

KALEIDOSCOPE

BETHEL COLLEGE MENNONITE CHURCH

November—December 2019 13:6



Welcome Nathan Koontz!



It is the story! In visiting with Nathan Koontz it became very apparent that “the story” is one of his particular

interests. As BCMC’s new Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care he anticipates the opportunity to hear people’s stories, helping them to use their gifts and to weave their lives into God’s story.

Nathan’s own story includes his “growing up years” in this congregation, being baptized here during his sophomore year of high school and then attending Bethel College where he graduated with majors in psychology and art. He and Esther were married during their senior year and a year later, in January of 2001, they left for a term of service with Mennonite Central Committee in Egypt. Working in a school for physically and mentally handicapped persons, Nathan’s assignment morphed from teaching English to working on specific life skills for the residents, meeting more practical needs. Esther mean-

while was working in an orphanage and they both taught English classes for adults in the evenings.

In 2002 they returned to Kidron, Ohio, Esther’s home community, and attended Sonnenberg Mennonite Church where Nathan was drawn into ministry. He commuted to Ashland Theological Seminary in Ashland, Ohio. In 2006 he accepted the position of Associate Pastor for Youth at Faith Mennonite here in Newton and he continued course work for his Masters of Divinity by taking classes at Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary—Great Plains. He graduated from Ashland Seminary in 2012.

From 2011 – 2013 Nathan worked with Offender Victim Ministries. He led training for community members, paired inmates with community volunteers, and worked with the Arts in Prison program. In 2013 Nathan accepted the position of Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care at First Mennonite in Hutchinson. He values the years at First Mennonite as a time of growth in the pastoral ministry.

Nathan enjoys poetry as a medium of expression and

finds the practice of centering prayer an important part of his spiritual discipline. He looks forward to the next step of the journey here at BCMC and encourages BCMC members to feel free to contact him with any concerns. We welcome Nathan and Esther and their children, John Mark, Simon and Anne Marie as part of the BCMC family.

~ Dianne Epp



The BCMC Pony Express

Stewardship Sunday is November 3 and the beginning of the BCMC annual Pony Express, a financial commitment process for preparing the 2020 budget. This year’s theme is *A Community of Abundance* based on Acts 2:43-47. An excerpt from Pastor Dawn Yoder Harms’ letter to the congregation reads: “Acts 2:43-47 takes us into the heart of a community created by the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. This creation is a tapestry of diverse members, woven together in unique ways to become an expression of God’s generosity. We read that ‘All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need’

Acts 2:44-45).” Captains appointed by the Finance Committee will pick up packets of commitment materials at the end of the worship service to distribute to BCMC members and regular attenders in local neighborhoods. Materials are mailed to non-resident/inactive members. It is exciting to have a full staff, show your appreciation for BCMC as you prayerfully fill out the giving intent form when materials arrive at your home. Return the form according to the directions in the packet. The Pony Express concludes on November 17 when captains return packets during worship. If for some reason you do not receive a packet, and want to participate, please ask the church office to add you to the list. ~ Al Peters, Finance Committee chair

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Introducing the new BCMC Pastoral Team! By Dawn Yoder Harms



congregation and is looking forward to walking with members of the church as they experience significant transitions and expressing God's love as we weave our lives into God's story. Nathan connects with the Deacon Commission. His position is half time, and he anticipates engaging church work on Tues-

days, Thursdays, Fridays as needed, and of course, Sundays. In addition to his time focused on pastoral care, Nathan will also preach and lead worship as his time allows. Much of Nathan's time will be spent out of the office, visiting. His days off are Mondays and Wednesdays. (nathan@bethelcollegemennonitechurch.org)

Pastor Dawn Yoder Harms gives leadership to the pastoral and staff team and shepherds the congregation as it works toward its common purpose and priorities. She is already thoroughly enjoying working with this gifted team! Dawn gives leadership to worship planning and preaching, works alongside Pastor Nathan to help provide pastoral care, and connects with many commissions and committees as they carry out their ministries: Worship, Hospitality, Witness, Gifts Discernment, Staff Congregational Relations Committee, Finance Committee, Safe Sanctuaries Task Group,

