

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

March 16, 2025

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: Caleb and Stephanie Schrock-Hurst are preparing for ministry in Taiwan, where they will renew relationships between the Mennonite Christian Hospital, in Hualien, and North American churches. Pray for them as they learn the Chinese language and finish raising the necessary funding. The Schrock-Hursts are jointly appointed through Mennonite Mission Network and Virginia Mennonite Missions.

Western District Conference Prayer Request: During this season of Lent, pray for pastors in WDC as they encourage, teach and help guide congregations to walk faithfully in the way of Jesus.

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, will be on vacation March 14-18. 1887 Café Hours: Thursday (March 13 & 20) 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



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
March 16, 2025
Second Sunday of Lent

Christ Candle Lighting

Centering Music *As the Deer Runs to the River* (Uehlein) Karen Unruh

Call to Worship Mary Ann Boschmann

Leader: In the wilderness we gather

Congregation: with friends and strangers,

All: forming a community of support.

Leader: In the wilderness we struggle

Congregation: against forces of violence,

All: conspiring together for life.

Leader: In the wilderness we wander

Congregation: through unfamiliar landscapes,

All: seeking a faithful path.

Leader: In the wilderness we worship

Congregation: our God of love and life,

All: opening ourselves to the power of the Spirit.

*Hymn *Spirit of God! Descend* VT 557

Children's Conversation Brad Kohlman

*Hymn *With Mary Sing Magnificat* VT 208

One Minute Meditation

Scripture Reading Exodus 1:22-2:10; Acts 7:17-22 Jim Robb

Sermon *Ground-Level God* Nathan Koontz

*Hymn *O Healing River* VT 706

Prayers of God's People

*Hymn *Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song* VT 581

*Benediction

Postlude *He Comes to Us as One Unknown* (Weber) Karen Unruh

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

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

Lenten Sunday Scripture Readings from Pastor Joanna:

- **March 16: Exodus 1:22-2:10; Acts 7:17-22**
- **March 23: Numbers 27:1-11**
- **March 30: 1 Kings 17:8-24**
- **April 6: Mark 5:21-34**
- **April 13: Luke 19:28-40; Luke 23:44-56**

Women's Fellowship General Meeting will be work night at MCC (Mennonite Central Committee, 121 East 30th Street, NN) Tuesday, March 18, at 7 p.m. with Brocia. See you there. Questions: call Lois Brubacher, 316-772-3033.

The Staff Congregation Relations Committee will be conducting a regular pastoral review for Pastor Nathan Koontz this Spring.

Pastor Nathan will be concluding his current term in October. We believe that the purpose of a pastoral review is to review the relationship between the congregation and the pastor and assess whether we have the right environment to foster growth. Because Pastor Nathan's upcoming sabbatical will affect our timeline, we will be using an open-ended questionnaire for this review.

Questionnaires will be sent to Sunday School class contacts, Commissions and Committees who work closely with Pastor Nathan, and will be available to all in the Gathering Place beginning Sunday, March 16. Please return questionnaires to either the box near the mailboxes or electronically to Megan Kohlman by April 13.

You may also access a digital copy of the survey here, to be emailed to Megan when completed: <http://bit.ly/4b1Llgy>

Direct any questions to Megan Kohlman, meganbkohlman@gmail.com.

Artwork on cover by Michelle Burkholder originally appeared in "Prone to Wander", ©2025 by Joanna Harader. Distributed by Herald Press, Harrisonburg, VA 22803



A note from Pastor Joanna: This past Monday, March 10, Pastor Nathan and I joined almost 200 other people of faith at the Kansas State Capital for KIFA (Kansas Interfaith Action) Day. We rallied together and talked with our legislators to express support for LGBTQ+ rights, voting rights, economic justice, public education, and immigrant rights. I was invited to speak at the noon rally and called people to be prophetic voices that call our leaders to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly. In the

afternoon we were able to meet with Representative Mike King and discuss a few issues including upcoming revisions to the affordable housing tax credit. There is a great deal of harmful legislation coming out of Topeka right now, but there is also a powerful movement of people working together to call those in power to justice and kindness. You can learn more about KIFA and how to get involved in their work on their web site.

Life Enrichment, in the Bethel College Krehbiel Auditorium, is a series designed especially for adults age 60 and over. Due to Bethel College's Spring Break there will be no Life Enrichment on March 19.

