

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.

**BCMC Offering for Feb.22:** General \$6,960.34; Camp Mennoscah \$100; Library Reserve Fund \$10; Kitchen Fund \$11; Women's Fellowship \$338; Al Penner Mem. \$200.

**Mennonite Mission Network Prayer Request:** Beginning tomorrow, the Anchorage, Alaska, and Colorado Springs, Colorado, Service Adventure units will gather in San Angelo, Texas, to serve with Mennonite Disaster Service. Pray for a great week of serving and learning together, as well as safe travels for the participants as they travel.

**Western District Conference Prayer Request:** During this season of Lent, pray for all WDC congregations as they seek to walk in the way of Jesus and nurture faithful discipleship.

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Website: [bethelcollegemennonitechurch.org](http://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](mailto:joanna@bethelcollegemennonitechurch.org)
- Pastor Nathan Koontz, Days off: Mondays and Wednesdays  
Cell phone: 316-212-4593; Email: [nathan@bethelcollegemennonitechurch.org](mailto:nathan@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

March 1, 2026

2nd Sunday of Lent: Disruptive Blessings



Luke 6:17-36 • [illustratedministry.com](http://illustratedministry.com)

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**  
**March 1, 2026**  
**2nd Sunday of Lent: Disruptive Blessings**

Christ Candle Lighting

Centering Music *O Power of Love, All Else Transcending* (arr. S. Vincent)  
 Will Wiebe-Friesen

Land Acknowledgement & Call to Worship Marshall Anderson

One: Come into God's presence, you who imagine and you who seek, you who disrupt and you who repair.

**All: By the Spirit, we gather in hope.**

One: Come into God's fellowship, you who are broken and blessed, you who show mercy, as God has first been merciful to you.

**All: In Christ, we gather in blessing.**

One: Come into God's presence, singing for joy and for justice; bringing prayer and worship, your most faithful acts of resistance.

**All: To God be the glory! We gather to praise!**

Opening Prayer

\*Hymn *We Are People of God's Peace* VT 797

Kin-dom Report M-2 Prison Ministry OVM Laura Garvin

Children and Youth Conversation Barb Koontz

Worship Music *Festival Prelude on Thaxted* [VT 814] (Holst), (arr. Pettit)  
 Ben Lichti, trumpet; Will Wiebe-Friesen, organ

Scripture Reading Luke 6:17–36 Lindsay Anderson

\*Hymn *Make Me an Instrument of Your Peace* VT 713  
 Doyle Preheim, soloist; William Eash, song-leader

Scripture Reading James 1:19–27

Sermon *This Is Not For Sale* Nathan Koontz

Breath Prayer *I am vulnerable / I am blessed*

\*Hymn *Blessed Are You* VT 290

Receiving the Offering and Prayers of God's People

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

\*Charge and Benediction

Postlude *We Are People of God's Peace* (arr. A. Fedak)

\* You are invited to stand VT—*Voices Together*  
 Keyboard—Will Wiebe-Friesen Audio visual—John Thiesen

**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.*

**Going Beyond Land Acknowledgement**

The Kansas Repair Communities, a group of local churches and organizations, is growing. We meet virtually and in-person on alternating months to talk about our work for Missing and Murdered Indigenous People (MMIP), especially Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women (MMIW). We are connecting with Indigenous groups in Kansas already at work on this issue and learning to know Indigenous friends who would appreciate our voices on this issue. To help us in our work, the National Repair Coalition for Dismantling the Doctrine of Discovery, of which BCMC is a member, is conducting a training, "Moving Toward Right Relations" at BCMC April 24-26. If you have thought you would like to join this work, this training about power and assumptions and privilege would be a good way to enter the work. Or, if you know someone who might like to join us through this training, see Ada Schmidt-Tieszen, Dale Schrag or Raylene Hinz-Penner. Persons are welcome within and outside BCMC or any church or denomination.

**Rooting our Stories: Reveling in 50 years of Queer and Trans Anabaptist Resilience**

Join the Brethren Mennonite Council for LGBT Interests (BMC) for a gathering rooted in sacred story and joyful revelry, as we mark our 50th Anniversary on May 29-31 in Minneapolis! This festive weekend will include storytelling, singing, ritual/worship, workshops, artmaking, games, shared meals, and honoring this incredible 50-year legacy of LGBTQIA+ Anabaptist resistance and resilience. Find event details, safety/accessibility info, and registration on our 50th webpage, [www.bmclgbt.org/50th](http://www.bmclgbt.org/50th)

**Eleven of Camp Mennoscah's partner churches now have active matching challenges** being offered within their congregations, doubling the impact of every dollar given by households who attend that church. If you are not aware of a challenge within your congregation, we would welcome your involvement in this initiative that has raised over \$130,000 in just a few weeks! To inquire about starting this challenge within your church, to add to the initial challenge amount, or to give toward the challenge, text "Match" to 620.755.2583 for additional information!