After a long season of transition, the new Pastoral Team at BCMC is now complete! As we continue to work at shaping our partnership in ministry, we wanted to share with you a bit about how we are working together:

Pastor of Faith Formation Renee Reimer gives leadership to faith formation within and around the life of our congregation and is looking forward to getting to know congregation members more intentionally and engaging young adults into the inter-generational life of the congregation. Renee connects with the Faith Formation Commission and its work, the BCMC youth group, and Bethel College students. In addition, Renee is involved in worship planning and leading, will be preaching regularly, and is the pastor on call for pastoral care needs (including hospital visits) on Mondays. Renee works full time, and her day off is Friday. (renee@bethelcollegemennonitechurch.org)

Pastor of Pastoral Care Nathan Koontz gives leadership to pastoral care within our

and the Church Board. Dawn works full time, and her day off is Monday. (dawn@bethelcollegemennonitechurch.org)

Working alongside the pastors is BCMC's able **Staff Team**:

Office and Facilities Manager Monica Lichti, who provides support to our congregation's organizational structure; serves as a point of welcome and contact for members, visitors, and others; and oversees the care of our facility. Monica works full time and is in the office Monday-Thursday, 8am-5pm, and Fridays, 8am-noon. (office@bethelcollegemennonitechurch.org)

Finance Manager Mike Claassen, who manages and oversees BCMC's finances. Mike's work is part-time (up to .25FTE), and he generally works evenings and weekend hours. (treasurer@bethelcollegemennonitechurch.org)

Custodian Mike Crawford, who keeps our facility neat and clean and sets up the space for worship and special occasions (like funerals). Mike works full time throughout the week and weekend.

The work of our Staff Team is indispensable, so when you see them, be sure to express your appreciation for their hard behind the scenes work!



Confronting Climate Change



In late September, streets in more than 800 locations in the U.S. and 150 countries around

the world were filled with more than a million students and activists, initiating a week of actions that demanded greater efforts to mitigate the effects of climate change and an end to the world's reliance on fossil fuels. The Global Climate Strike Movement that is responsible for energizing these global climate demonstrations began a little over a year ago when one person, a Swedish girl, 15-year-old Greta Thunberg, acted on her convictions.

Last year, Greta took time off from school to demonstrate outside the Swedish Parliament, holding up a sign calling for stronger climate action. Soon, other students around the globe joined in similar actions and by December more than 20,000 students had held strikes in 270 cities. In 2019 there have been two coordinated multi-city protests, in May and most recently in September, each involving more than one million students. We older adults will not witness the major consequences of climate change; but for these teenagers, it will be a major disruption to their lives. We need to support them in their protest movement. We also need to do our part to help mitigate climate change.

Climate change that results in global warming occurs when carbon compounds that have been stored in the earth are removed and added back into the atmosphere as carbon dioxide and other so-

called greenhouse gases, thereby changing the composition of the atmosphere. Increased levels of greenhouse gases have the property of acting like a blanket to slow down the loss of heat energy from the Earth to space. When their concentration in the atmosphere increases, more heat is retained and the mean global temperature increases. This results in disruption of the climate system which supports the life system that has developed on earth.

There is no shortage of scary facts surrounding this climate disruption. A growing body of evidence - melting ice and rising seas, floods and drought, heat waves and forest fires, species extinctions and climate refugees, and more - all signal that all life inhabiting Earth is increasingly at risk. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is a panel of leading international climate scientists established by The World Meteorological Organization and the United Nations Environment Program, and endorsed by the United Nations General Assembly. The IPCC has reported that to restrict the average global temperature increase to 1.5 degrees C, a level recommended by the UN, we will need to decrease the rate of additions of greenhouse gases to the atmosphere by 45% by 2030 and to zero by 2050, a monumental but possible transformation.

The enormity of the task ahead can be overwhelming when we think about our individual roles and responsibilities in contributing to, and in

combating global warming. Whether I walk to church or drive my car has a minuscule effect on global temperature increase. Why should I walk? Can I make any difference at all with my individual actions?

Let's return to Greta's story. Greta sailed to the U. S. recently on a zero greenhouse gas emissions racing yacht rather than flying. When asked about it, she said, "The point is to create an opinion. By stopping flying, you don't only reduce your own carbon footprint but also that sends a signal to other people around you that the climate crisis is a real thing and that helps push a political movement." But she also added that she doesn't think it is her job to tell other people how to live their lives. Her convictions guide her own behavior. "I don't fly because of the enormous climate impact of aviation per person."

