

**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.

**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.

**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 rejoices with members of the Bolivia Mennonite Church, as they celebrate their 50th anniversary. Pray for them as they set goals and plan for the future.

**Western District Conference Prayer Request:** Pray for leaders and participants in the *Voices Together* mini-webinar hosted by the WDC Resource Commission coming up on September 30, as they share ideas, resources and inspiration for meaningful worship and music (<https://mennowdc.org/wdc-affinity-group-forums/>).

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)

- Pastor Joanna Harader, Day off: Monday; **1887 Café Hours Wednesday, 8-10 a.m.**  
Cell phone: 407-201-0503; Email: [joanna@bethelcollegemennonitechurch.org](mailto:joanna@bethelcollegemennonitechurch.org)
- Pastor Nathan Koontz, Day off: Wednesday  
Cell phone: 316-212-4593; Email: [nathan@bethelcollegemennonitechurch.org](mailto:nathan@bethelcollegemennonitechurch.org)
- Elizabeth Schmidt, Pastor of Congregational Care  
Email: [elizabeth@bethelcollegemennonitechurch.org](mailto:elizabeth@bethelcollegemennonitechurch.org)
- Office/Facilities Manager: Monica Lichti, 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

## Bethel College Mennonite Church

### September 21, 2025

### Peace 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.

**BETHEL COLLEGE MENNONITE CHURCH**  
**September 21, 2025**  
**Peace Sunday**

## Christ Candle Lighting

Centering Music      *Thou True Vine That Heals the Nations*  
(arr. Raymond Haan)      Will Wiebe-Friesen

Welcome & Prayer Heather Esau Zerger

\*Hymn *Christ is Alive! Let Christians Sing* VT 359

Children and Youth Conversation Esther Kreider Eash

Worship Music      *Children of the Heavenly Father* (arr. Robert Scholz)  
Chancel Choir; Joel Garber, director; Will Wiebe-Friesen, accompanist

Scripture Reading                      Matthew 5:33-48                      Lauren Friesen

\*Hymn                      *How Can We Worship Caesar's Cross*                      VT 308

Sermon                      *Concerning Coercion*                      Nathan Koontz

|       |                  |        |
|-------|------------------|--------|
| *Hymn | <i>Rain Down</i> | VT 703 |
|-------|------------------|--------|

## Prayers of God's People

|       |                                       |        |
|-------|---------------------------------------|--------|
| *Hymn | <i>For the Healing of the Nations</i> | VT 705 |
|-------|---------------------------------------|--------|

\*Benediction

Postlude *Christ is Alive! Let Christians Sing* (arr. J. Wayne Kerr)

\*You are invited to stand  
VT—*Voices Together*  
Audio-visual—Ben Lichti

**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.**



**All young people aged 16-25 are encouraged to attend the final two sessions on conscientious objection (c.o.).** Both sessions will meet at 10:45 in the chapel room. Today we will learn about the history of conscientious objection and go on a field trip to see the new exhibit at the Kauffman Museum: "Voices of Conscience". On September 28, participants will receive resources and support for creating their own c.o. file. Bethel College students can receive convocation credit for the September 28 session. On September 28, participants are invited to a pizza lunch hosted by the Agape Sunday School class.

**We offer sympathy to the family of Lela Schmidt.** Lela was a long-time and cherished helper in the Community Playschool which meets in the BCMC basement and she was a long-time BCMC member. Lela died Wed., Sept. 17 at Paramount, Newton.

**Thanks to everyone who joined us for our first Messy Church** Wednesday, September 10! And a special thanks to those who helped with the meal. We talked about how God is mighty and powerful while also caring for us intimately and tenderly. The paper fish races were a highlight of the night. Congratulations to Rachel on her victory and to Mara as a close runner-up! Remember to pray for your prayer partners this month. Messy Church is the second Wednesday of each month from 6-7:30. We hope you can **join us on October 8.**

**Worship is a central spiritual practice for us at Bethel College Mennonite Church, and we rely on many people within our church community to make it happen!** The Worship Commission is hosting a worship participant workshop on Sat., Sept. 27, from 2 to 4 p.m. at Bethel College Mennonite Church. As a large group, we will briefly talk about BCMC worship and then break into smaller groups to offer input and support in particular areas. This is for everyone interested in worship leading, scripture reading, leading children /youth conversation, or being an usher or greeter--whether you have done it before or not. All are welcome!

**The 19th Annual United Way Chili Cook-Off is Sat., Sept. 27, 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at 6th & Main, Newton.** Tickets are \$5 in advance and \$8 at the gate and can be purchased from Community Playschool because Playschool is once again participating in the cook-off! Buy tickets from Community Playschool (meets Tuesdays and Thursdays in the BCMC basement from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.—come after Playschool is over—or contact director Jeanette Leary.) Come eat chili and have a wonderful time at the Chili Cook-Off!