**The Swiss Mennonite Cultural and Historical Association's annual meeting** will be Mar. 8, 2:30 p.m. at Hopefield Mennonite Church, 1823 Aztec Lane, Moundridge. Guest Speaker, Glen Ediger, a Bethel College graduate, will speak on "Mennonites, Farming, Wheat and Threshing Stones". Entertainment will be provided by Sam Shilts. There is no need to RSVP. Poppysed rolls will be served after the meeting.

**Join guest conductor Anya Pogorelova for the Newton Mid Kansas Symphony Orchestra** spring concert Sat., Mar. 21, 3 p.m. in the Newton High School Auditorium. This concert is designed for the whole family with a special family ticket price of \$20 to families of all sizes! 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**

**Women's Retreat Mar. 6-8, 2026** will be led by Anita Amstutz exploring "Breathing through Transition". Please visit [rmmc.org](http://rmmc.org) for more details and for registration.

**Margaret Toews and Barb Voran, along with Faith Formation**, are looking for more volunteers for our BCMC nursery during worship on Sunday mornings. Fifteen people volunteered to spend time with our young ones this past year. We would like to have 18 people who are willing to spend one Sunday every other month in the nursery. This is a wonderful opportunity - never a dull moment! Let Margaret Toews, Barb Voran or Brad Kohlman know if interested.

**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.

**"Mennonites in Poland" is currently being highlighted in the church library along with the Mennonite Polish Studies Association Newsletter.** This newsletter summarizes the 2025 Poland trip led by Mark Jantzen and John Thiesen which many in the congregation have taken or will take this summer. We also have many new books that were donated and are now ready for checkout.

#### **The Week at BCMC: March 1-7, 2026**

##### **Sunday, March 1, 2026—2nd Sunday of Lent:**

9:30 a.m. Worship      10:30 a.m. Coffee/water/tea in the Gathering Place

YouTube Link for the worship service this Sunday:

<https://youtube.com/live/ulgNzut6y0w?feature=share>

**2:30 p.m.** Newton Community Children's Choir Event in Fellowship Hall—Talents & Treats Dessert Auction Fundraiser—Come bid on wonderful desserts and see talented members from Newton Community Children's Choir perform!

##### **Tuesday, March 3, 2026**

4 p.m. Staff Congregation Relations meeting—Room 14

##### **Wednesday, March 4, 2026**

**6 p.m. Wednesday supper in Fellowship Hall**—Please bring your own tableware to facilitate the clean-up—Menu: Cheeseburger macaroni, peas, pudding

6:30 p.m. Gifts Discernment Committee meeting—Room 14

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

##### **Thursday, March 5, 2026**

6 p.m. Chancel Bells Rehearsal—Rm B7

7 p.m. Church Board meeting—Room 14

##### **Saturday, March 7, 2026**

11 a.m. Memorial service for Al Penner—Sanctuary

##### **Sunday, March 8, 2026—Third Sunday in Lent**

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

**Note:** *O Power of Love, All Else Transcending* has long been a favorite hymn for many Mennonites, appearing in multiple Mennonite and Mennonite Brethren hymnals in North and South America and Europe. Unfortunately, it does not appear in *Voices Together*. The original text, Ich bete an die Macht der Liebe, is drawn from a larger poem by German hymnist Gerhard Tersteegen and has been paired with the tune "St. Petersburg" by Russian composer Bortiansky since at least 1825. It is of little surprise that this hymn was deeply loved by Mennonites in present-day Ukraine or that it continues to be loved today.

**You are invited to an ecumenical Good Friday worship service** on April 3, 7 p.m., at St. Matthew's Episcopal church (2001 Windsor Drive, Newton). This service will be planned and led by Bethel College Mennonite, Shalom Mennonite, Salem United Methodist, Trinity Heights United Methodist, and St. Matthew's Episcopal. We are excited to connect with others in our community during this sacred season.

**The family of Joan Brubacher thanks the congregation** for all of the kindness — in thought, deed, prayer and gesture—extended to them during the illness and death of Joan. They are sincerely grateful.

**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:

- 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 Fellowship Hall
- Thurs., Apr. 2, 5:30 p.m.: All-Age Maundy Thursday Worship in the Chapel
- Thurs., Apr. 2, 7 p.m.: Maundy Thursday Worship with communion in the Sanctuary
- Easter Sunday, Apr. 5: NO Sunday School
  - \* Easter Sunrise Worship @ 7 a.m.
  - \* Worship Service @ 10 a.m. to include welcoming new members!

