

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.

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.



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: The Taiwan Mennonite New Dawn Educare Center brings God's hope to people with intellectual disabilities by providing resources to help with independent living, personal development and health. Pray that the people they serve find belonging, purpose and hope.

Western District Conference Prayer Request: Pray that during this new year the Holy Spirit will open hearts and create new opportunities for connection, hospitality, and mission within our church planting communities. — 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

- Pastor Joanna Harader, Day off: Monday; Café 1887 Hours: Thursdays 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Cell phone: 407-201-0503; Email: joanna@bethelcollegemennonitechurch.org
- Pastor Nathan Koontz, Days off: Mondays and Wednesdays—**Away on retreat January 21-29**
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

Bethel College Mennonite Church

January 25, 2026

Psalms 27

The Lord is my light and my salvation;
whom shall I fear?

The Lord is the stronghold of my life;
of whom shall I be afraid?

2 When evildoers assail me
to devour my flesh—
my adversaries and foes—
they shall stumble and fall.

3 Though an army encamp against me,
my heart shall not fear;
though war rise up against me,
yet I will be confident.

4 One thing I asked of the Lord;
this I seek:

to live in the house of the Lord
all the days of my life,
to behold the beauty of the Lord,
and to inquire in God's temple.

5 For the Holy One will hide me in their
shelter

in the day of trouble;

God will conceal me under the cover of
their tent

and will set me high on a rock.

6 Now my head is lifted up
above my enemies all around me,
and I will offer in God's tent
sacrifices with shouts of joy;
I will sing and make melody to the
Lord.

7 Hear, O Lord, when I cry aloud;
be gracious to me and answer me!

8 "Come," my heart says, "seek God's
face!"

Your face, Lord, do I seek.

9 Do not hide your face from me.
Do not turn your servant away in an-
ger,

you who have been my help.
Do not cast me off; do not forsake me,
O God of my salvation!

10 If my father and mother forsake
me,
the Lord will take me up.

11 Teach me your way, O Lord,
and lead me on a level path
because of my enemies.

12 Do not give me up to the will of my
adversaries,
for false witnesses have risen against
me,

and they are breathing out violence.
13 I believe that I shall see the good-
ness of the Lord

in the land of the living.

14 Wait for the Lord;
be strong, and let your heart take
courage;
wait for the Lord!

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

January 25, 2026

Christ Candle Lighting		
Centering Music		Will Wiebe-Friesen
Welcome		Mara Oswald
Hymn	<i>We Long to Know Her</i>	VT 44
A Word for the Children		Joanna Harader
Scripture Reading	Psalms 27:1-4	William Eash
Hymn	<i>The Lord Is My Light</i> (verse 1 & refrain, 2 times)	VT 437
Scripture Reading	Psalms 27:5-9	
Hymn	<i>The Lord Is My Light</i> (verse 2 & refrain, 2 times)	VT 437
Scripture Reading	Psalms 27:10-14	
Hymn	<i>The Lord Is My Light</i> (verse 3 & refrain, 2 times)	VT 437
Sermon	<i>Courageous Worship</i>	Joanna Harader
Hymn	<i>God of Grace and God of Glory</i>	VT 716
Prayers of God's People		Mara Oswald
Hymn	<i>The Lord Lift You Up</i>	VT 832
Benediction		
Postlude		
VT—Voices Together		

Special Speaker on Murdered and Missing Indigenous People (MMIP): The Kansas Repair Communities, a local advocacy group working with the Coalition to Dismantle the Doctrine of Discovery, will have its next meeting on Mon., Jan. 26, at 5:30 p.m. in the BCMC Fellowship Hall. We will hear a presentation from Sharron Fisher about Missing and Murdered Indigenous People (MMIP) from her perspective and experience as an Indigenous woman. MMIP is the group's selected focus for advocacy. The meeting will also include updates on other work and refreshments. All are welcome to attend this meeting and/or join the work of the group. The Kansas Repair Communities has grown over the past year to include individuals from more than 12 congregations and others.

