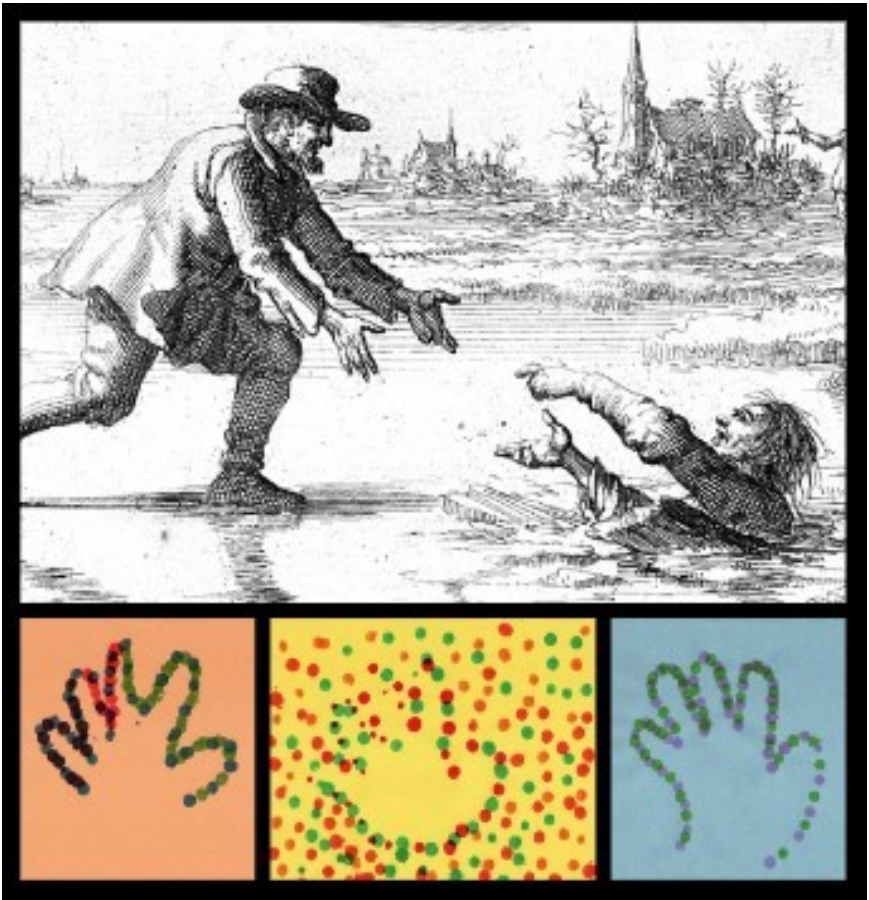


Bethel College Mennonite Church
February 2, 2025



Helping Hands

Inspired by the artwork of Melissa Hofer and Jan Luyken

Dotwork by Lawrence, Jake, and Gabby

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

February 2, 2025

Anabaptism 500 Celebration

Christ Candle Lighting

Centering Music

Meditation (Bartsch)

Chancel Bells; Verlene Garber, director

Welcome, Prayer, and Land Acknowledgment Deb Gering & Ani Koontz

*Hymn

Could It Be That God Is Singing?

VT 42

Children's Conversation

Dorothy Nickel Friesen

Worship Music

The Church's One Foundation (Dennis) Chancel Bells

Kin-dom Report

Border Trip

Ani Koontz and Grace Harader-Ellett

*Hymn

O God, We Read the Holy Law

VT 571

Scripture Reading

Mark 12:28-34

Ben Preheim

Sermon

Crucial Balancing Acts

Dale Schrag

Hymn

I Sing With Exultation

VT 444

Prayers of God's People

Deb Gering & Ani Koontz

*Hymn

Go, My Friends, in Grace

VT 810

*Benediction

Postlude

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise
(setting by Michael Burkhardt)

Karen Schlabaugh

*You are invited to stand ■ VT—*Voices Together*

■ Keyboard—Karen Schlabaugh ■ Audio visual—Ken Lamp

The Week at BCMC: February 2—9, 2025

Sunday, February 2, 2025

9:30 a.m. Worship — 10:30 a.m. Faith Formation

YouTube Link for the worship service this Sunday:

<https://youtube.com/live/GfAmUE64jZg?feature=share>

Wednesday, February 5, 2025

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

Thursday, February 6, 2025

4 p.m. Staff Congregation Relations Committee meeting in Room 14

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

7 p.m. Church Board meeting in Room 14

Sunday, February 9, 2025—Quilts for the Mennonite Central Committee Relief

Sale will be displayed in the back of the church, under the balcony

9:30 a.m. Worship with sermon by Nathan Koontz; music by Chancel Choir

10:30 a.m. Faith Formation

Anabaptism at 500 Celebration

- **January 21 was the 500th anniversary of what is noted as the beginning of Anabaptism:** the baptism of George Blaurock, Conrad Grebel, and a dozen others in Zurich, Switzerland.
- **Some of our many Anabaptist History books are currently being highlighted in our church library to coincide with the 500 Year Anabaptist Celebration.** We have quite a collection in back of our library desk (including two new editions of the Anabaptist Community Bible), but these are by no means all of them. Several more are available, many in the 289.7 section. Please come in and peruse at your leisure.