Social psychologist Kelly Fielding says, "We think we make our own decisions, but the truth is we look to others for guidance about how we should behave." When it comes to climate change, the problem is that we just aren't getting the clues we need from our friends or families or, for that matter, from government or business. But what we decide to do about climate disruption influences our friends and family and will help create the political space for governments and businesses to take action.

Making a Difference at Bethel College Mennonite Church
Global warming presents opportunities to us as a people of faith. We, who are committed to peace and justice for Earth and its inhabitants, can mindfully act on our faith. We have

the opportunity as a mobilized faith community, to be truly transformative as we accept responsibility for, and actively confront climate change going forward. We can in Greta's words, "... create an opinion." As we act to reduce our personal carbon footprint, we also send a signal to those around us that the climate crisis is real. As a faith community, we are advocating for real change that addresses the growing disruptions posed by climate change.



Over the coming year, the Creation Care Committee is leading a *Climate Change Challenge* at BCMC. Beginning this month, we will present monthly challenges to our congregational community. Each month, look for a focus challenge in the Gathering Place. You will find an informational display, a "by-the-numbers" section for the month's challenge, and a Climate Change Challenge sign-up. We encourage each of you to participate! Sign up, proceed with the Climate Change Challenge of the month, and then report back. We would like to hear how it worked for you!

Monthly Climate Change Challenges will be selected, based to the extent possible, on their impact on mitigation of climate disruption. Preference will be given to higher impact issues. Over the next months, our Climate Change Challenges will in-

clude mitigation activities that deal with energy use, food, water, women and girls, buildings, land use, transportation, refugees, economics and public policy. We hope that the Climate Change Challenges stimulate transformative actions and thoughtful community conversations around global warming; that it inspires faithful habits that sustain life on Earth; and that our efforts reach far beyond our congregational community.

As Canadian academic and environmental activist David Suzuki poignantly states, "In a world of more than seven billion people, each of us is a drop in the bucket. But with enough drops, we can fill any bucket." ~ *The Creation Care Committee*

Like us on Facebook!

Bethel College Mennonite Church now has a public Facebook page. Like our page to stay up to date on church news and see pictures from past events!



Immigration Detainee Care Kits

The BCMC Witness Commission, in conjunction with Mennonite Central Committee, is currently sponsoring an Immigration Detainee Care Kit drive. A collection box as well as a list of items needed to complete the kits

can be found underneath the balcony in the sanctuary. The kits are distributed to those released from detention centers as they attempt to transition and reconnect with their families. Often, detainees have nothing more than the clothes on their backs. A complete kit has been estimated to cost between \$75 and \$90. Of course, complete kits are welcome, however providing individual items for the kits will also be helpful. A group or Sunday School Class may wish to go together to complete a kit. Kits and items donated will be taken to the MCC Center for distribution. The Witness Commission thanks you for your participation in this cause. Our recent post card campaign resulted in 55 completed cards delivered for distribution to Senators Moran and Roberts and Representative Estes. Well done, BCMC!

Education and Service Scholarship Committee (ESSC) Update

This year Education and Service Scholarship Committee (ESSC), with your help, is supporting seven students at Mennonite colleges and one graduate in a Mennonite Mission Network service position in Alamosa, Colorado. Our students this year are: Christa Kondziola, a freshman at Bethel, Angus Siemens, a senior at Bethel, Zoe Siemens, a sophomore at Bethel, Elizabeth Tran, a senior at Bethel, Laura Tran, a junior at Bethel, Jon Voth, a sophomore at Hesston and Jason Wong, a sophomore at Eastern Mennonite Universi-

ty. Connor Born is our MMN service volunteer this year. ESSC asks these students and volunteers to take a few minutes to let us know how their experiences are taking shape. For this issue of the Kaleidoscope, we reached out to Elizabeth Tran and Jason Wong.

We asked Jason how it felt to return to EMU for his second year. He writes that so far his sophomore year has been fantastic. "I am still continuing with computer engineering as my major and also playing in the orchestra." He writes that several of his close friends from last year are doing a cross cultural experience abroad this year so he is reaching out for new relationships. "As always, thank you, BCMC". He appreciates our continued support.