We will announce a date in February to come together to write letters to our legislators on behalf of the first bill newly elected Congresswoman Adelita Grijalva (AZ-07) introduced in early December: The Save Oak Flat from Foreign Mining Act. *From the BCMC Indigenous Justice Task Force*

We offer sympathy to the family of Joan Brubacher. Joan died Jan. 11. Please continue to remember Joan's husband Wade, their children Anne, Kate, and Jacob and their families in prayer. The memorial service for Joan will be Sat., Feb. 14, 11 a.m. at BCMC.

We offer sympathy to Virginia and Ron Benninghoff and their extended family on the death of Virginia's brother, James Duane Koehn. James died Jan. 4 at Covenant Village of Denver, Colorado. The memorial service was held Jan. 15.

Faith Formation has set our Wednesday night schedule for this semester. Thank you to those who shared their thoughts with us through the survey and through conversations. We recognize that the six-week meal and fellowship schedule is valued by many people and also received very positive feedback about the monthly intergenerational worship—particularly from our families with school-aged children. We are preserving both elements. The "Messy Church" from last year is now called "Open Table," but the idea is the same: a time to learn, worship, and connect across generations. On Open Table Wednesdays, all ages—including high school youth—are invited to participate. The youth group will have a brief gathering after Open Table in the youth room upstairs. See the email for the full schedule.

Lunch and Learn at Mennonite Central Committee Tuesday, Feb. 17, 12-1 p.m. join the *Global Voices Speaking Tour* to hear firsthand stories of the intersection of climate and peace. Speakers Dr. Arefur Rahman with MCC Bangladesh and David Waiswa with MCC East Africa and Sahel Region will share how they are working toward peace and climate resiliency, especially around food security. RSVP by Feb. 10 at mcc.org/global-lunch or contact patsydirksen@mcc.org, 316.283.2720. Suggested \$10 donation per lunch.

A household within the BCMC family has issued a \$2,500 challenge to our congregation to benefit Camp Mennoscah! Every dollar from our church donated to camp will be matched up to \$2,500 with the desire to allow the camp retreat center to be completed soon and help ensure the financial future of Camp Mennoscah. If you would like to have your gifts doubled - OR if you would like to ADD to the match - simply notate your wishes on the memo line of your checks to Camp Mennoscah mailed to 9458 SE 40th St / Murdock, KS 67111.

Bethel College Academy of Performing Arts (BCAPA) is presenting a 30th Anniversary Concert at Bethel College's Krehbiel Auditorium Sat., Jan. 31, featuring Bethel alum and professional musician Mory Ortman. Collaborating performers include BCAPA students, instructors, and its founder Don Kehrberg. Audience members can see photos from BCAPA throughout the years, bid in a silent auction, and celebrate a longstanding arts education establishment in the Newton community! Additionally, Dr. Ortman will be leading a masterclass/workshop Jan. 30 on campus (in the Bethel Chapel) for aspiring/professional musicians and curious members of the community. Tickets for the concert will be available through the Bethel bookstore, and the masterclass tickets will be available through BCAPA's website (bcapaks.org/register) or by emailing bcapa@bethelks.edu.

Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) invites you to Borderlands & Beyond Monthly Charlas, a new conversation series featuring MCC partners, community leaders, and borderlands practitioners who will share their work, struggles, insights, and hopes. Each charla provides a welcoming space to learn, ask questions, and explore how we can participate in faithful advocacy and accompaniment. You can join a charla via Zoom the third Thursday of each month at 6 p.m. Register here: [Borderlands & Beyond: Monthly Charlas with MCC – Stories, Struggles & Faithful Action – Fill out form](#)

Rocky Mountain Mennonite Camp Announcements

- **Scrapbook Retreat, Jan. 31-Feb. 2:** Creating paper or digital photo books and sharing ideas and conversation is just another day for scrapbook participants. You still have time to register and spend the weekend documenting life memories and fellowshiping with others. Retreat info. and registration at rmmc.org!
- Save the dates! **Men's Retreat is coming February 27- March 1** with Paul Unruh leading conversations on "The Power of Service and Story". **Women's Retreat March 6-8, 2026** will be led by Anita Amstutz exploring "Breathing through Transition". Please visit rmmc.org for more details and for registration.

