

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 Central Plains Mennonite Conference will begin a week-long Just Peace Pilgrimage, organized by MMN. Pray for open minds and hearts as participants focus on the struggle for civil rights in Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, and how Jesus is calling his followers to respond.

Western District Conference Prayer Request: Give thanks for those who serve on WDC’s four commissions, and pray for the commissions as they each meet this week to nurture church planting, sustain healthy ministerial leadership, resource congregations, and guide stewardship of the financial, staff and office resources that support these conference ministries.

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 3, 2024
Third Sunday of Lent
Christ Among Us, Showing Us Justice



**MAKING A WHIP OF CORDS,
HE DROVE ALL OF THEM
OUT OF THE TEMPLE,
BOTH THE SHEEP AND THE CATTLE.**

**HE ALSO POURED OUT THE COINS
OF THE MONEY CHANGERS
AND OVERTURNED THEIR TABLES.**

+ JOHN 2:15

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

March 3, 2024

Third Sunday of Lent

Christ Among Us, Showing Us Justice

Christ Candle Lighting Margaret and Francis Toews

Centering Music *There is no Shadow* (Brenda Portman)
Will Wiebe-Friesen

Welcome/Land Acknowledgement Margaret Toews

Call to Worship

One: Come rule makers. Come rule breakers. Come, you who are still finding your way.

Many: We come into God's house.

One: Come. Whether you speak with wise words or with wisecracks, you are made in the image of God.

Many: We come to hear God's Word.

One: Some of us like certainty and structure.

Many: Some of us don't.

One: We come by different roads.

Many: Yet we are here together.

One: Prepare to meet your Maker, and your match. For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is greater than human strength.

Many: We come to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with our God.

*Hymn *What Is This Place* VT 22

Children's Conversation Kathy Stucky

Anthem *Precious Lord, Take My Hand* (arr. Jack Schrader)
Chancel Choir; Riley King, director; Will Wiebe-Friesen, accompanist

Scripture Reading Exodus 20:1-17; John 2:13-22 Naomi Koontz

Sermon *Rule Makers and Rule Breakers* Roger Neufeld Smith

*Hymn *O God We Read the Holy Law* VT 571

Prayers of God's People

Prayer of Confession

One: We often miss the beauty in your work, God.

Many: Forgive our distracted hearts.

One: When we put our trust in other things

Many: remind us of your love and care.

All: Bring joy to us once again.

One: May the meditations of our hearts

Many: be pleasing on your sight,

All: our Rock and our Redeemer.

*Hymn *Sing a New World Into Being* VT 809
People with February birthdays come forward for a blessing,
please bring a hymnal

Birthday Blessing & Benediction

Postlude *Little Prelude and Fugue in C* (Bach) Will Wiebe-Friesen

* 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.

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. César and Sandra will also deliver the Bethel College Hartzler Bible lectures on Sunday evening and Monday morning, March 17 & 18.

BCMC Offering for Feb. 25: General Fund \$11,717.46; Wed. Supper \$432; Sr Hi Youth \$30; Jr Hi Fund \$50; Kitchen Fund \$3; Women's Fellowship \$75; Solar Fund \$20,500; Alice Suderman Memorial \$20.

Bethel College Announcements

- **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. Includes performances by the Chamber Singers, Woven and Open Road. Livestream available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ggUFET-XG7s> See the choir’s itinerary to Oklahoma, Texas, Mississippi and Tennessee at <https://www.bethelks.edu/fine-arts/choral-ensembles/concert-choir/>
- **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
- **Fri., March 8 – Bethel College’s Faculty Lecture Series** continues with Christine Crouse-Dick, professor of communication arts, and Peter Goerzen, assistant professor of Bible and religion, “Walking Toward Racial Healing: The Transformative Potential of Shared Stories, Empathy and Listening ,” 11 a.m., Kidron Hall at Kidron Bethel Village
- **Sun., March 17 & Mon., March 18 – Hartzler Bible Lectures** at Bethel College with César Garcia, 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.

Everence Financial’s webinar series, presented by Everence professionals, for 2024, with four webinars held Wednesdays starting March 6. 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. To register, or for more information, visit www.everence.com/national.

Future Events at BCMC:

- **March 9, 11 a.m., memorial service for Nancy Hilty** followed by lunch.
- **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 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.)