Elizabeth Tran has this to say about her year thus far: "As you may or may not know, this year I started the nursing program at Bethel College. It has been busy and tiring so far; however, it's been a wonderful experience. On top of that, I still continue to play in Bethel's pep band and steel drum band. At church, I am also still involved with helping the lower elementary Sunday School class and ushering every 3rd Sunday. Sometimes you may see me too at Kidron Bethel working away. This year so far has been great and I am looking forward to what the year may bring."

~ Margaret Toews and Carol Flickinger, for ESSC



Pastor's Corner with Renee Reimer

I recently learned at the new membership orientation that Bethel College Mennonite Church, founded in 1897, has included women as voting members from the very beginning. I am so glad to be a young, female pastor in this congregation. I am so glad to be a member of a congregation that has included women's voices from the very beginning. I am so glad to be a part of a congregation in which women can stand bravely and boldly from the pulpit sharing God's words.

This fall I have been leading a Bible study for college-aged women. We call ourselves the Red Tenants – a reclaiming of the term "The Red Tent" (from the book written by Anita Diamant). This book tells an expanded (fictional) story of Jacob and Leah's daughter, Dinah, and her growing up years in the Red Tent - a place women went to together when they were menstruating or giving birth. Instead of being sent to the "Red Tent," we are meeting together as Red *Tenants*, reclaiming the stories of the women found within the Bible. We are naming the unnamed. We are telling the stories that have been untold in our churches. We are empowering their voices. And in return, we are empowering our own voices in a world where not all women have been able to claim the authority of their voices, their bodies, and their power.

The first 8 weeks we have

read and discussed stories around the themes of the authority of women's voices, the authority of women's bodies, and the authority of women's power. The last four weeks will also include looking at the authority of women in society. Below is a list of women we have and will be reading about. I encourage you to journey with us by first reading these texts from various translations. Use the Bible you reference often (NRSV, NIV, CEV, etc.). Then use a translation you wouldn't normally use (KJV or The Message). Read the story one more time from a 3rd translation (I've recently discovered *The Inclusive Bible* and would recommend reading this translation along with other translations).

- Mother Mary (Luke 1:26-56)
- Michal (1 Samuel 18:17-29 & 1 Samuel 19:8-17)
- Elizabeth (Luke 1:5-25 & Luke 1:57-66)
- The Unnamed Women Caught in Adultery (John 8:1-11)
- *Tamar (2 Samuel 13:1-22)
- *Content warning
- Jephthah's Daughter (Judges 11:29-40)
- Ruth (Ruth 1-4)
- Mary Magdalene (Luke 8:1-3 & Luke 24:1-12 & John 20:1-18)
- Deborah (Judges 4 & 5)
- Rahab (Joshua 2)
- Esther (Esther 4:4-17)
- Eve (Genesis 3)

As you read these texts, take note of the women's story. What does she say? How is her body being used in this story (either by others or herself)? Where do you see God in this story? What has been enlightened to you as you have sat with this story?

Charlene van der Walt

writes in her book, *Toward a Communal Reading of 2 Samuel 13: Ideology and Power within the Intercultural Bible Reading Process*, that “Stories are important. Everyone has a story and tells a unique tale of her or his own. Stories help us make sense of the world... Telling such stories is a necessary and potent way of handing on wisdom from one generation to another, one culture to another, about our common humanity and distinct personal identities.”

Walk with us as we empower one another through the words and love of God, to stand bravely using our voices and bodies with authority. I believe that since the founding members of Bethel College Mennonite Church first validated women’s voices in 1897, we can continue to hear and see one another for who God created us all to be – beloved children of God.

BCMC Library Improvements

Back in March 2019, the Library Committee realized that the library computer had died a natural death and along with that the KOHA cataloging system that we had been using for free. This turned out to be a blessing in disguise. We had been unhappy with KOHA –



Pictured here is Kathryn Simmons scanning books into the BCMC Library catalog—Kathryn, LaVonne Sawatzky, and Carol Flickinger spent hours scanning all of the BCMC books into the library

it was difficult to process books and it was difficult for library users to find the books. We were now forced to find a better system.