Upcoming Memorial Services:

- **Helen Paul's** memorial service will be at Kidron Bethel Village, Kidron Hall on Feb. 28 at 2:30 p.m.
- **We offer sympathy to the family of Edie Krehbiel.** Edie died January 23 at Paramount Community, Newton. Edie's memorial service will be March 7, 11 a.m. at BCMC.

If you are interested in becoming a member, transferring membership, or learning more about membership at BCMC, please contact Elizabeth Schmidt, Pastor for Congregational Care. She will be happy to visit with you!

Pastor Nathan is attending a retreat for Anabaptist worship writing in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, Jan. 31 through Feb. 3.

Pastor Joanna will be attending a retreat at Holy Wisdom Monastery near Madison, Wisconsin, February 6-9.

"Guess Who's Coming to Dinner" will be Sun., Feb. 23, at noon. Sign-up today in the Gathering Place. Indicate whether you would like to be a host or guest. Hosts provide main dish, beverage, and maybe bread. Guests are assigned a side dish (vegetable, salad, dessert), or maybe bread. Experience this event interacting with some of our congregational members, as assigned, on a social level.

Board Game Night to support the Coalition to Dismantle the Doctrine of Discovery: Pastor Joanna is currently working with other members of the Coalition to develop a board game that addresses issues connected to Indigenous justice. To raise awareness of and money for this project, the Indigenous Task Force is hosting a board game night on Fri., Feb. 21, at 7 p.m. in the church Fellowship Hall. We will have a prototype of the Coalition game available along with plenty of other game options. There is no charge to attend the event, but we will receive donations for the Coalition from those who would like to contribute.

Kansas Mennonite Relief Sale (KMRS) is April 11 & 12, at the Kansas State Fairgrounds in Hutchinson. This year's theme is "In the name of Christ."

- **BCMC Sunday School Classes help underwrite KMRS costs.** All expenses are covered before the sale, so 100% of revenue goes directly to Mennonite Central Committee.
- **Start collecting your coins!** BCMC's My Coins Count drive begins in February.
- **Run for Relief entry forms** are available to sign up to run, walk, jog, or be a sponsor.
- **Do you have a quilt to donate, or are you considering bidding on a quilt?** This year, the KMRS quilt committee is asking that all quilt auction items be turned in by **Feb. 14 — at least two weeks earlier than previous years.** This means that the display of quilts at BCMC will be **Sun., Feb. 9 from 9 to 11 a.m.**
- **Donate furniture, quilts, vehicles, or children's items** for the auctions.
- **WANTED: Cars, Trucks, Motorcycles, Campers, Tractors, Farm Machinery and anything of value to be sold at this year's KMRS.** Your donations can be used as a Charitable Tax Donation. More info: call Jerry Toews, 620 367 8257.
- **For more information** see the KMRS website at <https://kansas.mccsale.org/>, the posterboard in the Gathering Place, or contact a BCMC liaison (Brad and Diane Born, William and Esther Kreider Eash, and Steve and Elaine Schurr)

The Great Winter Warm-up: Spread warmth around the world this winter by helping Mennonite Central Committee reach a goal of 7000 comforters by the end of March. You can sponsor, donate one (or more) comforters, or attend a comforter event to tie in community with others. If you host an event in your home, church or community please let tinaschrag@mcc.org know about it (we've got some small gifts for those who host events!). Check mcc.org/great-winter-warm-up for instructions, coloring pages for kids and more!

Mennonite Central Committee announcements

- **The 17th annual Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) Comforter Blitz is March 3, 4 and 5 at the Journey Facilities Building** behind Charis Community Church, 3605 E. Long View Rd, Haven, near Yoder. Mon. 9-5, Tues. 9-9 (note that these hours are extended) and Wed. 9-4. No sewing skills required. Lunch is available by donation each day, or bring your own sack lunch. Snacks are welcome to share. This event is hosted by Kansas Friends of MCC. Info at mcc.org/comforter-blitz or email brociamueller@mcc.org, 316-283-2720.
- **The MCC Central States board will hold it's annual meeting Sat., March 1 from 2-3:30 p.m.** at MCC Central States in North Newton. All are welcome to attend.

Volunteers needed at New Hope Shelter: More than 25 volunteers from BCMC currently serve at New Hope Shelter during designated weeks, in coordination with supporting congregations throughout Harvey, Marion, and McPherson counties. Some help provide evening meals and others stay through the evening (5-10 p.m.) to support a paid staff person. As volunteers come and go, we can always use more help to cover this commitment. If you can volunteer or would like more information, please email Cynthia Linscheid at cdlin319@gmail.com. You may also attend an orientation session on Mon., Feb. 3, 7:30 p.m., at New Hope Shelter, to learn more.