Organist Christopher Shaw will present an organ recital/hymn festival to remember Shirley Sprunger King. Shirley taught at Bethel College for twenty years and was organist at Bethel College Mennonite Church. Christopher Shaw will be joined by Lorraine Miller (flute) and Don Kehrberg (oboe), both former members of the Deknatel Consort with Shirley. In addition to organ pieces and hymns, there will be remembrances of Shirley. The event will take place on Sat., April 5, 7:30 p.m. (note the time change from 7 to 7:30 p.m.) at Bethel College Mennonite Church, 2600 College Ave., North Newton.

John Mark Koontz Senior Double Bass Recital Sat., April 5, 5:30-6:30 p.m., Wichita State University, Wiedemann Hall. John will be performing mostly classical bass and ending with a jazz piece.

Western District Women in Mission invites women & girls to our annual potluck salad supper Mon., April 28, 6 p.m. at Tabor Mennonite Church, rural Newton. The theme is "For the Beauty of the Earth" presented by WDWM executive committee member and Kansas City floral designer, Becca Schrag. Bring a salad to share and a small vessel to make a floral design in (a tea cup, bowl, or small vase). This is a free event with an offering taken to help cover expenses. RSVP not required but appreciated by email: westerndistrictwomen@gmail.com

The Everence Sharing Fund provided \$3,000 in matching funds to support special needs in our church last year. Jim Robb serves as the Everence advocate for our congregation. Please contact Jim with questions or for more information.

The Week at BCMC: March 16—March 23, 2025

Sunday, March 16, 2025

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

YouTube Link for the worship service this Sunday:

https://youtube.com/live/89_3mBn41yw?feature=share

Tuesday March 18, 2025

7 p.m. **Women's Fellowship General Meeting** for a worknight at Mennonite Central Committee, 121 E. 30th St., North Newton

Wednesday, March 19, 2025—Spring Break —No Wednesday Night Supper

No Chancel Choir rehearsal tonight

Thursday, March 20, 2025

6 p.m. Chancel Bells rehearsal in Room B7

Sunday, March 23, 2025—Third Sunday of Lent

9:30 a.m. Worship with sermon by Joanna Harader; music by the Chancel Choir

10:30 a.m. Faith Formation

The Bethel College Mennonite Church office will be closed the week of March 17-21 (Spring Break). Pastors will be available on an on-call basis: Pastor Elizabeth, March 17-18; Pastor Joanna, March 19-20; Pastor Nathan, March 21-22.

- **Pastor Joanna is taking vacation days March 14-18** to move into her new house at 305 Campus Ct. in North Newton!
- **Pastor Nathan is taking vacation days March 17-19.**
- **Pastor Elizabeth is taking vacation days March 19-21.**

***Prone to Wander* Sunday School book discussion**

Members of the Agape class are planning to lead a book discussion during Lent of Joanna's new book, *Prone to Wander*. We will meet in the chapel for the weeks of Lent: March 9 - April 13 during the Sunday School hour. Reading the book is helpful, but not necessary. All are welcome and encouraged to come.

FROM THE WOMEN WHO SAVE MOSES

We serve our God of life in this world hell-bent on death—
using our power to baffle, disrupt, deter, and thwart the forces of violence and oppression that tend to underestimate us over and over again.
On you, whose heart also longs for life, we lay our hands.
Over you, who have more power than you know, we speak this blessing:
When you face the forces of death, may you meet their caution with courage,
their shortsightedness with broad perspective, their ignorance with wisdom,
their fear with generosity, their solemnity with celebration,
their insistence on scarcity with faith in God's miraculous abundance.
May God's song be in your heart and on your lips (and fingertips)
as you lead and scheme and strive toward true life.
Amen.

Upcoming Memorial Services:

- **We offer sympathy to the family of Louise Thieszen.** Louise died Feb. 22. Louise's memorial service will be March 29, 11 a.m. at BCMC
- **We offer sympathy to the family of Merrill Raber.** Merrill died Feb. 16 at Kidron Bethel Village. Merrill's memorial service will be May 3, 11 a.m. at BCMC.
- **We offer sympathy to the family and extended family of Rachel Poling.** Rachel died Tues., March 11, at Schowalter Villa, Hesston. The memorial service for Rachel will be Thurs., March 20, 10:30 a.m. at Schowalter Villa, 200 W. Cedar Hesston.

Future Events at BCMC:

- **Join us on Wednesday nights! Wednesday night suppers will be March 26, April 2, 9.** Please sign up at a sign up sheet on bulletin board, on table in south entrance, or on ledge between the mailboxes in gathering place. Cost is \$6 per person or \$18 per family. **During Lent we will gather for a meal and brief program each Wednesday evening at 5:30 p.m.—except for March 19,** which is Spring Break. Then, on March 26, April 2, and April 9 we will explore some biblical stories through art and poetry using the new Anabaptism at 500 resource: *Drawing Near*.
- **BCMC's Camp Mennoscah Retreat will be April 26-27.**

As most of you know, Pastor Elizabeth Schmidt has announced her plan to retire from her position at Bethel College Mennonite Church later this fall, after Pastor Nathan returns from his sabbatical. The BCMC board has had significant conversations with all three pastors and is now working to develop a job description for a future pastoral position. Our moderators will be creating a search committee that will carry forward our church's search process. Your prayers are appreciated as we look toward this upcoming time of transition.

