

**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 joins First Mennonite Church of San Francisco (California) this year in celebrating its 50th anniversary and its 50th year of hosting a Mennonite Voluntary Service (MVS) unit. Pray for current MVS participants — Conrad Liechty, Ana Esperanza Neufeld Weaver and Sav Roth Walter — as they help the congregation extend its outreach in the city.

**Western District Conference Prayer Request:** Pray for WDC’s new Kids Meet Christ program, supporting congregations to reimagine worship in ways that fully welcome children and create space for them to meet Christ.

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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](mailto:office@bethelcollegemennonitechurch.org)  
Website: [bethelcollegemennonitechurch.org](http://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](mailto:Joanna@bethelcollegemennonitechurch.org)
- Pastor Nathan Koontz will be on Sabbatical until August 11, 2025
- Elizabeth Schmidt, Pastor of Congregational Care  
Email: [elizabeth@bethelcollegemennonitechurch.org](mailto:elizabeth@bethelcollegemennonitechurch.org)
- Office/Facilities Manager: Monica Lichti, Cell phone 316-249-9652  
Email: [office@bethelcollegemennonitechurch.org](mailto:office@bethelcollegemennonitechurch.org)
- Faith Formation Coordinator: Jill Robb—Email: [jill@bethelcollegemennonitechurch.org](mailto:jill@bethelcollegemennonitechurch.org)
- Youth Coordinator: George Leary—Email: [george@bethelcollegemennonitechurch.org](mailto:george@bethelcollegemennonitechurch.org)
- Music Coordinators: Verlene Garber and Will Wiebe-Friesen
- Chancel Choir Director: Joel Garber • Chancel Bells Director: Verlene Garber

*Artwork on the bulletin cover is by Michelle Burkholder originally appeared in Prone to Wonder,  
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# Bethel College Mennonite Church

May 11, 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**

**May 11, 2025**

**Fourth Sunday of Easter**

Christ Candle Lighting

Centering Music      *Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer* (Dale Wood)  
Karen Schlabaugh

Welcome      Brad Kohlman

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

Children and Youth Conversation      Nathan & Esther Koontz

Scripture Reading      Acts 9:36-43      Karen Ediger

Sermon      *From the Mundane to the Miraculous*      Joanna Harader

\*Hymn      *Healer of Our Every Ill*      VT 644

Prayers of God's People      Brad Kohlman

Welcoming New Members      Elizabeth Schmidt

New Members by Baptism (April 27, 2025): Emma Gering, Maisie Brubacher  
Abram Wall

Baptism Videos

Introduction to Church Membership      VT 959

New Members by Transfer: Lorin and Karen Neufeld

Membership Covenant Questions

Welcoming New Members      VT 961

\*Hymn      *For We Are Strangers No More*      VT 409

Sabbatical Blessing for Pastor Nathan      Sondra Koontz and Megan Kohlman

Leader: Nathan, BCMC thanks you for postponing your sabbatical and for calmly guiding us through transitions. We celebrate your leadership, the encouragement and guidance you provide us. And now it is time for a Sabbatical.

**Congregation: We acknowledge the unique challenges of pastoral leadership. We send you on this Sabbatical journey, confident that God will bless you, refresh your spirit, and provide you with new vision for our continued ministry. May this Sabbatical be a time of rest and discovery for you.**

Leader: We pray that you will enjoy poetry and play, leisurely dreaming and focused reflection, contemplation and rich conversation at the Holy Wisdom Monastery, and moments of wonder in the Colorado wilderness.

**Congregation: We will miss you as we continue our ministry here. Please know that our thoughts and prayers are with you, that we support you, and that we look forward with joy to your return.**

Nathan: I will miss you as well and I will pray for you. I too look forward to returning and sharing again in our ministry. Thank you for creating this opportunity for renewal and rest in my ministry.

\*Hymn of Blessing      *The Peace of the Earth Be with You*      VT 838

\*Benediction

Postlude      *Postludium* (Flor Peeters)      Karen Schlabaugh

\*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.



