

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. 1: General \$24,487; Wed. Supper \$195; Plant Fund \$50; Kitchen Fund \$20; Solar Fund \$50; Larry Penner Mem. \$100.

Mennonite Mission Network Prayer Request: On this International Women's Day, pray that women across the street and around the world feel empowered to live out their faith in meaningful ways, despite any negative pressures they may feel from the patriarchal systems in their communities, homes, churches and countries.

Western District Conference Prayer Request: Give thanks for WDC's Hispanic Transitional Ministry Resourcing project, and pray for participating churches as they nurture congregational identity and strengthen leadership capacity to navigate pastoral and congregational changes in ways that are relevant to their cultural context.

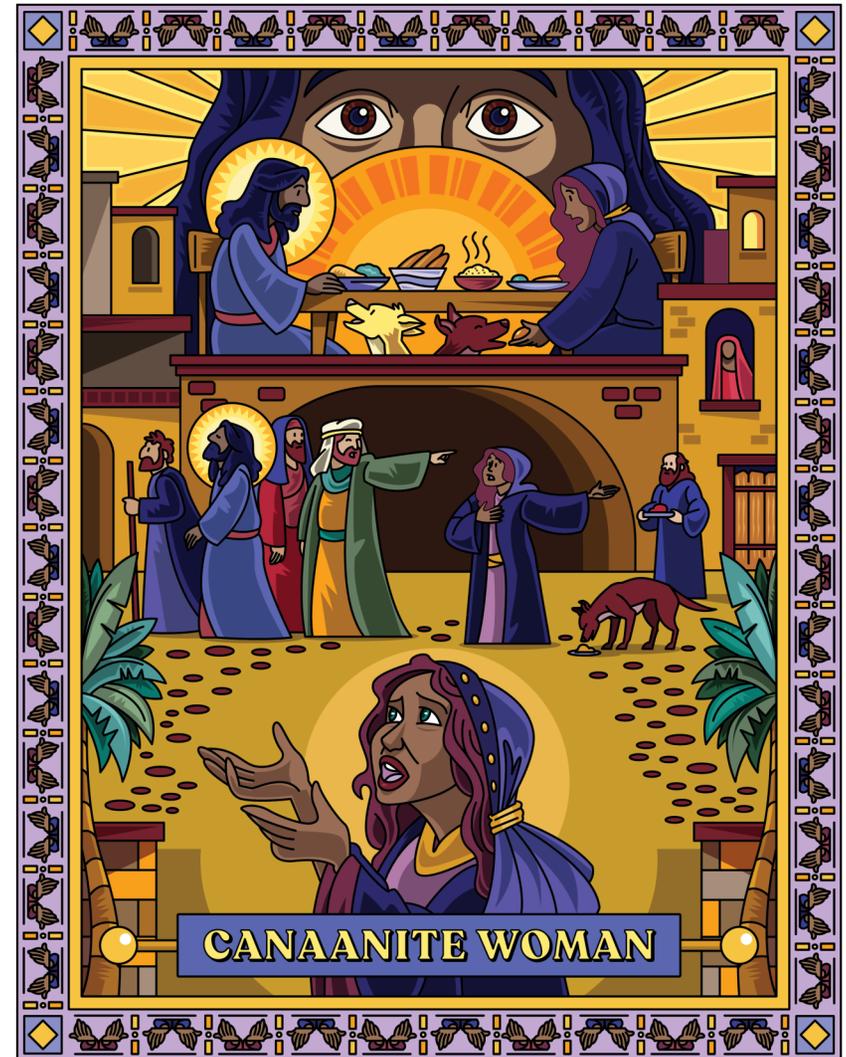
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Phone: 316-283-3667—Fax: 316-283-2079 Email: office@bethelcollegemennonitechurch.org
Website: bethelcollegemennonitechurch.org

- Pastor Joanna Harader is on retreat this week. 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

March 8, 2026

3rd Sunday of Lent: Holy Confrontation



Matthew 15:21-28 • 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 8, 2026
3rd Sunday of Lent: Holy Confrontation

Christ Candle Lighting

Centering Music *Sweet Rivers of Redeeming Love* (from Sacred Harp)
(arr. D. Hustad) Will Wiebe-Friesen

Welcome and Call to Worship John Waltner

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 abundance, you of great faith, and you who grasp at crumbs; you who resist, and you who persist.

All: In Christ, we gather and are transformed.

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 John Waltner

*Hymn *You Are Salt for the Earth* VT 297

Kindom Report Puerto Rico Peace Camp
Ani Koontz and Grace Harader-Ellett

Children and Youth Conversation Carol Flickinger

Worship Music *O Thou in Whose Presence* (arr. J. Harold Moyer)
Chancel Choir; Joel Garber, director; Will Wiebe-Friesen, accompanist

Scripture Reading Numbers 27:1-11 Marlene Faul

*Hymn *There Is a Line of Women* VT 546

Scripture Reading Matthew 15:21-28 Marlene Faul

Sermon *The Perils of Pedestals* Joanna Harader

Breath Prayer *God, grant me courage / to speak out in faith.*

*Hymn *Draw the Circle* VT 802
Lucy Burch, flute

Receiving the Offering and Prayers of God's People

*Hymn *Sing a New World into Being* VT 809

*Charge and Benediction

Postlude *The Kingsfold Trumpet* (VT 536), (arr. A. Fedak)

* You are invited to stand
VT—*Voices Together*
Keyboard—Will Wiebe Friesen
Audio visual—Ken Lamp

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 before Sunday School on March 15 and March 22 in the Fellowship H all. Contact Verlene Garber if you have any questions.

