

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: Christy Harrison and Peter Sensenig are serving in Chad, with their three children, through Eastern Mennonite Missions and Mennonite Mission Network. Pray for Christy as she works as a nurse-midwife and for Peter as he teaches at Shalom: Evangelical Theological Seminary. Pray also for the children as they build relationships with their neighbors.

Western District Conference Prayer Request: The Western District Conference Church Planting Commission (CPC) invites your prayers for WDC congregations to be alert to opportunities to share God’s love in their community, and for the CPC to support your calling.

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: Joel Garber (starting in August)
- Chancel Bells Director: Verlene Garber

Bethel College Mennonite Church May 26, 2024



Mosaic by Lora Jost — “With Nature Sing”
“The rushing wind that art so strong”

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.

You are invited to attend the dedication and celebration of the new Mennonite Disaster Service (MDS) Cabinet Shop and Warehouse, Sun., June 9 at 604 E. Main St., Goessel, KS from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. Admission is free. During the celebration, we will offer tours of the cabinet shop and warehouse, and an opportunity to learn more about this innovative MDS initiative to draft and distribute kitchen cabinets to be installed in MDS volunteer-built homes across the U.S. We have already distributed cabinets to more than 75 homes. Also featured will be a fundraising concert at 5:30 p.m. by September River, a family band featuring Jude and Doug Krehbiel and daughter Stefanie (Krehbiel) Giffin. The band incorporates elements of bluegrass, gospel, blues, acoustic rock, Irish, and folk music. The MDS Storm Encounter will also be on hand for those who want to experience a simulated tornado—then see how MDS volunteers respond to bring hope to communities impacted by disaster.

Hesston College Announcement

June 16 to 22 - Summer Theatre Camp Student actors ages 11 to 18 are invited to stage a live theatre performance at Hesston College's annual summer theatre camp June 16 to 22. The weeklong theatre immersion will culminate in a public performance of the musical "Mean Girls" at 2 p.m., Saturday, June 22, in the Hesston Mennonite Church sanctuary on the Hesston College campus. Theatre camp registration is \$335 per person and includes lodging and meals for seven days and six nights, or \$285 for day camp only. A discount is available for families registering more than one student. Participants can visit hesston.edu/theatrecamp to register online. Registration is due June 10.

You're invited to Concert on the Concrete, June 9, 5 p.m. Featuring Newton Senior Center's Golden Notes Choir, along with a sing along, in the parking lot across from the Senior Center, 122 E. 6th, Newton. If rain, the concert will move inside. Free will offering to be used for building renovations.

BCMC Prayer Network: The Prayer Network is an email-based prayer network comprised of Deacon Commission members and BCMC congregants. Participants make a one-year commitment to this prayer ministry which is coordinated by Pastors and the Office and Facilities Manager. Pastors respond to prayer requests and determine when and how these requests are distributed. Specific prayer requests are shared only with the permission of the person(s) involved. If you would like to join the BCMC prayer network, please email your interest to office@bethelcollegemennonitechurch.org. Thanks to all who serve BCMC in the Prayer Network.

The next Women's Fellowship Executive Board meeting will be Wednesday, August 21, at 9 a.m. in Room 14 for a planning meeting. There will be no meetings this summer.

The Next Week at BCMC: May 26-June 2, 2024

Sunday, May 26, 2024

9:30 a.m. Worship Service—YouTube Link for this Sunday:
<https://youtube.com/live/A-9vgBiF2r0?feature=share>

Monday, May 27, 2024—Memorial Day

Church building will be locked; church office closed

Tuesday, May 28, 2024—Vacation Bible School

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

Wednesday, May 29, 2024

5:30—6:30 p.m. Grief Group meets in the BCMC Nursery

Saturday, June 1, 2024

11 a.m. Memorial service for Howard Schmidt in the Sanctuary

Sunday, June 2, 2024—VBS Sunday—VBS Church Communities Join worship on the Bethel College Green—There will be no worship service in the BCMC building

VBS is almost here! Newton Mennonite Vacation Bible School will meet at Shalom Mennonite Church, 5:30-7:30 p.m., May 28-31. Sunday morning, June 2, all of our congregations will worship together on the Bethel College Green. VBS is open to all students from age 4 to grade 4, and we also need adult, high school, and junior high volunteers! To register students, visit bit.ly/newtonvbskids and to register as a volunteer, please visit bit.ly/newtonvbsvols. Our congregation's contact people for VBS are Jill Robb and Mary Ellen Hodge.

VBS Worship on the green, June 2: On Sunday Morning, June 2, all participating VBS congregations are invited to a joint worship service on the Bethel College green. Come worship with the VBS participants and celebrate everything we learned together! Please bring a lawn chair or blanket to sit on, and a dish or two to share for the potluck to follow. Please also bring an item for MCC infant care or school kits for a Sunday morning VBS offering! Special needs are size 6-12-month sleepers and 70 page spiral notebooks. Worship will begin at 10:30 am. In case of rain, we will gather in Memorial Hall. See you at worship!

BCMC Offering for May 19, 2024 General Fund \$8,151.50; Sr Hi Youth \$50; Kitchen Fund \$16; Solar Fund \$4,525.

