

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, immigration status, 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: Last fall, Christy Harrison, Peter Sensenig and their three children temporarily moved to Montbéliard, France, from Chad, after their Chadian visas were not renewed, due to the political relationship between the U.S. and Chad. Pray for this family as they acclimate to their new home and ministry and as they navigate how to proceed if they are unable to return to Chad in the future.

Western District Conference Prayer Request: Pray for wisdom and encouragement for ministers in WDC, as they share the good news of Jesus in local congregations and communities through preaching, teaching, compassion and courageous witness.

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
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
February 15, 2026



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

February 15, 2026

Transfiguration Sunday

Christ Candle Lighting

Centering Music *Thy Presence, My Light* (Eithun) Chancel Bells, Verlene Garber, director

Welcome **Lyn Krause**

Children and Youth Conversation Esther Kreider Eash

Worship Music *Celebrate with Joy* (arr. Dominski) Chancel Bells

Scripture Reading Matthew 17:1-9 John Sheriff

*Hymn *Jesus on the Mountain Peak* VT 301

10 Sermon Listen Joanna Harader

*Hymn *Move in Our Midst* VT 822

Receiving the Offering, and Prayers of God's People

*Benediction

Postlude *Trumpet Tune* (Flor Peeters) Karen Schlabaugh

* You are invited to stand

VT=Voices Together

Keyboard—Karen Schlabaugh

Keyboard—Karen Schub

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. The Hospitality Commission has matched people who signed up as hosts with people who signed up as guests. Guests will receive their food assignment today. Hosts will receive the number of guests they will host today.

Women's Fellowship General Meeting (Men invited) will be Tues., Feb. 17, at 7 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Program by James Wilson, General Manager of Et Cetera Shop, sharing with powerpoint "Newton Et Cetera Shop Vision and Mission." Current BCMC Volunteers at Et Cetera will also share. Come and enjoy.

The Gifts Discernment Commission is at work to connect willing workers to the following open positions: moderator-elect, Church Board, Hospitality Commission, Faith Formation Commission, and Deacon Commission. If the Spirit moves you to a new experience, please contact a GDC member: Francis Toews, Jerry Buller, Dorothy Nickel Friesen, Barb Koontz, or Jeanette Stucky.

Installed in the Gathering Place by the Visual Arts Committee are the last three banners created to celebrate BCMC's centennial in 1997. Six banners were designed by Bob Regier and then pieced and quilted by members of the congregation. The themes of Witness, Creation Care and Community are featured in this set as key components of the mission of BCMC.

Buddhist Walk for Peace

As part of the wider worship that we do at BCMC that highlights peace witness and activism, today marks the end of 108 day "Walk for Peace" for Buddhist monks from Texas to Washington D.C. I invite you to research about their walk and celebrate their witness for peace. - Pastor Nathan

Now accepting submissions for Hesston College's playwriting festival: The Hesston College Theatre department is inviting south central Kansas playwrights to turn their stories into live performance through the return of the Pen to Paper to Performance playwriting festival. Open to first-time and experienced writers, the festival celebrates original voices and the creative process from script to stage. The theatre department will accept submissions for the 10-minute play festival through March 8 and notify eight selected playwrights March 15, with their works produced as part of the final showcase event on May 1 and 2. Playwrights whose scripts are selected will receive a percentage of box office earnings. Visit hesston.edu/news for details.

A Lenten Retreat: "Yearning for Wholeness; Abiding in Hope": Sat, Feb 21; 8:30 a.m. to noon at Hesston Mennonite Church, 309 South Main St. We live in a time of anxiousness, injustice and chaos. Do you yearn for safe space to be in touch with your inner longings, and to connect with the healing and hope of Christ that sustains us? Join us for a half day retreat which will provide intentional space to experience the presence of God through scripture, prayer, song and community in this Lenten season. Schedule will include times of individual reflection and group interaction facilitated by Wendy Miller. Contact the church office at 620-327-4885 or hesstonmc@hesstonmc.org to sign up by Thurs., Feb 19. \$10 donation suggested. We hope you will join us!

