

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

April 6, 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 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: Michael Oyer, in his new capacity as MMN’s program director for Service Adventure, has just completed a three-day visit to the unit in Colorado Springs, CO. Pray for wisdom for Michael and the unit leaders, Christian and Leigha Stoltzfus. Pray for a year of growing in faith for participants — Elisabeth Daudey, Alea Sagert, Sadie Sherman and Hannah Smith — and for their host congregation, Beth-El Mennonite Church.

Western District Conference Prayer Request: Pray for youth ministry in WDC congregations, as pastors, families, mentors and teachers support young people and nurture their growth.

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



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

April 6, 2025

Fifth Sunday of Lent

Christ Candle Lighting

Centering Music *Secreto* from “impressions Intimas” by (Mompou)
Meghann Rogers

Land Acknowledgement Dale Schrag

Welcome & Prayer

Leader: We come in search of healing for ourselves and for those we love.

Congregation: We come in hope and in faith, reaching out to Jesus.

Leader: Let this be a place where our names are known and our stories honored.

Congregation: Let this be a time when our suffering is met with compassion.

Leader: Let this be a space for us to experience wholeness and peace.

All: Let this be a moment when our fingertips graze the hem of the holy.

*Hymn *There’s a Wild Hope in the Wind* VT 828

Children and Youth Conversation Esther Koontz

Recognition of Nursery, Children, and Youth Volunteers Jill Robb

*Hymn *God of Grace and God of Glory* VT 716

One-Minute Meditation

Worship Music *Gigue from Partita No.2* (Bach) Lily Schloneger

Scripture Reading Mark 5:21-34 John Waltner

Sermon *Immediately* Nathan Koontz

*Hymn *Healer of Our Every Ill* VT 644

Prayers of God’s People

*Hymn *Will You Come and Follow Me* VT 540

*Benediction

Postlude *Have Thine Own Way Lord* (arr. Wilhelmi) Meghann Rogers

*You are invited to stand VT—*Voices Together* 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.



Land Acknowledgement 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.

GOING BEYOND LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT: The BCMC Task Group for Indigenous Justice is in touch with Sarah Augustine and Indigenous leadership about how members of the newly forming Kansas Repair Coalition can support Haskell Indian Nations University in Lawrence. A sister institute of higher learning in the state, Haskell was founded in 1884 as a land grant institution for educating Indigenous students from all over the country. Haskell was devastated recently by faculty and staff cuts when federal funding was withdrawn in violation of yet another treaty with Indigenous peoples.

Special Offering for BCMC Caring Fund on Maundy Thursday, Apr. 17 : The Caring Fund is an above budget benevolent fund administered by the Deacon Commission for the purpose of assisting our congregation’s members and community persons in need. The fund is generated by above budget offerings made payable to BCMC and designated “caring fund.” Two fish bowls will be in the back of the church for this special offering on Maundy Thursday.

What hymn holds a special place in your heart? The worship commission wants to sing the hymns you love during our summer worship services. We will collect hymn requests through the month of April and then sing as many of your requests as we can over the summer months. We will also include notes in the bulletin about who chose which hymns and why. You may submit requests by filling out a “Summer Hymn Request” paper and placing it in the designated box or by emailing Pastor Joanna. Be sure to include a 1-3 sentence statement with your request letting us know why that hymn is special to you. What a gift it is to sing together!

Dear Church Family: I was overwhelmed with the many “Acts of Kindness” shown me during my recent illness. I would like to thank the pastors for their visits and prayers. Also my heartfelt thanks to so many who visited me, brought food between my four hospitalizations, provided transportation and prayed for me. I feel very blessed to be part of such a caring community. *Justina Neufeld*

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	

Life Enrichment, in the Bethel College Krehbiel Auditorium, is a series designed especially for adults age 60 and over. Programs on April 9: 9:30 a.m.: “Thriving Through the Years: The Value of Active Daily Living,” Tracie Strain, Newton Recreation Commission wellness director and ACE personal trainer and Candice Egizi-Sifuentez, NRC program director
10:50 a.m.: “Fire Safety From Above,” Andy Harder, division chief, Community Risk Reduction, Newton Fire/EMS

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 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—today, April 6, 4 p.m.:** Richert Auditorium, Tabor College, Hillsboro and **April 13, 4 p.m.:** 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.

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. GDC reimburses registration fees to delegates.

The Week at BCMC: April 6—13, 2025

Sunday, April 6, 2025: 9:30 a.m. Worship — **10:30 a.m.** Faith Formation
YouTube Link for the worship service this Sunday:

<https://youtube.com/live/ospt49ZRjbc?feature=share>

Tuesday April 8, 2025

9 a.m. Women’s Fellowship Executive Board meeting in Room 14

1 p.m. Staff Meeting

Wednesday, April 9, 2025—Last Wednesday Night Supper

5:30 p.m. Supper in Fellowship Hall (Menu is: Tetrizzini, peas, Stéphanie & Caroline Tatin Apple Tarte)

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 10, 2025

6 p.m. Chancel Bells rehearsal in Room B7

Sunday, April 13, 2025—Palm Sunday

9:30 a.m. Worship with sermon by Joanna Harader; music by Chancel Choir and Chancel Bells 10:30 a.m. Faith Formation

BCMC Offering for Mar. 30: Gen. Fund \$7,942; Wed. Supper \$203; Plant Fund \$50; Flower Fund \$45; Kitchen Fund \$20.22; Edie Krehbiel Mem.\$550; Louise Thieszen Mem.\$70; Cal Flickinger Mem.\$50.

