

**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 requests prayer for the Bokgoni Sporting Club, in Francistown, Botswana, which offers young people an alternative to life on the streets by providing a healthy environment, training in life-skills and an opportunity to play sports. The women's netball team is planning a community day this month to strength relationships between neighbors.

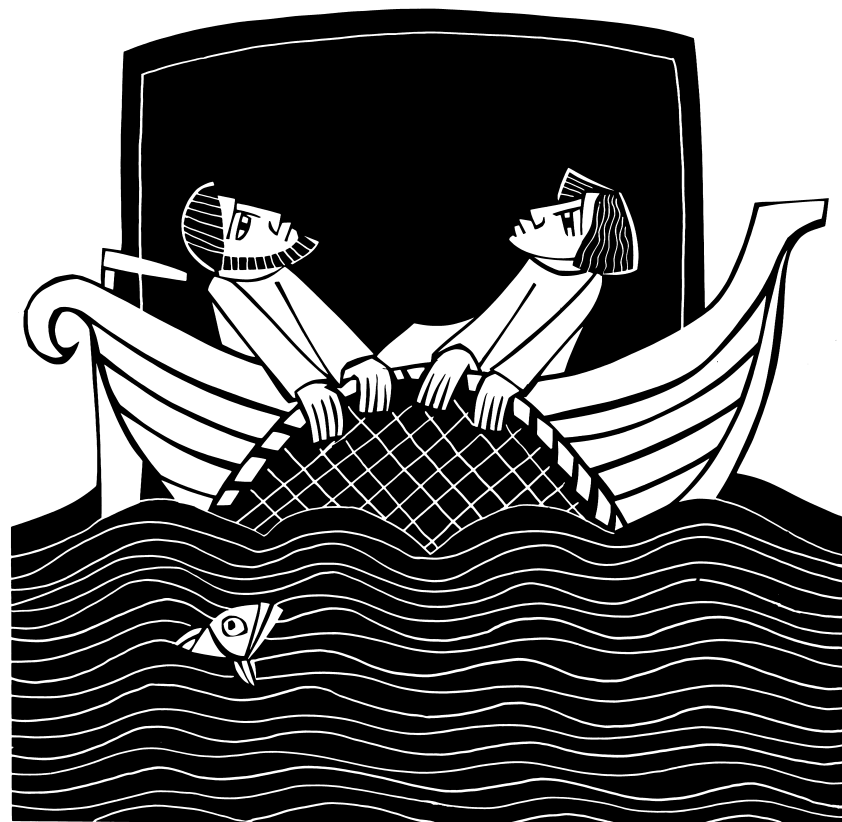
**Western District Conference Prayer Request:** Pray for WDC congregation members serving on our conference Executive Board, Commissions and other committees and task forces, as they discern vision and offer counsel for WDC ministries.

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 7, 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**  
**September 7, 2025**

Christ Candle Lighting

Centering Music      *Ave Maria* (Coccini)  
Caleb Garber, cello; Verlene Garber, accompanist

Welcome & Land Acknowledgment      Esther Kreider Eash

\*Hymn      *Gathered Here*      VT 3

Children and Youth Conversation      Max Ediger

Worship Music      *Let Thy Holy Presence* (P. Tschesnokoff)  
Chancel Choir; Joel Garber, director; Will Wiebe-Friesen, accompanist

Scripture Reading      Matthew 4:12-25      Brad Born

\*Hymn      *Tú has vendido a la orilla*      VT 283  
(v. 1 in English, v. 1 in Spanish, v. 2-4 as desired)

Sermon      *Our Place in the Story*      Joanna Harader

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

Prayers of God's People

\*Hymn      *Heart with Loving Heart United*      VT 813

\*Benediction

Postlude      *Psalm 19* (Benedetto Marcello)  
Will Wiebe-Friesen

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



**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.**

**Starting Today! All people aged 16-25 are invited to participate in three**  
**Sunday School hour sessions on Creating a Conscientious Objector**  
**File.** In the event of a draft, a c.o. file is a great support for those who do  
not wish to participate in armed military service. Sessions will be held  
after worship today and September 21, and 28 in the chapel. We will go  
over both theological and practical considerations for creating a file and  
have time to work on materials for your files. For questions, contact:  
Joanna Harader ([joanna@bethelcollegemennonitechurch.org](mailto:joanna@bethelcollegemennonitechurch.org))

**SAVE THE DATE.** Women's Fellowship will meet the 3rd Tuesday of each  
month and the first date is September 16 at 7 p.m. in Fellowship  
Hall. Plan to attend. The program will be the Lichtis/Burchs talking about  
their trip to Paris last June.

**BCMC Offering for August 31:** General \$4,913; Plant Fund \$50; Gen.  
Fund 2026 \$1,222; Bethel College Scholarship Fund \$200; Kitchen Fund  
\$14.

**Upcoming Memorial Services:**

- September 15, 11 a.m. Ilene Schmidt Memorial—BCMC
- September 20, 10 a.m. Betty Schmidt Memorial—Kidron Hall

**In February of this year, Pastor Elizabeth let us know of her plans to retire this fall.** Sept. 28, 2025, 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 will be held in the Fellowship Hall Sept. 28 from 2 to 4 p.m.

