

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 Mar. 15:** Gen. Fund \$25,977.36; Wed. Supper \$150.20; Library Reserve Fund \$7; Kitchen Fund \$17; Al Penner Mem. \$780.

**Mennonite Mission Network Prayer Request:** Colleen and Pablo Fast have been serving in Brazil for more than 30 years. Praise God that the Brazilian churches they serve with are experiencing a time of growth, with multiple families being sent out to plant more churches and the already-established churches increasing the number of services they offer.

**Western District Conference Prayer Request:** Pray for the WDC Gifts Discernment Committee as they listen for the leading of God's Spirit in selecting nominees for elected leadership positions in our conference, and give thanks for those who say "yes" when invited to serve.

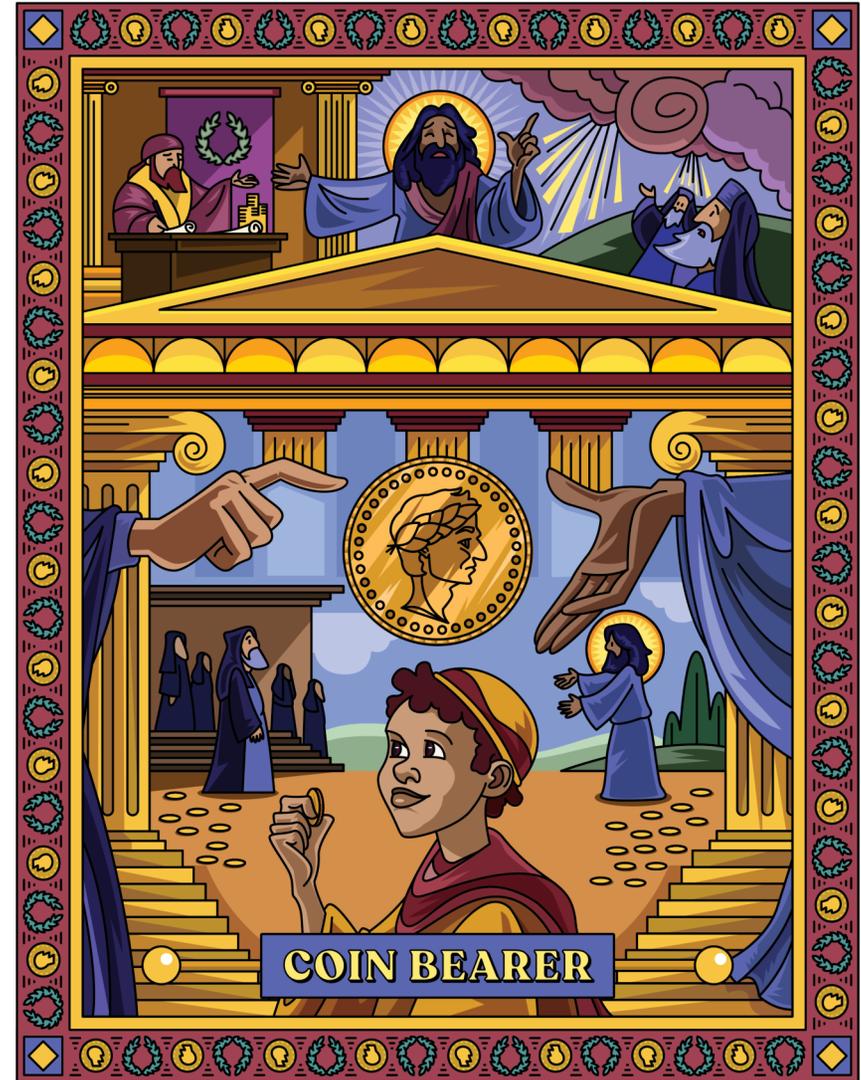
Bethel College Mennonite Church, 2600 College Ave., Box 364, North Newton, KS 67117  
Phone: 316-283-3667—Fax: 316-283-2079 Email: [office@bethelcollegemennonitechurch.org](mailto:office@bethelcollegemennonitechurch.org)  
Website: [bethelcollegemennonitechurch.org](http://bethelcollegemennonitechurch.org)

- Pastor Joanna Harader, Day off: Monday; 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 is on vacation March 16-22. 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 22, 2026

### 5th Sunday of Lent: True Allegiance



Mark 12:13-17 • [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 22, 2026**

**5th Sunday of Lent: True Allegiance**

Christ Candle Lighting

Centering Music     *There Is No Shadow* (Brenda Portman)  
Will Wiebe-Friesen

Welcome and Call to Worship     Mary Ellen Hodge

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 keeping, you who bear the divine image, you who are in this world but not of it, you who feel tested or tried.

