = *Voices Together*

Audio visual—Francis Toews

**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.**

---

**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.

**Welcome Julianna Schrag as Guest Preacher**

We are very happy to have Julianna Schrag as our guest preacher today. Julianna graduated from Bethel College in 2023 with a degree in Communications and minors in Management and English. She served as Faith Formation intern at BCMC in 2020 and 2021. Julianna currently works as an admissions counselor at Bethel and is busy planning her July wedding!

**To my church family:** I felt so blessed to celebrate my 98th birthday in my church during Sunday coffee hour. Thank you so much for the special cards and for the many best wishes I received! *Willye Hinz*

**Thank you for your support** on our January 28th soup luncheon fundraiser. We appreciate your generosity. We raised \$3,550. Your support and donations allow us to take trips such as RMMC Snow Camp and our annual summer service trips. **Save the Date: Sunday, February 25th, we will report to you on our Snow Camp experience.** We especially enjoyed getting to know you a little bit better with the Find Someone Who activity. *The BCMC Senior High Youth Group*

**After a great December finish for 2023, we apparently took a little breather in January** and as a result, the churches' expenditures exceeded income by over \$13,000 or about 33% of expenditures. We realize that it is early in the year and we hope that this is not a trend, but we think that information is power and thus will give you a basis on which to act. *Finance Committee*

*Bulletin cover picture was taken at Rocky Mountain Mennonite Camp by Monica Lichti.*

## Bethel College Announcements

- **TODAY (Sun., Feb. 11) – KIPCOR Film Series presents *Eroding History***, 2 p.m., Krehbiel Auditorium in Luyken Fine Arts Center. Afterwards, audience talkback with Dr. Jonathan Frye, professor of natural science at McPherson College; freewill offering taken to support KIPCOR and the film series.
- **Sun., Feb. 11 – Sunday-Afternoon-at-the-Museum program** at Kauffman Museum, 3 p.m., with Lorna Harder, Hesston, guest curator of the special exhibit “A Day with the Birds: Community Science and the Audubon Christmas Bird Count.” In “Sisters, Scientists, Birders and Friends,” Harder will explore the history of local birding pioneers Dwight Platt, North Newton, and the Ruth sisters of Halstead, how they’ve passed on their legacy through the Christmas Bird Count and how birding brings people together.
- **Tues., Feb. 13 – Bethel College Organ Recital Series** presents Doug O’Neill in an all-Bach program, 7 p.m., Administration Building chapel
- **Thurs., Feb. 15 – The public is invited to a forum on local journalism sponsored by *Harvey County Now***, 7 p.m., Krehbiel Auditorium in Luyken Fine Arts Center. Learn how Newton has become an example for local news and why a strong newspaper is critical for a rural community.
- **Weds., Feb. 21 – Bethel College Orchestra**, directed by Kris Hilding, 7 p.m., Krehbiel Auditorium in Luyken Fine Arts Center [NOTE DIFFERENT DATE from some previously printed calendars]
- **SAVE THE DATE: Sun., March 3, 4 p.m. – Bethel College Choir Spring Tour Send-off Concert**

## Future February Events at BCMC:

- **February 14, 2024**, 6:30 p.m.—Ash Wednesday Service in the Sanctuary
- **February 18, 2024**, 9:30 a.m.—First Sunday in Lent
- **February 21, 2024**, 6 p.m.—Wednesday night suppers begin
- **February 25, 2024**, 9:30 a.m.—Second Sunday in Lent and at noon, **Guess Who’s Coming to Dinner** “Guess Who’s Coming to Dinner” is a way for BCMC folks to get acquainted with other BCMC folks that they might not know very well. The Hospitality Commission has matched people who signed up as hosts with people who signed up as guests. Guests: You will receive your food assignment Sunday, February 18. Hosts: you will receive the number of guests you will host on February 18.

**Thank You to Erin Brubacher and Crystal Gaeddert** who stood by me on Jan. 17 when I fell at the Rec Center and ended up in ER with a broken hip. I felt I had angels watching over my situation until the EMT help arrived. Grateful for a caring community, for visit by Elizabeth Schmidt, cards, texts and calls and your prayers. *Lotti Boschmann*

## This Week at BCMC: February 11—18, 2024

### Sunday, February 11, 2024

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

<https://youtube.com/live/gNQo8wz1jPk?feature=share>

### **Super Bowl Snacks Fundraiser by Junior High Youth in Gathering Place!**

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

10:45 am Faith Formation—Intergenerational class meets in Room 26; 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, February 13, 2024

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

11 a.m. Staff meeting

3 p.m. Peace Sunday Planning Group in Room 14

### Wednesday, February 14, 2024—Ash Wednesday

10 a.m. Library Committee in Room 14 and Library

**6:30 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service in the sanctuary**

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

### Thursday, February 15, 2024

4 p.m. Witness Commission meeting in Room 14

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

6:30 p.m. Abuse Prevention and Response Committee meeting

7 p.m. Bethel College Women’s Association meeting in fellowship hall

### Sunday, February 18, 2024—Lent 1

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

10:45 a.m. Faith Formation

**After the worship service today, the Junior High Youth will be selling an assortment of Super Bowl snacks.** Snacks will be sold by donation. Donations go toward the Junior High Fund which is used to support activities like Snow Camp.

