

**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

## November 24, 2024

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:** On Thanksgiving Day, Joseph and Rachel Givens, who are serving with Mennonite Mission Network, will continue a tradition of gathering the guests of Maria Skobtsova House and the other houses of refuge around Calais, France, for a meal. Pray that on this day, God’s love will be shown, so that people fleeing violence may find community and people who are hungry may eat their fill.

**Western District Conference Prayer Request:** During this Thanksgiving Season, give thanks for the amazing church planting opportunities. Give thanks for the pastors & lay leaders who are ministering to the needs of people & building communities of faith, & for the many ways WDC supports them. Give thanks for the many who provide resources of finances, vision & time to the efforts of church planting. -WDC Church Planting Commission

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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 Joanna Harader, Day off: Monday; 1887 Café Hours: Thursday 10 a.m. to 12 noon  
Cell phone: 407-201-0503; Email: Joanna@bethelcollegemennonitechurch.org
- 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 Licht  
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



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**

**November 24, 2024**

**Thanksgiving**

Christ Candle Lighting

Centering Music     *Morning Has Broken* [VT 495] (arr. R. Lau)  
Will Wiebe-Friesen

Welcome & Prayer—VT 864                      Megan Kohlman, Addison Zerger

\*Hymn                      *Come Away from Rush and Hurry*                      VT 9

Children's Conversation                      George Leary & BCMC Youth Group

Worship Music                      *Cum Sancto Spiritu* (Antonio Vivaldi)  
Chancel Choir; Joel Garber, director; Will Wiebe-Friesen, accompanist

Scripture Reading                      Joel 2:21-27; Matthew 6:25-33                      Lee Suderman

\*Hymn                      *Sometimes a Light Surprises*                      VT 618  
Rebecca Schloneger, violin

Sermon                      *Thanksgiving, Poetry, & The Sun*                      Nathan Koontz

\*Hymn                      *Nothing Is Lost on the Breath of God*                      VT 653

Prayers of God's People                      Heather Zerger, Lily Schloneger

\*Hymn                      *For the Fruit of All Creation*                      VT 124  
(People with November birthdays come forward for a blessing,  
please bring a hymnal)

\*Birthday Blessing & Benediction

Postlude                      *Now Thank We All Our God* (J.S. Bach/Virgil Fox)  
[VT 114]                      Will Wiebe-Friesen

\* You are invited to stand

▪ VT—*Voices Together*    ▪ Audio visual— Ken Lamp

**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. Attendants in the Nursery today:  
Barb Voran and Joanna Harader.



**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.

**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*

**The Repair Coalition has asked us to remember, as we come upon Thanksgiving time,** how our families have benefitted from past and present colonization, access to originally Indigenous lands, and how we continue to benefit from colonization today. Check the poster, "How To Be An Ally to Indigenous Peoples," which offers us some great ally practices beginning with "Care for the Earth: Give Thanks Frequently." Talk about the suggestions at your Thanksgiving table.

**You are invited to share a poinsettia for the sanctuary for the Christmas season.** BCMC will purchase the poinsettias, and have them delivered to the church. To contribute, email the following to the office or fill it out and put it in the offering plate:

Donor's name: \_\_\_\_\_

In memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

Or in honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

Make a payment of \$10.00 (made out to BCMC and designated "Flower Fund") place in the offering plate or bring to church office by Nov. 24. There will be forms at a table in the back of the sanctuary this Sunday, if you wish to fill out a form in person. Contributors may pick up a poinsettia Dec. 24 after the 4:30 p.m. Christmas program or after the 11 p.m. program; or, if you can, leave them for the service on Dec. 29.

## Bethel College Announcements:

- **Sun., Nov. 24: Sunday-Afternoon-at-the-Museum program, “Diversity and Complexity in Indian Kansas,”** Eric Anderson, Haskell Indian Nations University, 3 p.m., *Kauffman Museum auditorium*
- **Sun., Dec. 1: Celebrate Museum Store Sunday at Kauffman Museum, 1:30-4:30 p.m. At 3 p.m., there will be a German Christmas singalong** (Deutsche Weihnachtslieder) with William Eash, Merle Schlabaugh and Karen Bauman Schlabaugh In the museum auditorium. BYOP (bring your own peppernuts (pfeffernusse).
- **Tues., Dec. 3: Bethel College Wind Ensemble**, directed by Chris Miertschin, 7 p.m., Krehbiel Auditorium in Luyken Fine Arts Center
- **Wed., Dec. 4: Singalong to Christmas portions of Handel’s Messiah, 11 a.m.**, with chamber orchestra and soloists, Bethel College Mennonite Church. Scores provided.
- **Thurs., Dec. 5: Gala Jazz, directed by Chris Miertschin, 7:30 p.m.**, Krehbiel Auditorium in Luyken Fine Arts Center
- **Sat., Dec. 7: Five Places of Christmas**, featuring Kauffman Museum and the Bethel College Women’s Association at Goerz House, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Other locations are Carriage Factory Gallery, Harvey County Historical Museum and Warkentin House, all in Newton.
- **Sun., Dec. 8: 37th annual Lighting of the Green**, 8 p.m. on the Bethel College campus
- **Now in the Regier Gallery in Luyken Fine Arts Center at Bethel College: “The Pandemic Portraits,” works by Nicholas Hill**, through Dec. 7. Gallery hours are Mon.-Fri. 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Sun. 2-4 p.m.

