

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.

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.



Mennonite Mission Network Prayer Request: Anicka Fast, who serves with Mennonite Mission Network and Mennonite World Conference, is working on the first volume of the Global Anabaptist Forebears series, a joint effort between Boston University's Center for Global Christianity and Mission, Mission Network and Mennonite World Conference. Pray for inspiration and stamina as Anicka edits the series, conducts history-writing workshops and seeks funding.

Western District Conference Prayer Request: Give thanks for generous financial contributions that support WDC congregations and our shared ministry within WDC.

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

- **BCMC Office will be closed Thursday & Friday, November 27-28**
- Pastor Joanna Harader, Day off: Monday; **1887 Café Hours Wednesday, 8-10 a.m.**
Cell phone: 407-201-0503; Email: joanna@bethelcollegemennonitechurch.org
- Pastor Nathan Koontz, Days off: Mondays and Wednesdays (Off: Nov. 24-29)
Cell phone: 316-212-4593; Email: nathan@bethelcollegemennonitechurch.org
- Office/Facilities Manager: Monica Lichti, 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

The bulletin cover is from "Voices Together", page 334, used by permission

Bethel College Mennonite Church

November 23, 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
November 23, 2025

Christ Candle Lighting

Centering Music *Crown Him With Many Crowns* [VT 408]
(arr. J. Westenkuehler) Will Wiebe-Friesen

Welcome Sondra Bandy Koontz

*Hymn	<i>Lift Your Glad Voices</i>	VT 340
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Children and Youth Conversation Judy Harder

Worship Music *Ye Choirs of New Jerusalem* (C.V. Stanford)
Chancel Choir; Joel Garber, director; Will Wiebe-Friesen, accompanist

Scripture Reading Matthew 28:1-15 Sheryl Goering

*Hymn	<i>Now the Green Blade Rises</i>	VT 353
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Sermon *Good News/Fake News* Joanna Harader

*Hymn *Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia!* VT 34

Prayers of God's People Sondra Bandy Koontz

*Hymn *Christ the Lord Is Risen Today* VT 346

*Benediction

Postlude *I Know That My Redeemer Lives* [VT 347] (arr. D. Wood)
Will Wiebe-Friesen

* You are invited to stand
VT—*Voices Together*
Keyboard—Will Wiebe-Friesen
Audio visual—Ben Lichti

A few weeks ago the Senior High youth group shared about their favorite Bible verses. Here are some that they mentioned: John 11:35; Zephaniah 3:17; Proverbs 27:17; Isaiah 41:10; Colossians 3:23; 1 Corinthians 16:14; Luke 17:3-5; Psalms 119:105. Next time you talk with one of the youth, you can ask them about their favorite Bible verse—and be ready to share yours!

The church office will be closed Nov. 27-28 for the Thanksgiving Day holiday. **Pastor Nathan Koontz** is on vacation November 24-29.

BCMC Offering for November 16: General Fund \$6,292; MCC Infant Care Kits \$362; MCC Meat Canning \$80; Library Reserve Fund \$8; Flower Fund \$15; Kitchen Fund \$24; Solar Fund \$1,031.19.

Messy Church on December 10 will include sharing a meal, singing a few carols, enjoying Christmas scenes and stories by our youngest BCMC “characters,” and assembling MCC infant kits. **We hope you can join us!**

As part of our Messy Church worship on December 10, we will assemble infant care kits. As we prepare for this session, we are asking for monetary or physical donations for the supplies of the kits. If you would like to donate monetarily, please place checks or cash in the marked fishbowls that will be located in the back of the sanctuary beginning November 30. Physical items (listed below) can be placed in the pack-and-play in the Gathering Place.

Contents of Infant Kits (NEW items only, sizes 6-12 months)

- 3 gowns/sleepers (flannel or similar warm, soft material)
- 3 undershirts/onesies (short or long sleeves)
- 1 receiving blanket [lightweight fleece or flannel, minimum 75 cm x 75 cm (30 in x 30 in), larger sizes preferred]
- 4 large, heavy-duty safety pins
- 1 large bar mild soap (leave in wrapper)
- 1 pair of socks
- 1 cap

You are invited to share a poinsettia for the sanctuary for the Christmas season. BCMC will purchase the poinsettias and deliver them to the church. To contribute, email the following to the office or fill it out and put it in the offering plate: Donor's: name:

In memory of: _____

Or in honor of: _____

Make a payment of \$15.00 (made out to BCMC and designated "Flower Fund") place in the offering plate or bring to church office by Nov. 23. There will be forms at a table in the Gathering Place this Sunday, if you wish to fill out a form in person. (Contributors may pick up a poinsettia Dec. 24 after the 5:30 p.m. Christmas program or after the Dec. 24, 9 p.m. program; or, if you wish, leave them for the service on Dec. 28.)

Food Fund-raising Event in the area:

- **First Mennonite church of McPherson will be selling verenika and bohne beroggi made fresh, then frozen**, by members of the church. Gravy and sauce will not be provided, but recipes will be attached. Orders will be taken until Sat., Dec. 6. Pick up date is Sat., Dec. 13 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the church 1161 E. Ave A in McPherson. Cost is \$12 for half a dozen. Place your order through Facebook page – First Mennonite Church of McPherson or their website: www.firstmennonitechurchmcpherson.org. Pay at time of pick up by check, cash, or Venmo.

