

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 Laura and Nick Sharp, and their children, Jesse (8) and Brielle (5), as they prepare to begin a year-long assignment in La Mesa, Colombia, where they will serve alongside the Colombia Mennonite Church and its school, Colegio Americano Menno (American Menno School).

Western District Conference Prayer Request: Pray for WDC representatives (Eric Buller, Moderator; Caleb Gingerich, Executive Board member; and Heidi Regier Kreider, Conference Minister) joining others from across the wider church to attend Mennonite Church USA Constituency Leaders Council meetings next weekend in Wichita, KS.

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

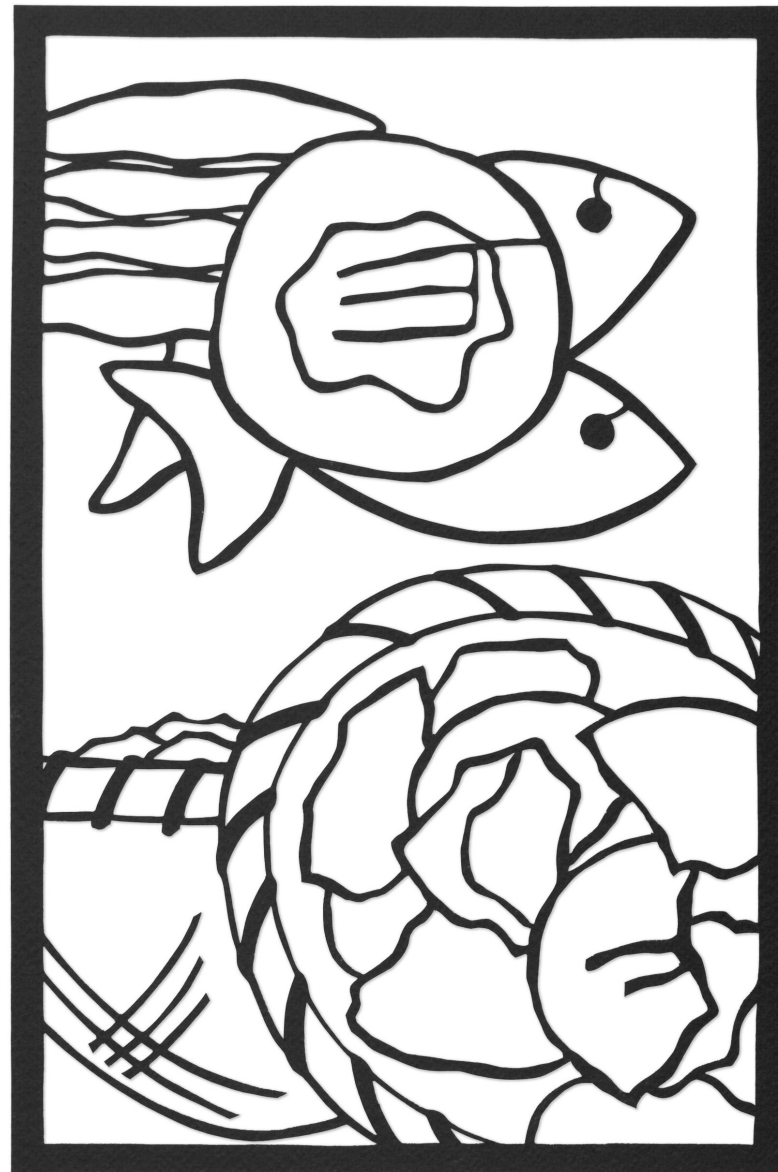
Sundays—building is locked at 2 p.m. unless afternoon/evening activities are scheduled

- 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

Illustration on the bulletin cover is by Michelle Burkholder ©2020 in “Voices Together”

Bethel College Mennonite Church

May 4, 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 4, 2025

Third Sunday of Easter

Christ Candle Lighting

Centering Music *Lift High the Cross* (Weber) Karen Unruh

Land Acknowledgement Jim Robb

Welcome & Prayer

*Hymn *I Know That My Redeemer Lives* (verses 1-4) VT 347

Children and Youth Conversation Deb Gering

Worship Music *Do Lord, O Do Lord* (arr. Bill Ingram)
Chancel Bells; Verlene Garber, director

Scripture Reading John 21:1-19 Dorothy Nickel Friesen

*Hymn *Seeking Warmth from Charcoal Blazing* VT 344

Sermon *From the Miraculous to the Mundane* Nathan Koontz

*Hymn *Now the Green Blade Rises* VT 353

Prayers of God's People

*Hymn *The Risen Christ* VT 345
(During the hymn those with April birthdays come forward
to receive a birthday blessing.)

