

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 requests prayer for Alfonsina and José Oyanguren, who are engaged in multiple ministries, including teaching and accompanying Toba-Qom communities in Argentina’s Chaco region. Pray that the Oyangurens will continue to be God’s agents for transformation and that our Toba-Qom brothers and sisters will be able to live ever more fully into God’s abundant life.

Western District Conference Prayer Request: As we enter the New Year, we pray for peace and joy for our loved ones and neighbors. May Christ’s presence guide their lives with love and hope. We also remember our brothers and sisters around the world, trusting in God’s love to unite us as we step into a new season of grace and renewal. - WDC Church Planting Commission

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

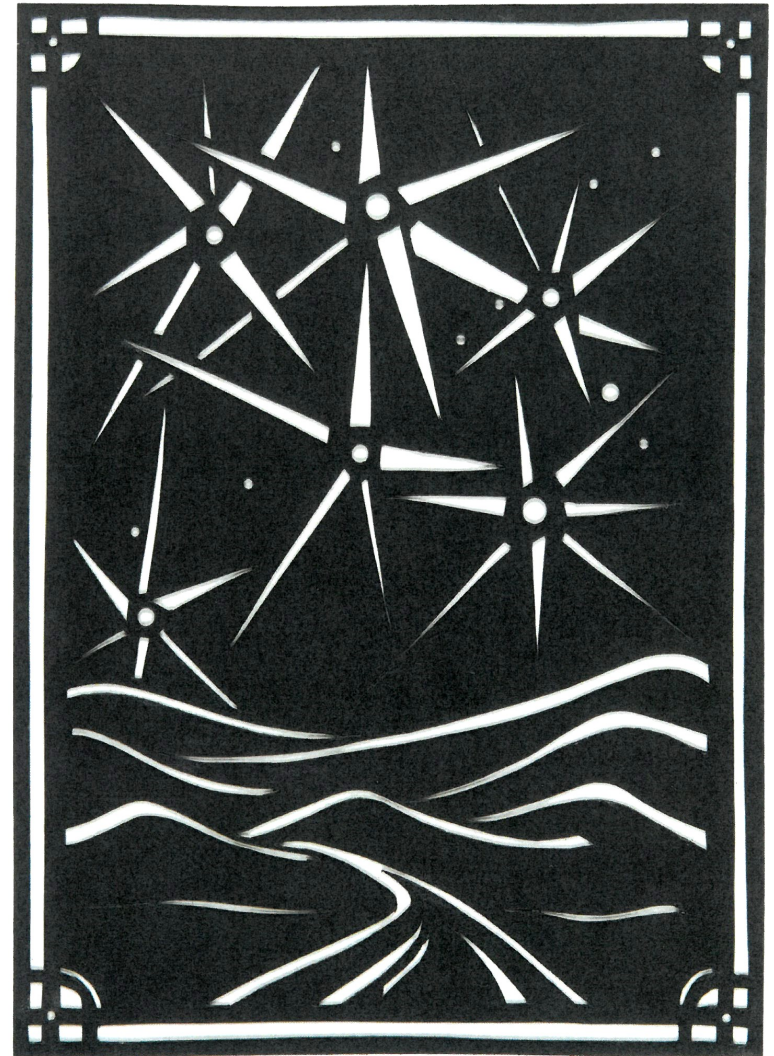
Building is locked weekdays at 5 p.m. unless evening activities are scheduled

Saturdays—building is locked

Sundays—building is locked at 2 p.m. unless afternoon/evening activities are scheduled

- Pastor Joanna Harader, On Vacation December 30, 2024 to January 13, 2025
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 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 December 29, 2024



MARY’S BLESSING

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

December 29, 2024

First Sunday After Christmas

Christ Candle Lighting

Litany:

Leader: Together we seek the Holy One.
We call upon our God, who is near.

**All: Near in the Christ child we celebrate.
Near in the Spirit we receive.
Near in the creation we inhabit.**

Leader: Together we proclaim Emmanuel—

All: God-with-us.

Leader: Together we live Emmanuel.

All: Thanks be to God.

Centering Music

Verlene Garber

Welcome & Prayer

Darlene Dick

*Hymn

O Come, All Ye Faithful

VT 241

Children's Conversation

Esther Kreider Eash

*Hymn

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

VT 261

Scripture Reading

Luke 2:1-7

Brad and Lincoln Kohlman

*Hymn

Still, Still, Still

VT 264

Scripture Reading

Luke 2:8-20

Brad and Lincoln Kohlman

*Hymn

Angels, from the Realms of Glory

VT 265

Reflection

Birth Plan

Joanna Harader

*Hymn

Love Came Down at Christmas

VT 255

Prayers of God's People

Darlene Dick

*Hymn

Go Tell It on the Mountain

VT 252

*Benediction

Postlude

Verlene Garber

*You are invited to stand ■ VT—*Voices Together* ■ Audio visual— FrancisToews

MARY'S BLESSING

My fellow travelers—

you who flee danger,
and you who return home;
you who make a faithful pilgrimage,
and you who search for what is lost:

I cannot tell where the road will lead,
who will accompany you,
or what stars might guide you.