An exhibit titled, “Art From the Hearth” will be featured in the Regier-Friesen Gallery located in Hesston College’s Laban Peachey Center (325 S. College Dr., Hesston) Nov. 3 through 28. The exhibit includes various artists’ created bowls, cups, plates, teapots, etc. and includes recipes in which to fill them. Normal exhibit hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, and admission is free.

Give back on Giving Tuesday at Mennonite Central Committee, Dec. 2 from 6:30-8 p.m. Make plans to join us on Giving Tuesday! Bring your family and friends to this casual, come-and-go, all-ages event. Kick off your holiday shopping by picking gifts for your friends and family from the MCC Christmas Giving Guide. Pack hygiene kits, tie comforters, make a cardboard comforter block craft, and enjoy snacks. Find out more at mcc.org/giving-Tuesday.

Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) is responding to the impact of Hurricane Melissa. Please pray for the people who have been affected by this disaster. MCC is working with local partners to provide food, hygiene items and other emergency supplies. We welcome your donations at mcc.org/hurricane-melissa.

Buhler Mennonite Church needs your help to package 50,000 meals on Sat., Dec. 6, at the Sand Hills Event Center, 4601 N Plum St, Hutchinson, through the Outreach Program. Contact them at 620-543-2733 or bmcpastor@gmail.com. There is a job for all ages 7 to 147 years of age. You can work one shift or both shifts -1st Shift (Arrive 8:45am for the 9-11:00am) 2nd Shift (Arrive 10:45am for 11 a.m.-1pm). Job orientation is provided and no previous experience is needed!

Eden Mennonite Church, 401 18th Ave., Moundridge, invites you to their production of “The Best Christmas Pageant Ever” by Barbara Robinson, Sat. Dec. 13 at 7 p.m. (doors open at 6:30 p.m.) and Sun., Dec. 14, 2 p.m. (doors open at 1:30 p.m.) In this hilarious Christmas play, a couple struggling to put on a Christmas pageant is faced with casting the Herdman kids, probably the most inventively awful kids in history. Come see this funny and heartwarming telling of the Christmas story. Admission is free.

The Week at BCMC: November 23—30, 2025

Sunday, November 23, 2025

9:30 a.m. Worship service live-stream link:

<https://youtube.com/live/uO0vkIGGIAU?feature=share>

Monday, November 24, 2025

10 a.m. Library Committee—Room 14

Tuesday, November 25, 2025

1-5 p.m. Kitchen & Fellowship Hall will be used by Dr. Will Wiebe-Friesen for a chemistry lab

6-8 p.m. Immigration Task Force—Room 14

Wednesday, November 26, 2025

3 p.m. Cancer Support Group—Church Nursery

Thursday, November 27, 2025—Thanksgiving Day—Church will be locked; church office closed

Friday, November 28, 2025—Church office will be closed

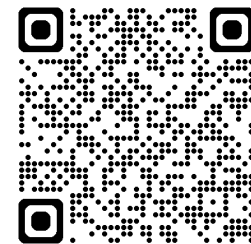
Sunday, November 30, 2025—First Sunday of Advent

9:30 a.m. Worship with sermon by Joanna Harader; music by Mary Jo and Doyle Preheim; communion will be served

College students and other young adults are invited to a pizza lunch on Sun., Dec. 7, in the fellowship hall. Pizza-making will happen during the Sunday School hour, to be followed by pizza-eating!

Advent begins next Sun., Nov. 30! Our Bethel College Mennonite Worship Commission has worked with worship leaders at Columbus Mennonite Church to develop material for this year's Advent theme: *Spacious Faith*. We invite you to make room for the holy in your hearts and in your life during this sacred season.

- **Advent Worship:** Each Sunday of Advent (Nov. 30, Dec. 7, 14, 21) worship will begin with special prelude music at 9:15 a.m.
- **Advent Sunday School:** Pastors Nathan and Joanna will lead an elective Sunday School class for the four weeks of Advent using the book *With God in Every Breath* by Whitney R. Simpson. Join us in the chapel after worship!
- **Special Events:** Be sure to check out the Advent & Christmas schedules that you received via email and that are available near the front and south entrances. And be sure to mark your calendars for our special Christmas Messy Church on Dec. 10 and our contemplative Longest Night service on Dec. 21.
- **Advent Grounding:** Our *Spacious Faith* web page offers prayers and practices to help you stay grounded in God's peace and love in the midst of a hectic holiday season. You can access the page by scanning the QR code.



We offer sympathy to Tillman and Jennifer King (Goshen, IN) and Ethan and Amy King (Newton, KS) and their extended families on the death of their father, Vernon King, Nov. 2, 2025, in Goshen, IN. Vernon and Shirley King were members of BCMC from Nov. 13, 1977 to Nov. 29, 2015 when they moved their membership to Eighth Street Mennonite Church, Goshen, IN. Shirley was an organist at BCMC for many years. While in Newton, Vernon started Suntree Construcion and designed and built homes in Newton. You can read a full obituary online at the Yoder Culp Funeral Home, Goshen, IN, webpage.

