

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: Mennonite Mission Network’s Service Adventure participants are learning to live in new households, integrating into their hosting congregations and settling into their service assignments. Pray for the participants, as well as Samir Knego, leader of the unit in Anchorage, Alaska, and Christian and Leigha Stoltzfus, who are leading the Colorado Springs unit in Colorado.

Western District Conference Prayer Request: Pray for God’s wisdom to guide WDC congregations and members, as we discern faithful responses, actions and words in this national election season.

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 Joanna Harader, Day off: Friday
Cell phone: 407-201-0503; Email: Joanna@bethelcollegemennonitechurch.org
Pastor Joanna will have office hours at the 1887 Cafe in the Schultz Student Center every Thursday morning from ten to noon. She would love for you to stop by for a chat!
- Pastor Nathan Koontz, Day off: Wednesday
Cell phone: 316-212-4593; Email: nathan@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
- Chancel Bells Director: Verlene Garber

Bethel College Mennonite Church

September 15, 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

September 15, 2024

Peace Sunday

Christ Candle Lighting

Centering Music *O God, Thou Faithful God* (Peeters)
Verlene Garber

Welcome & Prayer Nathan Koontz

*Hymn *Come, Let Us All Unite to Sing* VT 7

Children's Conversation Joanna Harader

Worship Music *Barcarole op. 19, no. 5* (Gade) Abby Koontz

Scripture Reading Romans 13:1-7; Genesis 1:26-27; Psalm 72:1-7;
Matthew 22:15-22
Darlene Dick, Roger Juhnke

Sermon *Biblical Parameters for Thinking about Government*
David P. Gushee

*Hymn *Let There Be Light* VT 714

Prayers of God's People

*Hymn *Rain Down* VT 703

*Benediction

Postlude *Poco Vivace from Kleine Praludien und Intermezzi* (Schroeder)
Verlene Garber

* You are invited to stand

VT—*Voices Together*

Audio visual—Ben Lichti

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.

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. Volunteers in the nursery today are Megan Kohlman and Kevin Neufeld.



We extend a special welcome to those who are visiting Bethel College Mennonite this morning. Thank you for sharing in worship! If you would like us to keep in touch, please scan the QR code and fill out the visitor form.

Today we welcome David P. Gushee. The BCMC Witness Commission invites you to this peace witness event around Peace Sunday today and tomorrow at Bethel College. Our church along with the Bible and Religion Department of Bethel College and in collaboration with area churches invites you to engage with Christianity and Democracy led by well known author, academic, and presenter, David P. Gushee (<https://davidpgushee.com>).

Activity bags are now available for our littles during the church service! The 10 bags are filled with a coloring book/page, crayons, and a library book. After using the activity bag, please make sure all the supplies are in the bag and hang on the hook at the back of the sanctuary. Library books will be switched out on a monthly basis. *Jill, Faith Formation Coordinator*

Hola! Women's Fellowship is starting their Fall programs with a trip to Spain. Plan to join Sarah Turner and her host sister Laura to learn more about this beautiful country. Tuesday, September 17, at 7 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.

The Abuse Prevention and Response Committee, at the request of the Faith Formation Commission, has approved a provisional change to the Abuse Prevention and Response Policy that will allow our nursery to be staffed by one approved adult and one approved youth volunteer. (II.A.3) This change takes effect immediately. Over the coming months, the APRC will be reviewing the policy in full and will bring an updated version of the policy to the congregation for approval some time in 2025. Copies of the policy are available on the church website and in the office. If you have questions about the policy or changes to suggest, please reach out to one of the pastors or a member of APRC.

BCMC Offering for Sept. 8: Gen. Fund \$8,494; Columbarium Fund \$1,095; Caring Fund \$50; Kitchen Fund \$29.30; Solar Fund \$230; Monica Gross Mem. \$100.

Bethel College Announcements:

- **Sun., Sept. 15 – Forum on Democracy and Christianity with David Gushee**, 3 p.m., Memorial Hall sponsored by Bethel College Mennonite Church and the Bethel Department of Bible and Religion. The afternoon's events will include a keynote by Dr. Gushee and discussion around tables. Gushee will also speak in convocation Mon., Sept. 16, 11 a.m., in Krehbiel Auditorium in Luyken Fine Arts Center.
- **Tues., Sept. 17: Bethel College Orchestra**, directed by Kris Hilding, 7 p.m., Memorial Hall
- **Thurs., Sept. 19: Guest piano recital: Dr. Brian Hsu**, 7 p.m., Ad Building chapel
- **Thurs., Sept. 19: Artist reception for Gwen and Victor Rose and "The Rose Aesthetic," 6-8 p.m.**, Regier Gallery in Luyken Fine Arts Center. Exhibit closes the same evening. Gallery hours are 9 a.m.-5 p.m. weekdays; 2-4 p.m. Sundays.
- **Thurs., Sept. 26: The Bethel College Wind Ensemble presents "dinner and a show," 6:30 p.m., Memorial Hall.** Tickets are \$20 per person or \$200 for a full table (8 people). Call 316-284-5202, or go to Thresher Shop on the Bethel campus, Mon.-Fri., 8 a.m.-5 p.m., to buy tickets. You must have a ticket to attend this concert.
- **Bethel College's Fall Festival is Oct. 3-6**, with most activities taking place Sat., Oct. 5, on campus. Features include music, food, class reunions, football, the musical "9 to 5", and the 50th-anniversary celebration for the social work program. See <https://www.bethelks.edu/fallfest/> for the complete schedule.
- **Sat., Oct. 5: Sarah Augustine will give a keynote address for the 50th anniversary of Bethel College social work, 2 p.m., Kidron Hall at Kidron Bethel Village. She will also speak Sun., Oct. 6, 9:30 a.m., at Bethel College Mennonite Church**, and Mon., Oct. 7, for convocation in Krehbiel Auditorium. The public is invited to any and all events. Augustine is the founder and co-chair of the Coalition to Dismantle the Doctrine of Discovery, author of *The Land is Not Empty* (2021) and co-author of *So We and Our Children May Live* (2023).
- **Life Enrichment program at Bethel College** for Wednesday, Sept. 18. Life Enrichment is for people age 60 and above and is an excellent way to continue learning and meet people from the surrounding area in a relaxed setting.
Sept. 18—9:30 a.m. "The Death Penalty: Failed Public Policy and Doubtful Morality," Ron Wurtz, retired public defender, Topeka
Sept. 18—10:50 a.m. "Line Dancing for Life," Lois Palmer, assistant at Newton Area Senior Center

Bethel College Women's Association needs your donations of baked goods and craft items! Home-made pies, poppyseed rolls, zwieback, cinnamon rolls, other baked goods and treats for Market-in-the-Round at Fall Festival are welcome. In addition, home-made jams/jellies and craft items are needed. All of these items can be delivered to the Music Library in Luyken Fine Arts Center from 1 - 5 p.m., Fri., Oct. 4. All proceeds will benefit Bethel College. If questions email: bcwa@bethelks.edu Volunteers are needed as well to staff the booths. To sign up, use this link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0E4CA8A72FA3F58-50920044-fall/102465998#/>

The Week at BCMC: September 15-22, 2024

Sunday, September 15, 2024—Peace Sunday

Worship 9:30 a.m. — Faith Formation for Junior and Youth 10:30 a.m.
Volunteers in the Nursery today are Megan Kohlman and Kevin Neufeld
YouTube Link for the worship service this Sunday:

<https://youtube.com/live/hkQ4EV-UHIA?feature=share>

10:30 a.m. Faith Formation in the Sanctuary—David Gushee will look at some of the key biblical texts on government and Christianity: YouTube Link:

https://youtube.com/live/-0S6Kd7W_Wg?feature=share

Monday, September 16, 2024

7 p.m. Finance Committee & Church Board joint workshop in Room 14

Tuesday, September 17, 2024

7 p.m. Women's Fellowship Meeting in Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, September 18, 2024

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

Thursday, September 19, 2024

6:30 p.m. Chancel Bell rehearsal in Room B7

6:30 p.m. Abuse Prevention and Response Committee meeting in Room 14

Sunday, September 22, 2024

9:30 a.m. Worship with sermon by Joanna Harader

10:30 a.m. Faith Formation

6 p.m. Dessert Reception for Bethel College students on the sidewalk in front of Haury Hall, sponsored by the BCMC Relations Team with assistance from the BCMC Hospitality Commission. **Save the Date for the Annual Dessert Reception for Bethel College students.** This year it will be held ON the Bethel College campus—on a sidewalk going to Haury Hall—just a few feet from the BCMC grounds. Please bring a dessert to share and be willing to engage with students. Chairs will be set up in circles.

Congregational Meeting and Membership Vote:

Congregational Meeting Set for September 29:

The next congregational meeting will be at 10:45 a.m. during the Sunday School hour on September 29. 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 announced at the beginning of the meeting. Agenda items will include a vote for a change of Membership Guidelines and an update from pastors and moderators. The youth will host a fundraising luncheon following the meeting.

Future congregational meetings will be held at 10:45 a.m. on January 26 and May 4, 2025. Information about the Membership Vote is on the next page.

