

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: Praise God for the 75 years of healing ministry by dedicated personnel at Mennonite Christian Hospital in Hualien, Taiwan, the largest Mennonite hospital in the world. Join MMN in praying for Dr. Jacob Chang and the hospital staff as the services they offer grow to meet the needs of the populations they serve; the elderly, mothers and children and those with special needs.

Western District Conference Prayer Request: Pray for God's presence, joy and wisdom to be with WDC staff as they gather tomorrow for a staff retreat.

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

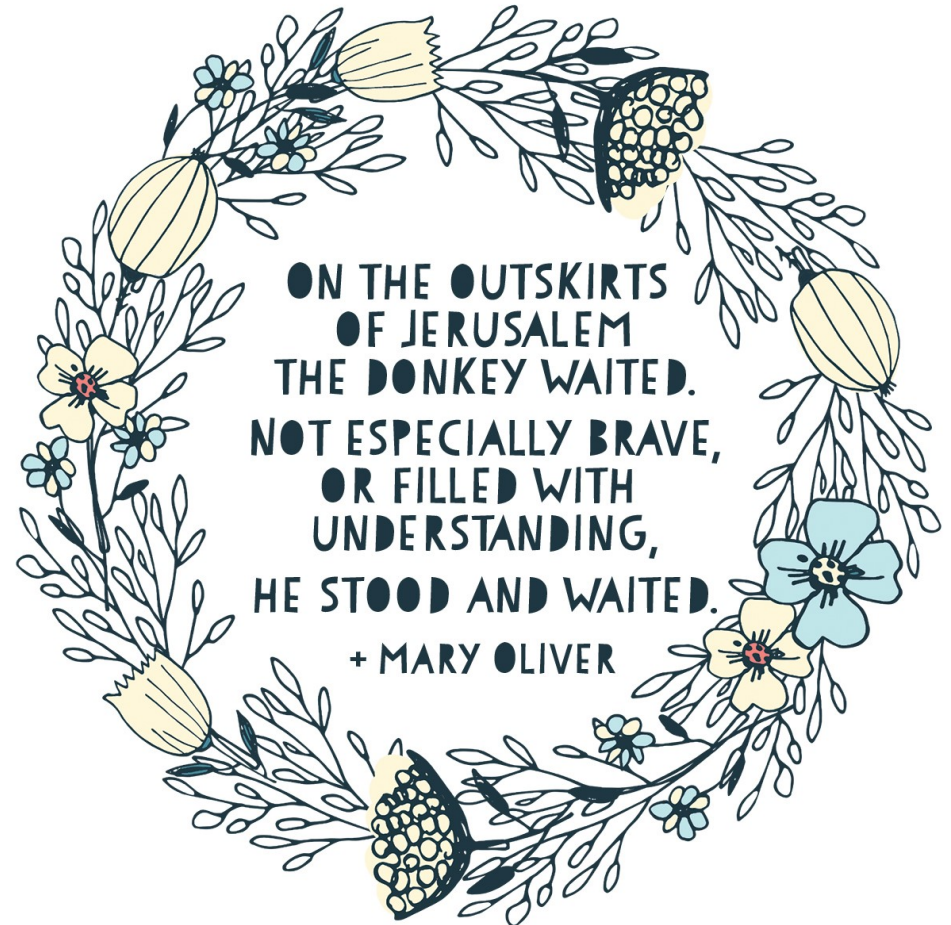
- Pastor Nathan Koontz, Day off: Wednesday
Cell phone: 316-212-4593; Email: nathan@bethelcollegemennonitechurch.org
- Pastor Roger Neufeld Smith
Cell phone: 785-220-1968; Email: roger@bethelcollegemennonitechurch.org
- Elizabeth Schmidt, Pastor of Congregational Care
Email: elizabeth@bethelcollegemennonitechurch.org
- 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 24, 2024

