

**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:** Sibonokuhle Ncube, one of Mennonite Mission Network’s regional directors for Africa and Europe, is spending the summer on the African continent. Pray for her as she gets acquainted with African partners and builds on the agency’s more than 100-year-old legacy.

**Western District Conference Prayer Request:** Give thanks for the WDC Annual Assembly this weekend, and pray that we would all be open to God’s transforming work as we join together in community.

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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  
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: Verlene Garber and Will Wiebe-Friesen
- Chancel Choir Director: Joel Garber (starting in August)
- Chancel Bells Director: Verlene Garber

# Bethel College Mennonite Church

## August 4, 2024



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**

**August 4, 2024**

**Eleventh Sunday After Pentecost**

Christ Candle Lighting

Centering Music *When Morning Gilds the Skies* (Wood) Karen Unruh

Land Acknowledgement Raylene Hinz Penner

Welcome & Prayer Raylene Hinz Penner

\*Hymn *Could It Be That God Is Singing* VT 42

Children's Conversation Kevin Neufeld

\*Hymn *Open My Eyes That I May See* VT 738

Scripture Reading Ephesians 4:1-16; 1 Peter 5:1-4 (NRSV) Jim Robb

Sermon *Watch Your Language: Biblical Grammar and Leadership*  
Trent Voth

\*Hymn *Christ Be in Your Senses* VT 721

Prayers of God's People

\*Hymn *We, Your People, Sing Your Praises* VT 849

\*Benediction

Postlude *Sent Forth By God's Blessing* (Behnke) Karen Unruh

\* You are invited to stand

VT—*Voices Together*

Keyboard—Karen Unruh

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.**

**Today we welcome Trent Voth, Assistant Professor of Bible and Religion at Bethel College. Trent grew up in Halstead, and graduated from Tabor College, Fresno Pacific Biblical Seminary, and The University of Toronto (ON) where he earned a PhD in Theology in New Testament Studies.**

**Everyone is invited to meet in the Gathering Place after the worship service to celebrate Dwight Platt's 93rd birthday with a light fruit snack!**

**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.*

**GOING BEYOND LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:**

**\*The Task Group is working to build a Kansas Repair community in the Newton area with several other churches.** We hope to host the Apache Stronghold convoy in a prayer and learning event when they come through en route to the Supreme Court.

**\*Many of us from BCMC attended the 150th commemoration at Tabor Church July 14 when Annette Voth and Pauline Sharp detailed intersecting family **time-lines of their Russian Mennonite and Kanza People.****

**\*"The Land We Came To," seminar by Raylene Hinz-Penner at the Schweitzer 150th commemoration of settlement 9 a.m. Saturday, August 24, Eden Mennonite Church.**

**\*Recent youth trip to First Americans Museum in OKC with a tour led by Nathan Hart accompanied by interested BCMC family.**

**\*Read Augustine and Hostetler, *So We and Our Children May Live: Following Jesus in Confronting the Climate Crisis* before Sarah Augustine's visit to Bethel Campus during Fall Festival.**