**Kidron Bethel Village will host its annual Holiday Market from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Sat., Dec. 7**, at Kidron Hall, 3001 Ivy Dr., North Newton. The event features local artisans selling handmade items, gifts and baked goods. Proceeds benefit the Kidron Bethel Village Health Care Benevolent Fund, which assists residents who, due to unforeseen circumstances, are unable to cover the full costs of their care.

**The Newton Treble Clef Annual Vespers will be Sun., Dec. 1, 3 p.m.** at First Presbyterian Church, 900 Columbus, Newton. Prelude begins at 2:45 p.m. with Connie Rickard, saxophone. Program includes: Treble Clef Chorus, Prairie Bronze Handbell Ensemble, and the Schrag Siblings. A freewill offering will be taken for the scholarship fund that is awarded to high school seniors who are pursuing a music major. Be our guest and begin your Christmas season.

## The Week at BCMC: November 24—December 1, 2024

### Sunday, November 24, 2024

**9:30 a.m.** Worship: sermon by Nathan Koontz —**10:30 a.m.** Faith Formation  
Attendants in Nursery today: Barb Voran and Joanna Harader.

YouTube Link for the worship service this Sunday:

<https://youtube.com/live/qptQnR9NMDc?feature=share>

### Tuesday, November 26, 2024

4 p.m. Worship Commission meeting by Zoom

### Wednesday, November 27, 2024—No Chancel Choir Rehearsal Tonight

### Thursday, November 28, 2024—Happy Thanksgiving!

No Chancel Bell Rehearsal Tonight—Church office closed and church will be locked

### Friday, November 29, 2024—Church office will be closed

### Sunday, December 1, 2024—First Sunday of Advent

9:15 a.m. Prelude by Open Road (Open Road is an a cappella men’s ensemble from Bethel College)

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

10:30 a.m. Faith Formation

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**Next Sunday is the first Sunday in the Advent season.** As BCMC has done in the past, there will be no centering music; instead, during Advent, there will be an extended prelude beginning at 9:15 a.m. **December 1:** Open Road from Bethel College; **December 8:** BCMC musicians; **December 15:** BCMC Bell Choir; **December 22:** BCMC young people. Come early to hear music to prepare us for the Christmas season!

### **To put on your calendar:**

- **Don’t forget to fill out your bcmcXpress on-line intent form.** If you prefer, there are paper copies on the ledge in the Gathering Place.
- **Jan. 25, 2025 Leadership Retreat** (more details to come later)

**Today's choir anthem is the final movement from Vivaldi's *Gloria*, a setting of the fourth century hymn text *Gloria in excelsis Deo*.** This movement's text, Cum Sancto Spiritu in gloria Dei Patris, amen, is translated: With the Holy Spirit in the glory of God the Father, amen. The postlude is derived from Bach's cantata *Nun danket alle Gott (Now Thank We All Our God, VT 114)*. This setting of the hymn, arranged by the American organist Virgil Fox (1912-1980), was made popular through Fox's flamboyant organ, smoke, and light shows of the 1970's. Perhaps not the most authentic Bach, it remains an enthusiastic presentation of this hymn of thanksgiving.

**Peace Pole Dedication** We will be dedicating our newly renovated peace pole on December 1 between worship and Sunday school. Please dress warm and come to the northwest corner of the BCMC property for a short litany and photo opportunity as we bear witness to peace in our community and around the world. May peace prevail.

**Invitation to join Fine Arts class for Advent!** Starting on December 1, the Fine Arts class will be following the Sunday School/small group materials in Pastor Joanna's book, *Expecting Emmanuel*. Fine Arts class meets in Room 22. Kindly inform Elizabeth Schmidt if you plan to join so that we can accommodate group size.