We decided to consult with the Western District Librarian, Jennie Wintermote, who was so helpful. For our size library, she highly recommended using Tiny Cat on Library Thing, which she already uses for her personal library. In researching her suggestion, we all became excited about the possibilities for our library. At the top of the list was the availability of the patrons to be able to view our catalog at home as well as place a hold on a book. Also, most of the books could be easily cataloged either through scanning the ISBN number or typing in the ISBN number to find the book (older books do not have a barcode). The information about the book is automatically uploaded into the BCMC library site and then all we had to do was add a personal call number specific to our library. We did have to input each book into the system – which has taken countless hours for three of us to upload over 3100 books, with reference and children’s Christmas books still to be added.

Once we decided this was the website we wanted to use, we applied for Memorial Funds to buy a new computer and pay for the first year of Library Thing -- \$72/year. Once we have finished establishing individual accounts, you will be able to search the collection, check for

availability of materials, and even place books on hold. Currently, you can check from home whether we have the book you are looking for by going to the BCMC website and clicking under resources. We have some amazing books that need to be read and enjoyed. If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact any member of the committee. LaVonne Sawatzky or Kathryn Simmons co-chairs, Carol Flickinger, Margaret Goering, Willis Harder, Rose Haurly, Barb Koontz
Editor’s Note: “Tiny Cat” stands for Tiny Catalog. It is a simple, online catalog for so-called “tiny libraries” (less than 20,000 titles). The device used to scan the books for the BCMC library is shaped like a little cat.



Happy 12th Birthday Abram Wall!



Meet Abram Wall – a 7th grader at Chisholm Middle School, born on February 5th, 2007. He resides in a home across from the Kauffman Museum in North Newton with his sister, Mabel, and parents, John and Karin. The

best part about living in this part of the country, Abram believes, is that Mojo’s is close enough to walk to, there’s a good small-town vibe that allows him to walk from one side of town to the other while still feeling safe, and it’s close to church. As part of growing up as a North Newton resident, Abram and his family are annual attenders of Winfield, the Walnut Valley Bluegrass Festival. This year Abram’s new favorite band was hearing Jig Jam, an “I-Grass” (Irish influenced Bluegrass) band from Ireland.

Abram is active in the band at school playing the trombone, runs cross country, plays soccer, and is involved in BCMC’s jr choir, bell choir, and jr high club. On the perfect Saturday you can find Abram starting the day off with waffles, possibly going on a 2-mile run, seeing a movie with friends, and ensuring that there is an ample amount of food to enjoy throughout the whole day. Abram would recommend his favorite Newton restaurant, Aki Japanese Kitchen – a sushi restaurant, to anyone who is looking for a great dinner out in Newton. An interesting fact about Abram is that he is able to have conversations with people when others are unable to, especially when it’s a difficult conversation. He would describe himself as someone who likes to laugh, is kind, funny, and smart, and enjoys the company of other people. When Abram has some downtime outside of his active life-

style, he enjoys watching YouTube videos.

As for the future, Abram plans to graduate high school and attend college studying in some sort of medical field. He has dreams of becoming a doctor or nurse that works alongside the elderly or becoming a physical therapist. Bethel College or KU are at the top of his list of colleges to pursue.

Look out for Abram during Wednesday night and Sunday morning activities, as I'm sure he'd be willing to have a lively conversation with you!

~ Renee Reimer

Happy 12th Birthday Emma Gering!



Emma Gering always looks on the bright side of life. Born on August 14th, 2007, Emma

celebrated her 12th birthday in August! She has lived across from BCMC in the Goerz House for almost a year and a half. Her family moved here from Kirksville, MO when her dad, Jon Gering, became president at Bethel College in 2018. Emma believes her perspective on life came from her parents influence and way of life. Her mom especially, Deb – a language speech pathologist, taught her by example the importance of including everyone.

Emma is a 6th grader at Santa Fe 5/6 Center and has an

older brother, Ben, who is in 11th grade, and younger brother, Emerson, who is in 5th grade. Their family also includes a fish, a bearded dragon, 2 cats and 2 kittens named: Toledo, Jody, Louis, and Sacajawea. Emma is an avid gymnast and even practices every day at home on her (grandparent built) beam in their backyard. Emma enjoys jumping on her trampoline and would one day love to visit Alaska to see the beautiful scenery and the Northern Lights.