**Lenten Sunday Scripture Readings from Pastor Joanna: April 6: Mark 5:21-34
April 13: Luke 19:28-40; Luke 23:44-56**

The annual meeting of the Community Playschool Corp. will be Tues., 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.

FROM WOMEN WHO ENCOUNTER JESUS

We have all been searching in the wilderness: for healing of our bodies and spirits, healing of ourselves and those we love; for compassion and community, for traveling companions; for guidance and answers, or at least for more faithful questions. In our searching we have found Jesus: even though his followers tried to push us away—even though some said he had more important people to tend even though we didn’t know we were looking for him. In our searching we have found ourselves: our passions and our voices our wellness and our worth—our integrity and our generosity. In our searching we have found a blessing.

Let these words accompany you as they have accompanied us in the many kinds of wilderness we traverse: Your need is not burden. Your presence is not imposition. Your body is not shameful. Your voice is not too loud. For the sake of healing—your own and the world’s— you are allowed to interrupt and insist, to challenge and question, to give and receive with generosity and grace. In the wildness of the wilderness, where conflict and companionship draw us into faith, may your faith make you well and may you go in peace. Amen.

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.
- **Join us for the remaining Wednesday night supper Apr. 9, at 5:30 p.m. After the meal there will be a brief program at 6:30 p.m.** exploring some biblical stories through art and poetry using the Anabaptism at 500 resource: *Drawing Near*.
- **Pastor Elizabeth Schmidt will be taking vacation Apr. 9 through 16.** In her absence, please contact Pastor Nathan Koontz or Pastor Joanna Harader.
- **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, April 6, 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.**
- **We will be having a Congregational Meeting following church on May 4.** More details and agenda will follow as the date approaches.

The Central Kansas Master Chorale, directed by Dr. Joel Garber, is **today, Apr. 6, 3 p.m.** at Hesston Mennonite Church, 309 S Main Street. For more information, visit the chorale website at www.centrankansasmasterchorale.org

Sunday, Mar. 23, the BCMC Abuse Prevention and Response Committee provided an informational session during the Sunday School hour about the abuse of employees by the Mennonite Central Committee. Here is a link to the website of MCC Abuse Survivors Together (MAST), where you can learn more about the issues: www.mccabusivesurvivors.org/

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

Are you new to or newly exploring Bethel College Mennonite Church? Pastor Joanna will host a gathering for newcomers in her office today, 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 Kansas Mennonite Relief Sale (KMRS) is this coming weekend! Come Fri. evening or Sat. to volunteer in a booth, eat great food, bid at an auction, walk or run the 5K, meet a new friend, or simply enjoy a spring day at the Kansas State Fairgrounds in Hutchinson. Everything you spend will go to supporting the world-wide relief, development and peace efforts of Mennonite Central Committee.

- **Today is the last day to sign up to bake pies or zwieback.** Come to the back of the sanctuary immediately after worship to sign up and get tins and bags.
- **Contributions to the Plants Sale** (bulbs, flowers, vegetable starts, herbs—anything that grows) are welcome. Deliver plants and baked goods to BCMC on Fri. or by 7:30 Sat. morning for transport to the sale. Take baked goods to the BCMC kitchen and plants to the south entry. Make sure everything is labeled.
- **Volunteers are still needed!** For many opportunities to help in a booth, see the online sign up sheets at <https://kansas.mccsale.org/volunteer/>
- **Auction items.** BCMC members and friends have donated many items to be sold at one of the six different KMRS auctions. Go to the Auctions page at <https://kansas.mccsale.org/auctions/> to see some of the wonderful donations.
- **This is the last Sunday to add your coins** to the My Coins Count jug in the Gathering Place. Thanks to all who have already added coins and bills to support food assistance around the globe.
- **For more information,** 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—All student recitals are in the Administration Building Chapel

- **Mon., Apr. 7: Bethel College Outstanding Alumnus Award presentation** to George Rogers III '69, 11 a.m., *Krehbiel Auditorium in Luyken Fine Arts Center*
- **Tues., Apr. 8: All interested singers are invited to participate in the 2025 Masterworks Concert** at Bethel College. Rehearsals are April 8, 15, 22, 29, 6-8 p.m., *Choir Room in Fine Arts Center*, with several longer rehearsals the weekend of the concert, which is May 4. Sign up on-line or at your first rehearsal.
- **Thurs., Apr. 10: Senior recital—BC student Dylan Yoder**, voice, 7 p.m.
- **Fri., Apr. 11: Junior recital—BC student Caleb Garber**, cello, 7 p.m.
- **Sat., Apr. 12: Senior recital—BC student Sophia Chindamo**, voice & piano, 4 p.m.
- **Sat., Apr. 12: Senior recital—BC student Emil Benavides**, voice and clarinet, 7 p.m.
- **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.