

**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:** Join Mennonite Mission Network in praising God for Matthew and Toni Krabill's four years of ministry at the Paris Mennonite Center in France. Pray for them as they move to Ghana this month, where Matthew will supervise research and develop curricula at The Sanneh Institute, and Toni will discern what God is calling her to next.

**Western District Conference Prayer Request:** Pray that God would nurture faith, wisdom and spiritual growth as members and friends of WDC engage materials in the WDC Resource Library.

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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 4, 2024



**BCMC Junior High Youth (and their sponsors) at  
Rocky Mountain Mennonite Camp Snow Camp—  
*Peace, Shalom, Wholeness*  
January 19-21, 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

February 4, 2024

Christ Candle Lighting

Centering Music      *I'm Bound for the Promised Land* (arr. Bish)  
Will Wiebe-Friesen

Land Acknowledgement      Esther Kreider Eash

Welcome and Prayer      Esther Kreider Eash

\*Hymn      *You Are Salt for the Earth*      VT 297

Kin-dom Report      *Junior High School Report on Snow Camp*  
Children's Conversation      Junior High Youth

Anthem      *Give to Our God Immortal Praise* (John Ferguson)  
Chancel Choir; Riley King, director; Will Wiebe-Friesen, accompanist

Kin-dom Report      *Anti-Racism Training*  
Elizabeth Schmidt and Lil Peters

Scripture Reading      *Mark 1:29-39*      Abby Koontz

Sermon      *Journey Inward, Journey Outward*      Roger Neufeld Smith

\*Hymn      *Lead Me, Guide Me*      VT 601

Prayers of God's People

\*Hymn      *Come, Walk With Us*      VT 23

Benediction

Postlude      *March on a Gregorian Theme* (A. Guilmant)

\* You are invited to stand

VT = *Voices Together*

Audio visual—Ben Lichti

**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.

**GOING BEYOND LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT** (First Sunday Report from Task Group for Indigenous Justice): The Repair Network BCMC has joined provides learning activities, actions, contacts and networking for its members. Darlene Dick, Margaret Toews, and Raylene Hinz-Penner participated in a six-session Minnesota/Kansas Learning Circle (Zoom) to help us build repair communities in Kansas and Minnesota. The Learning Circle builds networks with others in our own states and provides access to powerful Indigenous leaders. The Repair Network hopes to build repair communities in various Kansas regions including Newton/North Newton. We will be asking for your help in inviting others in our region. Members of the Task Group are also participating in a four-session book study with the authors Sarah Augustine and Sheri Hostetler on their new book, *So We and Our Children May Live: Following Jesus in Confronting the Climate Crisis*; we hope to offer book study possibilities in our own congregation soon. See Mark Charles interview of Augustine and Hostetler at this YouTube link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aRCX73PLdE8> (*My Second Cup of Coffee: A Conversation with Sarah Augustine and Sheri Hostetler*)

The Oak Flat campaign is ramping up, and we will be offering petitions and other actions for participation to our congregation. Talk to members of the Task Group about your interests and requests: Darlene Dick, Janet Friesen, Raylene Hinz-Penner, Karin Kaufman Wall, Lyn Krause, Doug Penner, Ada Schmidt-Tieszen, Dale Schrag, Margaret Toews.

## Land Acknowledgement 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.*

## Bethel College Announcements

- **Feb. 7, 9:30 a.m. Life Enrichment** meets at Krehbiel Auditorium, Fine Arts Center with two sessions: **9:30 a.m.** “The Story of the Stone Creek Family Farm,” Loretta and Ryan Kucharo, Halstead, and **10:30 a.m.** “How to Spot a Scam So You Don’t Fall For It!” with Michael Schwanke, news anchor, KWCH Channel 12, Wichita
- **Last week to experience “Forest Listening,”** a sound art installation by Liz K. Miller, in the Regier Gallery in Luyken Fine Arts Center. Exhibit closes Fri., Feb. 9 (no reception). Gallery hours are 9 a.m.-5 p.m. weekdays.
- **Sun., Feb. 11 – KIPCOR Film Series** presents *Eroding History*, 2 p.m., Krehbiel Auditorium in Luyken Fine Arts Center. Audience talkback with Dr. Jonathan Frye, professor of natural science at McPherson College, follows the screening; freewill offering will be 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 Douglas O’Neill in an all-Bach program, 7 p.m., Administration Building chapel

## 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**—more details will follow
- **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 will match people who sign up as hosts with people who sign 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.

## Memorial Services at BCMC

- **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.

