

Bethel College Mennonite Church

August 2, 2026



Esau Forgives Jacob (Genesis 33:1-11)

SARAH FULLER

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

August 2, 2026

Christ Candle Lighting

Centering Music *If Thou But Suffer God to Guide Thee* (J.S. Bach)
Will Wiebe-Friesen

Land Acknowledgement

Welcome and Opening Prayer Dorothy Nickel Friesen

*Hymn *Gathered Here* VT 3

Children and Youth Conversation Megan Kohlman

Worship Music Burch Family

Scripture Reading Genesis 32:22-31 Justin Zerger

*Hymn *Come, O Thou Traveler Unknown* VT 191
(v. 1-3, 5)

Sermon *Hard Blessings* Joanna Harader

*Hymn *God of Many Faces* insert

Receiving the Offering and Prayers of God's People

*Hymn *Guide My Feet* VT 816

*Benediction

Postlude *Guide Me O Thou Great Jehovah* (arr. P. Manz)

* 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.

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.

The Week at BCMC: August 2—9, 2026

Sunday, August 2—Worship with sermon by Joanna Harader; **Sunday school hour: AV update - Bill Eash and Jon Zerger met with two audio visual companies** and BCMC received bids from each focusing primarily on improving sound in the sanctuary and Fellowship Hall. Information sessions about the scope and cost of an AV upgrade will be held in the sanctuary **today and Aug. 23**. The content is expected to be the same in both sessions. All are welcome. - Margaret Toews, Moderator

Tuesday, August 4

2 p.m. Memorial for Mildred Voran—Sanctuary

Thursday, August 6

4 p.m. Staff Congregation Relations Committee in Room 14

7 p.m. Church Board in Room 14

Sunday, August 9—Back to School Sunday—Backpack Blessings

9:30 a.m. Worship with sermon by Nathan Koontz

We extend sympathy to the family of Marvin Dirks. Marvin died Sat., July 25, in Colorado. Please keep his wife, Ruthann, and their whole family in your prayers during this time. The memorial service in Colorado will be held Sat., Aug. 8, at 10 a.m. at All Saints Episcopal Church in Loveland, CO. An inurnment service at the Bethel College Mennonite Church columbarium will be later this fall.

Mark your calendars for our church retreat at Camp Mennoscah, Aug. 29-30.

All are invited for a supper, festivities, and an overnight at camp on Saturday, Aug. 29. Our worship service will be at Camp Mennoscah on Sunday morning, Aug. 30, and will include several youth being baptized in the river! Breakfast and lunch will be available on Aug. 30. Retreat registration information will be available soon.

BCMC Offering July 26: Gen. \$10,235.34; MCC \$100; Plant Fund \$25; Caring Fund \$25; Kitchen Fund \$6; Solar Fund \$500.

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.

We have some amazing children who are part of our Bethel College Mennonite Church community, and you have an opportunity to spend some time and share your faith with them on Sunday mornings! We are starting to put together our Fall schedule for children's Sunday School. If you would like to serve as a teacher or helper for our preschool or elementary-aged groups, please contact Pastor Joanna (joanna@bethelcollegemennonitechurch.org).

Our first Open Table of the semester will be Wed., Aug. 12, from 6-7:30 p.m in the Fellowship Hall. We will begin with a meal and then have an interactive time of worship and Bible study for all ages. Open Table will be the second Wednesday night of each month, and this semester's topic is: *Monsters in the Bible*! Join us for this time of learning and connecting across generations.

Bethel College Mennonite Church will have a table at the Bethel College Ministry and Community Fair on Aug. 26. We would love to offer Bethel students and staff some homemade cookies—as an act of hospitality and as incentive for them to come to our table and learn about the church. If you would be willing to make some cookies for this event, please let Joanna know. Thanks! (joanna@bethelcollegemennonitechurch.org)

The Library Committee would like to thank Brandon Friesen and Mark Janzen for not only sharing their expertise on computers but donating a refurbished computer to the library. Not only does the new to us computer work better than the previous one, it also saved us money that we can use on books.

Many thanks to our Bethel College Mennonite Church delegates to Western District Conference Assembly next weekend: Anita Breckbill, Ron Flickinger, Francis Toews, Margaret Toews, Dale Schrag, Dorothy Nickel Friesen, and Joanna Harader. Feel free to reach out with any questions about the work of our conference.

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; 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