Proposal for Action at the BCMC Congregational Meeting Sept. 29, 2024

The Church Board and Deacons recommend removing the "Welcoming Statement" (approved January 28, 2024) from Article IV: Membership. Both the Deacons and the Inclusive Task Group desire that the Welcoming Statement be separate from the membership guidelines. The current Welcoming Statement will continue to be used in BCMC publications but can be changed and updated under the leadership of the Inclusive Task Group. The revised membership guidelines for the congregational vote on September 29 read as follows:

Article IV: Membership (Revised)

Membership in the Bethel College Mennonite Church is open to all who affirm their faith in God, who seek to center their lives in the life and teachings of Jesus Christ, who are open to the presence and guidance of the Holy Spirit, and who have received baptism as the symbol of their commitment and covenant. Bethel College Mennonite Church welcomes into fellowship and membership all persons who commit to Jesus Christ, without regard to their race, ethnic background, gender identity, sexual orientation, ability, economic status, marital state, age, or other factors which can lead to discrimination and marginalization. Members offer themselves to support Mennonite principles and to share in the life and work of this congregation.

After a discussion between the pastoral team and the BCMC board, we have decided to postpone the annual leadership retreat, usually held in the fall, to a yet-to-be-determined date in late 2024 or early 2025. This postponement will:

1. Allow our pastoral and moderator teams to continue their work of clarifying and defining their roles.

2. Allow pastors and moderators to create a leadership retreat that best equips leaders of commissions and committees for our current model of pastoral leadership.

In the meantime, we encourage committees and commissions to contact Brad Kohlman if they have questions or concerns. Look for an update on the timing of the leadership retreat later this fall or early winter.

Notes for your calendars

- **The Central Kansas Master Chorale presents a Choral Festival, today, Sept. 15, 3 p.m.** at the Hesston Mennonite Church, 309 S. Main St., featuring the Newton High School Choraleers, Hesston College Bel Canto Singers, and the Central Kansas Master Chorale, directed by Joel Garber, accompanist Karen Unruh. All are invited.
- **The family of Paul Harms invites you to a 90th Birthday Celebration for Paul on October 6 from 3 to 5 p.m.** in the BCMC Fellowship Hall.
- The worship service on **Fall Fest Sunday, October 6, will begin at 10 a.m.** in the BCMC sanctuary.
- **Wednesday night suppers** will begin on Oct. 16 and run through Nov. 20.

September and October Webinars from EVERENCE®

Finances and You with topics that integrate your faith and finances! This is a free, four-part webinar series where you'll hear how Everence® can help you make important financial decisions that reflect your faith values. The webinars will be presented by Everence professionals and there will be time for your questions. **All webinars held on Wednesdays at 2 and 8 p.m. (Eastern Time)** **For more information, visit everence.com/national. Or Email: national@everence.com with any questions.**

- **Sept. 18 Seminar: Getting our lives together**, Giving our lives away, and Giving our deaths away. For those of us interested in integrating our faith with our finances, we often find ourselves focusing on different concerns throughout our lives. Intentionally embracing these unique periods of our lives can encourage growth in our stewardship journey and help form us into the image of Christ. Presented by: Colin Saxton, Stewardship Theologian and Director of Church Relations
- **Sept. 25 Seminar: Social Security: Understanding your benefits.** Come and learn the ins and outs of social security that will provide you clarity as you consider your social security future. Presented by: Steve Lane, AWMA®, CFP®, Financial Consultant
- **Oct. 2 Seminar: Investing 202.** Mutual funds, pensions, stocks, bonds, IRA's, Roth IRA's, 401k's, Real estate. The list seems to go on and on for investment options. This presentation will help you sort through your investment options and other considerations as you explore what investments make sense for you. Presented by: Michael Burton, CFP®, CEPA®, Financial Consultant

Everence will hold a Medicare webinar Tues., Sept. 17, 6:30 p.m. including topics: when and where to sign up for Medicare, what Medicare does (and doesn't) cover, Medicare Parts A, B, C and D in clear, understandable language plus budgeting for health care costs in retirement. There will be time for questions. Information presented by staff from the Everence offices in Central Kansas. To register contact Everence at 316-283-3800, 877-467-7294 or central.kansas@everence.com. Attendance recommended for those approaching retirement or those ready to sign up for Medicare.

Join Mennonite Central Committee, the Church of the Brethren, and the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) for a webinar on climate and peace **Sept. 25, 11 a.m., EDT.** Learn from partners around the world how climate change is driving conflict within their communities and how they are acting to address this crisis. Hear how you can take action to advocate for international climate assistance and to support peace globally. Webinar: Climate and peace: Stories from around the world. Register at: https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/WN_XqMu_dxZR_WKyU400Wur5w#/registration (Or click the link from the Sept. 14 BCMC email.)