**Bethel College Announcements—All events free and open to the public**

- **Thurs., Sept. 25: Closing reception for Jordan Buschur and “Decororator,” 6-7 p.m., Regier Art Gallery in Luyken Fine Arts Center**
- **Bethel College’s Fall Festival is Oct. 2-5**, with most activities taking place Sat., Oct. 4, on campus. Features include music, food, class reunions, football (Bethel vs. Southwestern), the play *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike* by Christopher Durang, and a ribbon cutting for the new Wellness Center. See <https://www.bethelks.edu/fallfest/> for the complete schedule.
- **Fri., Oct. 3, 7:30 p.m., Sat., Oct. 4, 3:30 p.m., Sun., Oct. 5, 2 p.m.: The Bethel College theater department presents *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike* by Christopher Durang during Fall Festival, Krehbiel Auditorium in Luyken Fine Arts Center.** Ticket purchase required, in Thresher Shop in Schultz Student Center weekdays 8 a.m.-5 p.m., or at the door. *Contains adult content and may not be suitable for young children.*
- **Kidron Bethel Village, 3001 Ivy Dr., will host its annual Country Breakfast Sat., Oct. 4, from 7 to 10 a.m.,** in Kidron Hall. Enjoy pancakes, sausage and eggs by donation. Proceeds benefit the Health Care Benevolent Fund, a ministry of Kidron Bethel Village, that assists residents who are unable to cover the full cost of their care.
- **Sat., Oct. 4: Miroslav Volf, “Striving for Superiority and Striving for Excellence,” 10 a.m., Bethel College Mennonite Church.** Volf, a Croatian Protestant theologian, is the Henry B. Wright Professor of Theology and director of the Yale Center for Faith and Culture at Yale University. His latest book, *The Cost of Ambition*, examines why ambition is at odds with the Christian faith.
- **Sun., Oct. 19, and Mon., Oct. 20:** Dr. Kat Hill, a religious and cultural historian from Scotland, will give the annual Menno Simons Lectures [these dates are different from some previously printed material]
- **Sun.-Tues., Nov. 2-4:** The biennial Worship and the Arts Symposium will focus on homiletics (preaching) with special guest Dr. Luke Powery from Duke Divinity School at Duke University. The symposium will also feature an art exhibition by Merrill Krabill and the fall choral concert “Bethel Sings.”

**The Week at BCMC: September 21—28, 2025**

**Sunday, September 21, 2025**

**Worship 9:30 a.m.** Worship

**Livestream Link:** <https://youtube.com/live/lptX4PkotvE?feature=share>

**Tuesday, September 23, 2025**

4 p.m. Worship Commission—Room 14

**Wednesday, September 24, 2025**

8-10 a.m. Pastor Joanna will be at the 1887 Café— Bethel College campus

7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir rehearsal—Sanctuary

**Thursday, September 25, 2025**

7 p.m. Deacon Commission—Room 14

**Saturday, September 27, 2025**

2-4 p.m. Worship Learning Communities Workshop—Fellowship Hall

**Sunday, September 28, 2025**

9:30 a.m. Worship with sermon by Joanna Harader; music by Holly Swartzendruber and Lucy Burch; Retirement Blessing for Pastor Elizabeth Schmidt

**In February, Pastor Elizabeth let us know of her plans to retire this fall.**

Sept. 28 will be her final Sunday on the pastoral staff here at Bethel College Mennonite Church. We are deeply grateful for her ministry here and pray for God's guidance and blessing as she enters a new season of life. **A farewell reception for Elizabeth will be held in the Fellowship Hall Sept. 28 from 2 to 4 p.m.**

---

**Today in the Catacombs Sunday school class, Room B5, Janet and Lauren Friesen are presenting an account with pictures of their recent trip to Poland . Guests are welcome.**

**The BCMC Pastoral Search Committee is asking you to fill out the survey about congregational and pastoral priorities found here - <https://forms.gle/BxKTCaisDo4FDEAV6> - Please fill it out by September 28. See the email sent out about the survey for more details. If you would prefer paper copies of the survey, please contact the church office.**

**BCMC Offering for September 14:** General \$4,202; Bethel College \$50; Wed. Night Supper \$154; Sr Hi Youth \$400; Kitchen Fund \$14.

**The nursery has openings for one volunteer each Sunday in October.** If you are interested in joining the list of volunteers who choose to spend a delightful and always interesting hour in the church nursery, please let Barb Voran or Margaret Toews (mctoews1@gmail.com) know. The process of training has been made very easy and we would love to have more names on our list!