Roger will be in Newton most of this week (Sun.—Thurs.), driving back to Topeka after the Church Board meeting Thursday night. He will be biking in Missouri with Cynthia March 10- 13, then return to Newton Thurs., March 14. Other than the time he is biking in Missouri, 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 3—10, 2024

Sunday, March 3, 2024

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

<https://youtube.com/live/PwWQV9lcexY?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)

Monday, March 4, 2024—BCMC office will be closed

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

Tuesday, March 5, 2024

11 a.m. Staff meeting

Wednesday, March 6, 2024—Wednesday meal and program

6 p.m. **Wednesday night meal in fellowship hall**—Menu: Shepherd’s Pie, Fruit Salad, Lemon Bars; 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 7, 2024

6:00 p.m. Chancel Bells Rehearsal in room B-7

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

7:00 p.m. Church Board meeting in room 14

Saturday, March 9, 2024 11 a.m. Memorial for Nancy Hilty in the sanctuary

Sunday, March 10, 2024—Lent 4 9:30 a.m. Worship with sermon by Nathan Koontz; music by Rebecca Schloneger 10:45 a.m. Faith Formation

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*

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.

BEYOND LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT: (from the BCMC Task Group for Indigenous Justice)

--**Heidi Regier Kreider of WDC and Raylene Hinz-Penner** brought blessings and a tribute sermon to Koinonia Indian Mennonite Church, Clinton, OK, at the request of Pastor Susan Hart for Betty Hart's 90th birthday Feb. 18. If you would like to send birthday greetings or encouragement to Betty as she continues to serve at Koinonia, her address is 22745 E. 1040 Road, Clinton, OK 73601. Doug and Raylene Hinz-Penner will attend the Cheyenne memorial, a gourd dance, to Chief Lawrence Hart at two years after his passing in El Reno on March 3.

--**Darlene Dick, Raylene Hinz-Penner, Ada Schmidt-Tieszen, and Dale Schrag** will complete a four session book study of *So We and Our Children May Live* by Sarah Augustine and Sheri Hostetler in March offered by the Repair Coalition for Dismantling the Doctrine of Discovery.

--**The last Friday of every month the Repair Coalition offers a Prayer in Action hour** led by Indigenous leaders or elders for Repair Congregations and Communities to find ways to serve. February 23 Pastor Jonathan Old Horse of Woyatan Lutheran Church and Fr. Joe Hubbard of St Matthew's Episcopal Church, both in Rapid City, SD, talked about the persecution of the homeless in Rapid City and the efforts of local churches and communities to offer aid. If you could offer support through prayer or letters, contact Doe Hoyer of the Repair Coalition who is building a support group (doe@dismantlediscovery.org) on behalf of the Rapid City project.

--**Next month the Prayer in Action Hour** will be Fri., March 29 from 1-2 p.m. PST/4-5 p.m. EST. Contact doe@dismantlediscovery.org to request a link for the ZOOM. This hour is a good way to learn and serve from your own home.

--**BCMC Task Group is in dialogue** with others in Kansas as we seek to build repair communities which invite our neighbors and friends to join the work.

--**The BCMC Wednesday evening discussion series after supper** supports our goals of working to dismantle the Doctrine of Discovery within the Christian Church and focusing on new ways we might live with all our relations in harmony with the earth and all fellow creatures. Please attend.

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!

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

- **Enjoy Quilts & More at the rear of the sanctuary today.** Each has been made by a member or friend of BCMC and will be in the KMRS quilt auction. Plan your bidding today!
- **The My Coins Count jug is now 44 pounds of bills and coins!** Your generosity helps provide clean, accessible water around the world. The jug is in the Gathering Place on Sunday mornings between now and April 7. Add your coins and bills today!
- **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." Take a look! What would you like to bid on?
- **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 4-6: MCC Comforter Blitz** at Journey, north of Yoder. Come help create comforters to distribute a bit of warmth and beauty around the world. Mon: 9am-5pm; Tues: 9am-9pm; Wed: 9am-4pm. <https://mcc.org/events/mcc-comforter-blitz>
 - * **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. Many thanks to BCMC SS classes who are helping to underwrite costs. We will share the BCMC total contribution once it's available.
 - * **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 and forms ... 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*