

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: Mennonite Mission Network requests prayer for those participating in a 12-day Christ at the Borders Just Peace Pilgrimage to Calais, France, where they are visiting organizations that work with migrants who are trying to cross the English Channel. Pray for the participants as they get first-hand experience with Mission Network partner ministries at Maria Skobtsova House, in Calais, and Peaceful Borders, in the United Kingdom.

Western District Conference Prayer Request: Pray for WDC staff as they gather tomorrow for a retreat for fellowship, planning, prayer and discernment together.

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

April 13, 2025—Palm Sunday



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.

Palm Sunday

Prayers of God's People

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. GDC reimburses registration fees to delegates.

From the Finance Committee

As the 1st quarter of the financial year of our church ends, we offer gratitude for the generosity shared in donating monetary offerings toward our annual budget. Each gift is important to the process of fulfilling our mission. A brief report is listed below. The following is a BCMC financial report of the general fund income and expenses on March 31, 2025 (25% of the year).

Total income	\$ 85,112	15% of budget
Total expense	\$136,017	24% of budget
Net income/expense	-\$ 50,905	

BCMC Offering for Apr. 6: Gen. Fund \$17,306; Wed. Supper \$220.80; Caring Fund \$50; Flower Fund \$50; Kitchen Fund \$16.60; Solar Fund \$500.

Life Enrichment, in the Bethel College Krehbiel Auditorium, is a series designed especially for adults age 60 and over. Programs for April 16 are:

9:30 a.m.: "Spiritual Dimensions of Dementia," Rev. Wayne A. Ewing, Ph.D., author, retired Episcopal priest, Westcliffe, CO

10:50 a.m.: "Artificial Intelligence: Threat or Opportunity?" David Janzen, Ph.D., president, Tabor College, Hillsboro

You are invited to join us for the next concert of the Kansas Mennonite Men's Chorus (KMMC), a 120-member chorus including members from BCMC. Students in the Open Road and Woven choirs join KMMC at Bethel College. Concerts are free with an offering benefiting Mennonite Central Committee. Concert is today, **April 13, 4 p.m. at Memorial Hall, Bethel College, North Newton**

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. 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.

Thank you for helping Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) surpass the Great Winter Warmup goal of 7,000 comforters during the months of January, February and March. During this three-month campaign MCC received 12,875 comforters! Thank you to each person who tied knots this winter to share warmth, comfort, and love around the world!

The Week at BCMC: April 13—20, 2025

Sunday, April 13, 2025: 9:30 a.m. Worship — 10:30 a.m. Faith Formation

YouTube Link for the worship service this Sunday:

<https://youtube.com/live/s-XO5FCEu6g?feature=share>

4 p.m. Hymn Sing in the Sanctuary (to raise funds for Youth Group to go to MennoCon25).

Monday, April 14, 2025

6:30 p.m. Community Playschool Board Meeting in Fellowship Hall

7:15 p.m. Community Playschool Annual Corporation Meeting in Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, April 15, 2025

1 p.m. Staff Meeting

7 p.m. Women's Fellowship General Meeting and Tea in Fellowship Hall

7:30 p.m. Finance Committee Meeting in Room 14

Wednesday, April 16, 2025

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

Thursday, April 17, 2025—Maundy Thursday

5:30 p.m. Family Friendly Worship in the Chapel

6:30 p.m. Maundy Thursday Worship Service with Communion, in the Sanctuary

No Chancel Bell Rehearsal this Thursday

Friday, April 18, 2025—Good Friday

This is a designated holiday for the BCMC staff—church office will be closed

Sunday, April 20, 2025—Easter Sunday

6:30 a.m. Easter Sunrise Service at Hank & Elaine Prouty's, 332 N. Hoover Rd., Newton. Worship service by the BCMC Senior High Youth Group—Breakfast potluck will follow; please bring a breakfast item to share—All are invited!

10 a.m. Worship with sermon by Joanna Harader; **Easter Sunday at BCMC will include some exciting music!** The Chancel Choir will be joined by organ and orchestra to present Vivaldi's *Gloria*. In addition to this, the congregation will join in singing several favorite Easter hymns. An extended organ prelude will begin at 9:40 a.m.; there will be no Sunday School

"Every Quilt Has a Story", presented by Chris Allen, and Tea coordinated by Brenda Turner and Lois Brubacher will be Tue., April 15, at 7 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. All women and Girls are invited to this Women's Fellowship General Meeting.

National Poetry Month Guest Artist. The New York Actress Michele LaRue Kliever will perform Warren Kliever's poetry, *Places, Please: Act One*, Fri., Apr. 25, 11 a.m. at Kidron Bethel. On Sat., Apr. 26, 3 p.m., she will perform *Bedquilt* by Dorothy Canfield Smith at the Newton Public Library. Free admission to both performances although donations to defray costs will be graciously accepted. Warren Kliever spent his early years in Mt. Lake, MN and then taught at Wichita State University before moving to New York where he founded the East Lynne Theatre Company. A selection of Warren's publications will be for sale. — *Lauren Friesen*

Upcoming Events at BCMC

- **Members of the Agape class are leading a book discussion** of Joanna's new book, *Prone to Wander*, during Lent. We meet in the chapel during the Sunday School hour. Reading the book is not necessary. All are welcome.
- **Pastor Elizabeth Schmidt is on vacation Apr. 9 through 16.** In her absence, please contact Pastor Nathan Koontz or Pastor Joanna Harader.
- **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.
- **Zwieback Fundraiser Sale by the Youth Group—Pre-orders will be taken.** Pickup will be Sunday, April 20 (Easter morning) Minimum donation \$10 per dozen
- **Easter morning, April 20, 6:30 a.m. Senior High Youth Group Sunrise Service** at Hank & Elaine Prouty's, 332 N. Hoover Road, Newton—Breakfast potluck follows
- **BCMC's Camp Mennoscah Retreat will be Apr.26-27. See email for more details.**
- **We will be having a Congregational Meeting following church on May 4.** More details and agenda will follow as the date approaches.