The Week at BCMC: January 25—February 1, 2026

Sunday, January 25, 2026—Worthy Worship

Worship 9:30 a.m. — Online worship only this Sunday

YouTube Link for the worship service this Sunday:

<https://youtube.com/live/Nb7OeUIIS5s?feature=share>

Monday, January 26, 2026—Church Office will be closed

5:30 p.m. Kansas Repair Communities—Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, January 28, 2026

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

Thursday, January 29, 2026

6 p.m. Chancel Bells Rehearsal—Rm B7

Sunday, February 1, 2026—Worthy Worship

9:30 a.m. Worship with sermon by Joanna Harader

Pastor Joanna will be out of the office on Wednesday, January 28.

The congregational meeting scheduled for January 25 has been postponed to February 8 during the Sunday School hour in the sanctuary. Agenda items include: Church Board recommendations on proposals from the Finance Committee and from Witness Commission, and the approval of the annual church budget. Details of the budget and proposals were sent by email and are available in the Gathering Place. There will be live streaming of the meeting. The youth will provide a fundraiser meal after the meeting.

BCMC Offering for January 18: General \$9,647; Kitchen Fund \$15; Women's Fellowship \$20; Larry Penner Mem. \$50.

Joanna's 1887 Cafe office hours this semester will be on Thursdays from 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. You are welcome to stop by for a chat!

"Guess Who's Coming to Dinner" will be Sun, Feb. 22, at noon. Email the office to indicate whether you would like to be a host or a guest. Hosts provide main dish, beverage, and maybe bread. Guests are assigned a side dish (vegetables, salad, dessert) or maybe bread. Experience this event interacting with some of our congregational members, as assigned, on a social level. There will be sign-up sheets in the Gathering Place, next Sunday, Feb. 1.

You are invited to Pastor Joanna's house for a church board game night on Sat., Jan. 31, starting at 6:30. Bring games and/or snacks to share if you'd like--we'll have plenty on hand. (Contact Joanna if you need her address: joanna@bethelcollegemennonitechurch.org.)

2025 Giving Update

Thank you to all who contributed financially to our church for 2025! Your generosity is much appreciated as we seek to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with God. The Finance Committee is pleased that our financial contributions for 2025 were close to our 2025 expenses. A full report will be forthcoming in the lead up to our congregational meeting on January 25.

The Education and Service Scholarship Committee (ESSC) is supporting Grace Harader-Ellett and Ani Koontz to attend the MCC Peace Camp being held in Puerto Rico this coming February. We wish them safe travels and a rich week of experiences - most of it in Spanish!

Looking for Singers for the upcoming 2026 Kansas Mennonite Men's Chorus.

We have six rehearsals in Hesston Mennonite Church starting Jan. 25 at 2:30 p.m. The rehearsals last for 2 hrs. KMMC has been singing since 1969 in Kansas, Oklahoma, Colorado, Nebraska and even Europe. If interested in singing or more information please reach out to Membership Chair Aaron Stucky via email stuckya2003@yahoo.com. You can also find us on Facebook at Kansas Mennonite Men's Chorus. Thank you, Aaron Stucky

Hesston College will host the annual Melva Kauffman Lecture Series Jan. 25 and 26, welcoming internationally recognized peace studies scholar and Hesston College alumna Dr. Angela Lederach '04 for a three-part series titled "Slow Peace: Lessons from Grassroots Peacebuilders in Colombia." Dr. Lederach will speak Jan. 25, 7 p.m. and Jan. 26, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. All events are free and open to the public and held at Hesston Mennonite Church. For more information visit hesston.edu/melva.