**All: In Christ, we gather and we belong.**

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     *Praise with Joy the World's Creator*     VT 428

Children and Youth Conversation     Carol Flickinger

Worship Music     *Were You There* (arr. Bob Chilcott)  
Chancel Choir; Joel Garber, director; Will Wiebe-Friesen, accompanist

Scripture Reading     Romans 13:1, 6-7     Mike Claassen

\*Hymn     *How Can We Worship Caesar's Cross*     VT 308

Scripture Reading     Mark 12:13-17

Sermon     *Trick(y) Questions*     Joanna Harader

Breath Prayer     *Give to the world what is the world's./Give to God what is God's*

\*Hymn     *I Bind My Heart This Tide*     VT 556

Receiving the Offering and Prayers of God's People     Mary Ellen Hodge

\*Hymn

*Go Now in Peace, Worship Continues*

VT 829

\*Charge and Benediction

Postlude     *Wer nur den lieben Gott lässt walten* (J.S. Bach)

\* You are invited to stand

VT—*Voices Together*     Keyboard—Will Wiebe-Friesen     Audio visual—Ben Lichti

**All children from 8th grade and younger are invited to be part of a singing group** that will do worship music on Palm Sunday, March 29. We will meet for a 15 minute practice after worship this morning, before Sunday School, in the Fellowship Hall. Contact Verlene Garber if you have any questions.

**BCMC's Lenten Banners illustrate a progression created around the motif of the crown of thorns.** The series is about the contrasts, emotion, and movement of the Lenten season. The artist, Anne Friesen Birky, lives in Denver, CO with her family and is the daughter of Duane and Elizabeth Friesen. Thank you to Matt Koontz for organizing the banner installation each week.

**Community Playschool, Inc is happy to announce a celebration for it's 60th anniversary!** EVERYONE, including members of sponsoring churches, former teachers, volunteers, families, students and anyone else, is invited and welcome to join us on Thurs., Apr. 16 from 5:30-7 p.m. for a look back at the history of the preschool. We will have slides and photos, a timeline of the major events and changes, a place for memories and stories and, of course, cake! The classrooms will be open for tours while the main activities will take place in the Fellowship Hall of BCMC. Please plan to come and help us celebrate this monumental occasion!

**Rooting our Stories: Reveling in 50 years of Queer and Trans Anabaptist Resilience** Join the Brethren Mennonite Council (BMC) for LGBT Interests for a gathering rooted in sacred story and joyful revelry, as they mark their 50th Anniversary 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. Event details, safety/accessibility info, and registration on the 50th webpage, [www.bmclgbt.org/50th](http://www.bmclgbt.org/50th).

**You are invited to share an Easter lily for the sanctuary on Easter Sunday, Apr. 5.** BCMC will purchase the lilies. The cost will be \$10 per lily. Make checks to BCMC designated "Flower Fund." Contributors may pick up lilies to take home after the Easter worship service. You will be able to designate in honor of someone or in memory of someone with your Easter lily. There will be a table in the Gathering Place this Sun., Mar. 22 for you to sign up for a lily, or email the church office.

*Artwork on the bulletin cover is from Illustrated Ministry, "The Work of Imagination."*