The Education and Service Scholarship Committee (ESSC) has updated its application for young adult service grants. For a copy of the application please send a request to essc@bethelcollegemennonitechurch.org, preferably at least 4 weeks before the event. Thank you, ESSC (Karen Ediger, Brad Kohlman and Margaret Toews)

The Harvest of Love food bank in Newton is experiencing higher need than in the past. More people are signing up for food boxes. They appreciate any shelf-stable gifts of food as well as monetary gifts. If you bring shelf-stable food to the church, you can place it in the south entryway and we can deliver it to the Salvation Army/Harvest of Love food bank. They also appreciate monetary gifts which they use to order food. Their shelves are pretty empty by the time their monthly order comes in. Make checks payable to "Harvest of Love." You can place your check in the jars (marked Harvest of Love) at the back of the sanctuary or mail it directly to: Harvest of Love, 208 W. 6th, Newton, KS 67114. They appreciate any help we can give them! Thank you for your generosity! - *Deacon Commission*

Kidron Bethel Village will host its annual Holiday Market from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Sat., Dec. 6, at Kidron Hall, 3001 Ivy Dr., North Newton. Holiday Market features local vendors selling their items and goods, and is a chance for residents and the community to shop for holiday gifts. The market is a fundraiser for the Health Care Benevolent Fund, a ministry of Kidron Bethel Village that assists residents who, due to unforeseen circumstances, are no longer able to cover the full cost of their care.

The Newton Treble Clef Annual Vespers will be Sun., Dec. 7, 3 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church, 900 Columbus, Newton. The prelude will begin at 2:45 featuring The Schrag Siblings. Program includes: Treble Clef Chorus, Prairie Bronze Handbell Ensemble, and Hearts 4 Him. A freewill offering will be taken for the scholarship fund that will be awarded to high school seniors who are pursuing a music major. We invite you to be our guest and begin your Christmas Season.

Bethel College Announcements

- **Calling all bakers and craft makers! You are invited to make items for 5 Places of Christmas for Sat., Dec. 6, from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.** at Goerz House on the BC campus. Bethel College Women's Association will be selling baked goods, candy, craft items and poinsettias. Your homemade cookies, zweibach, cinnamon rolls, peppernuts and poppyseed rolls are great sellers. This year we are especially asking for homemade candies like fudge, peanut clusters, peanut butter balls and peanut brittle, as well as other non-chocolate candies. We would also like Christmas craft items to sell. Please bring your items to Goerz House, 2512 College Ave., North Newton Fri., Dec. 5, between 2- 5 p.m. or Sat., Dec. 6, from 9:30 - 10 a.m. Thank you for your support of Bethel College.
- **Sun., Nov. 30: Celebrate the beginning of Advent at Kauffman Museum,** 3 p.m. in the museum auditorium, with a Deutsche Weihnachtslieder (German hymn sing) led by BC emeritus faculty William Eash, Merle Schlabaugh and Karen Schlabaugh (playing the historic Teschemacher parlor organ). Even if you don't sing, or don't sing German, you are welcome to come and listen!
- **Tues., Dec. 2: BC Wind Ensemble concert,** Chris Miertschin, director, 7 p.m., Krehbiel Auditorium in Luyken Fine Arts Center
- **Weds., Dec. 3: Singalong to Christmas portions of Handel's Messiah,** 11 a.m., with chamber orchestra and soloists, BCMC. Scores provided.
- **Weds., Dec. 3: Senior Art Exhibit I opens,** featuring ceramics by Bethel College student Abby Chappell Deckert. Exhibit is open through Dec. 12 (reception TBA) in the Regier Gallery in Luyken Fine Arts Center at Bethel College. Gallery hours are Mon.-Fri., 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Sun. 2-4 p.m.
- **Thurs., Dec. 4: Jazz Holiday Gala,** directed by Chris Miertschin, 7 p.m., Krehbiel Auditorium in Luyken Fine Arts Center at Bethel College
- **Sat., Dec. 6: Five Places of Christmas,** featuring Kauffman Museum and the Bethel College Women's Association at Goerz House, both on the Bethel campus, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Other locations are Carriage Factory Gallery, Harvey County Historical Museum and Warkentin House, all in Newton.
- **Sun., Dec. 7: 40th annual Lighting of the Green,** 8 p.m. on the BC campus.

If you toured the retreat center at Camp Mennoscah in the last few months, or came to help on one of our work days, you probably saw gaping holes in the guest room walls and wondered what the plan was with upcoming winter temperatures. We are thrilled to announce that the room HVAC units have all been installed, allowing the retreat center to be sealed against freezing temperatures and blowing snow, one more sign of the significant progress being made to get the building operational again in time for 2026 summer camps! Your financial investment in the youth of our community remains vital as we work on suspended ceilings, light fixtures, systems testing, and more that remains to be paid for, and you can text "CAMP" to 620-755-2583 to get details on ways to offer your time, talent, or treasure. - *Eric Litwiler, director of development*