

Bethel College Mennonite Church

July 5, 2026



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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

July 5, 2026

Christ Candle Lighting

Centering Music *Rejoice, Rejoice Evermore* [VT 402] (arr. D. Paxton)
Will Wiebe-Friesen

Land Acknowledgement, Welcome & Prayer Tim Hodge

*Hymn *For the Fruit of All Creation* VT 124

Children and Youth Conversation Kevin Neufeld

*Hymn *Rain Down* VT 703

Scripture Reading Genesis 24:34-51; 58; 61-67 Ron Sawatsky

Sermon *Showing Hospitality* Nathan Koontz

*Hymn *Seek the Peace of the City* VT 206

Offering Invitation & Prayers of God's People VT 1043

*Hymn *This is My Song* VT 710

*Benediction

Postlude *Partita on "Foundation"* (Alice Jordan)
III. *Fantasy-Toccata* [VT 592]

*You are invited to stand VT—Voices Together
Keyboard—Will Wiebe-Friesen Audio visual—Ben Lichti

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.*

The Week at BCMC: July 5—12, 2026

Sunday, July 5—Worship with sermon by Nathan Koontz

livestream link: <https://youtube.com/live/t2V5ldPwsZE?feature=share>

Wednesday, July 8

6 p.m. Vacation Bible School (VBS) Meeting in Fellowship Hall

7 p.m. Senior High Youth Group Activity

Sunday, July 12 9:30 a.m. Worship with sermon by Joanna Harader; music by Carolyn Voth & Kathleen Rich

Going Beyond Land Acknowledgement

Tuesday July 7: 12-1:30PM PT / 1-2:30PM MT / 2-3:30PM CT / 3-4:30PM ET

Join Land Justice Futures' upcoming webinar as they apply a critical, historical lens to the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. Learn about the Indigenous roots of American democracy and discuss the unfinished work of truth-telling, repair, and right relationship for the next 250 years. This conversation will include Condoled Mohawk Clanmother “Mommabear” Louise Herne, *How To Citizen* host Baratunde Thurston, and Reverend Sara Jolena Wolcott, a theologian and descendent of one of the signers of the U.S. Declaration of Independence. To register for this webinar, see the BCMC email.

The international students at Bethel College have requested help filling gift baskets for new international students. For details on how to contribute, please see the most recent Bethel College Mennonite Church email announcements or contact the church office. In addition to items on the registry, we've been assured that homemade cookies would also be appreciated.

We are seeking delegates from Bethel College Mennonite Church to attend the Western District Conference Annual Assembly, August 7-9, in Dallas TX. This is an important time for us to form connections with the broader church as we pray, learn, and worship together! For those unable to make the trip, there is also an option to participate virtually. If you are interested in serving as a delegate, please contact Pastor Joanna or a member of the Gifts Discernment Committee (Dale Schrag, Barb Koontz, Dorothy Nickel Friesen).

Choosing music for an Anabaptist congregation on July 5 on the 250th anniversary of this country is an interesting task. Our centering music today is an arrangement of an early American tune by the name of Dunlap's Creek or Awful Majesty, which was first published in Joseph Funk's Harmonia Sacra in Singer's Glen near Harrisonburg, Virginia, with an Isaac Watts text. In our hymnal it has been paired with a text by early Anabaptist Balthasar (VT 402). Like many historical figures held in high esteem today, Hubmaier, too, has a fraught history worth reading about and wrestling with. The postlude features another tune from Joseph Funk's hymnals. — Will Wiebe-Friesen

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.

Pastors' note about changes in bulletin announcements:

Based on feedback from church members and visitors, we are experimenting with a reduced bulletin announcement format this summer. We will eliminate the announcement insert and include as many Bethel College Mennonite Church announcements in the bulletin as space allows. Priority will be given to announcements that are new and those pertaining to events that will occur in the coming week. Announcements from other organizations (Western District Conference, Mennonite Mission Network, etc.) and overflow BCMC announcements will still be included in the weekly email and will be available in a printed handout available at the back of the sanctuary each Sunday. Pastors Joanna and Nathan welcome your feedback about this change.

Fri., July 17: The Bethel College alumni office invites alumni and friends to a cookout (hamburgers, hot dogs, sides, fixings, beverages and homemade ice cream; vegetarian and gluten-free options available), 6-8 p.m., around the Friesen fountain on the campus Green. There will also be live music by Jesse Graber, Ben Regier and Erin Mae. [This free event is a welcome to campus for Interim President Wynn Goering, with remarks from him and others at 7 p.m.](#) There will be a few tables and chairs on-site, but you're welcome to bring your own lawn chairs and blankets, along with yard games to share (a few will be available).

Note: The church office will be closed Monday, July 6.

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- 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