**Roger's Whereabouts:** Roger will return to Newton on Wed., Feb. 21. Whether in Newton or Topeka, Roger checks his email and cell phone regularly, so feel free to contact him via email, text or phone (785-220-1968).

**We offer sympathy to** Doug Siemens & LuAnn Zook and Charlotte Siemens & David Sprunger and their families on the death of Richard Siemens, Feb. 3. The memorial service for Richard will be March 2, 11 a.m. with a lunch following in fellowship hall.

**BCMC Offering for February 4, 2024:** General \$5,211; Sr Hi Youth \$176; Jr Hi Fund \$25; Kitchen Fund \$15; Solar Fund \$13,050; Nancy Hilty Mem. \$50.

**The Library Theme for the rest of February is highlighting Civil Rights.** As always, the adult books can be found in back of the library desk, while the youth/children's books are displayed against the south wall of the youth library.

**As a reminder, puzzles can be found on the puzzle cart** outside the library door or on the shelves of the west wall of the library. Please continue to donate to our fund so that when special books are published, we are able to purchase them for our library.

**Also, *Healing Haunted Histories* By Elaine Enns and Myers has disappeared and has not been in the library for almost a year.** Please check your books at home to see if you may have forgotten to return it or if you have a copy that you would be willing to donate, we would greatly appreciate it. Happy Reading/Happy Puzzling!!

### **Wednesday Evening Programming—*Intersecting Climate Change, Christian Colonialism, & Indigenous Spirituality***

On February 21 we will resume our Wednesday evening meal and discussion. For the next six weeks, after the meal, we will explore the intersection of climate change, colonialist Christian theology and indigenous spirituality. Each week, we will have a brief introduction on this theme and time for discussion. Discussions will go through March 27. There are copies of the entire outline of the programming on the ledge in the gathering place. On the first Sunday of each month, we acknowledge that we live and worship on land that was once cared for by people who were indigenous to this land. Since the arrival of new peoples, this land has changed more than we can imagine. And with a changing climate, it will surely change even more. One of the consequences of the genocide and forced removal of Indigenous peoples is the loss of indigenous wisdom and spirituality, especially in regard to the land and the living things on it.

We hope to gain from this exercise more life affirming interpretations of Christian scriptures and theological understandings and indigenous spirituality that can help us become better stewards of God's good creation.

### **Memorial Services at BCMC**

- **The memorial service for Richard Siemens** will be Sat., March 2, 11 a.m. followed by a light lunch in fellowship hall.
- **The memorial service for Nancy Hilty has been re-scheduled** to Sat., March 9, 11 a.m. followed by a light lunch in fellowship hall.
- **The memorial service for Don Kaufman will be** Sat., April 13, 11 a.m. followed by a light lunch in fellowship hall.

**Kansas Mennonite Relief Sale (KMRS) is April 12 & 13, 2024 at the Kansas State Fair Grounds in Hutchinson.** Your participation supports MCC's relief, development, and peace-building work around the world.

- **Did you know that last year, MCC's My Coins Count** initiative collected over \$600,000 for water, food, and other projects around the world? **BCMC's My Coins Count drive begins today.** Place your coins in the jug in the Gathering Place each Sunday. Can you help the children FILL THE JUG with coins (and bills!) by April?
- **Check out the posterboard in the Gathering Place** for KMRS information and extra forms for the Run for Relief, Quilt Auction, Sale Sponsorship, Friendship Meals, etc.
- **A big THANK YOU to BCMC Sunday School classes who help underwrite KMRS costs.** Thanks to generous donors, all sale expenses are covered before the sale so proceeds go directly to Mennonite Central Committee programs.
- **Friendship Meals** (March 3 or March 10) are a great way to meet new people and also contribute to MCC. Signup deadline is next Sun., Feb. 18.
- **Many hands worked to create the beautiful quilt** hanging in the Gathering Place today. You may bid on it in the quilt auction! Additional quilts by BCMC quilters will be on display at church on Sunday morning, March 3.
- **Do you have an item to donate to the silent auction**, children's auction, or general auction? The general auction sale bill deadline is February 28. Check the KMRS website for more information or speak with a BCMC liaison.
- **For more information**, see <https://kansas.mccsale.org/>, the posterboard in the Gathering Place, or contact a BCMC liaison: Steve & Elaine Schurr, William & Esther Kreider Eash, and Brad & Diane Born.

**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.

**Everence will hold its Medicare workshop** at its office, 3179 N. Main St. Suite 1B, North Newton on Thurs., Feb. 15, 6:30 p.m. with topics: when and where to sign up for Medicare, what Medicare covers, an explanation of Medicare Parts A, B, C, and D. Attendance is recommended for those approaching retirement or those ready to sign up for Medicare. If interested in attending contact the Everence office at 316-283-3800, 877-467-7294 or [central.kansas@everence.com](mailto:central.kansas@everence.com).