I cannot promise ease or safety.

I cannot say whether you will have to turn around
to go back for something left behind.

I cannot guarantee that every blessing you receive on the way
will be a blessing you want.

But I hope this blessing is one you will carry,
a blessing to ride comfortably in your pocket,
or rest softly in your hands;
a blessing to accompany you, whatever the journey brings:

May you know God in your own heart
and in the heart of your faith community.

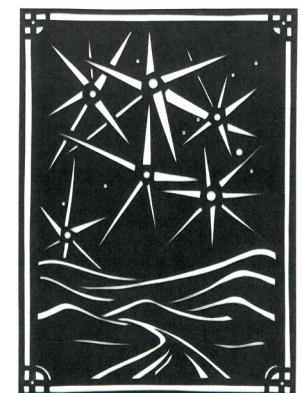
May you be brave toward your fear
and persistent through deep difficulties.

May you hold your responsibilities faithfully
and lightly—with grace and joy.

May you teach well
and learn well.

May you give attention and compassion
to the lives that surround you,
and to your own hard and beautiful life.

[Artwork on the bulletin cover
by Michelle Burkholder
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Newton Community for Racial Justice will hold its annual anti-racism training Feb. 13-15, 2025. This is a date change from previous years. Training will be held at the Newton Recreation Center from Thurs. evening, Feb. 13 through Sat. afternoon, Feb. 15. Early Bird registration (until Jan. 3): \$300 per participant. Regular registration (after Jan. 3): \$350 per participant. Some scholarships are available.

REGISTER HERE: <https://forms.gle/pXViB4fzH8y3u7WM7>

Payment can be made online: https://www.convergepay.com/hosted-payments?ssl_txn_auth_token=%2Bd%2Fr1xrRRCaZybUyv2z%2FeAAAAZON0fyjv

Hesston College Music Department will host a program called Anabaptism at Five Hundred: Hymn Festival Sun., Jan. 19, 2025, 3 p.m., at Hesston Mennonite Church. The Hymn Festival coincides with the 500th anniversary of the first Anabaptist adult baptisms in Zurich, Switzerland in 1525. This event will also celebrate the release of the *Anabaptist Community Bible*. The public is invited to this community wide celebration that involves singers from surrounding churches, as well as audience participation in the singing of hymns, led by Russell Adrian and Karen Unruh. The core of the program will be historical narrative by Ken Rodgers tracing important hymns and texts throughout the past five centuries.

MC USA Climate Justice | Zoom book study

Join MC USA in imagining a sustainable future for ourselves, our children and our planet by participating in an online book study of the compelling and timely book, "So We and Our Children May Live" by Sarah Augustine and Sheri Hostetler. In five sessions (Jan. 16 through Feb.13, 2025), we will engage in discussions in both large and small groups, interact with the authors, and explore how we – and our communities – are called to contribute to creating a more just and vibrant world. Register on-line today!

Bethel College Announcements

Sat., Jan. 4 : Kauffman Museum bird walk, 8 a.m. start time in the museum parking lot at the corner of Main and 27th streets (2801 N. Main St., North Newton 67117). Experienced birders lead a walk of 1-1.5 hours in Chisholm Park and on Sand Creek Trail.

Sun., Jan. 12: Sunday-Afternoon-at-the-Museum program, "A Mennonite Sojourn in Central Asia, 1880-1935," with historian John Sharp, 3 p.m., Kauffman Museum auditorium.

Mon., Jan. 20: Bethel College's annual celebration of the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday, 7 p.m., with local pastor (retired) and community leader Larry Lee; Krehbiel Auditorium in Luyken Fine Arts Center

Sat., Jan. 25: Kauffman Museum annual Kansas Day event, "At Home on the Range," noon-4 p.m., museum parking lot and grounds. For more information, see the Kauffman Museum Facebook page or kauffmanmuseum.org

The Week at BCMC: December 29, 2024—January 5, 2025

Sunday, December 29, 2024—First Sunday After Christmas

10 a.m. Worship followed by Christmas goodies, treats, and snacks in the Gathering Place—No Sunday School

YouTube Link for the worship service this Sunday:

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

The church office will also be closed December 30 and 31.

9:30 a.m. January 5, 2025—Epiphany Sunday — Sermon by Nathan Koontz

10:30 a.m. Faith Formation

Service of Remembrance

As we are in the holiday season that brings joy with the promise of new life and love birthed into our world, there is also grief as we miss those who have passed from this world in 2024. In order to recognize and mourn the loss of our loved ones from 2024, Bethel College Mennonite Church is hosting a Service of Remembrance on **January 5, 2025 at 4 p.m.**, in the BCMC sanctuary.

Pastor Joanna Harader will be on vacation from December 30, 2024 to January 13, 2025.

We offer sympathy to the family of Leona Kaufman. Leona died Dec. 24 at Pine Village, Moundridge. Services are pending.