*Birthday Blessing and Benediction

Postlude Excerpts from *The Best of John Williams* (arr. Wagner)
("May the Fourth be With You") Chancel Bells

*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

From the Repair Coalition:

"While the Supreme Court has yet to take any action on the Apache Stronghold case, the federal government on Thursday, April 17, 2025, announced that it plans as early as June 16, 2025 to publish a final environmental impact statement and begin moving forward with the transfer and destruction of Oak Flat. On Friday, April 18, Becket Law filed a letter with the Supreme Court explaining that this makes it even more urgent for the Court to hear the case.

Thanks to the federal government's haste, Apache Stronghold now has legal standing to request an injunction, a legal order for 'the courts to stop this move in its tracks and ensure justice can be delivered before Oak Flat is permanently destroyed,' with the District Court as another avenue in case the Supreme Court decides to not hear Apache Stronghold's case."

BCMC Task Group will be organizing a prayer vigil and letter writing campaign next week on behalf of the Apache Stronghold and Oak Flat. Watch for a request for your help! "May we lament all that has been and is destroying life."

Want to make your voice heard but don't know how? Check out "5 Calls," an easy and effective way to be in touch with your congressional reps. The website provides help with knowing how to make your calls, provides a timely list of topics to address (gets updated frequently) and a handy script guide to help you know what to say. Check them out at <https://5calls.org/> —Witness Commission

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 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 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. 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.

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.

The Week at BCMC: May 4-11, 2025

Sunday, May 4, 2025: Worship—9:30 a.m. Congregational meeting in the sanctuary—10:45 a.m.

YouTube Link for the worship service this Sunday:

<https://youtube.com/live/oGRJicG3mac?feature=share>

YouTube Link for the congregational meeting

<https://youtube.com/live/G7KfOKQLN28?feature=share>

Monday, May 5, 2025—Church Office will be closed today

6-8 p.m. Newton Community Children's Choir Party in Fellowship Hall

7:30 p.m. Bethel College Campus Ministry event in the sanctuary

Tuesday, May 6, 2025—Pastors will be on a retreat

Thursday, May 8, 2025

5:15 p.m. Hospitality Commission meeting in Fellowship Hall

6 p.m. Bethel College rehearsal in sanctuary

Friday, May 9, 2025

11 a.m. Bethel College Open Road and Woven rehearsal in sanctuary

6 p.m. Bethel College rehearsal in sanctuary

Sunday, May 11, 2025

9:30 a.m. Worship with sermon by Joanna Harader; sabbatical blessing for Pastor Nathan Koontz; welcome to new members

4 p.m. Bethel College Open Road and Woven Concert in the sanctuary

6 p.m. Bethel College rehearsal in sanctuary

Pastor Joanna Harader will be out of the office from May 1 to May 6. She is attending the "Fabulous, Fierce, and Sacred" event in Philadelphia from May 2-4.

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

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. Sunday, 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.

As most of you know, Pastor Elizabeth Schmidt has announced her plan to retire from her position at Bethel College Mennonite Church later this fall, after Pastor Nathan returns from his sabbatical. The BCMC board has had significant conversations with all three pastors and is now working to develop a job description for a future pastoral position. Our moderators will be creating a search committee that will carry forward our church's search process. Your prayers are appreciated as we look toward this upcoming time of transition.

BCMC Offering for Apr. 20: Gen. Fund \$8,846; MCC Sale \$25; Sr Hi Youth \$2,172; Caring Fund \$1,336; Library Reserve Fund \$5; Women's Fellowship \$509; Merrill Raber Mem. \$150.

For April 27: Gen. Fund \$1,485; Plant Fund \$50; Sr Hi Youth \$511; Flower Fund \$15; Church Retreat \$848.

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.

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.

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.

Bethel College Announcements

- **Sun., May 4: Bethel College Masterworks Concert, 4 p.m.:** Three Nocturnes by Dan Forrest; *Exsultate, Jubilate* by Mozart; *Considering Matthew Shepard: A Choral Suite* by Craig Hella Johnson, with mass choir, orchestra and soloists; Memorial Hall
- **Weds., May 7: Jazz on the Green** at Bethel College, 7 p.m. (rain venue: Krehbiel Auditorium in Luyken Fine Arts Center)
- **Thurs., May 8: Bethel College Voice Studio recital**, Dr. Holly Swartzendruber, instructor, 7 p.m., Administration Building chapel
- **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*.
- **Now in the Regier Art Gallery in Luyken Fine Arts Center – Senior Art Exhibit**, featuring the work of Bethel College students Gracie Higgins, April Powls and Lizzie Schmucker, through May 18. Gallery hours are Mon.-Fri. 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Sun. 2-4 p.m.
- **Bethel College advancement and development staff invite you for coffee and conversation** (and some light breakfast snacks): Friday, May 9, 7:30-9 a.m., Thresher Stadium Viewing Suite, on campus at N. Main & 29th Streets, North Newton; or 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.