

**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 requests prayer for Jae Young Lee, Karen Spicher and their children, who live and work for peace from their home in the Peace Building in South Korea. Pray for them and all the ministries housed in the Peace Building — restorative justice programs, Grace and Peace Mennonite Church and Circle Café & Bakery.

**Western District Conference Prayer Request:** Prayer for our current church planters and for those that feel called to undertake this ministry. Also, prayer for the developing opportunity to travel to Guatemala to support and encourage our WDC church plant in that location. Prayers for resolve to continue the day to day challenges of planting churches. -WDC Church Planting Commission

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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 25, 2024

### Second Sunday of Lent

#### Christ Among Us, Showing Us Faith



TO LIVE IN THIS WORLD  
YOU MUST BE ABLE  
TO DO THREE THINGS:  
TO LOVE WHAT IS MORTAL;  
TO HOLD IT  
AGAINST YOUR BONES KNOWING  
YOUR OWN LIFE DEPENDS ON IT;  
AND, WHEN THE TIME COMES  
TO LET IT GO,  
TO LET IT GO.  
+ MARY OLIVER

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 25, 2024  
Second Sunday of Lent  
Christ Among Us, Showing Us Faith

Christ Candle Lighting

Centering Music     *Prelude on Psalms (Bach/Leidzen)*  
Verlene Garber, organ

Call to Worship     George Leary

One: Come, you who seek God, proclaim God's glory!

**Many: All you descendants of Jacob and Rachel,**

One: come.

**Many: All who are isolated and feel alone,**

One: come.

**Many: All who are hungry,**

One: come.

**Many: All who wander,**

One: come.

**Many: Come, from all ends of the earth.**

**All: Come, you who seek God, proclaim God's glory, and walk in faith.**

(based on Psalm 22:23–31)

\*Hymn     *How Many Times We Start Again*     VT 553

Children's Conversation     Orlando Gonzalez, Adah Hodge, Adam Oswald  
*Cast Your Burdens Unto Jesus*

Anthem     *Outburst of Joy (Dobrinski)*  
Chancel Bells; Verlene Garber, director

Scripture Reading     *Colossians 3:12-17 ; Mark 8:34-37*     Lucy Burch

Reflections     *Faith Fusion*  
Adah Hodge, Ani Koontz, Mara Oswald

\*Hymn     *Will You Come and Follow Me*     VT 540

Prayers of God's People

Nathan Koontz

Prayer of Confession

One: Trustworthy God, we want to live with faith, yet we worry there will not be enough. We want to believe in your promises, yet we lose hope. We want to follow you, but sometimes the road is too hard.

**Many: We confess before you our unbelief, our worry, our hopelessness.**

One: Shape us into a people who will live in faith. Strengthen us so we can deny ourselves, take up your cross, and follow you.

**Many: In your grace, Lord, give us faith to believe that you will call into existence the things that do not exist. Amen.**

\*Hymn     *Guide My Feet*     VT 816

\*Benediction

Postlude     *Give Us Peace in Our Time* (arr. by Allured)

\* You are invited to stand

VT—*Voices Together*

Audio visual—John Thiesen

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**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.

**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

- **Sat., March 2 – A one-day endowed Justice Symposium** 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. The symposium is free but pre-registration is required by going to <https://kipcor.org>
- **Sat., March 2 – This month's Kauffman Museum bird walk will take place at Dyck Arboretum in Hesston** starting at 7:30 a.m. as part of the cooperative half day event "Murmurations and Exaltations: Birds and Birding in a Changing World." Experienced birders will lead a 45-minute walk on the paved path at Dyck Arboretum. The walk is free and open to anyone. The symposium is by registration only – see <https://kauffmanmuseum.org/murmur/> to register online, or call 316-283-1612. Registration deadline is Weds., Feb. 28.
- **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 with performances by the Concert Choir, Chamber Singers, Woven and Open Road.
- **Tues., March 5 – Bethel College Jazz**, directed by Joel Boettger, 7 p.m., Krehbiel Auditorium in Luyken Fine Arts Center
- **Thurs., March 7 – Bethel College Wind Ensemble**, directed by Chris Miertschin, 7 p.m., Krehbiel Auditorium in Luyken Fine Arts Center

**Everence Financial's first webinar series for 2024** consists of four webinars held on Wednesdays starting March 6. Come hear how Everence® can help you make important financial decisions that reflect your faith values. ■ March 6: Annuity Basics ■ March 13: Retirement Income Strategies ■ March 20: Impact Investing: Connecting your values and investments ■ March 27: Investing 101. The webinars will be presented by Everence professionals. To register, or for more information, visit [www.everence.com/national](http://www.everence.com/national).

