

**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.**

# **Bethel College Mennonite Church**

## **April 21, 2024**

### **Creation Care Sunday**

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:** MMN praises God for Alfonsina and José Oyanguren’s two decades of ministry in the Argentine Chaco and for the exciting audio and visual ministries they are developing. Pray for the Christian radio programs, which help the Toba-Qom people better understand the biblical message, and for the impact that the Jesus Film is having in communities in the Chaco.

**Western District Conference Prayer Request:** Pray for generous financial support for WDC congregations and their ministries, and for WDC as it equips and connects with congregations and ministry leaders across the conference.

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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



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**

**April 21, 2024**

**“Creation Care Sunday”**

Christ Candle Lighting

Centering Music      *I Sing the Mighty Power of God* (arr. La Plante)  
Will Wiebe-Friesen

Welcome      Roger Neufeld Smith

\*Hymn      *For the Beauty of the Earth*      VT 120  
(verses 1-4)

Children’s Conversation      Bill Swartley

\*Hymn      *All Things Bright and Beautiful*      VT 177  
(verses 1 & 4)

Kin-dom Report      *Plastic Recycling Project*      Jane Goering

Anthem      *Come unto me* (Bernice Johnson Reagon)  
Chancel Choir—Riley King, director; Will Wiebe-Friesen, accompanist

Scripture Reading      *Psalms 104*      VT 185

Reflections  
*Celebrating the Earth and Life*      Dwight Krehbiel  
*What’s next for the Creation Care Task Group?*      Creation Care Task Group

\*Hymn of Response      *This is God’s Wondrous World*      VT 180

Welcoming New Members—Mark and Hennie Janzen      VT 961  
Elizabeth Schmidt

Prayers of God’s People

\*Hymn      *The Garden Needs Our Tending Now*      VT 788

\*Benediction

Postlude      *Fugue from Sonata VI* (Mendelssohn)

\* You are invited to stand VT—*Voices Together* Audio visual— Ken Lamp

**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.**

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**In celebration of the approval of our solar energy project, pick up an earth-shaped cookie in the Gathering Place after worship.**

**The picture on the bulletin cover is courtesy of Hugo and Mary Ann Boschmann.**

**We are fortunate to have excellent denominational resources for helping us care for the earth.** MC USA has the Climate Justice Ministry (formerly the Mennonite Creation Care Network) with newly appointed Coordinator Karla Stoltzfus Detweiler. Among many other things, this group offers Green Energy Grants for things like solar energy projects! See <https://climatejustice.mennoniteusa.org/>. Mennonite Central Committee also sponsors Climate Action for Peace to help support people around the world who suffer the effects of climate change. See <https://mcc.org/what-we-do/initiatives/climate-change> for their monthly calendar for daily creation care actions we all can take.

**So far this year the at the end of March the church has had about \$35,000 more expenses than it has had income.** The congregations response to budget needs has ranged from mixed to disappointing. However the month of March was a bit better with a deficit of only \$3500. While we have started out rather poorly, we have a lot of time to accept the challenge and get it turned around. *Finance Committee*

**BCMC Addresses for your directories**

- **A correction for Evelyn Lehman’s address:** 3056 Ivy Court, #9 (not # 18), North Newton, KS 67117
- **JoAnn Funk’s address at Kidron Bethel is:** 3001 Ivy Drive, Apt. 204, North Newton, KS, 67117

