

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: Laura Schlach, who has served with MMN in Mongolia since 1993, is currently on North American Ministry in the United States. Pray that she will be able to find rest and renewal from the demands of being the only on-site member of a three-person executive director team for JCS International in Mongolia. Pray also for the smooth functioning of the organization in her absence.

Western District Conference Prayer Request: Pray for the Holy Spirit’s guidance for pastors, worship planners, and musicians in WDC congregations, as they give special attention to shaping the church’s journey through the season of Lent and Easter.

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
- Office/Facilities Manager: Monica Lichti, Cell phone 316-249-9652
Email: office@bethelcollegemennonitechurch.org
- Faith Formation Coordinator: Jill Robb—Email: jill@bethelcollegemennonitechurch.org
- Youth Coordinator: George Leary—Email: 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
March 10, 2024
Fourth Sunday of Lent
Christ Among Us, the Way of Mercy



**GOD DID NOT SEND THE SON
INTO THE WORLD
TO CONDEMN THE WORLD,
BUT IN ORDER
THAT THE WORLD MIGHT BE
SAVED THROUGH HIM.**

+ JOHN 3:17

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
March 10, 2024
Fourth Sunday of Lent
Christ Among Us, the Way of Mercy

Christ Candle Lighting

Centering Music *As the Deer Runs to the River* (Uehlein) Karen Unruh

Call to Worship William Eash

One: Give thanks to God, for God is good!

Many: God's love endures forever.

One: Let the redeemed of the Lord tell their story.

Many: God's love endures forever.

One: We may make careless choices and lose our way.

Many: God's love endures forever.

One: We call out to God when we are in trouble.

Many: God's love endures forever.

One: God rescues us from our anxieties and fears.

Many: God's love endures forever.

One: God's word sets us free to walk in newness of life.

Many: God's love endures forever.

One: God gathers us in, from the east and the west, from the north and the south.

All: For God's unfailing love, we give thanks to the Creator of all that is good. (based on Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22)

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

Children's Conversation Barb Koontz

Anthem *Sonata in F Major second movement* (Handel)
 Rebecca Schloneger; Karen Unruh accompanist

*Hymn *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy* VT 156

Scripture Reading John 3:14-21; Ephesians 2:8-10 Keith Harder

Sermon *Finding Grace, Walking in Grace* Nathan Koontz

*Hymn *I Sought the Lord* VT 161

Prayers of God's People

Prayer of Confession

One: Merciful God, we forget that you are the light of the world.

Many: Forgive us for our short memories.

One: Remind us that you are rich in mercy

Many: when we wander away from you.

One: Loving God, convict us of your immense love

Many: that shines brightly on us.

All: Merciful God, light of the world, we come seeking new life in you.

*Hymn *The Lord Your God Is with You* VT 173

*Benediction

Postlude *Sent Forth By God's Blessings* (arr. Leavitt) Karen Unruh

* You are invited to stand VT—*Voices Together* Audio visual—Frances 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.

Lent and Easter Visuals

All are invited to take a close look at the visual arrangement in front of the communion table throughout Lent and on Easter Sunday. Look for changes and additions, and especially take note of BCMC gardeners' contributions to the garden tool box.

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. César will preach in our worship service. The Seekers and Open Circle Sunday School classes have invited both César and Sandra to share during the Sunday School hour about their work with Mennonite World Conference. Everyone is invited to attend this SS session In the sanctuary. César and Sandra will also deliver the Bethel College Hartzler Bible lectures on Sunday evening and Monday morning, March 17 & 18.

Thank you, Riley King! A heartfelt THANK YOU to Riley King for his two years as BCMC Chancel Choir Director. Riley and Melinda are moving to Virginia this summer. Riley, best wishes to you in the next chapter of your life.