VBS QR Code for Registration



**Bel Canto Singers concert - "Singing Through Generations"** Hesston College's Bel Canto Singers will perform in concert Fri., May 16, 7 p.m. at Hesston Mennonite Church. The concert is part of commencement week-end activities at the college and is free and open to the public. Bel Canto will begin a 12-day spring tour in the Pacific Northwest following graduation weekend.

**Want to visit someone in prison or be a pen pal?** Volunteers with M-2 (Match-2) visit one evening a month with an inmate who gets few outside visits. Apply to be an M-2 volunteer at [www.ovmks.org/m2](http://www.ovmks.org/m2) and plan to attend the next volunteer training on May 19, 12:30-4 p.m. at Hutchinson Correctional Facility (in the Old Schoolhouse, just outside the walls). Pen pals correspond monthly with an incarcerated individual, often sending letters through our office. Contact Kenzie Brister to learn more: [prison@ovmks.org](mailto:prison@ovmks.org) or 316-281-4721.

**Kidron Bethel Village is hosting a vintage car show** Fri., June 6, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. If you have a vehicle you would like to bring to show, we would love to have you share it! Register your vehicle by contacting Kelli at 316-836-4865 or [KelliM@bluestemks.org](mailto:KelliM@bluestemks.org). No entry fee, judging or prizes; just a rewarding day of sharing your favorite cars, trucks and tractors.

**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](http://mcc.org/learning-tour-texas).

**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.

**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 July 12. GDC reimburses registration fees to delegates.

## The Week at BCMC: May 11-18, 2025

**Sunday, May 11, 2025: Worship—9:30 a.m.**

YouTube Link for the worship service this Sunday:

<https://youtube.com/live/KyjoT6sXbOE?feature=share>

**4 p.m. Bethel College's Open Road and Woven Concert** in the Sanctuary  
**6 p.m.** Bethel College rehearsal in the Sanctuary

**Monday, May 12, 2025**

7 p.m. **Dr. Henry Waters' Hymnology class** invites the public to a Hymn Festival in the BCMC Sanctuary

**Tuesday, May 13, 2025**

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

**Wednesday, May 14, 2025**

4 p.m. Witness Commission meeting in Room 14

**Sunday, May 18, 2025—Bethel College Baccalaureate 10 a.m.** (Note the later time for the beginning of worship)

**Upcoming Events at BCMC:**

- **May 18, 10 a.m.:** Bethel College Baccalaureate at BCMC
- **May 30, 11 a.m.:** Memorial service for Helen Barga at BCMC

**Abram Wall invitation**

**We are inviting the BCMC congregation to Abram Wall's graduation party on Sunday, May 18, from 1:30-3:30 pm** at the 1887 Cafe at Bethel College. - Abram and family

**Mara Oswald would like to invite the congregation to her graduation celebration on May 18th from 2-4 p.m.** at the KIPCOR building, 2515 College Ave, North Newton.

**Forty-one years ago--in spring 1984--leaders of the Western District Mennonite Conference** took away John Linscheid's ministerial credentials because he is gay. In a worship service at 4 p.m. today, May 11, at Peace Mennonite Church in Lawrence, KS, current WDC leaders will apologize for what their predecessors did. You can read more details about this event on the Western District Conference website. Please contact Pastor Joanna if you would like to carpool with others who are attending from Newton.

### **BACK OF THE SANCTUARY TODAY:**

**Check out the display on the Oak Flat prayer vigil and letter writing campaign held on Bethel's campus last Tuesday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. using the chimes on the hour to call together prayer circles, many from BCMC.**

At least 50 people signed on to pray, phone, and write letters. We will update as we learn information on the case.