Palm Sunday

Christ Among Us, the Way of a Servant



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 Announcements

- **All interested singers are invited to participate in Bethel College's annual Masterworks concert** Apr. 28, featuring Benjamin Britten's *Rejoice in the Lamb* and Ralph Vaughan Williams' *Dona Nobis Pacem*. Scores are available now and rehearsals begin Tues., Apr. 2. Sign up online at <https://forms.gle/Auu4FaYBcaLwKDUF6> so that your contact information is available for digital rehearsal materials, etc., or come to the first rehearsal Apr. 2, 6 p.m., Choir Room in Luyken Fine Arts Center.
- **Fri., April 5 – Senior recital by Bethel College student** Eli Regier, saxophone, 7 p.m., Administration Building chapel
- **Sat., April 6 – Senior recital by Bethel College student** Angelika Donaldson, voice, 4 p.m., Administration Building chapel
- **Sun., April 7 – KIPCOR Film Series presents Estamos Unidos**, 2 p.m., Krehbiel Auditorium in Luyken Fine Arts Center. The film by Alvaro M. Morales follows a migrant caravan's journey from Honduras to Mexico City in 2019. A talkback follows the screening; a freewill offering will be taken to support KIPCOR and the film series.

Everence Financial's webinar series' last webinar, *Investing 101*, presented by Everence professionals is Wed., **March 27**: To register, or for more information, visit www.everence.com/national.

Chancel Choir Director Position at BCMC: BCMC 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 thiesenjb@gmail.com Application forms are available from Monica Lichti, BCMC Office/Facilities Manager at 316-283-3667 or office@bethelcollegemennonitechurch.org

Please join Kansas Mennonite Men's Chorus at one or both of our concerts this year: The first is April 7 at Bethel College 4 p.m. The second is April 21 at Tabor College 4 p.m. This year we are including the Newton Children's Community Choir, the Flannelbacks and the Menno Brass.

February numbers are a bit sobering. BCMC income was over \$18,000 less than expenses for the month and for the year we are more than \$31,000 in the red, making it the worst start of the year since 2006. It's normal to start the year a little slow, but we don't want to get ourselves into a painfully deep hole. If you are planning to make your contributions to the church with RMD funds, you can do that any time during the year. *Finance Committee*

This Week at BCMC: March 24—31, 2024

Sunday, March 24, 2024

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

https://youtube.com/live/Ge-wPrH_qag?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)

3:30 p.m. Newton Chorale Concert in the sanctuary—All Are Invited!

Monday, March 25, 2024

The church office will be closed today.

Tuesday, March 26, 2024

11 a.m. Staff meeting

Wednesday, March 27, 2024—Last Wednesday meal and program

6 p.m. **Wednesday night meal in fellowship hall**—Menu: Meatloaf, twice baked potato casserole, mixed vegetables, chocolate chip cookies; 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, March 28, 2024—Maundy Thursday

6:30 p.m. In sanctuary: Maundy Thursday service; communion will be served

Friday, March 29, 2024—Good Friday—Office will be closed

Sunday, March 31, 2024—Easter Sunday 7 a.m. Sunrise service led by the Senior High Youth Group (location to be announced later)

9:45 a.m. Prelude for Easter—Will Wiebe-Friesen will be playing an organ prelude for the worship service on Easter Sunday. **Come to enjoy the special Easter music.**

10 a.m. **(Note the time change)** Worship with sermon by Nathan Koontz; music by Chancel Choir; March birthday blessing; No Sunday school

Future Events at BCMC:

- **April 13, 11 a.m., memorial service for Don Kaufman** followed by lunch in FH.
- **April 27-28 BCMC Church Retreat at Camp Mennoscah MARK YOUR CALENDARS!** It's nearly time for the annual BCMC retreat (no Halstead First Mennonite this year) at Camp Mennoscah! The retreat is April 27 & 28, and will again feature all kinds of fun activities. Come for Saturday, Sunday, or both! There will be meals and all sorts of fun activities, including Sunday morning worship (there will be no live-stream), at 10 a.m. More details - and a registration form - will be out by Easter Sunday. We look forward to seeing you again on the sandy soil of the Ninnescah!