## This Week at BCMC: February 4—11, 2024

### Sunday, February 4, 2024

9:30 a.m. Worship YouTube Link for this Sunday:  
<https://youtube.com/live/OSHhgTNhf7I?feature=share>

**Today is Willye Hinz 's 98th birthday. Come share a piece of birthday cake with her after worship with your coffee in The Gathering Place.**

10:45 a.m. Faith Formation

**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)

### Monday, February 5, 2024

10 a.m. Library Committee meeting in Room 14

### Tuesday, February 6, 2024

11 a.m. Staff meeting

### Wednesday, February 7, 2024

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

### Thursday, February 8, 2024

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

7 p.m. Finance Committee meeting in Room 14

7:30 p.m. Hospitality Commission meeting in Fellowship Hall

### Sunday, February 11, 2024

9:30 a.m. Worship with sermon by Julianna Schrag; Junior High Super Bowl Fundraiser in the Gathering Place

10:45 a.m. Faith Formation

**After the worship service Feb. 11, 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. Come prepared to support the Junior High Youth!

**Roger's Whereabouts:** Roger will drive back to Topeka this Sunday afternoon (2/4). He will return to Newton on Wed., Feb. 21. Whether he's 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).

**BCMC Offering for January 28, 2024:** General \$14,267; Plant Fund \$50; Caring Fund \$25; Kitchen Fund \$11.50; Solar Fund \$3,250; Sr Hi Youth Fund \$3,700

**Thank you.** A brush with death makes one appreciate the sanctity of life. Thanks to all for the many acts of kindness during the whole month of January for prayers, cards, phone calls, texts, emails, visits, food, the prayer shawl--so special, friends that helped out at my home, etc. Healing and getting strength back from RSV. Virus and pneumonia bacteria is predicted to take 6-8 weeks. Don't get RSV. It is relentless on old bodies.

*Marlene V. Faul*

**From the Board:** At the congregational meeting on Sun., Jan. 28, the budget for 2024 was approved as were several additional proposals. Specific wording of these proposals can be found in the annual meeting's booklet as well as several past bulletin announcements. After an editorial change of the last "and" to "or", the proposal to revise the Welcoming Statement was approved with 90 Yes votes and 1 No vote. The proposal for a new model of leadership (moderator elect, moderator, and past moderator) passed with 92 Yes votes and 1 No vote. The proposal to install solar panels on our church roof passed with 85 Yes votes and 4 No votes. Overwhelming support for the project in terms of funds pledged (approximately \$180,000) was reported. We're grateful for the extensive background research, hard work, and advocacy of the Creation Care Committee's subcommittee of Dwight Krehbiel, Lorna Harder, and Hugo Boschmann; the assistance with collaboration and communication from Margaret Toews and Jon Zerger of the Board; and the advice and collaboration of the Finance Committee (LaVern Stucky, Jerry Buller, Margaret Goering, Jeanette Leary, and John Zerger). We look forward to a good year ahead!

**The Church Board thanks the Search Committee for their efforts:** Thanks to Heather Esau Zerger and the rest of the committee (Doug Penner, Megan Kohlman, John Waltner, and Lois Preheim) for assertively taking initiative in search and recruitment. **The Search Committee has been hard at work in an effort to fill BCMC's open Co-Pastor position.** The Committee has identified possible candidates and is in the process of conducting interviews. We will continue to update the congregation as our progress continues. In the meantime, we appreciate your continued patience and prayers.

**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.

**Kansas Mennonite Relief Sale (KMRS) is April 12 & 13, 2024 at the Kansas State Fair Grounds in Hutchinson.** This year's theme is "Sowing seeds of hope, seeds of Love."

- BCMC Sunday School classes help underwrite KMRS costs. All expenses are covered before the sale so 100% of sale profit goes directly to Mennonite Central Committee.
- Start collecting your coins! BCMC's My Coins Count drive begins February 11.
- Friendship Meals (March 3 or March 10) are a great way to meet new people and also contribute to MCC. Signup to be a host or a guest by February 18. Green forms are in the Gathering Place.
- Run for Relief entry forms are available--sign up to run, walk, jog, or to be a sponsor. You can now even participate virtually!
- Do you have a quilt to donate, or are you considering bidding on a quilt? Quilts by BCMC quilters will be on display at church on Sunday, March 3.
- Consider donating furniture, quilts, vehicles, or children's items for the auctions. Check the KMRS website for more information.
- 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® February workshop: Make Medicare an Easy Step**

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, plus 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. Those interested in attending should contact the Everence office at 316-283-3800, 877-467-7294 or [central.kansas@everence.com](mailto:central.kansas@everence.com).

**The 16th annual MCC Comforter Blitz** will be March 4-6 near Yoder. Check [mcc.org/comforter-blitz](http://mcc.org/comforter-blitz) or the Kansas MCC Comforter Blitz page on Facebook. The blitz will be Mon., March 4 from 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Tues., March 5 from 9 a.m.-9 p.m. and Wed., March 6 from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at 3605 East Longview Rd., Haven. Contact [brociamueller@mcc.org](mailto:brociamueller@mcc.org) with questions.