

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: Lane Miller, one of Mennonite Mission Network’s regional directors for Africa and Europe, is in Europe this month to improve his French language skills. Pray for him as he also visits partner institution LCC International University and Robin Gingerich, who has served with Mission Network at LCC in Lithuania since 2001.

Western District Conference Prayer Request: Pray for WDC’s Executive Board meeting this week, as they discern priorities, resources and vision for WDC.

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

March 23, 2025



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

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 23, 2025

Third Sunday of Lent

Christ Candle Lighting

Centering Music *Summoned by the God Who Made Us* [VT 1], (arr. Robert Lau)
Will Wiebe-Friesen

Welcome Raylene Hinz-Penner

Leader: We come to listen

Congregation: So that we can go out and speak.

Leader: We praise God's power

Congregation: So that we might rightly use our own.

Leader: We pause and pray

Congregation: So that we might plan faithfully.

Leader: We consider the ancient Scriptures

Congregation: So that we might better understand our present reality.

Leader: We continue this wilderness journey

Congregation: Following God's way together.

*Hymn *Brethren, We Have Met to Worship* VT 25

Children's Conversation Jerry Buller

Worship Music *Come Ye Disconsolate* (Terre Johnson)
Chancel Choir; Joel Garber, director; Will Wiebe-Friesen, accompanist

One-Minute Meditation

Scripture Reading Numbers 27:1-11 Margaret Toews

Sermon Advocacy 101 Joanna Harader

*Hymn *Lord Jesus, Come and Overturn* VT 146

Prayers of God's People

*Hymn *God of the Bible* VT 420

*Benediction

Postlude *Joys are Flowing Like a River* [VT 375], (arr. Will Wiebe-Friesen)

* 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 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**

Are you new to or newly exploring Bethel College Mennonite Church? Pastor Joanna will host a gathering for newcomers in her office on April 6 after worship. This will be an informal time for people get to know each other and ask questions about the church. All are welcome!

We offer sympathy to the family of Helen Bargaen. Helen died Fri., March 21, in Salem, OR. Please keep her children, Jan and Dale, in your prayers at this time. We will share plans for Helen's memorial service once they are finalized.

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/4bILlgy>

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

Destination: Greensboro, NC: Mennonite Church USA conference 2025, July 8-12

If interested in being a delegate, contact any Gifts Discernment Committee (GDC) member: Jeanette Stucky, Jerry Buller, Dick Koontz, Francis Toews or the church office. Delegate sessions will be held on July 12. Early Bird pricing is available until March 31. GDC reimburses registration fees to delegates.

Life Enrichment, in the Bethel College Krehbiel Auditorium, is a series designed especially for adults age 60 and over. Programs on March 26: 9:30 a.m.:

“Relocating to America from Ukraine,” Lidiia and Oleksandr Lukach, Newton. Evelyn Mierau, Newton, Janet Dixon, North Newton, Ron Flaming, North Newton.

10:50 a.m.: Museum on the Move: Kauffman Museum Traveling Exhibits,” Andi Schmidt Andres, Kauffman Museum director, and museum staff

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 will be joined by Lorraine Miller (flute) and Don Kehrberg (oboe), both former members of the Deknatel Consort with Shirley. There will also be remembrances of Shirley. Event is scheduled for Sat., Apr. 5, 7:30 p.m. (note the time change from 7 to 7:30 p.m.) at BCMC.

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

You are invited to join us for the concerts of the Kansas Mennonite Men's Chorus (KMMC), a 120-member chorus including members from BCMC. The concert will include traditional hymns and contemporary selections performed in four-part harmony. The concert at Tabor will include students in the Chamber Voices student ensemble. Students in the Open Road and Woven choirs join KMMC at Bethel College. Concerts are free with an offering benefiting the global mission support work of Mennonite Central Committee. **April 6, 4 p.m.:** Memorial Hall, Bethel College, North Newton **April 13, 4 p.m.:** Richert Auditorium, Tabor College, Hillsboro

Kansas Interfaith Action is hosting a coffeehouse on Apr. 6, 7 p.m. at Trinity Heights United Methodist Church, 1200 Boyd Avenue, Newton. This will be a wonderful opportunity to gather with like-minded people of faith in the Newton area as we sing, pray, and talk together. Contact Pastor Joanna for more information.

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.

The Week at BCMC: March 23—March 30, 2025

Sunday, March 23, 2025: 9:30 a.m. Worship — **10:30 a.m.** Faith Formation
YouTube Link for the worship service this Sunday: <https://youtube.com/live/ZHmFC8aSv8A?feature=share>

The Abuse Prevention and Response Committee (APRC) invites BCMC congregants to an informational meeting today in the sanctuary during the Sunday School hour.

March 24, 2025

10 a.m. Library Committee meeting in Room 14

Tuesday March 25, 2025

7 p.m. Deacon Commission meeting in Room 14

Wednesday, March 26, 2025—Wednesday Night Supper

5:30 p.m. Supper in Fellowship Hall

6:30 p.m. Program in Fellowship Hall—exploring some biblical stories through art and poetry using the new Anabaptism at 500 resource: *Drawing Near*.