#### **Camp Mennoscah Announcements**

- **Registration for the Fall Scrapbook and Crafts Retreat**, Oct. 10-12, is open. Activities and lodging will be in the dining hall and bunkhouses. Register at <https://campmennoscah.campbrainregistration.com>
- **Camp Mennoscah's Annual Meeting** is at Hope Mennonite Church, 868 N. Maize Rd., Wichita, Oct. 19, 6:30 p.m. All are invited to attend. A silent auction for a few items will take place.
- **The next tee shirt comforter will be (silent) auctioned off** at Bethel College's Fall Fest on Oct. 4. Also, tee shirts and souvenirs will be available.
- **Volunteers are needed for grounds work** like mowing, trail maintenance, string trimming, poison ivy and sticker plant control, or any number of other things. Contact us at 620-297-3290 to discuss opportunities!

**Mennonite Central Committee is hiring a Transformative Justice Program Coordinator** to advance MCC Central States's work on transformative and restorative justice, addressing mass incarceration, supporting justice-impacted people, and promoting change through education, capacity building, program development, and advocacy. This full-time position is offered in these locations: the MCC office in North Newton, or remotely in: Kansas, Texas, Colorado, Montana, Minnesota, New Mexico, or Oklahoma. View the full job description and apply online at [mcc.org/cs-tjp-coordinator](http://mcc.org/cs-tjp-coordinator) by October 17. Questions? Contact [roxyreyes@mcc.org](mailto:roxyreyes@mcc.org).

**Thank you for taking part in this year's Mennonite Central Committee School Kit Challenge!** Thanks to the work of people like you throughout the U.S. and Canada, we went well above our goal of 25,000 school kits for the 2025 challenge. Working together, you, your community and other devoted supporters packed 29,639 school kits! Each of the 29,639 school kits you shared will be a gift and treasure for a student dreaming of a bright future — and for the loved ones, teachers and community members dreaming alongside them. Thank you for being part of this year's School Kit Challenge. We hope you'll join us again next year!

**Life Enrichment is a series designed for adults age 60 and over.** Sessions are in the Bethel College Fine Arts Center, Krehbiel Auditorium, on Wednesdays, 9:30—11:50 a.m. Next session: **September 24**  
**9:30 a.m.** "Music Theater in the USA," Dr. Doyle Preheim, Goshen, IN College professor emeritus of music, and Mary Jo Preheim, North Newton  
**10:50 a.m.** "*Birds of Kansas*," Bob Gress, photographer, naturalist and retired director of Great Plains Nature Center, Wichita, and Peter Janzen, writer and field birder, Wichita

**QUILTERS CORNER IS HAVING A FALL SALE Fri., Oct. 3, from 4 – 7 p.m. and Saturday, Oct. 4, from 8 a.m. to noon** at the Mennonite Central Committee Central States Warehouse, 121 E. 30th St., North Newton. Come and shop ALL things quilting! SPECIAL ITEM FOR SALE: Husqvarna-Viking Designer Epic 1 sewing and embroidery machine with many, many accessories - \$4,500. Contact person for this item is Charlotte Wenger: [wengercd@gmail.com](mailto:wengercd@gmail.com) All proceeds support MCC work around the world for relief, development, and peace.

**The Swiss Mennonite Cultural and Historical Association annual banquet will be Oct. 18, 5 p.m. at the Burrton City Auditorium (203 N. Burrton Ave., Burrton).** Peter Buller, recent Bethel College graduate, will speak about his experience this summer at Reba Place in Chicago, connecting with bigger themes about our role as Mennonites in the world. Music provided by the Schwisters. RSVP by Oct. 11 to Dave Stucky at [bigdstucky@gmail.com](mailto:bigdstucky@gmail.com) or text or call 620-532-4408. Cost is \$25 and can be paid at the door or online at [www.swissmennonite.org](http://www.swissmennonite.org).

**BETHEL COLLEGE WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION** is looking forward to Fall Festival, our biggest money-raising event. We will have our usual New Year's cookies, borscht and zwiebach and pie by the slice all outside Luyken Fine Arts Center and Market-in-the-Round inside. We again welcome your donations of homemade peppernuts, whole fruit pies, poppyseed rolls, zwiebach, cinnamon rolls, cookies, jams and jellies and other goodies. We'd love to have you donate your craft items as well! Please bring baked goods and craft donations to the Luyken Fine Arts Center Music Library between 1-5 p.m. Fri., Oct. 3, or 7-9 a.m. Sat., Oct. 4. If you have questions, contact us at [bcwa@bethelks.edu](mailto:bcwa@bethelks.edu). Volunteers are needed as well to staff the booths. To sign up, click on the following link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0E4CA8A72FA3F58-50920044-fall>  
This announcement is in the all church email.