

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 a Youth Venture team of 11 young adults and two leaders, who are visiting sites in Germany and Switzerland in commemoration of the 500th anniversary of Anabaptism. Pray that their faith will grow, as they begin to understand more about the historical foundations of the church and build global relationships through attending Mennonite World Conference’s Young Anabaptist Global Youth Summit.

Western District Conference Prayer Request: Please pray for undocumented persons in church plants that have anxiety about being able to remain safe. -WDC Church Planting Commission

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: Suspended for summer
Cell phone: 407-201-0503; Email: Joanna@bethelcollegemennonitechurch.org
- Pastor Nathan Koontz will be on Sabbatical until August 11, 2025
- 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 the bulletin cover is “Tree of Life”, SaeJin Lee (Korea/USA), 2018, watercolor paint and colored pencils on page 12 of “Voices Together”

Bethel College Mennonite Church

May 25, 2025



*“Tree of Life” by SaeJin Lee
from “Voices Together”*

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 25, 2025

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Christ Candle Lighting

Centering Music *Master Tallis's Testament* (Herbert Howells)
Will Wiebe-Friesen

Welcome Lauren Friesen

*Hymn *God Sent His Son* HWB 345

Children and Youth Conversation BCMC Youth

High School Graduate Recognition Faith Formation Commission

God of wisdom and transitions, today we hold in prayer these beloved young people: Lucy, Payne, Adah, Ani, Mara, Chris, Lily, and Abram.

Thank you for their presence as part of our church community.

We pray your blessings for them as they have graduated from high school and transition into the next stage of their lives.

Grant them your protection and guide them as they go.

We know Jesus came that we might all have life, and have it abundantly. So even in the midst of struggles and grief, may these dear ones know the abundant life they have in you.

We pray they will have good friends, meaningful activities, and deep joy.

Holy Parent, guide and guardian, we send them with our love and know that they are forever within your love.

May you, O God, bless them and keep them.

May your very face shine on them and be gracious to them.

May your presence embrace them and give them peace.

Amen.

*Hymn *Here from all nations* (verses 1, 3, 4,5) HWB 296

Scripture Reading Revelation 22:1-5, 16-17
Adam, Gabby, and Jake Robb

Sermon *Life-Giving Water* Joanna Harader

*Hymn *Oh, have you not heard* HWB 606

Prayers of God's People

*Hymn *O Power of Love* HWB 593

(During the hymn those with May birthdays come forward to receive a birthday blessing.)

*Birthday Blessing and Benediction

Postlude *Tongues of Fire: Pentecost Dance* (A. Fedak)
Will Wiebe-Friesen

*You are invited to stand ■ HWB—*Hymnal A Worship Book*

■ Audio visual— Ken Lamp



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



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. No entry fee, judging or prizes; just a rewarding day of sharing your favorite cars, trucks and tractors.

Announcing Summer Story Days 2025. Join Western District Conference Resource Library staff for stories and come & go activities for ages 3-8 and their care-givers. New this year is virtual participation with mailed craft kits available--sign up for virtual participation at forms.gle/8DnWnLs64VkJoeB6. No sign up for in-person activities in North Newton. Join us June 7, July 12, and Aug. 9. See flyer for more information or contact Jennie at crlib@mennowdc.org.

Camp Mennoscah Announcements:

- **The camp needs a commercial vacuum for the pool.** The commercial vacuum is an intricate part of the pool process of keeping it clean and running properly and is priced \$2,000-\$2,500. Please mark donations for Camp Pool Vacuum on the memo line or note field.
- **Sponsor Pop Break for summer youth camp!** Generic pop has been an integral part of Camp Mennoscah for years. The cost per day for a camp with 75 campers and staff is approximately \$30. Contact us at 620-297-3290 or olivia.bartel@campmennoscah.org to be a soda pop hero!
- **Camp Nurses needed** for June 26-28 (3rd & 4th graders), July 13-18 (6th-8th graders), and July 27-Aug. 1 (Senior High camp). Nurses can receive a stipend or parent discount for a camper of up to full camp fees. Contact Olivia at 620-297-3290 or olivia.bartel@campmennoscah.org
- **Campers!** We're taking "Another Way" and finding transformation in Jesus' way of living. Summer camps are open for those going into grades 3-12. Scholarships are available and parents volunteering as kitchen helpers can receive a discount up to full camp fees for a camper. Register at <https://campmennoscah.campbrainregistration.com/>

