

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: Join Mennonite Mission Network in praying for Odesa Theological Seminary in Ukraine. Professors are adapting curricula to the changing needs of a society traumatized by prolonged war. Pray for the students, who are immediately putting into practice what they learn in their courses about Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and crisis counseling and as they share the healing love of Christ.

Western District Conference Prayer Request: Give thanks for those who serve on WDC Commissions, and pray for them as they guide ministries that sustain pastors and other ministers, provide resources for congregations, and support church planting partnerships in our conference.

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 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 8, 2024—Advent 2



RAHAB'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 8, 2024

Second Sunday of Advent

Prelude Music Gesù Bambino (Yon; arr. Walters) Ben Lichti-Trumpet
Holy Night/Silent Night (Sinshack) Angelika Donaldson
Hark! the Herald Angels Sing [VT 247] Men's Ensemble
William Eash, Ron Garber, Joe Peters, Weldon Schloneger, Tim Hodge
The People That Walked in Darkness (Handel)
Doyle and Mary Jo Preheim

Advent Candle Lighting Beaty and Jim Robb, Gabby and Jake Robb
Scripture Reading Hebrews 11:29-31

Litany:
By faith the people passed through the Red Sea.
By faith we come with open hearts.

By faith the walls of Jericho fell.
By faith we offer praise and prayers.

By faith Rahab received the spies in peace.
By faith we gather together for worship.

Lighting the candle of Faith

Welcome & Prayer Adam Robb

*Hymn With Mary Sing Magnificat VT 208

Kin-dom Report Jill Robb

Children's Conversation Esther Koontz

Worship Music Sing We Now of Christmas (arr. Fred Prentice)
Chancel Choir; Joel Garber, director; Will Wiebe-Friesen, accompanist

Scripture Reading Joshua 2:1-9, 12-15
Raylene Hinz-Penner, Esther Kreider Eash, Kevin Neufeld, Brad Kohlman

*Hymn Unexpected and Mysterious VT 229

Sermon Rahab: On the Margins Nathan Koontz

*Hymn Comfort, Comfort, O My People VT 212

Prayers of God's People

*Hymn Great is Thy Faithfulness VT 419

*Benediction

Postlude Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme [VT 226], (J.S. Bach)
Will Wiebe-Friesen

- * You are invited to stand
- VT—Voices Together
- Audio visual—Ken Lamp

RAHAB'S BLESSING

Perhaps you have been there too, on the edge, a mere windowsill away from being cast out completely.
When you are pushed to edges, may you insist on your own story with such grit and grace that they have no choice but to tell it.

Maybe you have been there, too, in the midst of uncertainty, having to choose the form of your own potential devastation.
When you are far from center, may you know the power and freedom that God grants to those on the margins.

It's possible you have been there, too, stuck with a label that is true and fine and used to diminish.
When you face impossible choices, may you act with integrity and courage, resting in the shield of God's grace.

For all who have been there (or for wherever you have been), I offer this blessing as a bright crimson cord to disrupt destruction:
When others dismiss you with a label, may you claim your deep identity as a beloved child of the Creator.



[Artwork on the bulletin cover by Michelle Burkholder
Blessings by Joanna Harader originally appeared in
Expecting Emmanuel, © 2022 by Joanna Harader,
Distributed by Herald Press, Harrisonburg, VA 22803]

Music On Site presents *Amahl and the Night Visitors*, a classic Christmas opera, performed live with singers from around the country. This heartwarming story of a young boy who gives everything to the promised Child will be sure to inspire your holiday season. Free admission, ticket required. Performances:

Thurs., Dec. 19, 7 p.m. McPherson Opera House, 219 S. Main St.

Fri., Dec. 20, 7 p.m. Whitestone Mennonite Church, 629 Crescent Dr., Hesston

Sat., Dec. 21, 2 p.m. Kidron Bethel Village 3001 Ivy Dr., North Newton

Sun., Dec. 22, 2 p.m. Westwood Presbyterian Church, 8007 W Maple St., Wichita

See the church bulletin board for ticket information. Or go to: [https://](https://www.musiconsite.org/2024-season)

www.musiconsite.org/2024-season

(Music On Site, Inc. is a Kansas-based 501(c)(3) music production company that works to close opera's opportunity gap across socioeconomic divisions by cultivating opera education and appreciation in K-12 students in rural communities, and advancing and promoting the careers of those pursuing a career in opera.)

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. Registration link and more details to come.

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.

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.

The Week at BCMC: December 8—15, 2024

Sunday, December 8, 2024—Advent 2

9:15 a.m. Prelude **9:30 a.m.** Worship: sermon by Joanna Harader

10:30 a.m. Faith Formation

Attendants in Nursery today:

YouTube Link for the worship service this Sunday:

<https://youtube.com/live/hq2UC7NknjQ?feature=share>

12:30 p.m. Bible Study Class Christmas Dinner at the home of Marlene Faul

Tuesday, December 10, 2024

9 a.m. Women's Fellowship Executive Board meeting in Room 14

7-9 p.m. Bethel College Relations Team Study Break for Bethel College students in Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, December 11, 2024

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

Thursday, December 12, 2024

9-11 a.m. Community Playschool Christmas Celebration with Playschool Families in Fellowship Hall

5:15 Hospitality Commission meeting in Fellowship Hall

6 p.m. Chancel Bells Rehearsal in Room B7

Sunday, December 15, 2024—Third Sunday of Advent

9:15 a.m. Advent Prelude by Chancel Bells

9:30 a.m. Worship with sermon by Joanna Harder; music by Chancel Bells

10:30 a.m. Faith Formation

BCMC Offering for Dec. 1: Gen. Fund \$5,117; Kitchen Fund \$62; Plant Fund \$50; Gen Fund 2025 \$250; Caring Fund \$100; Library Reserve Fund \$10; Flower Fund \$40; Solar Fund \$550; Clara Koehn Mem. \$300.