An Invitation from Brethren Mennonite Council for LGBTQ Interests:

The spring Supportive Communities Network (SCN) meeting will be Tues., March 25, 12 p.m. Central Time, via Zoom, featuring a workshop on how to interrupt the political violence that increasingly targets LGBTQIA+ and other marginalized groups. We are grateful to offer this training to SCN members for **free** via a grant in collaboration with SCN member "On Earth Peace and HOPE PV" (Harnessing Our Power to End Political Violence). The Rev. Naomi Washington-Leapheart and SCN's own Matt Guynn will co-facilitate. Come build power, skills, and relationships across the SCN network. While especially planned for SCN leaders, anyone is welcome. Email Pastor Joanna for more details and to receive the link. The training is two hours.

Want to make your voice heard but don't know how? Check out "5 Calls," an easy and effective way to be in touch with your congressional reps. The website provides help with knowing how to make your calls, provides a timely list of topics to address (gets updated frequently) and a handy script guide to help you know what to say. Check them out at <https://5calls.org/> —Witness Commission

The Kansas Mennonite Relief Sale (KMRS) is only weeks away (April 11 & 12).

- **Thank you BCMC Sunday School classes** and others for contributing \$5,805 to cover sale expenses.
- **My Coins Count!** This year, coins will support food programs around the world. Bring coins (and bills!) to church Sunday mornings until the sale. Place coins into collection jars in Sunday School rooms or in the large jug in the gathering place. Last year BCMC raised almost \$800 in this way!
- **Volunteers wanted. Many of the sign-up sheets are now conveniently located on line at [KANSAS.MCCSALE.ORG/VOLUNTEER](https://kansas.mccsale.org/volunteer).** The sooner you sign up, the better chance you have to get your preferred job and time slot.
- **Pies and zwieback.** Sign up to bake pie or zwieback for the sale. Look for tins, bags, and sign-up sheets at the back of the sanctuary, beginning today.
- **Auction items.** Photos at <https://kansasmccsale.org/auctions/>
- **See the poster board in the Gathering Place** for KMRS information and extra forms, or go to the KMRS website at <https://kansas.mccsale.org/> or contact a BCMC liaison (Brad and Diane Born, William and Esther Kreider Eash, and Steve and Elaine Schurr).

Bethel College Announcements

- **Bethel College is on spring break March 17-21.** Most offices and services are open but some may be on reduced hours. The Regier Art Gallery in Luyken Fine Arts Center is closed.
- **Thurs., March 27, 7 p.m.: Kansas Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution (KIPCOR) Peace Lecture, "A Conversation with Sister Barbara McCracken"** on community, social responsibility, and daily faith. Sister Barbara is a Benedictine from Mt. St. Scholastica, Leavenworth.
- **Sun., March 30: Michelle Armster and Heidi Regier Kreider, "The Impact of Immigration on Mennonite Churches Today,"** 3 p.m., Kauffman Museum auditorium. This Sunday-Afternoon-at-the-Museum program is in connection to the current special exhibit, "Unlocking the Past: Immigrant Artifacts and the Stories They Tell." Michelle is director of Mennonite Central Committee Central States and Heidi is conference minister for Western District Conference of Mennonite Church USA.

The Mennonite Heritage & Agriculture Museum, Goessel annual Heritage Dinner is Sat., March 29, 6:30 p.m. at the Tabor Mennonite Church, 891 Chisholm Trail Road, Newton. Following a meal catered by Goessel Grocery & Deli, Donna Becker will present, "What Are They Thinking?" in which Donna portrays Helena Schroeder, a fictionalized Mennonite immigrant around 1879. Tickets are \$75 per person (Ages 12 & under \$15) 1st time attender? \$40 per person. Make reservations by contacting the museum by Mon., March 24 at 620-367-8200 or email: goesselmuseum@gmail.com

Men & Boys Retreat is April 4-6, at Camp Mennoscah! Claim a place to sleep in the cabins, bunkhouses, or sleep in your own tent. Meals can be purchased for Sat. night, Sun. morning, and Sun. lunch. Register on-line or registration can also be completed at camp. Contact Kevin at 316-322-5515 for more information.