## Bethel College Announcements

- **Sun., April 21 – Senior recital by Bethel College student Josie Epp**, piano, 4 p.m., Krehbiel Auditorium in Luyken Fine Arts Center
- **Sun., April 21 – Sunday-Evening-at-the-Museum** with Dr. Kim Perez, Fort Hays State University, 7 p.m., Kauffman Museum auditorium. Perez's topic is the role and impact of pioneering women in ornithology, particularly in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Perez will also speak in convocation at Bethel College Mon., April 22, 11 a.m., in Krehbiel Auditorium in Luyken Fine Arts Center. These lectures are supported by the Bethel College Women's Association Carolyn Schultz Lecture-ship.
- **Weds., April 24 – Bethel College Wind Ensemble**, directed by Chris Miertschin, Krehbiel Auditorium in Luyken Fine Arts Center
- **Fri., April 26 – Senior Art Exhibit II opens** in the Regier Art Gallery in Luyken Fine Arts Center featuring the work of Morgan Marsh (reception May 10). Gallery hours are Mon.-Fri., 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Sun. 2-4 p.m.
- **Sat., April 27 – "Walking the Talk: Listening Relationships in a Changing Climate,"** symposium at Bethel College, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Krehbiel Auditorium. Free and open to the public. Keynote speaker is Dr. Sheena Wilson, University of Alberta, along with others from across Kansas; see <https://www.bethelks.edu/academics/convocation/walking-the-talk/walking-the-talk-listening-relationships-in-a-changing-climate/>
- **Sun., April 28 – Masterworks concert at Bethel College, 4 p.m.**, featuring the Bethel College Oratorio Chorus, orchestra and soloists, performing Britten's *Rejoice in the Lamb* and Vaughan Williams' *Dona Nobis Pacem*, with Dr. Henry S. Waters conducting; Memorial Hall
- **Tues., April 30 – Bethel College Voice Studio recital**, Soyoun Chun, instructor, 7 p.m., Administration Building chapel
- **Weds., May 1 – Jazz on the Green at Bethel College, 7:30 p.m.** (rain venue: Krehbiel Auditorium in Luyken Fine Arts Center)
- **Sun., May 5 – Sunday-Afternoon-at-the-Museum** with Stan Senner of the National Audubon Society, 3 p.m., Kauffman Museum auditorium
- **Sun., May 5 – Woven and Open Road joint concert, 4 p.m.**, Bethel College Mennonite Church (NOTE TIME CHANGE)

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**Roger Neufeld Smith will be driving back to Topeka this afternoon. He will be back in Newton on Wed., May 1.** Roger checks his email and phone regularly. Feel free to contact him via email, text or phone (785-220-1968.)

## The Next Weeks at BCMC: April 21-May 5, 2024

### Sunday, April 21, 2024

9:30 a.m. Worship Service; 10:45 a.m. Faith Formation

YouTube Link for this Sunday:

[https://youtube.com/live/ffrSFIZK\\_Ow?feature=share](https://youtube.com/live/ffrSFIZK_Ow?feature=share)

### Tuesday, April 23, 2024

11 a.m. Staff Meeting

### Wednesday, April 24, 2024

7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir rehearsal in the Sanctuary

### Thursday, April 25, 2024

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

7:00 p.m. Deacon Commission meeting in Room 14

### Saturday and Sunday, April 27-28, 2024—Camp Mennoscah Retreat

BCMC Retreat at Camp Mennoscah—There will be no worship service in the BCMC building on Sunday, April 28

### Tuesday, April 30, 2024

4:30 p.m. Abuse Prevention and Response Committee meeting in Rm 14

### Wednesday, May 1, 2024

7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir rehearsal in the Sanctuary

### Thursday, May 2, 2024

4 p.m. Staff Congregation Relations Committee meeting in Room 14

7 p.m. Church Board meeting in Room 14

### Saturday, May 4, 2024—Candidating Weekend—See insert for schedule

### Sunday, May 5, 2024—Candidating Weekend Continues

9:30 a.m. Worship with sermon by Joanna Harader; music by Chancel Choir; Sharing and Q & A with Joanna

4 p.m. Woven and Open Road (a cappella women's and men's ensembles from Bethel College) Concert in the Sanctuary

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**BCMC Offering for April 14:** General Fund \$18,035.47; MCC \$500; MCC Sale \$20; Caring Fund \$100; Kitchen Fund \$40; Solar Fund \$18,200; Elizabeth Raid Memorial \$40.

