

**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 released 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:** This month, Zing Bawi Ken, Schyler Entz, Hannah Lehman, and Patrick Webb, participants in MMN’s Tucson, AZ Mennonite Voluntary Service unit, have been immersed in studying vocational discernment. Pray that this time of reflection will provide tools and insights, as they begin to plan for life after a year of service.

**Western District Conference Prayer Request:** Please pray for strength, hope and courage for our church planters as they work to build the church community. Pray that God may help us, as the Church Planting Commission, to know the best ways to support them. -WDC Church Planting Commission

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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

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

# Bethel College Mennonite Church

## March 30, 2025



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 30, 2025**  
**Fourth Sunday of Lent**

Christ Candle Lighting

Centering Music      *In the Garden* (Dobrinski)  
Chancel Bells; Verlene Garber, director

Welcome      Tim Hodge

Leader: You are welcome in this space with all of who you are:  
Your body, with its pain and its pleasure;  
Your heart, with its passion and its longing;  
Your feelings of relief and grief, anger and elation.

**Congregation: We bring into this space all of who we are:  
Committing to love ourselves,  
Endeavoring to love each other,  
Trusting in the fierce and eternal love of God.**

***All: We offer our full selves in this time of worship.***

\*Hymn      *We Sing to You, O God*      VT 80

Children & Youth Conversation      Will Wiebe-Friesen

Worship Music      *And He Never Said a Mumblin' Word* (Gross)  
Chancel Bells

One-Minute Meditation

\*Hymn      *Will You Let Me Be Your Servant*      VT 778

Scripture Reading      1 Kings 17:8-24      Ani Koontz

Sermon      *God Saves Us as We Save Each Other*      Joanna Harader

\*Hymn      *Christ Has No Body Here but Ours*      VT 568

Prayers of God's People

\*Hymn      *Great Is Thy Faithfulness*      VT 419  
Those with March birthdays are welcome to come forward  
as we sing this hymn. Please bring a hymnal.

\*Birthday Blessing & Benediction

Postlude      *Trumpet Concerto in D* (Giuseppe Tartini)  
Allegro  
Karen Schlabaugh, organ; Evan Koch, trumpet

VT—*Voices Together*      \*You are invited to stand      Audio visual—Francis Toews

**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.



**Lenten Sunday Scripture Readings from Pastor Joanna:**

- **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 to get to know each other and ask questions about the church. All are welcome!

**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/4blLlgy>

Direct any questions to Megan Kohlman, [meganbkohlman@gmail.com](mailto:meganbkohlman@gmail.com).

**Life Enrichment, in the Bethel College Krehbiel Auditorium, is a series designed especially for adults age 60 and over. Programs on April 2: 9:30 a.m.:** “The Rhino Keeper,” Jillian Forsberg, author, Wichita  
**10:50 a.m.:** “Arts Behind Bars/Arts Unlocked,” Larry Temple, storyteller, director of Ellsworth Prison Arts, McPherson

**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 (WDWM) invites women and girls to their annual potluck salad supper,** themed, "For the Beauty of the Earth," Mon., Apr. 28, 6 p.m. at the Tabor Mennonite Church. After the potluck and a meditation on God's creation, Rebecca Schrag will lead a floral design workshop with flowers provided by Firebranch Farm and other sources. Each participant will make a small bouquet to take home. RSVP appreciated and required by April 15 at website link: <https://www.westerndistrictwomeninmission.org/events-1> Please bring: a salad to share (table service will be provided); a small vessel to make a bouquet (a tea cup is ideal); several flowers from your garden if you have them to share; a kitchen or garden shear if you have one. An offering will be taken to help cover expenses. Questions: email [westerndistrictwomen@gmail.com](mailto: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 Mennonite Central Committee. **Concert Dates—April 6, 4 p.m.:** Richert Auditorium, Tabor College, Hillsboro and **April 13, 4 p.m.:** Memorial Hall, Bethel College, North Newton Note that these dates were switched in last week's bulletin.

**Rehearsals begin for the 2025 Masterworks Concert at Bethel College, Tues., Apr. 1, 6-8 p.m.,** Choir Room in Fine Arts Center. All interested singers are invited to participate. **The concert is May 4** and will feature *Three Nocturnes* by Dan Forrest, *Exsultate, Jubilate* by Mozart, and *Considering Matthew Shepard: A Choral Suite* by Craig Hella Johnson. Sign up ahead of time on-line (so that your contact information is available for digital materials, etc.) or at the first rehearsal. Rehearsals will be Apr. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, from 6-8 p.m., with several longer rehearsals the week-end of the concert.