Were you baptized at Camp Mennoscah? If so, did you know that Camp Mennoscah's website is set-up to accept recurring, monthly \$20 donations? With the retreat center just weeks away from completion, your gift of \$20/month for a single year would rebuild our savings account, allowing camp to handle the next unexpected expense. If you would like to be a part of ensuring the financial future of the place that meant so much in your faith journey, please visit www.CampMennoscah.org or text "20" to our office at 620.755.2583

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

The Newton Mid Kansas Symphony Orchestra Winter Classics Concert is today, Feb. 15, 4 p.m. at Bethel College Memorial Hall. This concert features the Dwight Beckham Young Soloist winners, Seth Balzer (tuba, Bethel College) and Ryan Antle (horn, Newton High School). Advance tickets for sale online, and at Faith and Life Bookstore. Tickets will also be available the day of the concert at the door. <https://nmkso.org/tickets/>

Rocky Mountain Mennonite Camp Announcement

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 rmmmc.org for more details and for registration.

BCMC Offering for February 8: General \$10,977; Sr Hi Youth \$3,151; Kitchen Fund \$15; Larry Penner Mem. \$150.

The Week at BCMC: February 15—22, 2026

Sunday, February 15, 2026—Transfiguration

9-11 a.m. Quilts for the Kansas Mennonite Relief Sale displayed under the balcony
9:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Coffee/water/tea in the Gathering Place
10:45 a.m. Eric Litwiller, the Director of Development for Camp Mennoscah, will be available during the Sunday School hour in the chapel. Bring all of your camp questions for this time of informal conversation!

YouTube Link for the worship service this Sunday:

<https://youtube.com/live/0j7ntevkcE4?feature=share>

Monday, February 16, 2026

Church office will be closed

Tuesday, February 17, 2026

6:30 p.m. Faith Formation Commission—Room 14

7 p.m. Women's Fellowship—Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, February 18, 2026—Ash Wednesday

6:30 p.m. Ash Wednesday Worship in Sanctuary

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

Thursday, February 19, 2026

6 p.m. Chancel Bells Rehearsal—Rm B7

6:30 p.m. Hospitality Commission—Fellowship Hall

6:30 p.m. Abuse Prevention and Response Committee—Room 14

Sunday, February 22, 2026—First Sunday in Lent

9:30 a.m. Worship with sermon by Joanna Harader; music by Chancel Choir; communion will be served; report from the Sr Hi Youth on Snow Camp

Please join us this Wednesday, February 18, at 6:30 in the Sanctuary for our Ash Wednesday worship. We will gather for fellowship meals at 6:00 p.m. every Wednesday from February 25-March 25. It is a good time to gather together in community!

Please pray for our Senior High youth and sponsors this weekend as they attend Snow Camp at Rocky Mountain Mennonite Camp. May it be a time for them to grow in their faith as they strengthen their relationships with God, each other, and God's glorious creation.

"The Work of Imagination" Lenten devotional booklets are available in the Gathering Place. These booklets provide brief readings and thoughtful questions for each week of Lent and provide a thoughtful accompaniment to our worship themes for the season.

This Lent, we will explore *The Work of Imagination*, led by material from Illustrated Ministry.

"This is the work of imagination: to envision a world remade by mercy, to trust that healing is possible even in the shadow of empire, and to practice love that outlasts despair."

Please plan to join us for Sunday morning worship, and consider participating in these special Lenten opportunities:

- Wed., Feb. 18 @ 6:30 p.m.: Ash Wednesday worship in the Sanctuary
- Sundays, Feb. 22-March 29 during Sunday School hour: elective Sunday school class using *The Work of Imagination* devotionals, in the Chapel
- Wednesdays, Feb. 25-March 25 @ 6 p.m.: Church Community Suppers in the Fellowship Hall
- Thurs., April 2 @ 5:30 p.m.: All-Age Maundy Thursday Worship in the Chapel
- Thurs., April 2 @ 7 p.m.: Maundy Thursday Worship with communion in the Sanctuary
- Easter Sunday, April 5:
 - * Easter Sunrise Worship @ 7 a.m.
 - * Worship Service @ 10 a.m. to include welcoming new members!
 - * NO Sunday School

Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) Announcements

- **Lunch & Learn at MCC Tues., 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 Rahaman 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.
- **MCC Fellowship Meals: Help cover Relief Sale expenses by participating in a Fellowship Meal this year.** Choose to host or be a guest. As a guest, you will be invited to attend the host's church worship service followed by a meal in their home. Another option is to host a fellowship meal for your own congregation. Dates are March 8 or March 15 (dates for congregational meals are flexible). Guest donation is \$25 per meal (proceeds go toward MCC Sale expenses). Sign up to host or guest [by Feb. 25](#). Contact Steve & Elaine Schurr, Bill & Esther Eash, Brad & Diane Born (BCMC's MCC Relief Sale representatives) or Barb at bj.reeves@live.com for form to complete. We hope to cover sale expenses before the sale so all proceeds can be donated to MCC.
- **Mennonite Central Committee Central States annual meeting:** You are invited to the MCC Central States annual meeting on Sat., March 7, 11 a.m. at MCC Central States, 121 E. 30th St, North Newton.

Bethel College/Kauffman Museum Announcements

- **Tues., Feb. 17: Bethel College Chamber Orchestra concert**, featuring works by Edward Elgar, Percy Grainger, Khayyam Mirazazade and Shigeru Kan-no, Kris Hilding, director, 7 p.m., Krehbiel Auditorium in Luyken Fine Arts Center
- **Life Enrichment, for adults age 60 and older**, meets Wednesday mornings in Krehbiel Auditorium. February 18 programs: **9:30 a.m.**, "Kansas Women in the Fight for the 19th Amendment – Did They Win?" (note title change), Donna Becker, certified first-person performer; **10:50 a.m.**, "Travel with a Wiseguy Exploring Off the Beaten Path," John Wise, travel YouTuber. See <https://www.bethelks.edu/academics/life-enrichment/> for details and a link to the complete spring schedule.
- **Fri., Feb. 20: "Daily Commitments,"** an exhibit by Rachel Epp Buller, opens in the Regier Art Gallery in Luyken Fine Arts Center at Bethel College (reception March 12). Gallery hours are Mon.-Fri. 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Sun. 2-4 p.m.
- **Sun.-Mon., Feb. 22-23: Bethel College will host Jamie Pitts**, professor of Anabaptist studies at Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary, for the Staley Lectures: "Becoming a 'Front Light' for Justice? Mennonite Positions on Social Transformation," **Sun., Feb. 22, 7 p.m., Ad Building chapel;** "Would Jesus Kill Hitler?," **Mon., Feb. 23, 11 a.m., Krehbiel Auditorium.** The lectures are inspired by the Gospel of Matthew and Dietrich Bonhoeffer's *The Cost of Discipleship* and are free and open to the public.
- **Weds.-Fri., Feb. 25-27: Bethel College and KIPCOR present the biennial Justice Symposium**, with immigration advocate Karen González, author of *Beyond Welcome and The God Who Sees*. González will deliver the Peace Lecture **Weds., Feb. 25, at 7 p.m.** in Kidron Hall at Kidron Bethel Village. The symposium also includes a legal panel discussion on **Thurs., Feb. 26, 7 p.m.** at Bethel College Mennonite Church and a Know your Rights training **Fri., Feb. 27, 7 p.m.**, in the 1887 Cafe on the Bethel campus. For a complete schedule, see <https://kipcor.org/event/2026-justice-symposium/> For a complete schedule, see <https://kipcor.org/event/2026-justice-symposium/>
- **Thurs., Feb. 26: Bethel College Wind Ensemble concert**, Chris Miertschin, director, 7 p.m., Krehbiel Auditorium in Luyken Fine Arts Center
- **Fri., March 6 & Sat., March 7, 7 p.m., Sun., March 8, 2 p.m.: Bethel College music and theater departments present: Alice by Heart**, a retelling of Alice in Wonderland set during the London blitz of World War II, Krehbiel Auditorium. Friday night performance interpreted for the D/deaf community. Ticket purchase required, at <https://www.bethelks.edu/fine-arts/theater/theater-department-presents/#tickets>, at Thresher Shop in Schultz Student Center weekdays 8 a.m.-5 p.m., or at the door. *Contains adult content and is not intended for young audiences.*