Bethel College Announcements

- **Bethel College is on spring break March 11-15.** Most offices and services are open but some may be on reduced hours. The Regier Art Gallery in Luyken Fine Arts Center is closed.
- **Sun., March 17 & Mon., March 18 – Bible Lectures** at Bethel College with César García, general secretary of Mennonite World Conference, and Sandra Báez, pastor and executive assistant to the general secretary; Sunday: 7 p.m., Administration Building chapel; Monday: 11 a.m., Krehbiel Auditorium. The overall topic for the lectures is "Contemporary Ecclesiologies."
- **Thurs., March 21 – Artist talk by Marguerite Perret**, 7 p.m., Krehbiel Auditorium in Luyken Fine Arts Center at Bethel College; sponsored by BCWA's Carolyn Schultz Lectureship. Perret's exhibit, "Transmutation Speculation: Fluid Nature," is in the Regier Art Gallery (regular hours: Mon.-Fri., 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Sun., 2-4 p.m.; **closed for spring break, March 10-17**).
- **NOTE DATE CHANGE: Fri., March 22, Sat., March 23, Sun., March 24** – Spring play at Bethel College, *Rancho Mirage* by Steven Dietz, Fri. & Sat., 7:30 p.m., Sun., 2 p.m. matinee, Krehbiel Auditorium in Luyken Fine Arts Center). Friday evening performance interpreted for the d/Deaf community. Ticket purchase required (buy on campus weekdays at Thresher Shop; online at <https://www.bethelks.edu/fine-arts/theater/theater-department-presents/>; or at the door). NOTE: Adult content, not suitable for children.

Everence Financial's webinar series, presented by Everence professionals, for 2024, continues with webinars Wednesday, March 13. Everence® can help you make important financial decisions that reflect your faith values. **March 13:** Retirement Income Strategies **March 20:** Impact Investing: Connecting your values and investments **March 27:** Investing 101. To register, or for more information, visit www.everence.com/national.

Everence® will hold a Social Security and retirement income workshop including topics Social Security strategies, when to begin taking benefits, risks that can impact your retirement savings plus strategies to help your income last throughout retirement, Thur., March 21, 6:30 p.m. There will also be time for questions. The 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.

Roger is driving back to Topeka on Thursday night (3/7). While he is biking with Cynthia in Missouri March 10-13 he may not be checking his email but he will return to Newton on Thursday, March 14 and will be in Newton until Monday, March 18. During this time Roger will be checking his email and phone regularly. So feel free to contact him via email, text or phone (785-220-1968.)

This Week at BCMC: March 10—17, 2024

Sunday, March 10, 2024

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

<https://youtube.com/live/UPnKwtKXcJk?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)

March 10—17, 2024—BCMC office will be closed for spring break

Monday, March 11, 2024

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

Tuesday, March 12, 2024

9 a.m. Women's Fellowship Executive Board meeting at Marlene Faul's home, 3000 Wildwood Way, North Newton

Wednesday, March 13, 2024—Wednesday meal and program

6 p.m. **Wednesday night meal in fellowship hall**—Menu: Potato Green Bean Soup, Green Grapes, Pistachio Lush; Please bring your own tableware to facilitate clean-up—Bring a bowl for soup!

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

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

Thursday, March 14, 2024

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

Sunday, March 17, 2024—Lent 5 9:30 a.m. Worship with sermon by César García 10:45 a.m. Faith Formation César García and his wife Sandra Báez will share about their work with Mennonite World Conference

Deacon Commission is providing an opportunity to send greetings to our most distant member, Max Ediger, of Pursat Province, Cambodia. For the next few Sundays we will have a table at the back of the sanctuary with pages for your greetings and messages for Max. For those who are unable to attend worship but can stop by the church during the week, the letters will be available for anyone to write a note before we send them out. Thank you! *Deacon Commission*

Lilies for Easter. You are invited to share an Easter lily for the sanctuary on Easter Sunday, March 31. BCMC will purchase the lilies. The cost will be \$10 per lily. Make checks to BCMC designated "Flower Fund." Contributors may pick up lilies to take home after the Easter worship service. You will be able to designate in honor of someone or in memory of someone with your Easter lily. There will be a table in the Gathering Place this Sunday, March 10 for you to sign up for a lily. **We need your order before Friday, March 15. Contact Susie Swartley during the week of March 10-15.**

Monica Gross will be turning 100 years old on March 23! Her family is requesting a card shower for her. Monica Gross' address is 3056 Ivy Court, Apt. 6, North Newton, KS 67117.

The Library Theme for March is Lenten/Easter. There is a nice selection of this theme in the Children's Room. We are missing the book, "Healing Haunted Histories" by Elaine Enns, and have not been able to locate this book for almost a year. Please check your books at home to make sure you haven't forgotten to return it. **We have many new to us books** that are now on the shelves on the west and east side of the library. On the west side we have our usual biography, fiction, nonfiction selections and on the east side is the new Mennonite Poetry Corner with many donated books. A short description of each new book will be coming in the near future, so for now, come on in and browse the shelves!