Love singing? Students in 2nd-5th grade are invited to join Newton Community Children's Choir's new Prelude Choir! For ten weeks starting Feb. 9, we will meet on Mondays from 5:45-6:15 p.m. at Bethel College's Fine Arts Center (choir room) to learn, sing, and have fun--no audition required! For further details and to sign up, visit nccchoir.org. Register by Jan 26 to guarantee your spot!

Share the love this Valentine's with Offender Victim Ministries & Mennonite Central Committee (MCC). February 12 from 6-8 p.m. In the spirit of Saint Valentine, help us pack 350 MCC prisoner care kits for men on the indigent list at Hutchinson Correctional Facility. Hear impact stories at 7:30, design a note to go into each kit, enjoy snacks and give a monetary donation to help cover the cost of the kit items. All ages are welcome to join us at MCC, 121 E. 30th St., North Newton. Find out more at mcc.org/prisoner-care or contact brociamueller@mcc.org.

Bethel College/Kauffman Museum Announcements

- **Sun., Jan. 25: Bethel College Music Department Honors Recital**, 4 p.m., Administration Building chapel, featuring first-year, sophomore and junior vocal and instrumental students who performed exceptionally during the fall 2025 semester.
- **Sat., Jan. 31: Kauffman Museum annual Kansas Day event**, "Flavor of Kansas," noon-4 p.m., museum parking lot and grounds. Featuring food trucks, exhibits and activities, indoors and out, that look at Kansas foods and foodways. Programs include music by Queen Jack Jericho, poetry from Kansas Poet Laureate Traci Brimhall, and a presentation on foraging. For more information, see the Kauffman Museum Facebook page or kauffmanmuseum.org
- **Sat., Jan. 31: Bethel College Academy of Performing Arts (BCAPA) 30th-anniversary event** featuring collaborative pianist Mory Ortman, emeritus professor of music Don Kehrberg and more, 6:30 p.m., Krehbiel Auditorium in Luyken Fine Arts Center. Ticket purchase is required at Thresher Shop in Schultz Student Center, Mon.-Fri., 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
- **Now in the Regier Art Gallery** in Luyken Fine Arts Center at Bethel College: "Reclaiming My Roots," works by Marco Hernandez Guillen from Wichita State University, through Feb. 12. Gallery hours are Mon.-Fri., 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Sun. 2-4 p.m.
- **Sun., Feb. 1: The Bethel College Chamber singers present a program** entitled "Resound!", 4 p.m., Shalom Mennonite Church, 800 E. 1st St., Newton. Chamber Singers personnel are: Maddie Anderson, Lucy Burch, Emma Graber, Abigail Grittman, Kyra Linenberger, Bethany Schrag, sopranos; Anna-Joy Jones, Abby Koontz, Faith Peterson, Dalaina Schutte, altos; Caleb Garber, Riley Hartvickson, Liam Ortman, Jacob Schrag, Timothy Schrag, tenors; Seth Balzer, Henry Harrington, Ben Janzen, Ethan Wilcox, basses; Dr. Russell Adrian, director
- **Life Enrichment, the series at Bethel College for adults age 60 and older, resumes** for the spring semester on Wed., Feb. 4, with Larry Hatteberg of KAKE TV, Wichita, and Joe Fred Perez of Brownsville, TX. See <https://www.bethelks.edu/academics/life-enrichment/> for details and a link to the complete spring schedule.
- **SAVE THE DATE: Bethel College's biennial Justice Symposium**, Feb. 25-27, with a focus on immigration and with special guest speaker Karen González, author of *Beyond Welcome* (2022) and *The God Who Sees* (2019).

WANTED—Cars, Trucks, Motorcycles, RV's, Campers, Tractors, Modern Farm Equipment, etc. for the KS Mennonite Central Committee Sale. Items you no longer need help feed and clothe thousands in desperate living conditions. ALL donations are tax deductible. Call Jerry Toews for info: 620 367 8257. Help make a difference. Be a part of the growing number of folks donating vehicles to the Mennonite Relief Sale.