**Poems and Prayers Group for Lent**

You are invited to poems and prayers in the BCMC chapel on Tuesdays at 11 during lent, an informal time to bring a poem or prayer that speaks to you and share it with the group. Readings will be followed by silence and discussion. Your selection could be something that you have written, or something that someone else has written. You do not need to consider yourself a poet to attend. Simply bring an open heart and joy for the truth revealed when words and phrases rub in illumined ways. Next session begins at 11 on March 3.

**Bethel College Announcements**

- **Mar. 6 & Mar. 7, 7 p.m., Sun., March 8, 2 p.m., Krehbiel Auditorium: 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. 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 weekdays 8 a.m.-5 p.m., or at the door. *Contains adult content and is not intended for young audiences.*
- **Sat., March 7: Kauffman Museum bird walk, 8 a.m. meet** in the museum parking lot at the corner of Main and 27th streets, 2801 N. Main St., North Newton. Experienced birders lead a walk of 1-1.5 hours in Chisholm Park and on Sand Creek Trail.
- **Tues., Mar. 10 [change from Feb. 26]: Bethel College Wind Ensemble concert, Chris Miertschin, director, 7 p.m., Krehbiel Auditorium**
- **Thurs., Mar. 12: Bethel College Jazz, Chris Miertschin, director, 7 p.m. Krehbiel Auditorium**
- **Thurs., Mar. 12: Ceramic artist Isaac Shue, owner of Gallery Mostaza in Newton, will present an artist talk, 7 p.m., Ad Building chapel at Bethel College, (underwritten by the Greer Lecture Endowment).**

**Kansas Mennonite Relief Sale (KMRS) is April 10 & 11** at the Kansas State Fair Grounds in Hutchinson. Did you know that in 2025, relief sales across North America provided over 5 million dollars to fund Mennonite Central Committee's relief, development, and peace initiatives in 46 countries?

- **The My Coins Count jug** is returning this week (*jug is in the Gathering Place*)—bring your bills and coins! The filled jug will help transform lives by funding MCC's education projects.
- **Donations: Turn cool items into cash to fund MCC projects!** BCMC members have already donated many items to KMRS to be sold at one of 4 different auctions. If you have something to add, simply donate it, and the auction committees can decide the best location for your item. Talk to a BCMC sale liaison today!
- **Volunteer Opportunities:** Sign up to make VERENIKA (in Hillsboro on March 21) or BOHNE BEROGGI (in Moundridge on April 4) for the sale. To sign up, go to the volunteer page at <https://kansas.mccsale.org/>
- **Urgent Service Opportunities:** KMRS is looking for persons to chair or support the following: New Year Cookies Frying Committee, Pork Tenders, Friday Verenike Frying, Borscht Making, Feeding the Multitude Committee. For more info, see the flyer on the table in the gathering place or speak with Jim Robb.
- **Sunday School Classes:** Last year many contributed to help underwrite KMRS costs to cover all expenses before the sale so proceeds go directly to MCC programs. The next round of bidding on items like eggs, cream, shortening, pork tenders is on March 12. Please identify your contributions in the next few weeks! Info has been sent to Sunday School contacts.
- **More Information: \*KMRS posterboard & table** in the Gathering Place for information and forms for Run for Relief, as well as the My Coins Count jug.
  - \* **KMRS website:** <https://kansas.mccsale.org/>
  - \* **BCMC liaisons:** Steve & Elaine Schurr, William & Esther Kreider Eash, and Brad & Diane Born.

**Join Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) Central States for their Annual Meeting** to hear an update from MCC U.S. Board Chair Emerson Leshner. The meeting will be Sat., March 7, 9:30 a.m. at MCC Central States, 121 E. 30th, North Newton. If you would like to join via Zoom, email [tinaschrag@mcc.org](mailto:tinaschrag@mcc.org) for a link to the meeting.

**Life Enrichment, at Bethel College for adults age 60 and older, meets Wednesday mornings in Krehbiel Auditorium. This week's programs (March 4): 9:30 a.m., "Giving Garden Donates Produce to Salvation Army," Scott Eckert, Harvey County Extension horticulture agent and master gardener; 10:50 a.m., "Voices Not Forgotten": MMIP (Missing/Murdered Indigenous People) Community Awareness and Action," Sharron Fisher and Laurie Dove, indigenous advocates.**

**Now in the Regier Art Gallery in Luyken Fine Arts Center at Bethel College, "Daily Commitments,"** an exhibit by Rachel Epp Buller, through March 12. She will be creating a new work every day the exhibit is open, so plan to go back several times! Gallery hours are Mon.-Fri. 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Sun. 2-4 p.m.