### The Week at BCMC: March 30—April 6, 2025

**Sunday, March 30, 2025: 9:30 a.m.** Worship — **10:30 a.m.** Faith Formation  
YouTube Link for the worship service this Sunday:  
<https://youtube.com/live/YXAd7GZAbBU?feature=share>

#### Tuesday April 1, 2025

1 p.m. Staff Meeting

#### Wednesday, April 2, 2025—Wednesday Night Supper

5:30 p.m. Supper in Fellowship Hall (Menu is: Salisbury steak, potatoes, green beans, Mrs. Fields chocolate chip cookies)

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, April 3, 2025

5:30 to 7 p.m. Community Playschool Family Night in Fellowship Hall

6 p.m. Chancel Bells rehearsal in Room B7

7 p.m. Church Board meeting in Room 14

#### Saturday, April 5, 2025

7:30 p.m. Shirley King Memorial Organ Recital in the Sanctuary

#### Sunday, April 6, 2025—Fifth Sunday of Lent

9:30 a.m. Worship with sermon by Nathan Koontz

10:30 a.m. Faith Formation

**BCMC Offering for March 23:** Gen. Fund \$15,022; MCC \$25; MCC Sale \$100; Library Reserve Fund \$3; Kitchen Fund \$14.80; Women's Fellowship \$385; Kurt Friesen Memorial \$250; Edie Krehbiel Memorial \$50.

#### **WOMEN WHO LOVE**

I think you will find that the wilderness is full of lovers.

We have been sent here by circumstance. We have fled here for freedom.

We have come to be alone. We have come to find each other.

Why are you here, dear lover? Dear beloved? Whatever your reasons, we are glad you have come. We invite you into this space with all of who you are:

your body, with its pain and its pleasure your heart, with its passion and its longing your feelings of relief and grief, anger and elation. Our love for ourselves and for each other will draw us more deeply into God's love for us and show us the flower-strewn path through the wilderness.

So walk boldly, our dear one, through this barren landscape—this beautiful and beckoning wilderness.

May you find a new home as you leave an old.

May you find gratitude for deep love in the strength of your grief.

May you find your life as you lose it.

May you find pleasure in all the senses of your body.

May you find each other.

And, together, may we find the way.

Amen

### Upcoming Memorial Services:

- **The memorial service for Merrill Raber** will be May 3, 11 a.m. at BCMC.
- **We offer sympathy to the family of Helen Bargen.** Helen died Mar. 21. Helen's memorial service has not yet been scheduled.

### Future Events at BCMC:

- **Members of the Agape class are leading 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.
- **Join us on Wednesday nights with the remaining suppers on Apr. 2 and 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. **After the meal there will be a brief program at 6:30 p.m.** where we will explore some biblical stories through art and poetry using the new Anabaptism at 500 resource: *Drawing Near*.
- **Lilies for Easter. You are invited to share an Easter lily for the sanctuary on Easter Sunday, Apr. 20.** BCMC will purchase the lilies. The cost will be \$15 per lily. Make checks to BCMC designated "Flower Fund." Contributors may pick up lilies to take home after the Easter worship service. You will be able to designate in honor of someone or in memory of someone with your Easter lily. There will be a table in the Gathering Place today, March 30, for you to sign up for a lily.
- **Women's Fellowship Tea for Women & Girls will be Tues., Apr. 15, 7 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Program by Chris Allen portraying her life with quilts.** Tea chaired by Brenda Turner with WF Executive Board.
- **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.**

**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 Central Kansas Master Chorale,** directed by Dr. Joel Garber, is **Sun., Apr. 6, 3 p.m.** at Hesston Mennonite Church, 309 S Main Street. They will present Rutter's *Requiem* and Vivaldi's *Gloria* with pianist Karen Unruh and orchestra. Admission is free, donations encouraged. For more information, visit the chorale website at [www.centrankansasmasterchorale.org](http://www.centrankansasmasterchorale.org)

**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.

### Kansas Mennonite Relief Sale (KMRS) is less than two 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.** We have already made great progress toward our quota of 35 pies and 60 dozen zwieback, but we still need bakers. 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](mailto:bkohlman32@gmail.com)

### Bethel College Announcements

- **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.
- **Mon., Mar. 31: Bethel College Young Alumnus Award** presentation to Jerrell Williams '15, 11 a.m., Krehbiel Auditorium in Luyken Fine Arts Center
- **Mon., Mar. 31: The annual Student Art Exhibit, featuring the work of more than 40 Bethel College students in various media, opens** in the Regier Art Gallery through Apr. 18. Gallery hours are Mon.-Fri. 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Sun. 2-4 p.m.
- **Fri., Apr. 4: Senior recital by Bethel College student Peter Buller,** oboe and piano, 7 p.m., Bethel College Mennonite Church
- **Sat., Apr. 5: Kauffman Museum bird walk,** 7 a.m. in the museum parking lot at Main and 27th streets (2801 N. Main St., North Newton). Experienced birders lead a walk of 1-1.5 hours in Chisholm Park and on Sand Creek Trail.
- **Sat., Apr. 5: Senior recital by Bethel College student Josué Coy Dick,** violin, 7 p.m., Administration Building chapel

**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.