The Newton Chorale presents “From Darkness To Light”: Director Riley King will conduct the concert consisting of the Haydn *Missa brevis Sti. Joannis de Deo* featuring Soprano soloist Megan Taylor-Gilstrap and organist Will Wiebe-Friesen; along with several pieces composed within the past 20 years, accompanied by Meghann Rogers. Today, March 24, 3:30 pm at Bethel College Mennonite Church. Admission is free. A goodwill offering will be taken.

Peace Witness for Gaza Ceasefire, March 27, Wichita

In the spirit of Mennonite Action efforts nationwide for the upcoming March Week of Action (March 25-29), the WDC Israel Palestine Task Force and several member churches invite you, your congregation, family, friends, and allies to join in another public peace witness in Wichita on Wednesday, March 27, approximately 10 am - 12 pm. The group will meet at Lorraine Avenue Church in Wichita and then move to Senator Jerry Moran's downtown office. See the BCMC email from yesterday for more details. Contact Pastor Nathan Koontz if you plan on attending.

As we enter into our last 9 weeks of the school year, it isn't too early to start thinking about the summer camping season! Faith Formation encourages our youth to explore God in nature through Mennonite camps. However, with the rising costs of registration, we understand as a church this experience's price can hinder families from experiencing God in this way. Camping scholarships are available to aid in paying for registration. Scan the code below to fill out the Google Form to let Faith Formation know of your interest/need in a camping scholarship. We will let families know by the end of April the amount of scholarship that is available. (If the scan does not work, please contact Jill Robb.) *Jill, Faith Formation Coordinator*



Volunteer at New Hope Shelter: BCMC is one of 24 local congregations providing regular volunteer support to New Hope Shelter in Newton. New Hope serves homeless men, women, and children from Harvey, Butler, Marion, and McPherson counties. About five times a year, BCMC and Faith Mennonite partner to cover one week of evening shifts. We provide a meal for 25-30 people and two volunteers who stay through the evening to support an evening staff person. We can always use more help to meet this commitment, and participation can be regular or occasional. Our next shift will be May 1-7. If you're interested or would like more details, email Cynthia Linscheid at cdlin319@gmail.com. Thank you to all who have volunteered for New Hope, either recently or in the past!

Thank you for your support in surpassing our 1,000 pound goal of plastic bag collection! We are not able to continue this important project due to health issues but would encourage anyone who would like to take on this responsibility. We will continue collection through April 12. *Vernon and Jane Goering*

Kansas Mennonite Relief Sale (KMRS) is almost here! Plan to join the fun on April 12 & 13, 2024 at the Kansas State Fair Grounds in Hutchinson, as together, we help to “Sow... seeds of hope, seeds of Love.”

- **PIES & ZWIEBACK!** Sign up to bake pie or zwieback for the sale. Look for tins, bags, and sign up sheets at the back of the sanctuary TODAY!
- **The My Coins Count jug is VERY HEAVY** from bills and coins--check out the sign by the jug to learn how heavy it is now. 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 and friends 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 look at the lovely offerings in the quilt gallery.
- **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.
- **More Information:** Look for the KMRS posterboard & table in the Gathering Place for information and the My Coins Count jug, the KMRS website <https://kansas.mccsale.org/> or ask a BCMC liaison: Steve & Elaine Schurr, William & Esther Kreider Eash, and Brad & Diane Born.

From the Board: Solar Contract Signed!

In this season of Easter celebration, we again celebrate the church's support of the solar energy initiative and report that the contract with King Solar is signed and the down payment has been made. The proposal to install solar panels on our church roof passed at the January congregational meeting 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 the pledges being fulfilled and the installation of panels scheduled for June! Plans for additional initiatives may be possible with the funds saved; stay tuned.

Roger is back in Topeka and will return to Newton for the BCMC Easter celebrations (sunrise service and worship), then remain in Newton until the Church Board meeting April 4. Roger checks his email and phone regularly. Feel free to contact him via email, text or phone (785-220-1968.)