### **Congratulations to BCMC Graduates:**

- **Elizabeth Lamp is graduating from Baker University with a degree in Biochemistry.** She will be attending Kansas City University College of Dental Medicine in the fall.
- **John Mark Koontz is graduating from Wichita State University May 17 with a degree in Music and Instrumental Performance on Double Bass.**

### **Newton High School Graduates:**

- **Lucy Burch, Payne Claassen, Adah Hodge, Ani Koontz, Mara Oswald, Christopher Sattler, Lily Schloneger, Abram Wall**

**Ron Scott, father of Jenni Scott Koontz, passed away on Wednesday, May 7, in Hutchinson after receiving hospice care for the past few weeks.**

Please keep Jenni, Matt, Caleb, Abby, Naomi and the entire Scott family in your prayers as they grieve his loss.

### **Women's Fellowship will meet Tues., May 20, 7 p.m. in Fellowship**

**Hall.** All women are invited. The speaker will be Elizabeth Schmidt, BCMC Pastor of Congregational Care, on "Following the Thread. Walton Dairy Farm to BCMC Pastor."

**Anabaptism 500 Worship Celebration.** Bethel College Mennonite Church will host the live-stream of the May 29, 2025 worship service at Mennonite World Conference in Zurich, Switzerland, celebrating the 500th anniversary of Anabaptism. The live-stream begins at 10 a.m. in the BCMC Sanctuary. Join us in lifting glad voices with other Anabaptists around the world in this joyful celebration!

**BCMC Offering for May 6:** Gen. Fund \$8,368; MCC \$50; Sr Hi Youth \$436; Church Retreat \$80; Kitchen Fund \$21; Solar Fund \$50; Merrill Raber Mem. \$50; Louise Thieszen Mem. \$75.

### **Bethel College Announcements**

- **Sun., May 11: Dr. Valerie Mendoza,** Kansas City Kansas Community College, "Stories of Mexican Migration to Kansas," 3 p.m., Kauffman Museum auditorium
- **Sun., May 11: Woven and Open Road joint concert, 4 p.m.,** Bethel College Mennonite Church
- **Mon., May 12: Dr. Henry Waters' Hymnology class** invites the public to a Hymn Festival, 7 p.m., Bethel College Mennonite Church. Sing and learn more about a selection of hymns from *Voices Together*.
- **Fri., May 16: Artist reception for Gracie Higgins, April Powls and Lizzie Schmucker and the Senior Art Exhibit, 7-9 p.m.,** Regier Art Gallery in Luyken Fine Arts Center. Gallery hours are 9 a.m.- 4 p.m. Mon.-Fri., Sun. 2-4 p.m.
- **Bethel College commencement weekend is Sat.-Sun., May 17-18.** Events: **Nurse Pinning Ceremony, 2 p.m., May 17,** Krehbiel Auditorium in Luyken Fine Arts Center; **Baccalaureate, 10 a.m., Bethel College Mennonite Church; Commencement, 4 p.m., May 18, Memorial Hall.**
- **Bethel College advancement and development staff invite you for coffee and conversation** (and some light breakfast snacks) Friday, May 23, 7:30-9 a.m., The Breadbasket, 219 N. Main St., Newton (alumni-owned). Contact: George Leary, gleary@bethelks.edu, 316-284-5226
- **SAVE THE DATE: Sunday, June 1: U.S. premiere of the 1874 immigration documentary *Where the Cottonwoods Grow*,** Krehbiel Auditorium in Luyken Fine Arts Center

**This semester at Bethel College, Dr. Henry Waters has been teaching a Hymnology class, drawing heavily from *Voices Together* and using C. Michael Hawn's "seven streams of hymnody."** The public is invited to the class's culminating activity, a hymn festival at Bethel College Mennonite Church, Monday, May 12, at 7 p.m. The evening will feature a variety of hymns that class members have chosen from *Voices Together* to reflect the different streams and what they've learned in the class. Come and sing some hymns that will be familiar and some that might be new to you.

**You are invited to attend the Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) Relief Sale Annual Meeting Thurs., May 22, 6 p.m.,** at Hesston Mennonite Church. The cost for the meal is \$20/person and you will pay at the door. Please RSVP to Barb BJ Reeves by May 19, 620-543-6863 or bj.reeves@live.com The meeting to celebrate our successful sale and present MCC with a check will be held after dinner at approximately 7 p.m. A filled sandwich bag of California almonds will be available for \$20.