

**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:** Tomorrow, members of the Community of Anabaptist Theological Institutions will gather for a four-day meeting in Mexico. Mennonite Mission Network requests prayer for the leaders of Anabaptist seminaries in Colombia, Guatemala, Mexico and the United States, as they collaborate to expand Spanish-language opportunities for church leadership development.

**Western District Conference Prayer Request:** Pray for youth pastors, leaders and sponsors in WDC congregations, as they accompany and encourage young people growing as followers of Jesus in today's world.

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Bethel College Mennonite Church, 2600 College Ave., Box 364, North Newton, KS 67117  
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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 18, 2024**  
**First Sunday of Lent**  
**Christ Among Us: Repent and Believe**



**THE KINGDOM OF GOD  
HAS COME NEAR;  
REPENT, AND BELIEVE  
IN THE GOOD NEWS.  
+ MARK 1:15**

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 18, 2024

First Sunday of Lent

Christ Among Us: Repent and Believe

Christ Candle Lighting

Centering Music      *What Wondrous Love is This* (arr. Wood)  
Will Wiebe-Friesen

Call to Worship      Ada Schmidt-Tieszen

One: Teach us your pathways, O God—  
our eyes and our souls are trained on you.

**Many: For you are the greatest guide,  
and your map is always good.**

One: Other paths have left us lost;  
other ways have left us confused.

**Many: You guide us along the trail of your mercy,  
drawing sinner and saint down this well worn way.**

**All: All your paths are love, made smooth by your faithful  
walking. We are led into your truth by following the tread of  
your feet.** (based on Psalm 25:1-10)

\*Hymn      *Lo, I Am with You* (verses 1-4)      VT 284

Children's Conversation      Jill Robb & Bethany Schrag

Anthem      *O Sing Unto the Lord a New Song* (Peter Aston)  
Chancel Choir; William Eash, director; Will Wiebe-Friesen, accompanist

Scripture Reading      Genesis 9:8-17; Mark 1:9-15      Karen Ediger

Sermon      *With the Wild Beasts and the Angels*      Nathan Koontz

\*Hymn      *Spirit of God! Descend*      VT 557

Prayers of God's People

Prayer of Confession

One: God, on Ash Wednesday, we remembered our humanity,  
our fragility, our limits, our sinfulness, our need for repentance.  
Today, we come to you with this fresh on our minds as we continue  
our Lenten journey.

**Many: Be with us in this wilderness.**

One: We so often focus on the difficulty of our walk with Christ.

**Many: Forgive our self-focused minds.**

One: Forgive us, Lord, when on our journey,  
we forget your extensive, covenantal love for the world.

**Many: May we partner with you and your church to remember.**

**All: (looking at one another) You are beloved.**

\*Hymn      *Spirit, Open My Heart*      VT 636

\*Benediction

Postlude      *Precious Lord, Take My Hand* (arr. Schrader)  
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.**

**Preparing for Worship**

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

**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*

## Bethel College Announcements

- **Mon., Feb. 19** – “**Transmutation Speculation: Fluid Nature,**” works by Marguerite Perret, opens in Regier Art Gallery in Luyken Fine Arts Center (through Mar. 22; reception Mar. 21). Gallery hours: Mon.-Fri. 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Sun. 2-4 p.m.
- **Weds., Feb. 21** – **Bethel College Orchestra**, directed by Kris Hilding, 7 p.m., Krehbiel Auditorium in Luyken Fine Arts Center
- **Fri., Feb. 23** – **Bethel College’s Faculty Lecture Series** continues with Brad Born, professor of English, “Walking Ways and Ways of Seeing,” 11 a.m., Kidron Hall at Kidron Bethel Village
- **Fri., March 1** – **KIPCOR 50th-anniversary Peace Lecture, “Justice Delayed is Democracy Denied.”** with Christina Swarns, 7 p.m., Memorial Hall. Swarns is the executive director of Innocence Project and former litigation director for the NAACP Legal Defense & Educational Fund.
- **Sat., March 2** – **A one-day endowed Justice Symposium** at Bethel College, focusing on the U.S. carceral and criminal justice system, with Christina Swarns, executive director of Innocence Project, and other voices on the death penalty, prosecution and racial justice; 8 a.m.-5 p.m. on the Bethel campus. *Symposium is free but pre-registration is required by going to <https://kipcor.org>*
- **Sun., March 3** – **Bethel College Choir Tour Send-off Concert**, “Music Exploring American Identity” directed by Dr. Henry S. Waters, 4 p.m., Memorial Hall. The concert has performances by the Chamber Singers, Woven, and Open Road.
- **SAVE THE DATES: Sun., March 17 & Mon., March 18** – Hartzler Bible Lectures at Bethel College with César Garcia and Sandra Baez

## Future Events at BCMC:

- **Feb. 21, 6 p.m.**—**Wednesday night suppers begin**
- **Feb. 24, 9:30 a.m.** **Visitation with the Suderman family** in BCMC Chapel (open to all) followed by **Memorial Service for Alice Suderman** at 11 a.m. in BCMC sanctuary. A light lunch in fellowship hall will follow the service.
- **Feb. 25, 9:30 a.m.**—**Second Sunday in Lent** and at noon, **Guess Who’s Coming to Dinner**. This event 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 will receive your food assignment slips today and hosts will receive the slips today with the number of guests they are hosting. (In mailboxes)
- **Feb. 25, the BCMC Senior High Youth Group are planning the worship service and will have reflections and report on their Snow Camp experience.**
- **March 2, 11 a.m., memorial service for Richard Siemens**, followed by a light lunch in fellowship hall.
- **March 9, 11 a.m., memorial service for Nancy Hilty** followed by a light lunch in fellowship hall.
- **April 13, 11 a.m., memorial service for Don Kaufman** followed by a light lunch in fellowship hall.