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:

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 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*

Join Fine Arts Class in the Chapel for Advent sessions following Pastor Joanna's book, *Expecting Emmanuel*. Whether or not you have purchased the book, you are welcome to join and listen, ponder, and share.

The finance committee will be working on the 2025 budget next week and would like to thank everyone for sending in the bcmcXpress intent form. We would welcome any who have not yet submitted this form to do so in order for us to have a better picture of our resources for the coming year. Thank you in advance for participating in this process! *The Finance Committee*

Christmas Program for everyone, sponsored by Women's Fellowship, will be Tues., Dec. 17, at 7 p.m., in the sanctuary. Will Wiebe-Friesen will provide both organ and piano music. Also more to come. Refreshments in the Gathering Place.

The current Library Theme is Advent/Christmas. Come on in and find ideas for Christmas activities, devotions, even fiction books set around the holidays. And, if you're looking for a unique Christmas gift, our committee always has a Wish List. Why not consider giving a book in their honor/memory or purchase one of our puzzles for a suggested donation of \$5? As always, Happy Reading/Puzzling!

The Deacons Commission is working on a "Thinking of You" campaign for people who are isolated due to health concerns. For the next few Sundays, we will have a table under the dove banner in the Gathering Place with pages for your comments to members of our church whom we haven't been able to see for a while. Please stop by and write a short greeting or sign your name to let them know we are thinking about them. For those of you who are unable to attend worship but can stop by the church during the week, these letters will remain on the table during the week for anyone to write a note before we send them out. Thank you! —*Deacon Commission*

Birthday calendars - with photos of BCMC by Weldon Schloneger - are available in the back of the sanctuary for a suggested donation of \$10. Checks may be written to BCMC with Women's Fellowship written in the memo line. These birthday calendars are great gifts and work well for keeping track of birthdays of family and friends. Donations will be used for WF ministries.

Camp Mennoscah Announcement

The Verenike Meal has returned! Save the date for a verenike casserole meal Sat., Dec. 14, 5:30 p.m. at Faith Mennonite Church. Meals will be pick up or delivery. A reservation form can be found on the Camp Mennoscah website.

Lauren Friesen will have a book signing at the Carriage Factory Art Gallery on Dec. 7, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. His "Prairie Lands, Private Landscapes" and "Theatre and Aesthetics" will be available for signing.

Worship Commission thanks those who have participated in worship services this year with children's conversation, scripture reading, worship leading. A special thanks to William Eash, Dale Schrag, Adam Robb, and Lois Preheim who each spent several months as the volunteer Worship Coordinator, matching persons with worship tasks. Additional thanks goes to all who worked with banners and visuals, audio visuals, ushering, music-making and more -- to make worship at BCMC integrated and vibrant.

Bethel College Announcements

- **Sun., Dec. 8: David Janzen will read from and sign his book, *Once Upon a Time There Was a Three-Year-Old Grandpa*, 3 p.m.** at Kauffman Museum. Janzen is a long-time member of Reba Place Fellowship in Evanston, IL, and the book is a memoir-like collection of stories and anecdotes. Copies will be available in the museum store.
- **Sun., Dec. 8: 39th annual Lighting of the Green, 8 p.m.** on the Bethel College campus
- **Kauffman Museum at Bethel College seeks a visitor service and education coordinator.** This is a part-time (50%) position for an organized, detail-oriented, curious and friendly person to work with visitors, school groups, volunteers, student staff, and scheduling. For a job description and to apply, visit <https://www.kauffmanmuseum.org/vsc> For more information, contact Andi Schmidt Andres at asa@bethelks.edu or 316-283-1612.

The Annual Christmas Brass Concert will be held at the **Alexanderwohl Mennonite Church, today, Sun., Dec. 8, 7 p.m.** Come join a Great evening of Brass Music with the McPherson Brass and the Goessel Elbiata Singers as well as enjoying audience participation in singing of familiar Christmas Carols. A free will offering with support the ministries of the Goessel Ministerial Alliance. 1304 K KS-15, Goessel, KS

Let Central Kansas Master Chorale be a part of your Christmas tradition!

Please join us for *Christmas with the Chorale*, a festive concert with CKMC under the direction of Dr. Joel Garber, and featuring the Prairie Bronze Handbell Ensemble. This free event will be held at 3 p.m., Sun., Dec. 15 at Hesston Mennonite Church, 309 S Main St., Hesston. For more information, visit the chorale website at www.centrankansasmasterchorale.org.