**BCMC Offering for Nov. 17:** Gen. Fund \$8,682; Wed. Supper \$304; Caring Fund \$841.50; Flower Fund \$20; Kitchen Fund \$7; Mission Quilters \$187.60

**The Deacons Commission invites you to donate to the BCMC Caring Fund budget.** A fishbowl will be available for your donation in the back of the sanctuary. Thank you for your continued support. *The Deacons Commission*

**The Library Theme until the end of November is Immigration.** When we chose this theme several months ago, the Committee felt that this would be a timely topic and it turns out to be even more so since the election. These books are on the east wall behind the library desk. We also have several new titles on our Recent Shelving on the west wall. Please come in and check us out. And, don't forget that we still have many puzzles for your puzzling pleasure with a suggested donation of \$5.

#### **Camp Mennoscah Announcements**

- **The Verenike Meal has returned!** Save the date for a tasty verenike casserole meal Sat., Dec. 14, 5:30 p.m. at Faith Mennonite Church. Meals will be pick up or delivery. A reservation form will be available soon.
- **Giving Tuesday is December 3.** You can be part of Jesus' work at Camp Mennoscah through prayer, volunteering, or financial gifts. Your gifts support summer youth camps, the comfort and enjoyment of guest groups, and care of the facilities. Give online at [campmennoscah.org](http://campmennoscah.org) through the Donate Here button or send to Camp Mennoscah.
- **There are currently materials on hand for 18 of 35 projects remaining on the HVAC renovation** at the Retreat Center. Work groups can be of any size (within reason). Contact Isaac at 316-217-5626 or Olivia at 316-293-7313 to set up a time for you or your group.

**A big thank you to all who donated money and or volunteered labor** for this year's Mennonite Central Committee meat canning project. The amount of \$4,575 has been given so far this year for meat canning.

— Lowell Stucky, BCMC representative for MCC Meat Canning

#### **Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) Announcements**

- **MCC Borderlands Peace Camp, Jan. 19-25, 2025** Young adults, ages 18-30, are invited to join MCC in El Paso, TX and Ciudad Juarez, Mexico in January. This MCC Peace Camp will explore topics of peace and justice through the lens of migration, including the Biblical mandate of hospitality. Find out more and register by January 5 at [mcc.org/borderlands-peace-camp](http://mcc.org/borderlands-peace-camp).
- **Serving And Learning Together (SALT) applications now open for 2025!** Each year, MCC offers 80+ unique opportunities to serve with our local partners working for relief, development and peace around the world. Explore the numerous possibilities that match your passions, skills, and experience. If you're between the ages of 18-30, the SALT program might be the epic adventure you've been waiting for. Check it out at [mcc.org/salt](http://mcc.org/salt)
- **MCC Open House, 121 E. 30th St., North Newton, Tues., Dec. 3 from 2 p.m.—4 p.m.** All are welcome to come see the updated space at MCC Central States in North Newton. Bring your Christmas shopping list to get your alternative Christmas gifts purchased from our tree, visit with MCC staff, and get a tour while you enjoy some snacks. [mcc.org/open-house](http://mcc.org/open-house)
- **Giving Tuesday at MCC, Tues., Dec. 3 from 6:30 p.m.—8 p.m.** This annual evening of service will kick off your holiday season! It is an all-ages event focused on service and fellowship. Please bring new dark colored hand towels with you – the more you bring, the more hygiene kits we can pack. There will be Christmas cards to write in and comforters to tie and snacks to enjoy. A great way to give back on Giving Tuesday! [mcc.org/giving-tuesday](http://mcc.org/giving-tuesday)
- **Yule love this! Join us for a live, online event Dec. 3, 11 a.m. CST** as we take you behind the scenes of MCC's Christmas Giving Guide. Discover the impact behind each gift and how your generosity makes a difference. Learn more and register to join this event at [mcc.org/yule-love-this](http://mcc.org/yule-love-this).

**Bake Sale items are needed for the "Friends of Kidron Holiday Market, Sat., Dec. 7, 9 a.m.—1 p.m.** They are asking for donations for the Friends of Kidron bake sale booth. Popular items are cinnamon/pecan rolls, coffee cakes, breads, cakes, zwiebach, pies, cookies, cupcakes, muffins, jelly/jam, candy/fudge, and other sweets. Please drop off the baked goods Fri., Dec. 6 in Kidron Hall from 9 to 4 p.m. or Sat., Dec. 7 at 8 a.m. All proceeds benefit the Kidron Health Care Benevolent Fund.