## This Week at BCMC: February 18—25, 2024

### Sunday, February 18, 2024

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

<https://youtube.com/live/SN7PkhI5fwE?feature=share>

**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 20, 2024

11 a.m. Staff meeting

5:30 p.m. Pastor Search Committee meeting in room 14

5:30 p.m. Women’s Fellowship meets at First United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall, 801 North Main. See full announcement on the next page.

6:30 p.m. Newton Chorale Rehearsal in the sanctuary

### Wednesday, February 21, 2024—Wednesday meal and program

6 p.m. Wednesday night meal in fellowship hall (menu on bulletin board)

6:30 p.m. Gifts Discernment Committee meeting in room 14

6:45 p.m. Wednesday program in fellowship hall

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

### Thursday, February 22, 2024

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

7 p.m. Deacon Commission meeting in room 14

### Friday, February 23, 2024

6:30 p.m. Newton Chorale rehearsal in the sanctuary

### Sunday, February 25, 2024—Lent 2

9:30 a.m. Worship led by the Senior High Youth group with reflections from the youth; music by Chancel Bells 10:45 a.m. Faith Formation

Noon **Guess Who’s Coming to Dinner Event**

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**We offer sympathy to** John Suderman and his extended family on the death of John’s wife, Alice, February 14, at Kidron Bethel Village. The memorial service will be Sat., Feb. 24, 11 a.m. at BCMC with a visitation preceding at 9:30 a.m. in the BCMC Chapel. A light lunch in fellowship hall will follow the service.

**Roger's Whereabouts:** Roger returns to Newton 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).

**Deacon Care Concern:** Deacons were made aware of a community need involving the death of a mother of 4 young girls, ages 2, 3, 5, and 6. The family welcomes donations of gently-used clothing for young girls. Donated items may be brought to the church office for coordination of delivery. - *Deacon Commission*

### **An Opportunity for Men and Women – February Women's Fellowship**

**Meeting.** Circle of Hope is one of the organizations that BCMC supports. Tues., Feb. 20, is graduation night for those completing their “Getting Ahead” to get out of poverty. An invitation has been extended for us to attend the 5:30 p.m. supper (by donation) as well as the 6:30 p.m. graduation at First United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall, 801 North Main St. (east entrance). Come and see how this organization, which we support, is helping people out of poverty. If you would like transportation, call Lois Brubacher, 316-772-3033 or Lois Goertzen, 316-283-4049 and meet in alley drive east of church at 5 p.m. Tues. Offerings for Women's Fellowship – please put in Lois Goertzen's church box.

**BCMC Offering for February 11, 2024:** General \$9,607; Sr Hi Youth \$1,010; Jr Hi Fund \$1,535; Kitchen Fund \$14; Solar Fund \$5,900.

**The Library Theme for the rest of February is Civil Rights.** Come in and browse our collection of some amazing Black History books either on the shelving behind the library desk or along the south wall of the Youth/Children's room. Please continue to support our puzzle swap via a \$5 donation. (We raised \$130 last year!) We are using the extra funds to help pay for the library computer program as well as to purchase more expensive books than our \$300 budget normally allows. You will find the puzzles outside the library door as well as along the north wall of the library. And, coming soon to the library: A Mennonite Poetry Corner. We are happily supporting the request to house Mennonite poetry books along the east wall of the library. We hope to have this display up by the end of the month. Happy Reading and Happy Puzzling!

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

On Feb. 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.

**Kansas Mennonite Relief Sale (KMRS) is April 12 & 13 at the Kansas State Fair Grounds in Hutchinson.** This sale is one way to generate funds to help MCC share God's love and compassion for all people in the name of Christ.

- Last week we learned about Germaine and her family who live in Kikwit, DR Congo. Their lives were transformed by easy access to clean water, thanks to MCC's water projects. Did you know that last year, MCC helped over 55,000 people gain an improved water source? Help fill the My Coins Count jug in the Gathering Place with coins (and bills) to support water projects around the world. Look at the Water Calendar on the KMRS table for participation ideas.
- What do a copper kettle, an oil painting, a guitar, a signed jersey, an RV, a vintage quilt, a weekend getaway, and an antique truck have in common? They can all be donated to KMRS and sold at one of 4 different auctions: Silent Auction, General Auction, Children's Auction, Quilt Auction. You simply donate it, and the auction committees can decide the best location for your item. Talk to a BCMC sale liaison today!
- Do you have a green thumb? Now is the time to start seeds or cuttings for Plants & Things. They can sell just about any fruit, tree, vegetable or house plant...and items used for gardening.
- Upcoming Deadlines:
- Feb 18 (Today!) -- Friendship Meal registration ends today. Sheets are on the KMRS table.
- Feb 28 -- General Auction sale bill. Have something to donate? Let us know so we can include pictures and descriptions.
- Mar 2 -- Quilt Auction items to BCMC for the BCMC display.
- Mar 13 -- Last day for SS classes to help underwrite KMRS costs. To date, BCMC classes have purchased \$1750 of goods, including pickles, butter, cheese, and more. The next round of bidding takes place on March 14. Thanks to donors, all sale expenses are covered before the sale so proceeds go directly to MCC programs.
- More Information: KMRS posterboard & table in the Gathering Place for information and forms for Run for Relief, Quilt Auction, Sale Sponsorship, Friendship Meals, as well as the My Coins Count jug.
- KMRS website: <https://kansas.mccsale.org/>  
BCMC liaisons: 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.