We offer sympathy to the family of Helen Pauls. Helen died Dec. 25 at Kidron Bethel Village.

The memorial service for Dorothea (Dotty) Janzen will be Jan. 20, 2025, 11 a.m. at BCMC.

Activity bags are 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*

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 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.

BCMC Offering for Dec. 22: Gen. Fund \$13,947; Caring Fund \$200; Kitchen Fund \$5; Solar Fund \$1,000; Kurt Friesen Memorial (for Organ Fund) \$5,000.

There will be a congregational meeting on Sun., Jan. 26, during the Sunday School hour in the sanctuary. The meeting will be available through streaming options. An agenda will be available in the near future. The following items will be included on the agenda: The Church Board recommends the approval of Melanie Mueller to the Witness Commission and approval of the 2025 BCMC Budget.

Mark your Calendars! "Guess Who's Coming to Dinner" will be Feb. 23 for the noon meal with sign-up for hosts and guests on Jan. 19 and 26. Sponsored by Hospitality Commission.

Mennonite Mission Network invites you to join a Just Peace Pilgrimage this spring. Embark on one of these life-changing learning experiences:

- **United States Civil Rights Pilgrimage** — Explore the history, significance, and ongoing implications of the civil rights movement in the United States. Young adults are invited to join Glen Guyton, MC USA executive director, for an enlightening journey. To foster dialog and understanding you are invited to join this pilgrimage with a partner of a different race.
- **Christ at the Borders (Calais, France)** — Thousands of people migrate to Calais in hopes of crossing the English Channel and entering the United Kingdom to find a better life. Meet those walking alongside the vulnerable who search for a peaceful home and the travelers themselves.
- **Solidarity with Indigenous Peoples (Yakima, Washington)** — Led by Sarah Augustine. Become better acquainted with Indigenous Peoples, their connection to the land upon which we live, and the consequences of settler colonial history.
- **For more information and to sign up, visit MennoniteMission.net/JustPeace or contact Stephanie Weaver at StephanieW@MennoniteMission.net.**

Western District Conference seeks a half-time Program Director for WDC's Kids Meet Christ (KMC) worship and faith formation initiative, beginning Feb. 1, 2025. This program is made possible through Lilly Endowment Inc.'s Nurturing Children Through Worship and Prayer Initiative, designed to help congregations more fully and intentionally engage children in intergenerational corporate worship and prayer practices. The KMC Program Director will serve as a member of the WDC staff, collaborating with other staff and the Resource Commission to implement the KMC initiative over the 5-year grant period. For position description and application form, see <https://mennowdc.org/employment/>. Interested applicants please submit application form and letter of interest to the Conference Minister at heidirk@mennowdc.org.

Kauffman Museum invites you to visit during the holidays. The museum is closed Mondays, New Year's Day; open 9 a.m.-1 p.m. New Year's Eve; open regular hours Thurs.-Sun. (9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. weekdays, 1:30-4:30 p.m. weekends). The current special exhibit is "Unlocking the Past: Immigrant Artifacts and the Stories They Tell." Permanent exhibits "Of Land and People," "Mirror of the Martyrs" and "Mennonite Immigrant Furniture." The museum store is also open during those hours, with books, games, art and other gift items (including from Ten Thousand Villages) for sale; see <https://www.kauffmanmuseum.org/museum-store>

New Bluestem U lifelong learning courses for winter and spring 2025 are now open for registration. Courses are available for individuals age 55 and better. This semester's offerings include STEAM, theatre, astronomy, bird watching and a free author's series. See more information and registration at bluestemu.org. Bluestem U is a lifelong learning program of Bluestem Communities in partnership with Bethel College and Hesston College.

Volunteers needed at Rocky Mountain! Camp needs your help to assist with Foodservice/Housekeeping for our upcoming Jr and Sr High Snow Camps, January 24-26 and February 14-16. Please visit the camp website at rmmc.org and follow the link to the volunteer information and sign up to join us.

Rocky Mountain Mennonite Camp is host to Colorado Roots Music Camp I (June 1-7, 2025) and Camp II (August 10-16, 2025). We are happy to announce the instructors and classes for the 2025 camps have been selected and are listed on the website. Our instructors are some of the top players in the nation, but they were chosen because they're known by peers and students as great instructors for all levels. For more information and registration, visit the camp website at rmmc.org.

Western District Conference (MC USA) Israel-Palestine Task Force invites you to a book discussion group Feb. 25, 7 p.m. CST held on Zoom. We will be reading *Apeirogon* by Colum McCann, an award winning author who writes a book of tiny chapters, each one a breath, a feeling, a story. An apeirogon is a polygon with an observably infinite number of sides. The book is based on the real life experiences of two friends, an Israeli who opposes the occupation and a Palestinian who studies the Holocaust. They meet in a parent grief support group, as both have tragically lost their daughters. Their stories and their peace work buoy the heart as the book goes on a journey through love, loss, reflection, and hope. As you read, note the connections between the stories and the theme of ending the occupation in Palestine. To register, email wdc@mennowdc.org, and a Zoom link will be sent out.