**\*Seekers' Class is considering a monthly reparations offering**

## Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) Announcements

- **The MCC Sale Quilter's Corner is looking for donations of quilts, quilt tops, fabric, books, magazines and vintage linens for our next sale.** We hope to have an October sale if we receive enough donations. Donations can be dropped off at the MCC Center in North Newton labeled for Quilter's Corner or at Stitches Quilt Shop in McPherson. If you have questions, please contact Ann Yoder Smith at 919-604-3282.
- **Mennonite Central Committee Material Resources Center in North Newton critically low on inventory:** An MCC kit cannot be distributed until each item for the kit is assembled, but some supplies in the Material Resources Center are so low that kits cannot be processed for shipping. You can help by filling the following needs: new infant sleepers (6-12 month sizes); hand towels (dark colored); bar soap; bath towels (dark colored, light to medium weight); wide toothed combs (6-8 inches long); laundry soap (such as Fels Naptha or Zote brands); and shampoo (20 oz min). Buy online and ship it to MCC or bring items to MCC in North Newton (121 E. 30th St, North Newton, KS 67117). Questions: phone 316-836-5045 or email brociamueller@mcc.org A full list of MCC kit contents can be found at [mcc.org/kits](http://mcc.org/kits).
- **WANTED: Cars, Tractors, Pickups, Farm Machinery, Motorcycles, etc.** We are collecting items for next year's KS Mennonite Central Committee Sale. Your donations are tax deductible and help feed and clothe thousands of people in need around the world. Call Jerry Toews at 620-367-8257 for more info.
- **MCC immigration-focused learning tour in South Texas, Aug. 18-23:** MCC learning tours are an opportunity to engage directly with the work done by MCC and partner organizations. The tour gives participants the chance to meet with law enforcement officials from Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), gain insights into the complexity of immigration enforcement, including deportation and apprehensions, and visiting migrant response shelters. It will shed light on the challenges faced by migrants on their journey and raise awareness about the asylum process, and conditions faced by displaced and uprooted individuals. Find out more and register for the trip by Aug. 9. Questions, contact Abraham Diaz Alonso, MCC Central States Immigration Program Coordinator at [abrahamdiazalonso@mcc.org](mailto:abrahamdiazalonso@mcc.org)
- **URGENT OPENING: Would you or someone you know consider serving a two-year term as an MCC mobile canner operator?** Do you want to gain new skills while traveling across the country? To learn more, contact Joe Miller at [joemiller@mcc.org](mailto:joemiller@mcc.org) or call 717-808-2417.

**The deadline for announcements for the week's upcoming Sunday's BCMC bulletin is Thursday morning.** It may not be possible to include an announcement if it is received later.

## The Next Week at BCMC: August 4—11, 2024

### Sunday, August 4, 2024

9:30 a.m. Worship

YouTube Link for this Sunday:

[https://youtube.com/live/85tBUtxvV\\_U?feature=share](https://youtube.com/live/85tBUtxvV_U?feature=share)

### Monday, August 5, 2024

10 a.m. Library Committee meeting in Room 14

### Wednesday, August 7, 2024

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

### Thursday, August 8, 2024

3 p.m. Peace Sunday Planning meeting in Room 14

### Sunday, August 11, 2024—New Student Sunday + Farewell for Pastor Roger Neufeld Smith and Welcome to Pastor Joanna Harader

10 a.m. (Note the time change for the beginning of worship) Worship with sermon by Joanna Harader; music by the Chancel Choir; Cynthia Neufeld Smith at the organ

**Those who enjoy singing are invited to join as the Chancel Choir begins the year with the August 11 worship service.** The anthem includes parts for choir, handbells, and congregation, and will be a meaningful way to both bid farewell to Roger Neufeld Smith and welcome to Joanna Harader. Rehearsal will take place on August 7 at 7:30 PM.

**Roger Neufeld Smith will return to Newton, Tues., Aug. 6, remaining in Newton until Aug. 11. August 11 will be a special day as it is the Bethel College New Student Sunday, Roger's last day at BCMC, and Pastor Joanna Harader's first day at BCMC. And....there will be cake to say farewell to Pastor Roger and to welcome Pastor Joanna!** Roger checks his email and phone regularly. Feel free to contact him via email, text or phone (785-220-1968.)

**Pastor Nathan Koontz** is on vacation July 8—August 10.

**Pastor Elizabeth Schmidt** will be on vacation August 5-11.

**BCMC Offering for July 28, 2024** General Fund \$4,914.50; Plant Fund \$50; Caring Fund \$250; Solar Fund \$550.

**A new book, *THE CHURCH BY THE PLAYGROUND: THE STORY OF THE SHARING COMMUNITY IN ROSEDALE*, by Dorothy Nickel Friesen, has been published by Rainbow Mennonite Church. The book will be launched at Rainbow Aug. 10 and 11 and at Kidron Bethel/Kidron Hall on Thurs., Aug. 15 at 2 p.m. (Faith and Life Bookstore will sell books.) The public is invited to hear Dorothy share, sign books, and tell this unique urban ecumenical ministry history.**

### **BCMC Library Announcements:**

- **Looking ahead to November**, the Library theme for the next few months will be Religion and Politics. We've pulled some books that might help answer questions about our current political climate. A partial display is behind the library desk.
- **BCMC children and youth summer book promotion:** What's new for children and youth in the BCMC library this summer? What's new is old. Your library committee has sorted through the shelves and uncovered some classics. These books may look drab, but they have been loved by many, many children over many years. They are waiting for you on a special shelf in the children's room. Come check them out. Read them with parents or grandparents who remember reading them. Create new memories. Inside each book you will find a certificate good for one book at "Book Reviews" (Newton's Main Street used book store). Go to "Book Reviews". Pick out a book that has been loved by another kid. Read it. Share it. Create more memories.

