

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 the Nigeria Mennonite Church and the Nigeria Anabaptist Peace Center, as they work for peaceful communities in their multi-cultural context, where Muslim-Christian relations are often challenging.

Western District Conference Prayer Request: Give thanks for the faithful prayers, financial gifts and participation of WDC members in supporting conference and congregational ministries this past year, and pray for generous contributions to WDC as the conference completes its fiscal year in January.

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

January 5, 2025



"Scratchboard Stars"

created by Hazel, Lawrence, Lincoln, Myra

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

January 5, 2025

Epiphany

Land Acknowledgement John Waltner

Centering Music *We Three Kings* (arr. Diane Bish)
Will Wiebe-Friesen

Christ Candle Lighting

Welcome & Prayer

*Hymn *Arise Your Light Is Come!* VT 273

Children's Conversation Kathy Stucky

*Hymn *The First Noel, the Angel Did Say* VT 250

Scripture Reading Matthew 2:1-15 Ron Sawatsky

Sermon *Small Steps* Nathan Koontz

*Hymn *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* VT 247

Prayers of God's People

*Hymn *Joy to the World* VT 240

*Benediction

Postlude *Nun ist sie erschienen* (arr. Steve Vincent)

* You are invited to stand

VT—*Voices Together*

Audio visual—Ben Lichti

Land Acknowledgement compiled 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.*

We offer sympathy to Nathan Kaufman and family on the death of Nathan's wife, Jill Kaufman. Jill died Dec. 27 at Kidron Bethel Village. The memorial service was held on January 2 at Kidron Hall, Kidron Bethel Village, and may be viewed at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/@KidronBethelVillage/streams>

Greetings!

I am looking for volunteers who would be willing to provide a morning snack for our youth on Sunday mornings. Items could be, but not limited to, cinnamon rolls, fruit, cookies, etc. We generally have 4-7 young persons participate in Sunday School and would be gracious for yummy treats before their lessons starts. If you are able to volunteer, please email me at jill@bethelcollegemennonitechurch.org.

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.

Changes for your BCMC Directory

- **Al and Sue Penner no longer have a land-line.** Add Sue's cell phone: 620-727-0941
- **Omar Voran's new address in Wichita:** Cedarhurst Senior Living, 11820 W. 29th Street N, #14, Wichita, KS 67205

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%2FeAAAZON0fyjV

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!

If you are interested in becoming a member, or 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!

The Week at BCMC: January 5—12, 2025

Sunday, January 5, 2025—Epiphany

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

YouTube Link for the worship service this Sunday:

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

4 p.m. Service of Remembrance in the Sanctuary

YouTube Link for Service of Remembrance:

<https://youtube.com/live/5-CgsEfm7BY?feature=share>

Wednesday, January 8, 2025

6:30 p.m. Gifts Discernment Committee meeting in Room 14

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

Thursday, January 9, 2025

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

7 p.m. Church Board meeting in Room 14

Sunday, January 12, 2025

9:30 a.m. Worship with sermon by Nathan Koontz; 10:30 a.m. Faith Formation

The congregation is invited to enjoy a piece of cake in the Gathering Space during fellowship time next Sunday, January 12, to help Glen and Karen Ediger celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary, which was December 28th.

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 Dec. 29: Gen. Fund \$10,567.74; Plant Fund \$50; Gen Fund 2025 \$2000; Flower Fund \$20; Kitchen Fund \$14.01; Solar Fund \$2,000; Dotty Janzen Mem. \$103; Women's Fellowship \$581.

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.

Upcoming Memorial Services:

- **January 13, 10:30 a.m.:** Leona Kaufman's memorial service at [Eden Mennonite Church](#), 401 18th Ave., Moundridge
- **January 20, 11 a.m.:** Dorothea (Dotty) Janzen's memorial service at BCMC
- **Helen Paul's** memorial service is pending (Helen died Dec. 25, 2024)

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: stephaniew@mennonitemission.net**

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.

Bethel College Announcements

- **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 Martin Luther King Jr. Day celebration, 7 p.m.,** Krehbiel Auditorium in Luyken Fine Arts Center, with local pastor (retired) and community leader Larry Lee.
- **Sat., Jan. 25: Kauffman Museum annual Kansas Day event, "At Home on the Range," noon-4 p.m.,** museum parking lot and grounds. Featuring food trucks, exhibits and activities indoors and out, and much more. For more information, see the Kauffman Museum Facebook page or kauffmanmuseum.org

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.

Mennonite Disaster Service (MDS) is hosting a 75th Anniversary Annual Celebration in Wichita this February 14-15. As part of the celebration, MDS will be hosting a volleyball tournament and cornhole tournament! The tournaments will be held Sat., Feb. 15 at Ridgepoint Church in Wichita. The cornhole tournament is at 1 p.m. and the volleyball tournament is from 5 p.m.-8 p.m. They are looking for local teams or individuals to join the fun! Everyone is invited! If you are interested in registering a team or as an individual, please let Kaelan Swartley at kswartley@mds.org know by January 27. If you are looking to form or join a team with others from Western District Conference, contact the WDC office at wdc@mennowdc.org and we can connect you with others who may be interested.

Save the Date! The 2025 WDC Annual Assembly will be Aug 8-9, 2025 at Hesston Mennonite Church, Hesston, KS. This means the Assembly Resolutions due date is April 10, 2025. Along with others around the globe, next year at Assembly we plan to celebrate 500 years of Anabaptism. Please add this to your calendar and plan to join us!