BCMC Offering for March 3: General Fund \$25,086; Wed. Supper \$446; Plant Fund \$50; Library Reserve Fund \$15; Kitchen Fund \$29; Solar Fund \$2,650; Alice Suderman Mem. \$850; Richard Siemens Mem. \$50.

Chancel Choir Director Position at Bethel College Mennonite Church -- Bethel College Mennonite Church (North Newton) is looking for a Chancel Choir Director to begin in August 2024. This is a part-time position, August 15-May 15. As part of the team of musicians on the church staff, the director is responsible for music selection, rehearsals, and performances of the Chancel Choir. The choir sings approximately two times per month during September—May and participates in a Christmas Eve Lessons and Carols service and Easter Sunday service. Rehearsals are Wednesday evenings from 7:30-8:30. Inquiries should be addressed to Barbara Thiesen, BCMC Music Coordinator at thiesenjba@gmail.com. Application forms are available from Monica Lichti, BCMC Office/Facilities Manager at 316-283-3667 or office@bethelcollegemennonitechurch.org

Future Events at BCMC:

- **March 11-15 is Spring Break. The church office will be closed this week due to staff, Pastor Nathan Koontz and Monica Lichti, taking vacation time.** Monday through Wednesday you can contact Elizabeth Schmidt at elizabeth@bethelcollegemennonitechurch.org; Thursday through Sunday you can contact Roger Neufeld Smith at roger@bethelcollegemennonitechurch.org. Contact them directly as no one will be monitoring the office phone.
- **March 23, 11 a.m., memorial service for Elizabeth Raid** followed by lunch.
- **March 28, 6:30 p.m. Maundy Thursday service** in the sanctuary
- **March 31—Easter Sunday—Sunrise service at 7 a.m.** (details later); **Easter prelude at 9:45 a.m. followed by Worship service at 10 a.m.** in the sanctuary
- **April 13, 11 a.m., memorial service for Don Kaufman** followed by lunch.
(All lunches after memorial services are in the BCMC fellowship hall.)

Kansas Mennonite Relief Sale (KMRS) is April 12 & 13, 2024 at the Kansas State Fair Grounds in Hutchinson. One month from now!

- **The My Coins Count jug** is now 65 pounds of bills and coins! It is now too heavy to sit on the table, so it's on a dolly beside the table in the Gathering Place. Thanks for continuing to add coins and bills on Sunday mornings between now and April 7 so more people can have better access to clean water.
- **Auction Items!** BCMC members have donated many items to be sold at one of 4 different KMRS auctions. You can see pictures and descriptions of some of these offerings on the KMRS website under "Auction Item Listings" ... and watch for the quilt gallery coming soon.
- **Volunteers needed!** The volunteer page at <https://kansas.mccsale.org/> lists opportunities for April 6 (make Bohne Beroggi in Moundridge or Verenike in Hillsboro) or for April 12-13 to serve or sell food, fry verenike, help with auctions, and more. If you have trouble signing up online, ask for help from one of the BCMC liaisons.
- **Upcoming Dates:**
 - ⇒ **March 13:** The last day for SS classes to submit funds for the final bidding round on March 14. Thanks to donors, all sale expenses are covered before the sale so proceeds go directly to MCC programs.
 - ⇒ **March 17:** First day to sign up to bake pie or zwieback. Look for tins, bags, and sign up sheets.
- **More Information:**
 - ⇒ **KMRS posterboard & table** in the Gathering Place for information, forms, and the My Coins Count jug.
 - ⇒ **KMRS website:** <https://kansas.mccsale.org/>
 - ⇒ **BCMC liaisons:** Steve & Elaine Schurr, William & Esther Kreider Eash, and Brad & Diane Born.

Creation Care: Thank you very much for supporting our plastic bag recycling project. With your help we have collected 900 pounds and hope to reach our goal of 1,000 pounds in March. With this goal met BCMC will receive a composite bench from the Trex Corporation. *Vernon and Jane Goering*

Kauffman Museum, an affiliate of Bethel College, seeks a full-time Traveling Exhibits Coordinator. Applicants should be willing to travel to venues across North America, be able to coordinate exhibit scheduling and contracts, possess exceptional interpersonal skills, have mechanical aptitude, be able to work independently and do physical labor, and enjoy working with volunteers at a variety of venues. For the link to a complete job description, see <https://KauffmanMuseum.org/traveling/>

ALL WOMEN are invited to the Women's Fellowship meeting Tuesday, March 19, at 7:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Topic for discussion: "The Impact of Patriarchy in our Lives as Women."