### Future Events at BCMC:

- **Feb. 25, Noon—Guess Who's Coming to Dinner.** The Hospitality Commission has matched people who signed up as hosts with people who signed up as guests. Guests will receive your hosts names today. (In mailboxes)
- **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.
- **March 11-15 is Spring Break.** The church office will be closed this week due to staff taking vacation time. There will be staff available for emergencies.
- **March 23, 11 a.m., memorial service for Elizabeth Raid** 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 25—March 3, 2024

### Sunday, February 25, 2024

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

[https://youtube.com/live/mfw7y\\_RGOfg?feature=share](https://youtube.com/live/mfw7y_RGOfg?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)

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

### Monday, February 26, 2024—BCMC office will be closed

### Tuesday, February 27, 2024

10 a.m. Staff meeting

3:45 p.m. Worship Commission meeting by Zoom

5 p.m. Mid-Kansas Investment Club dinner meeting in fellowship hall

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

### Wednesday, February 28, 2024—Wednesday meal and program

10 a.m. Library Committee meeting in room 14

6 p.m. **Wednesday night meal in fellowship hall**—Menu is Baked Penne with Italian Sausage; Caesar salad; Cannoli dessert; Please sign up at a sign up sheet on bulletin board, on table in south entrance, or on ledge between the mailboxes in gathering place. Please bring your own tableware to facilitate clean-up!

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

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

### Thursday, February 29, 2024

5:30 p.m. Community Playschool Family Night

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

### Friday, March 1, 2024

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

### Saturday, March 2, 2024

11 a.m. Memorial for Richard Siemens in the sanctuary

### Sunday, March 3, 2024—Lent 3

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

**Roger's Whereabouts:** Roger arrived in Newton on Wed. (2/21). He will be driving back to Topeka on Sun. afternoon after "Guess Who's Coming to Dinner?" He will return to Newton on SAT., March 2, staying until the Church Board meeting on March 7. 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).

**Sunday morning, March 17, our church will have the honor of hosting Mennonite World Conference General Secretary César García and his wife, Sandra Báez, Pastor and Executive Assistant to the General Secretary.** Cesar will preach in our worship service. The Seekers and Open Circle Sunday School classes have invited both Cesar and Sandra to share during the Sunday School hour about their work with Mennonite World Conference. Everyone is invited to attend this SS session. Cesar and Sandra will also deliver the Bethel College Hartzler Bible lectures on Sunday evening and Monday morning, March 17 & 18.

**CARE PACKAGES:** It is the time of year when we remember our BCMC college students by sending them a care package from the church. We have 14 college students so we are asking for 14 individually wrapped items (of whatever you are willing to share). Examples: gum, granola bars, laundry pods. Keep in mind that we will be mailing each package, so smaller is better. Items can be placed in the box labeled 'care packages' near the church mailboxes. If you would like to make a cash donation please take it to the church office. Mentors/mentees will be assembling the care packages on March 3 after church. Thank you for supporting our BCMC college students. *Faith Formation Committee*

**The Library Theme for February is Civil Rights.** Come and browse our collection of 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 and 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. Puzzles are outside the library door as well as along the north wall of the library. 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!

**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*

**BCMC Offering for February 18, 2024:** General \$4,560.33; Plant Fund \$8.33; Sr Hi Youth \$50; Library Reserve Fund \$1; Jr Hi Fund \$75; Kitchen Fund \$9; Nancy Hilty Memorial \$50.

**Kansas Mennonite Relief Sale (KMRS) is April 12 & 13, 2024 at the Kansas State Fair Grounds in Hutchinson, KS. Did you know that in 2023, relief sales across North America provided over 5 million dollars to fund MCC's relief, development, and peace initiatives in 45 countries?**

- **Do you like cherry moos?** It's back on the menu for Feeding the Multitude! Also look for some new, returning, or one-time booths: Barrel train ride, Christmas Decorations, Swiss Mennonite Society, and more.
- **My Coins Count jug is full of 23 pounds of bills and coins!** The filled jug will help transform lives by funding easy access to clean water, thanks to MCC's water projects. The My Coins Count jug is in the Gathering Place. Add your coins and bills today -- and any Sunday between now and April 7. Did you know that 5 gallons of quarters weighs 300 pounds and funds one \$6000 well?
- **Turn cool items into cash to fund MCC projects!** BCMC members have already donated vintage farm toys, a sculpture, a canister set (and more!) to KMRS to be sold at one of 4 different auctions. Do you have something to add? Simply donate it, and the auction committees can decide the best location for your item. Talk to a BCMC sale liaison today!
- **Volunteer on Saturday, April 6, to make Bohne Beroggi** (in Moundridge) or Verenike (in Hillsboro) for the sale. To sign up, go to the volunteer page at <https://kansas.mccsale.org/>
- **Upcoming Deadlines:**
- **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...and have committed additional funds for the next round of bidding 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, 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.