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

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. Please stop by and enjoy!

The Swiss Mennonite Cultural and Historical Association's annual meeting will be today, 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 provided by Sam Shilts. No need to RSVP. Poppyseed rolls will be served after the meeting.

Life Enrichment, for adults age 60 and older, meets Wednesday mornings in Bethel College's Krehbiel Auditorium. March 11 programs: 9:30 a.m.: "The Historical Roots of Putin's Russia," Matt Cotton, McPherson College; **10:50 a.m.:** "How to Protect the Earth's Biodiversity Forever: Lessons from Maitreya Buddha, Pharma Bros, and Yucca Mountain," Dr. Adam Smith, Missouri Botanical Gardens, St. Louis. First-time attendees get one session free. See <https://www.bethelks.edu/academics/life-enrichment/> for details and a link to the complete spring schedule.

Camp MennoScah is pleased to report that our most recent work day saw final installation of cover plates on electrical switches and outlets in the retreat center, and bathroom mirrors were hung. Baseboards are nearly done, all bedrooms have been cleaned, bedroom and basement common area carpets have been shampooed, making the basement essentially move-in ready. The continued support of twelve congregations with active matching challenges has made this possible, and we are so thankful! If your congregation does not have such a challenge, please consider visiting our website to initiate a recurring \$20/month gift to camp. For information on how to set that up, simply text the word "Monthly" to 620.755.2583.

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

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/>

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 Week at BCMC: March 8-15, 2026

Sunday, March 8, 2026—3rd Sunday of Lent:

9:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Coffee/water/tea in the Gathering Place
12 noon New member lunch—Fellowship Hall

YouTube Link for the worship service this Sunday:
<https://youtube.com/live/abmoaQxvaAw?feature=share>

Tuesday, March 10, 2026

5 p.m. Solar sub-committee meeting—Chapel

Wednesday, March 11, 2026

10:30 a.m. Memorial service for Barbara Soth—Sanctuary

6 p.m. Wednesday supper in Fellowship Hall—Please bring your own tableware to facilitate the clean-up—Menu: Cheesy chicken and broccoli with rice, fruit cobbler/crisp

6:30 p.m. Open Table

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

Thursday, March 12, 2026

6 p.m. Chancel Bells Rehearsal—Rm B7

Sunday, March 15, 2026—Fourth Sunday of Lent

9:30 a.m. Worship with sermon by Nathan Koontz; music by Chancel Bells

Pastor Joanna Harader will be on retreat and out of the office from March 9 through March 16. There will be no 1887 Café Hours March 12.

Women's Fellowship General Meeting will be Tuesday, March 17, 7 p.m. at the MCC Center, 121 East 30th Street. This is a worknight so come and enjoy working with others on some of the MCC projects. Refreshments provided.

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.

A handout with "Prayers & Practices for Peace in a Time of War" is available in the gathering place.

We offer sympathy to the family of Barbara Soth. Barbara died Feb. 26 in Wichita. Please remember her son Terry Soth and his family in your prayers. The memorial service for Barbara is planned for Wed., March 11, 10:30 a.m. at BCMC.

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, Mar. 8-Mar. 29 during Sunday School hour: elective Sunday school class using *The Work of Imagination* devotionals, in the Chapel
- Wednesdays, Mar. 11-Mar. 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
- 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.
 - * 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.

Bethel College Announcements

- **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. Tickets can be purchased at the door. *Contains adult content and is not intended for young audiences.*
- **Tues., Mar. 10 [change from Feb. 26]: Bethel College Wind Ensemble concert, Chris Miertschin, director, 7 p.m., Krehbiel Auditorium**
- **Thurs., March 12: Closing reception for Rachel Epp Buller and “Daily Commitments,” 6-7 p.m., Regier Art Gallery in Luyken Fine Arts Center at Bethel College.** Gallery hours are Mon.-Fri. 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Sun. 2-4 p.m.
- **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** has returned. (*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.
- **We are gathering new, in-the-package items for this year's Kansas Mennonite Relief Sale Children's Auction**, and your donations are a huge part of making the event a success! Consider talking with the youth in your church about what items they'd be excited to bid on—but you can never go wrong with favorites like Hot Wheels, Barbies, board games, LEGO sets, art kits, and sports equipment. Additional popular item categories include: Building sets; Craft and activity kits; Puzzles; Plush animals; Outdoor toys. To donate: Items may be given to your MCC Liaison for delivery to the Sale, or brought directly to the Pride of Kansas building on Fri. or Sat. morning (Apr. 10-11) before 8:30 a.m. **We're also looking for volunteers** to help clerk the Children's Auction at this year's Relief Sale. This is an important role that helps the auction run smoothly. Because the sale can be loud, this job requires good hearing and the ability to follow bids clearly. If you're attentive, comfortable in a busy and exciting environment, and willing to serve, we would be grateful for your help! If interested in clerking, contact Brad Kohlman at bkohlman@conradeinsurance.com Thank you for helping support the Children's Auction and the work of MCC!
- **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.