Western District Women in Mission's annual Women's & Girls Retreat will be Sat., Sept. 6 - Sun., Sept. 7 at Camp Mennoscah. Registration will open on our website on June 7 (register & pay online or print out form and mail with your payment). For more information go to westerndistrictwomeninmission.org This year's featured speakers are Pastor Katherine Goerzen and Pastor Laura Goerzen. Comforter tying will start Sat. at 10 a.m. Afternoon seminars will include dried flower bookmarks, yoga, guided nature walk, book reviews with Bethany Martin from Faith & Life Bookstore and free time. Come for fun and fellowship!

BCMC Offering for May 11: Gen. Fund \$5,063.01; Plant Fund \$20; Kitchen Fund \$26; Merrill Raber Mem. \$50.

May 15: General Fund \$8,599.16; Merrill Raber Mem. \$540.

The Week at BCMC: May 25-June 1, 2025

Sunday, May 25, 2025: Worship—9:30 a.m.

YouTube Link for the worship service this Sunday:

<https://youtube.com/live/iSofBMyRy3c?feature=share>

Monday, May 26, 2025—Memorial Day—Church will be locked and church office will be closed

Tuesday, May 27 through Friday May 30—Vacation Bible School at First Mennonite Church, Newton, 5-7:30 p.m.

Thursday, May 29, 2025

10 a.m. Anabaptist 500 Anniversary Worship Service from Zurich, Switzerland
Viewing in the Sanctuary

Friday, May 30, 2025

11 a.m. Memorial for Helen Barga in the Sanctuary

Saturday, May 31, 2025

Family and friends will gather in memoriam, to honor the lives of Eleanor Claassen Hiebert and Kenneth John Hiebert at Bethel College Mennonite Church. Please contact us if you would like to join us christinehiebert@gmail.com or 347-262-7254

Sunday, June 1, 2025—10 a.m. VBS Sunday in Athletic Park followed by a pot-luck lunch (If rain, worship and lunch will be moved to First Mennonite Church)

Today's Hymn Requests

- ***God sent his Son*** was requested by Kathryn Stucky who says: "I heard this hymn sung as a solo and was so moved by it many years ago."
- ***O Power of Love*** is a favorite hymn for many people and is not included in *Voices Together*. In a conversation with Kidron residents, Pastor Elizabeth notes that six BCMC congregants raised their hands when asked how many would like to sing "O Power of Love", after one person mentioned missing it and it's strong history of being sung in the former General Conference.
 - **Janet Voth requested this hymn** because her dad directed a men's choir that sang on a radio station and this was the theme song. "I also think love is very powerful," writes Janet.
 - **Lenore Waltner notes** that "the chorale, '**Ich bete an die Macht der Liebe**,' (O Power of Love) included in our three previous hymnals, has been a favorite in many (General Conference) Mennonite congregations for generations."

Monica Lichti will be on vacation from June 2-13. During these weeks the office will be open Mon., Tues, Wed., Thurs. mornings, and closed on Fridays. For emergencies call Pastor Joanna Harader.

Anabaptism 500 Worship Celebration. BCMC will host the live-stream of the May 29 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!

There is much that could be said about today's music! The centering music, Master Tallis's Testament, was composed by English composer Herbert Howells (1892-1983) in 1940. It begins with a quiet presentation of a theme inspired by 16th century composer Thomas Tallis and is developed in three variations that build in volume and complexity, contrasting 16th century modality with lush 20th century harmonies. The postlude, by living composer Aldred Fedak, is perhaps less substantial than the Howells, but I think it's a pretty neat musical description of the Holy Spirit coming at Pentecost in Acts 2: "Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them." Even though it is not yet Pentecost, I wanted to share this piece as I always seem to be out of town when Pentecost actually rolls around. Finally, the hymn *O Power of Love* deserves mention. A favorite hymn tune and text of many, it is somewhat befuddling why it was omitted from *Voices Together*. At any rate, its text by Tersteegen (Ich bete an die Macht der Liebe) and tune by Bortniansky seem a perfect match that Mennonites living in Russia adopted soon after its initial publication in the *Choralbuch* in 1825. It remains a much beloved Kernlied, the so-called core songs of the Russian Mennonites. — Will Wiebe-Friesen