You are invited to a congregational potluck picnic on Monday, June 3, 5:30 p.m. hosted by Hugo and Mary Ann Boschmann and Ron and Carol Peters, in the Boschmann backyard at 304 Witwarmsum West, North Newton. The main entree (with a gluten free option) and beverage will be provided as well as tableware. Bring your lawn chair or blanket and a "dish to share".

The Education and Service Scholarship Committee report given at the May 19 congregational meeting contained an error. The report stated that the BCMC Mission and Service Endowment Fund was accepting donations to help fund the above-budget annual amount for college scholarships. In fact, the annual amount needed to fund college scholarships IS in the budget. Please direct any gifts to the Bethel College Scholarship Fund. Apologies for the confusion.

—Margaret Toews, ESSC

Community Playschool, Inc. has recently completed our 58th school year!

Eighteen children of the Newton community participated in the program this year at a minimal cost to their families, thanks to five area sponsoring churches. We again want to thank BCMC for being one of those supporting churches through monetary donations, the use of the facilities, secretarial and custodial services and a welcoming attitude toward our program. It is nice to have a home here! We also are grateful for the matching grant that we received from this church through the Everence Sharing Fund. I want to acknowledge the service of Cliff Dick as BCMC's representative on our board, also serving as treasurer. Barb Voran, Stahli Claassen, Carolyn Penner and Cynthia Linscheid, served respectively as teacher, helpers, and substitute this year. These volunteers help make it possible for us to continue to provide an affordable preschool experience to families who need it most. A big thanks to Monica Lichti for her extra duties related to our being housed here at BCMC!

An organization such as ours relies heavily on volunteer workers to keep our costs to a minimum. As many of our volunteers have retired from our program and as we look ahead to the next school year, we know that we need more volunteer helpers to be able to provide the attentive relationships and safe environment that we have always sought to maintain for our children and families. As members of a sponsoring church, we hope that you might consider whether you could help us out and become a one or two day a week helper for the coming school year. These volunteer positions have not only helped the children we serve but have also proved to be a rewarding experience for many of our adult helpers. Please give your church representative or us a call if you would like to have more information about our program and the opportunities that we have for you! We solicit your prayers and continued support for the future of our organization. With gratitude,

Co- Directors, Kasey Newell (316 772-3350) and Jeanette Leary (316 217-2548)

Congratulations to all BCMC Graduates!

From High School: Abby Koontz (daughter of Matt and Jennifer Koontz) and **Justin Zerger** (son of Heather and Jonathan Zerger)

From 8th Grade: Collin Gaeddert (son of Joel and Crystal Gaeddert), **Addie Zerger** (daughter of Heather and Jonathan Zerger) and **Alli and Madey Zerger** (daughters of Brian and Kristin Zerger)

Save the Date: Peace Witness Event, Sept. 15-16

The BCMC Witness Commission is very pleased to announce plans for a peace witness event around Peace Sunday on September 15-16. Our church along with the Bible and Religion Dept. Bethel College and in collaboration with area churches invites you engage with Christianity and Democracy led by well known author, academic, and presenter, David P. Gushee (<https://davidpgushee.com>). For more information see the weekly BCMC email from Saturday or Wednesday.

Bethel College Announcements

- **Sat., June 1 – An outdoor trifecta! 6 a.m.-8 p.m., the public is invited to Walk Sand Creek Trail Day, part of National Trails Day®.** Water will be available for people and leashed dogs at the trailhead at Memorial Grove on the Bethel College campus, courtesy of the Sand Creek Trail Committee, with members there to answer any questions about the trail. At 7 a.m. the Kauffman Museum monthly bird walk, led by experienced local birders; At 9 a.m. the Kauffman Museum-sponsored wildflower walk with Brad Guhr of Dyck Arboretum in Hesston. The bird walk begins at the kiosk in the museum parking lot at the corner of North Main and 27th streets in North Newton, the wildflower walk begins at the museum, and both walks will follow part of Sand Creek Trail.
- **Enrollment is open for Uncle Carl's Camp at Kauffman Museum at Bethel College.** Half-day camps are offered in art, history and nature for kids ages 4-18. New this year is Creative Writing Camp for students finishing grades 7-12, with instructor Lydia Chappell Deckert. The writing camp starts June 3, so sign up soon! Go to www.kauffmanmuseum.org/uncle-carls-camp/ for more information about this and other camps with space still available, and to register online.

Everence® May workshop: Make Medicare an Easy Step Everence will hold its Medicare workshop at its office at 3179 N. Main St. Suite 1B, North Newton, Tues., May 28 ,6:30 p.m. Topics include 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. If interested in attending, contact the Everence office at 316-283-3800, 877-467-7294 or central.kansas@everence.com.

If you have read *Unsettling Truths: The Ongoing, Dehumanizing of The Doctrine Of Discovery* by Mark Charles, you are invited to participate in a Zoom meeting with the author, Mark Charles, June 13, at Kidron Bethel Village, Classroom A, at 7 p.m. A small group of readers have developed a BIG question for Mark to answer — “How do we use and become the four elements—earth, fire, water, and air—to facilitate change?” Since Mark Charles ran for president in 2020, we hope he will focus his suggestions for change in the political system. If you have questions contact Naomi Krause at naomikrause@gmail.com