**The current library theme is Poetry!** We want to highlight our new "Mennonite Poetry" corner as well as the many other fine poetry books we have in the library. Those are found behind the check out desk as well as the south wall of the children's/youth room. Keep reading and keep puzzling! *Library Committee*

## Future Events at BCMC:

- **Trip Report on a Visit to New BCMC Member Max Ediger on April 21:**  
Max Ediger joined the BCMC fellowship in the last year to become our most distant member, currently living in Cambodia. Max has spent his life in service in Vietnam, Cambodia, and Thailand, much of it with MCC. Recently, his childhood friend, Dennis Loepp and wife Dori of Turpin, OK, traveled to visit Max and tour with him in Vietnam and Cambodia. They will give an informal report on Max's work, family and their travels together at BCMC Fellowship Hall today, Sun. Apr. 21, at 3 p.m. Max's cousins and friends in the area will join interested persons in our congregation to hear this report. You are welcome!
- **The BCMC Mennoscah Retreat is approaching quickly, and there is still plenty of room!** Come on Sat., Sun., or stay for both - we'll have a great time! If you don't want to drive yourself... find a crew to carpool with! Worship will be at 10 a.m. Sun., April 28, if you just want to come for worship and lunch on Sun. Use the link you received by email to sign up, or visit with/email Adam Robb if you'd prefer. To help with meal planning, it would be appreciated if you can register by Mon., April 22. Please contact Adam if you have questions. Hope you can make it!
- **Candidating weekend for our pastoral candidate, Joanna Harader, will be May 3-5.** See the enclosed insert for a biography of Joanna Harader, and a schedule of candidating weekend events. We encourage all to participate in the opportunities to get to know Joanna and her husband, Ryan Ellett. The congregational vote on whether to call Joanna as our Co-Pastor will be May 19, during the congregational meeting. The vote has been scheduled for two weeks following Joanna's candidating weekend because Sun., May 12 is Bethel College Baccalaureate at BCMC.  
*BCMC Pastor Search Committee*
- **Congregational Meeting and New Co-Pastor Vote:**  
The next congregational meeting will take place Sun., May 19, 10:45 a.m. during the Sunday School hour. The meeting will be held in the sanctuary and made available live on YouTube only while the meeting is in progress; it will not be recorded. Remote viewers can text their votes to a number available in the May 19 bulletin and announced at the beginning of the meeting. Agenda items will include a vote for acceptance of the Search Committee's and Board's recommendation to approve Joanna Harader as our new full-time co-pastor; approval of new board members and officers; and reports from several committees and commissions. Congregants can access report booklets in May. The youth will host a fundraising luncheon following the meeting.

**We offer sympathy to Marilyn Schmidt** and her extended family on the death of her husband Howard Schmidt, April 13, in Newton. Graveside committal service will be 10 a.m. Mon., April 22 at Greenwood Cemetery in Newton with Pastor Nathan Koontz presiding. You are welcome to attend. The memorial service for Howard will be June 1, 11 a.m. at BCMC.

**We offer sympathy to Ken and Annette, Katherine and Elizabeth Lamp**, on the death of Ken's mother, Wilda "Pat" Lamp, who died April 15, at 90 years old, in Katy, TX.

**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](mailto:cdlin319@gmail.com). Thank you to all who have volunteered for New Hope, either recently or in the past!

**Please join Kansas Mennonite Men's Chorus at their concert today, April 21, 4 p.m. at Tabor College.** The concert will include the Newton Children's Community Choir, the Flannelbacks, and the Menno Brass.

**Save the Date! Western District Conference Annual Assembly, August 2-4, First Mennonite Church, Beatrice, NE.** Assembly is the primary resourcing and fellowship event of the year. Many workshops, onsite and virtual. Faith formation and Family Festival for all ages. Worshipping God together. Join us!

**Bluestem Communities will host a summer Junior Volunteer program** at both Kidron Bethel Village (North Newton) and Schowalter Villa (Hesston) for youth ages 12 to 17. The program runs from June 3 through July 26. Applications must be submitted by May 10. To apply or for more information, contact Haley Hamm at 316-836-4821 or [haleyh@bluestemks.org](mailto:haleyh@bluestemks.org).