The annual meeting of the Community Playschool Corp. will be Mon., Apr.14, 7:15 p.m. at the BCMC Fellowship Hall. Interested members of the congregations supporting Community Playschool are invited to attend. Enter through south doors.

Western District Women in Mission potluck salad meal shared with women and girls of the surrounding area followed by meditation on God's creation through a floral design workshop by Rebecca Schrag on Mon., Apr. 28, 6 p.m., at Tabor Mennonite Church. Bring a salad to share, table service provided, and a small vessel (shallow bowl, tea cup size). Also bring garden or kitchen shears if you have one. RSVP: westerndistrictwomeninmission.org. For transportation: Call Marlene V. Faul 316-288-9650 or email at marlene.violet@gmail.com

Public Witness: Sat., Apr. 26, 11:30 a.m. the Western District Conference Israel-Palestine Task Force with Mennonite Action are hosting a "God's Love Knows No Borders" gathering at the Harvey County Courthouse, 800 N Main St, Newton. Please join us at 10:30 a.m. at Military Park, 200 E Broadway, if at all possible, to prepare for the event. For more information, email: robertleeatchison@gmail.com

Register today for the Mennonite Central Committee Immigration Learning Tour in South Texas, Oct. 4-9. This immigration-focused learning tour presents a unique opportunity to engage directly with organizations making a positive impact on our neighbors. Find out more at mcc.org/learning-tour-texas.

Bethel College Announcements

- **Sun., Apr.13: John Thiesen, "Re-membering the 1870s Migration," 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 & the Stories They Tell." Thiesen is co-director of libraries and archivist at the Mennonite Library and Archives at Bethel College.
- **Thurs., April 17: Senior recital by BC student Benjamin Rudeen,** voice, 7 p.m., Ad Building chapel
- **Fri. April 25, Sat., April 26, Sun., April 27: Spring play at Bethel College, *The Bookstore*** by Adam Szymkowicz, Fri. & Sat., 7:30 p.m., Sun., 2 p.m. matinee, Krehbiel Auditorium in Luyken Fine Arts Center). Friday evening performance interpreted for the d/Deaf community. Ticket purchase required (buy on campus weekdays at Thresher Shop; online at <https://www.bethelks.edu/fine-arts/theater/theater-department-presents/>; or at the door).
- **Last chance to see the 2024 Student Art Exhibit in the Regier Art Gallery in Luyken Fine Arts Center, featuring the work of 45 Bethel College students,** which closes April 18. Gallery hours are Mon.-Fri. 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Sun. 2-4 p.m.
- **Weds., Apr. 30: Bethel College Orchestra,** directed by Kris Hilding, 7 p.m., Krehbiel Auditorium in Luyken Fine Arts Center
- **Thurs., May 1: Bethel College Wind Ensemble,** directed by Chris Miertschin, 7 p.m., Krehbiel Auditorium in Luyken Fine Arts Center
- **SAVE THE DATE: Mon., May 12, Hymn Festival** presented by Dr. Henry Waters' Hymnology class, Bethel College Mennonite Church
- **SAVE THE DATE: Sun., May 4: Masterworks concert at Bethel College: *Three Nocturnes*** by Dan Forrest, *Exsultate, Jubilate* by Mozart, and *Considering Matthew Shepard: A Choral Suite* by Craig Hella Johnson

Youth ages 12 to 17 are invited to become a Junior Volunteer at Schowalter Villa (Hesston) or Kidron Bethel Village (North Newton) for the summer. The Bluestem Communities Junior Volunteer program runs from June 2 to July 25. Participants will interact with residents in a variety of ways, including activities, games, exercise, conversation and more. It's a wonderful opportunity for intergenerational connections and to enrich the lives of all involved! Applications are required and must be submitted by May 9. For an application or questions, contact Bluestem Communities Volunteer Coordinator Sheri Esau at SheriE@bluestemks.org.

Support Camp Mennoscah on May 2 with purchases at The Hub. 10% of all sales on May 2 will be donated to Camp Mennoscah. Musical groups will play from 6 p.m.-8:30 p.m. and include K81, Queen Jack Jericho, Brett and Caleb Klingenberg, and The Schrag Siblings. A Camp Mennoscah tee shirt quilt will be sold through a silent auction. A picture of the quilt can be seen at www.campmennoscah.org. Contact olivia.bartel@campmennoscah.org for a bidding from a distance option. (The Hub, 100 S. Christian, Moundridge, <https://www.thehubbrickoven.com>)