Bethel College Announcements

- **Thurs., Feb. 6: Bethel College Faculty Recital: Chris Miertschin, brass (rescheduled from fall 2024)**, 7 p.m., Krehbiel Auditorium.
- **Mon., Feb. 3: "Untethered," ceramics by David Long, opens in the Regier Art Gallery in Luyken Fine Arts Center** at Bethel College, through March 14 (reception March 6). Gallery hours are Mon.-Fri. 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Sun. 2-4 p.m.
- **Sun., Feb. 9: Sunday-Afternoon-at-the-Museum with Carmaletta Williams from the Black Archives of Mid-America, 3 p.m.**, *Kauffman Museum auditorium*. Her program, "Free Did Not Mean Welcome," is sponsored by the Kansas Humanities Speakers Bureau and is in conjunction with Kauffman Museum's "Unlocking the Past" exhibit on immigration.
- **Tues., Feb. 18: Bethel College Organ Recital Series:** Dr. Kevin Vaughn, University of Notre Dame, 7 p.m., Administration Building chapel

EVERENCE® can help make Medicare an easy step by joining them for an informal conversation on Medicare Mondays. The following will be covered: Enrollment details and deadlines, when to start Social Security, prescription drug coverage, plans that supplement Medicare. The webinars will be presented by Everence professionals and are the second Monday of the month at 2 and 8 p.m. (Eastern Time): Feb. 10, March 10, April 14, May 12. Visit the Everence website for more information.

As our state and national political climate becomes increasingly threatening to trans and queer people, you are invited to “the gayest Anabaptist gathering of the year”! Join LGBTQIA+ people and their allies/accomplices for *Fabulous, Fierce, and Sacred*—a weekend of worship, fellowship, learning, and community: May 2-4 in Philadelphia, PA. Please share this invitation with those you think would be interested. Contact Pastor Joanna to learn more and to coordinate travel to the event.

Kansas Interfaith Action (KIFA) works with people of faith to promote justice-focused public policy in the state of Kansas. Please consider participating in an upcoming lobby day at the Kansas Statehouse to advocate for affordable housing, Medicaid expansion, and KIFA’s legislative priorities of supporting public education, lgbtqia+ rights, economic justice, and climate and clean energy. Let Pastor Joanna know if you’d like to attend any of these events and she will help coordinate transportation.

—Love Your Neighbor Day for Medicaid expansion, February 4

—Kansas Housing Advocacy Network Capitol Hill Day, February 13

—KIFA Day, March 10

Newton Community for Racial Justice will hold its annual anti-racism training Feb. 13-15. 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. Registration: \$350 per participant. Some scholarships are available. See BCMC emails for registration and payment forms.

Western District Conference Israel Palestine Task Force Update

On Feb. 25 at 7 p.m. CT, Esther Koontz will lead a Zoom discussion of the book, *Apeirogon* by Colum McCann. Special guest, Tareq Abuhamila, will begin the meeting with an update of life on the ground in Gaza based on reports from his family in Gaza. Participants will have a chance to ask Tareq questions, give their responses to the book, and name their own stories of peace to add to the book’s 1001 powerful vignettes. Please register by emailing wdc@mennowdc.org by Mon., Feb. 17.

Life Enrichment, in the Bethel College Krehbiel Auditorium, is a series designed especially for adults age 60 and over. Programs for February 5:

9:30 a.m. “VITA: Volunteers for Income Tax Assistance,” Larry Lee, VITA volunteer, Newton, and Sam Jack, adult services librarian, Newton Public Library.

10:50 a.m. “The Historical Presentation of Mrs. J.T. Smith (‘Henrietta’ as she is known by her friends),” Anna Smith, executive director, Kansas Alliance of Professional Historic Performers, Carbondale.

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.



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*

BCMC Offering for Jan. 26: Gen. Fund \$12,067; Plant Fund \$50; Sr Hi Youth \$3,182; Caring Fund \$100; Kitchen Fund \$22; Solar Fund \$1,000; Dotty Janzen Mem. \$125.

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 Supreme Court has not yet released a decision on whether they will hear Apache Stronghold's appeal. The Apache Stronghold asks for our continued prayers for Oak Flat, Apache Stronghold, and the Supreme Court.

Together we pray:

*God of bones and umbilical cords,
Creator of light and wind,
Source of love,
Giver of food for all creatures,
You care for Oak Flat (Chi'Chil Bildagoteel) and the peoples who call this place home.
Ignite all hearts to beat in unison,
To defend this place of unspeakable sacredness
From devastation and harm.
Whisper to those in power who make decisions
about the fate of this fragile land.
May they know you, God.
May they come to know your sacred places,
and be reminded that they can never be replaced. (Jon Zirkle, COFA team member)*

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: Would you like to help Mennonite youth learn more about their Anabaptist heritage? There are still two weeks to register for Mennonite Mission Network's Youth Venture "Anabaptism at 500: Looking Back to See the Future" trip this summer. Pray that the next generation of Mennonite leaders will be shaped by the rich diversity of the global Mennonite church during this once-in-a-lifetime encounter in Germany and Switzerland.

Western District Conference Prayer Request: Pray for WDC congregations supporting immigrants, asylum seekers and refugees, as they seek justice and safety in the face of threat and fear.

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, Joanna is on retreat this week, no café hours
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