7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir practice in the Sanctuary Chancel area

Thursday, March 27, 2025

6 p.m. Chancel Bells rehearsal in Room B7

7 p.m. Witness Commission meeting in Room 14

Saturday, March 29, 2025

11 a.m. Memorial Service for Louise Thieszen in the Sanctuary

Sunday, March 30, 2025—Fourth Sunday of Lent

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

10:30 a.m. Faith Formation

BCMC Offering for March 16: Gen. Fund \$10,187.21 Community Play School \$500; Kitchen Fund \$17.80; Solar Fund \$5,000; Merrill Raber Mem. \$200; Wed. supper \$313.15

FROM THE WOMEN WHO CLAIM POWER

We found power in our positions and our relationships; power in our beauty and our bodies; power in our wisdom and our skill; power in our patience and our bold action. We found power in our God, who is not only father and king and lord, but first breath and womb and mother—the breasted God who feeds and strengthens us. We found our power, and in our best moments we used our power for the work of God in the world:

the work of justice

the work of guidance

the work of protection

the work of liberation

the work of life

the work of salvation in all its many forms.

May our power empower you to walk through the wilderness as your full self without diminishment without apology without fear.

May God's power hold and guide you through your strength and your weakness in all the wilderness places. Amen.

Upcoming Memorial Services:

- **Memorial service for Louise Thieszen**, Sat., March 29, 11 a.m., BCMC Sanctuary.
- **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.

Future Events at BCMC:

- **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: Mar. 9 - Apr. 13 during the Sunday School hour. Reading the book is helpful, but not necessary. All are welcome and encouraged to come.
- **The Abuse Prevention and Response Committee (APRC) invites BCMC congregants to an informational meeting this Sunday, March 23, in the sanctuary during the Sunday School hour.** We will be describing our work over the past year and a half, particularly what we have learned about abusive treatment by the Mennonite Central Committee of some of its workers. We will provide links to resources to enable further learning and exploration of these issues.
- **Join us on Wednesday nights! Wednesday night suppers are Mar. 26, Apr. 2, 9, at 5:30 p.m.** 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, after the meal there will be a brief program each Wed. evening at 6:30 p.m.** On Mar. 26, Apr. 2, and Apr. 9 we will explore some biblical stories through art and poetry using the new Anabaptism at 500 resource: *Drawing Near*.
- **On Maundy Thursday, Apr. 17, in addition to the previously announced Maundy Thursday worship**, we will also have a family friendly worship service at 5:30 p.m. in the chapel. This family service is appropriate for all ages as we will share the story of Holy Week with interactive stations. You can reach out to Jill Robb or Pastor Joanna with questions.
- **BCMC's Camp Mennoscah Retreat will be April 26-27.**

An Invitation from Brethren Mennonite Council for LGBTQ Interests: The spring Supportive Communities Network (SCN) meeting will be Tues., Mar. 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 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

Kansas Mennonite Relief Sale (KMRS) is less than three weeks away—Apr. 11 & 12

- **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!
- **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.
- **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.
- **Auction items.** Photos at <https://kansas.mccsale.org/auctions/general-auction/>
- **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).
- **Children's Auction - Consider donating new, in-the-package, items to this year's auction!** Talk with the youth in your church to see what items they would like to bid on, but you can never go wrong with Hot Wheels, Barbie, board games, Lego sets, art kits, and sports equipment. If you wish to volunteer for the auction by clerking or helping in other ways contact Brad Kohlman-- bkohlman32@gmail.com

Bethel College Announcements

- **Mon., Mar. 24: Bethel College Department of Social Work presents the annual Ada Schmidt-Tieszen Lecture** with Kylee Schunn (2018), "Immigration 101," 11 a.m., Krehbiel Auditorium. Kylee, Fresno, CA, is an immigration advocate at Centro La Familia in Fresno.
- **Thurs., Mar. 27: KIPCOR Peace Lecture:** A conversation with Sister Barbara McCracken, a Benedictine from Mount St. Scholastica, Leavenworth, KS, on community, social responsibility, and daily faith, 7 p.m., Krehbiel Auditorium.
- **Sun., Mar. 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.
- **Fri., Apr. 4: Senior recital by Bethel College student Peter Buller**, oboe and piano, 7 p.m., Bethel College Mennonite Church
- **Sat., Apr. 5: Senior recital by Bethel College student Josué Coy Dick**, violin, 7 p.m., Administration Building chapel

The Mennonite Heritage & Agriculture Museum's (Goessel) annual Heritage Dinner is Mar. 29, 6:30 p.m. at Tabor Mennonite Church, 891 Chisholm Trail Road, Newton. After the meal Donna Becker portrays Helena Schroeder, a fictionalized Mennonite immigrant around 1879. Tickets are \$75 per person (Ages 12 & under \$15) 1st time attender tickets are \$40 per person. Contact the museum by Mon., Mar. 24 at 620-367-8200, email goesselmuseum@gmail.com