Community Playschool, Inc. has recently completed our 59th school year! Eighteen children of the Newton community participated in the program this year at a minimal cost to their families, thanks to five area sponsoring churches. We again want to thank BCMC for being one of those supporting churches through monetary donations, the use of the facilities, secretarial and custodial services and a welcoming attitude toward our program. It is nice to have a home here! We also are grateful for the matching grant that we received from this church through the Everence Sharing Fund. We want to acknowledge the service of Cliff Dick as BCMC's representative on our board, also serving as treasurer. Barb Voran, Stahli Claassen, Carolyn Penner, Cliff Dick and Cynthia Linscheid, served respectively as teacher, helpers, and substitute this year. These volunteers help make it possible for us to continue to provide an affordable preschool experience to families who need it most. A big thanks to Monica Lichti for her extra duties related to our being housed here at BCMC! We would be happy to talk to you about the opportunities we have for your involvement with this program. If you have any interest in volunteering with the children or providing your individual financial support for our scholarship program, please give us a call. We solicit your prayers and continued support for the future of our organization. With gratitude, Co- Directors, Kasey Newell (316 772-3350) and Jeanette Leary (316 217-2548)

BCMC SUMMER READERS: Be Part of the Picture—Between now and the end of August, take a digital photo of you and your book or of you reading with others. Send the photo as an attachment to office@bethelcollegemennonitechurch.org. Become part of the BCMC photo collage of summer readers on display in the Gathering Place.

Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) Central States is hiring for the following positions and MCC Lunch & Learn is back:

- **Do you thrive completing a variety of tasks while connecting with people?** MCC Central States is seeking a Volunteer Coordinator for the Material Resources Center in North Newton. This half-time position involves working with volunteers to prepare humanitarian aid for those in need around the world. View the full job description and apply online at mcc.org/cs-volunteer-coordinator by June 2. Contact brociamueller@mcc.org.
- **The Peace and Justice Practice Coordinator** is responsible for planning and coordinating activities that articulate the vision of a holistic, biblical, Anabaptist vision of peace and justice ministry to staff, board, conferences, and churches of MCC Central States. This is a full-time position and is offered in the MCC office in North Newton or remotely in these states: Kansas, Texas, Colorado, Montana, Minnesota, New Mexico, or Oklahoma. View the full job description and apply online at mcc.org/cs-pjp-coordinator by June 4. Contact: andrewwright@mcc.org
- **The MCC Lunch & Learn is back!** Join us Tues., June 17 from 12-1 p.m. at MCC in North Newton, 121 E. 30th St. Becky Teiwes, MCC Central State's Borderlands Program Coordinator will share about courage, compassion, and faithfulness as MCC continues to work with partners and churches at the U.S./Mexico border. Lunch will be provided for a suggested donation of \$10-\$15. Please RSVP by June 9 at mcc.org/events/lunch-learn-mcc-partners-usmexico-border or by calling the office at 316.283.2720.

Bethel College Announcements

- **Sunday, June 1: Kauffman Museum will host the U.S. premiere** of the documentary *Where the Cottonwoods Grow* by Dale Hildebrand, 3 p.m., Krehbiel Auditorium. Ticket purchase is required. Purchase tickets online at <https://kauffmanmuseum.org/event/film-premiere-where-the-cottonwoods-grow/> or at Thresher Shop in Schultz Student Center, Mon.-Fri., 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
- **Sat., June 7: The public is invited to Walk Sand Creek Trail Day, 6 a.m.-8 p.m.**, as part of National Trails Day®. Water will be available for people and leashed dogs at the trailhead at Memorial Grove on the Bethel College campus, courtesy of the Sand Creek Trail Committee, with members there to answer any questions about the trail.