## Bethel College Announcements:

- **Sun., March 22: Kauffman Museum's program with Carolyn Zeisset**, "Caught in the Middle Between Voices of Conscience and Voices of Patriotism," has moved to Zoom, 3 p.m., <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89861064083?pwd=C7M8myHWBtMmLZpKGEzavzY0V4KLZa.1> Zeisset will look at parallels in her young adult historical novel *Caught in the Middle* with stories of conscientious objectors told in the current special exhibit at the museum, "Voices of Conscience: Peace Witness in the Great War."
- **Life Enrichment, the series at Bethel College** for adults age 60 and older, meets Wednesday mornings in Krehbiel Auditorium. **March 25** programs: **9:30 a.m.**, "Hippie Inc.: The Misunderstood Subculture that Changed the Way We Live," Dr. Michael Klassen, University of Northern Iowa; **10:50 a.m.**, "Mennonite Disaster Service Cabinet Shop Operation," Cleo Koop, MDS. See <https://www.bethelks.edu/academics/life-enrichment/> for details and a link to the spring schedule.
- **Fri., March 27: The annual Student Art Exhibit** opens in the Regier Art Gallery in Luyken Fine Arts Center, featuring the work of students in Bethel College art classes, in various media, through April 17 (reception TBA). Gallery hours are Mon.-Fri. 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Sun. 2-4 p.m.
- **Sun., March 29: Bethel College Concert Choir and Wind Ensemble** spring concert, 4 p.m., Memorial Hall
- **SAVE THE DATE: Mon., April 6**, Bethel College will honor its 2025 alumni award winners (Virgil Penner, Kristin Wedel, Tim Wiens) in convocation.

**Hesston College will host the annual Melva Kauffman Lecture Series** Mar. 25 and 26, welcoming peace studies scholar and Hesston College alumna Dr. Angela Lederach for a series titled "Slow Peace: Lessons from Grassroots Peacebuilders in Colombia." Lectures are Wed., Mar. 25 at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. and Thurs., Mar. 26 at 7 p.m. All events are free, open to the public, and held at Hesston Mennonite Church with a reception following evening lectures. More info: [hesston.edu/melva](https://hesston.edu/melva).

**Women & Girls come join the annual Mennonite Women in Mission's potluck salad supper** Mon., Apr. 20, 6 p.m. at Tabor Mennonite Church, rural Newton. Guest speaker, Kate Mast presents "Our Time, Our Stories, Our Stuff." This presentation encourages us to think kindly about our stuff in relationship to our time and the stories we tell about our lives. Please bring a potluck salad and one small item that is a treasure of yours to share with your table group. RSVP not required. More info: [mennonitewomeninmission.org](https://mennonitewomeninmission.org) or their Facebook page.

**Men and Boys Retreat, sponsored by Mennonite Men of the Plains, is Apr. 17-19.** Registration is online at <https://campmennoscah.campbrainregistration.com> or in person at the shed by the basketball court. Please check in at the shed, even if you register online. Lodging is available in the bunkhouses, cabins, or your own tent. There are two 20 amp RV hookups and two 30 amp RV hookups available in the south (boys) cabin area on a pole of the gazebo. The hookups/outlets are not spread out. Camp Mennoscah only has electrical hookups. Meals are available for Sat. evening and Sun. breakfast and lunch. Contact Kevin N. at 316-322-5515.

## The Week at BCMC: March 22-29, 2026

### Sunday, March 22, 2026—5th 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/W3GMOcCroxU?feature=share>

### Monday, March 23, 2026

10 a.m. Library Committee—Room 14

7 p.m. Faith Formation Commission—Fellowship Hall

### Tuesday, March 24, 2026

11 a.m. Poems and Prayers Group for Lent—Chapel

### Wednesday, March 25, 2026

**6 p.m. Wednesday supper in Fellowship Hall**—Please bring your own tableware to facilitate the clean-up—Menu: Breakfast casserole with hash browns, ham, and cheddar, banana muffins

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

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

### Thursday, March 26, 2026

9:30 a.m. Library Committee—Room 14

6 p.m. Chancel Bells Rehearsal—Room B7

7 p.m. Deacon Commission—Room 14

### Sunday, March 29, 2026—Palm Sunday

Sermon by Joanna Harader

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**Caring Fund Contribution Opportunity April 2, Maundy Thursday and April 5, Easter Sunday.** The Caring Fund is an above budget benevolent fund administered by the Deacon Commission for the purpose of assisting our congregation's members and community persons in need. The fund is generated by above budget offerings made payable to Bethel College Mennonite Church and designated "caring fund." Thank you for your continued support and contributions.

**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, Faith 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.

**Our local No Kings peaceful protest will be Saturday, March 28, 3-5 p.m. at the Harvey County Courthouse.** Prior to this, there will be a No Kings event in Wichita from noon-1:30 at Douglas and Broadway. You are invited to show up for one or both with enthusiasm and a poster.