**A pastoral search committee has been formed to fill an opening created by Elizabeth's upcoming retirement.** Megan Leary will chair, Karen Ediger, Mary Ellen Hodge, Mara Oswald, and Francis Toews are additional committee members. They will soon begin their work alongside Western District Conference, our staff, and the board. Brad Kohlman will serve as a liaison between the committee and the board/congregation. Please keep the committee members in your prayers as their work begins.

#### **Bethel College Announcements**

- **Fri., Sept. 12:** Bethel College music faculty recital, 7 p.m., with Christina Liu, piano, Holly Swartzendruber, voice, Kris Hilding, viola, Chris Miertschin, brass, and Russell Adrian, piano, with special guest Will Wiebe-Friesen, organ; Administration Building chapel with a reception to follow.
- **Tues., Sept. 16:** Bethel College Chamber Orchestra concert, Kris Hilding, director, 7 p.m., Memorial Hall
- **Now in the Regier Gallery** in Luyken Fine Arts Center at Bethel College – “Decorator,” works by Jordan Buschur, through Sept. 25. Gallery hours are Mon.-Fri., 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Sun. 2-4 p.m.
- **Sat., Oct. 4:** (during Fall Festival): Internationally renowned theologian Miroslav Volf, Yale University, will speak at Bethel College Mennonite Church, 10 a.m.
- **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.”

**All events are free and open to the public.**

#### **The Week at BCMC: September 7—14, 2025**

##### **Sunday, September 7, 2025**

**Worship 9:30 a.m.** Worship with sermon by Joanna Harader; music by Chancel Choir

**YouTube Link:** <https://youtube.com/live/fhHKVHfRGUw?feature=share>

**3 p.m. Max Ediger shares about his life and work in Cambodia—Fellowship Hall.** Max lives in Pursat Province, Cambodia and is in the U.S. for a visit. Please join us for this time together with our most distant member!

##### **Tuesday, September 9, 2025**

2 p.m. Facilities Committee meeting—Fellowship Hall

##### **Wednesday, September 10, 2025—Messy Church**

8-10 a.m. Pastor Joanna will be at the 1887 Café on the Bethel College campus. Stop in and visit!

##### **6—7:30 p.m. Messy Church—Fellowship Hall**

**We will gather at 6 p.m. to share a meal and a time of all-age, interactive worship. The menu for this Wednesday is Indian Tacos and all the fixings and Ice cream.** The Faith Formation Commission is excited to offer Christ-centered, all-age worship that values creativity, hospitality, and celebration. You can learn more about the Messy Church USA organization on their website. Contact Joanna Harader or Jill Robb with any questions. (Note that we will not be charging a fee for these Wednesday evening meals. There will be a basket out and donations toward the cost of food are welcome. Please bring your own table service which will help with cleanup.)

**Wed., Sept. 10: 7:30 p.m.** Chancel Choir rehearsal—Sanctuary

##### **Thursday, September 11, 2025**

6:30 p.m. Chancel Bells rehearsal—Room B7

##### **Saturday, September 13, 2025**

11 a.m. Memorial Service for Doug Penner in the Sanctuary

##### **Sunday, September 14, 2025**

9:30 a.m. Worship with sermon by Joanna Harader; music by Chancel Bells

**10:45 a.m. Congregational meeting in the Sanctuary followed by lunch in Fellowship Hall served by the Senior High Youth Group**

**It's that time of year for our Sunday School year to begin and our youth need your help to teach Sunday School!** Faith Formation is looking for teachers and helpers for the 2025-2026 school year. If you feel the nudge to spend an hour with our amazing elementary or middle/high school youth please email Jill Robb at [jill@bethelcollegemennonitechurch.org](mailto:jill@bethelcollegemennonitechurch.org).

**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 staged-reading for *Erasmus Among the Luminaries* by Lauren Friesen will be on Sept. 16, Tuesday, 7 p.m.,** in Kidron Bethel Village's Kidron Hall. The readers will have area mics but no lapel mics. The play is a fantasy about Erasmus meeting some of the great historical figures. The dialogue is serious although peppered with humor. Free admission.

#### **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. Tee shirts and other souvenirs will be available too.
- **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!

**Climate Change Conference virtual meeting:** The Witness Commission invites you to a virtual seminar on climate change, sponsored by Central Seminary and the Buttry Center for Peace and Nonviolence in the KC metro area. The virtual meeting is Sat., Sept. 20, 9 to 11:45 a.m., and is free for online guests. The seminar focuses on faith responses to climate change. Join members of the Witness Commission in the chapel, Sept. 20, to hear the keynote speakers at this seminar.

**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 10 9:30 a.m.** "Discovering the Blue Zones: Keys to Living Longer and Better," Sharolyn Jackson, M.S., extension specialist., Family and Consumer Sciences, Kansas State University, Manhattan  
**10:50 a.m.** "Chance Rides: Engineering the Design of Movement," Kyle Penner, VP of engineering, Chance Rides LLC, 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. Musical entertainment will be 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. The cost of the banquet is \$25 and can be paid at the door or online at [www.swissmennonite.org](http://www.swissmennonite.org).