**For those who subscribe to the devotional *Rejoice*** through the BCMC group subscription, the last issue of *Rejoice* (Sept.-Oct.-Nov.) will be coming soon. Therefore, it is time to renew for the coming year. The bulk subscription price is \$35.93. The devotional is mailed to BCMC and your copy will be either placed in your mailbox here at church, or mailed to you. If you wish to subscribe (even if you have not subscribed before) place your check in the offering plate or bring or mail to the office with "*Rejoice* subscription" in the memo line.

### **It's School Kit Challenge Time!**

**Lincoln and Lawrence Kohlman and Gabby and Jake Robb are participating in the Mennonite Central Committee School Kit Challenge again this year.** You can help with donations of money, school kit supplies, or school kit bags. Please give monetary donations to Lincoln, Lawrence, Gabby, or Jake by Wed., Aug. 7. School kit supplies and bags can be left on the tables on the Fellowship Hall stage. A list of school kit supplies and directions for sewing bags can be found on the MCC website. Last year we packed 311 school kits. Can you help us beat our record?! We will pack school kits on Sun., Aug. 11, after Fellowship Time. Please join us!

**FreedUp: Everence® is offering a new stewardship training program.** The FreedUp program is a way for everyone to get their finances in order – and gain a deeper faith perspective on your money. Everence facilitators will lead the group sessions, including the first get-acquainted session. There are two upcoming options for participants to choose from:

- Tuesdays at 2 p.m. ET beginning Aug. 20; ending Oct. 1 or
- Mondays at 8 p.m. ET beginning Oct. 7; ending Nov. 18.

Register at [everence.com/partners](https://everence.com/partners).

**If you've been a nursery volunteer in the past or would like to become a new nursery volunteer**, please notify Sara Dick, new nursery schedule coordinator, at [saradick1@gmail.com](mailto:saradick1@gmail.com). The schedule is posted in the nursery and will be updated as folks volunteer. Please notify Sara rather than sign yourself up for shifts directly on the schedule, so she knows where we need helpers and where we're all set. Thank you for caring for our youngest attenders and their families!

**A reminder that the next Women's Fellowship Executive Board meeting** will be Wednesday, August 21, at 9 a.m. in Room 14 for a planning meeting.

**The memorial service for Marilyn Stucky** (Marilyn died June 20) will be Saturday, Aug. 31, 11 a.m. at BCMC, with a lunch in fellowship hall following the service.

### **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>).

### **Bethel College Announcements:**

- **Sun., Aug. 18 – Sunday-Afternoon-at-the-Museum, 3 p.m., with Lorna Harder**, professor emeritus of biology at Hesston College and former curator of natural history at Kauffman Museum, on the 40th anniversary of the museum's tallgrass prairie reconstruction; museum auditorium (corner of Main & 27th streets, North Newton).
- **The 2024 issue of Bethel College's online journal Mennonite Life can now be viewed at [ml.bethelks.edu](https://ml.bethelks.edu)** The issue includes articles by Rod Ratzlaff, Mark Jantzen and Rachel Pannabecker related to the 150th anniversary of Mennonite immigration to North America from the Russian Empire, as well as the text from last spring's Bible Lectures by César García and Sandra Báez, several other articles, and book reviews.

**Western District Women in Mission invites women and girls** to the annual retreat Sept. 7-8 at Camp Mennoscah. Theme: Peaceful Practices; Kristine Regehr keynote speaker. Girls' Programming for 5th grade-high school with Janna Duerksen. Registration is due Aug. 30. Retreat brochure and registration form are available at: <https://www.westerndistrictwomeninMission.org/register> Come early at 10 a.m. on Saturday morning to tie Camp Mennoscah t-shirt comforters which will also be available to tie throughout retreat. We hope to get 6 comforters tied and give them to Camp to sell as fundraisers. At least 15 years of past camp T-shirts are in the comforters!