**This Lent, we are exploring *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:

- Wednesday, Mar. 25, 6 p.m.: Church Community Supper 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
- Fri., Apr. 3, 7 p.m.: Ecumenical Good Friday worship service at St. Matthew's Episcopal Church (2001 Windsor Drive, Newton).
- Easter Sunday, Apr. 5: NO Sunday School
  - \* Easter Sunrise Worship @ 7 a.m. at the Prouty Farm, 332 N. Hoover Road, Newton
  - \* 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.

**Would any of us survive a month in poverty?** It is difficult for those of us who have enough to truly understand the situations that families living in poverty experience every day; the decisions they have to make, and fears and frustrations they feel. This is an invitation to 'walk a mile' in the shoes of those facing poverty by participating in the upcoming Poverty Simulation. **Peace Connections**, Newton is offering a Poverty Simulation Thurs., March 26 from 9:30-noon at Salem United Methodist Church. There is no cost for this event. The simulation provides participants with the opportunity to assume the role of a low-income family member living on a limited budget and is divided into four 15-minute sessions, each of which represents one week in which you must provide for your family and maintain your home. Contact Peace Connections with questions: 316-284-0000 ext. 1 (office) 316-667-5181 (cell: call / text) or [www.peaceconnections.org](http://www.peaceconnections.org)

**Shalom Mennonite Church, 800 E. 1st St., Newton**, will host the next in-person meeting of the Kansas Repair Communities, Mon., March 23, at 5:30 p.m. This is a good chance to find out about a group of Newton and Wichita area folks who have been working for the past year to build relationships with the indigenous nations in Kansas and to move toward legislation regarding Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women/People (MMIP) in Kansas. Snacks will be provided.

**Kansas Mennonite Relief Sale (KMRS) is April 12 & 13, 2024 at the Kansas State Fair Grounds in Hutchinson. Your participation supports Mennonite Central Committee's (MCC) relief, development, and peace-building work around the world.**

- **Calling all bakers!** Bags and pie tins are ready to pick up at the back of the sanctuary today after worship. Sign up to make zwieback, pie, and other baked goods.
- **My Coins Count** continues in the Gathering Place. Place your coins, bills, and checks in the jug each Sunday until the sale to help fund MCC education programs!
- **THANK YOU to the BCMC Sunday School classes** who help underwrite KMRS costs. Thanks to generous donors, all expenses are covered before the sale so all sale proceeds go directly to Mennonite Central Committee programs.
- Donations needed!
  - **Silent and General Auctions** are accepting items such as vehicles, furniture, and other items. Let a BCMC liaison know so we can submit photos and work with you on getting the item to the sale.
  - **Children's Auction is accepting new**, in-the-package items that appeal to children and youth such as board games, Lego sets, etc. for the Saturday Children's Auction.
  - **Plant Sale** accepts anything related to gardening -- bulbs, seeds, garden or house plants, trees, and tools such as garden hose and rakes.
  - **Bring donated auction and plant items** to BCMC's south entrance on Friday, April 12, and a liaison will make sure it gets to the sale.
- **Volunteers Needed:** The KMRS website has many volunteer opportunities -- making BOHNE BEROGGI on April 4, or many time slots in one of the booths during the sale. If you need help signing up, alert a liaison.

**For more information:**

- **KMRS posterboard & table** in the Gathering Place for *Run for Relief* forms, the *My Coins Count* jug, urgent service opportunities and more.
- **KMRS website:** <https://kansas.mccsale.org/>
- **BCMC liaisons:** Steve & Elaine Schurr, Brad & Diane Born, and William & Esther Kreider Eash.

**Camp Mennoscah reminds all their friends and supporters at BCMC** that there remains a \$2,500 challenge within your congregation to support the completion of the retreat center. Across our partner churches, this initiative has raised almost \$140,000, and just under \$2,000 remains available still to be matched here at BCMC. To have YOUR investment in the future of camp doubled, simply write "BCMC match" in the memo line of your check, or text "Match" to 620.755.2583, and a representative of Camp Mennoscah will be happy to pick up your gift.

**"Mennonites in Poland" is 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. Please stop by and enjoy!