In the future, Emma can see herself working as an early elementary teacher because she likes working with kids. In the past she has volunteered at the Kauffman Museum at various kids' camps to get experience, share her gifts, and pursue her dream of teaching. Some of her gifts include getting work done and always being on time.

Growing up in a family of 5, Emma's favorite childhood memory (thus far) has been Christmas of 2017. Each Christmas, Emma's family has the tradition of enjoying a homemade breakfast (made by her parents), waking up to the sound of sleigh bells (played by her dad), reading the entire Christmas story from the Bible, and opening presents together. It's a family tradition that Emma looks back on fondly and continues to look forward to each Christmas.

The best thing that Emma loves about BCMC is the community that has a "take people in" kind of vibe. She participates in the jr choir, bell choir, and jr high club.

Keep an eye out for the positive energy that Emma brings to all aspects of life!

Christmas Eve at BCMC

Make a Note!

7:00 PM Intergenerational Christmas Enactment

All ages are welcome to this family friendly Christmas Eve service in which all attendees will be invited to participate in bringing to life the Christmas story. Together, we will worship in an unrehearsed all-church Christmas pageant. As you arrive for this service you will be invited to choose a costume (or create and bring your own) that represents the various roles in the Christmas story (stable animals, sheep & shepherds, angels, magi, townspeople).

We will read this story together, improvising what happened on that special night, and through this enactment we will nurture all of our faith as we stand side-by-side in a new form of biblical storytelling.

11:00 PM Lessons and Carols

Join us as we bring in the light for Christmas morning at BCMC's Lessons and Carols service. Chancel Choir and Chancel Bells will help to lead the service through music. All are welcome to attend this candle lighting service.



BCMC welcomes new members! Pictured from left to right Esther and Nathan Koontz on October 6 (Nathan and Esther's son, John Mark also joined on October 6—he is not pictured); Renee Reimer on August 11; Mary and Homer Goering and Jane and Jacob Friesen on November 3



Happy Anniversary to Merrill and Boots (Esch) Raber who celebrate their 65th wedding anniversary on December 31!



Happy Anniversary to Jim and Judy (Coover) Banman who celebrated their 35th wedding anniversary on July 20!

Happy Anniversary also to Larry Friesen and Donna June who celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on December 28!

Obituaries



**Viola Frances Unruh—
August 17, 1925—
August 9, 2019**

Viola was born to
Susanna (Susie)
Hiebert Unruh and

Henry Funk Unruh in Newton. She attended Bethel College Mennonite Church and was baptized and joined the church in 1939. Vi graduated from Newton High School in 1943. She attended Bethel College for one year, then Kansas State College of Agriculture and Applied Science (now Kansas State University) in Manhattan for two and one-half years, then University Hospital in Kansas City (now KU Medical Center), earning a bachelor's degree in home economics and nursing in 1948. Vi began her nursing career at Bethel Deaconess Hospital in Newton, followed by a six-month post-graduate course in institutional supervision at the University of Colorado Hospital in Denver. She then continued her nursing and studies at the University of California San Francisco Medical Center for two years, then Wesley Medical Center in Wichita for a year, where she taught nursing classes. Vi worked at the KU Medical Center for a short time, then went on to study at Western Reserve University in Cleveland, OH, graduating in 1962 with a master's degree in nursing service administration. She returned to the KU Medical Center where she worked for over 28 years until she retired in 1985. In addition to her parents, Vi was preceded in death by her older siblings: Ruth (C.B. "Ben") Willard, Sue (George) Pack, Selma (Lee) Fent, and Ernest A. (Ernie) Unruh; and a nephew, Lee S. (Jack) Fent II. She is survived by her younger sister, Mary Ann Unruh Gertsen of North Newton, sister-in-law Dorothy Dudte Unruh of Newton, 11 nieces and nephews: Letitia (Tish) Willard Davis, Selma Sue (Jill)

Fent Thompson, James Pack, Rodney Unruh, Mary Jeanine (Jan) Fent Johnston, Teresa Unruh Arthur, Jane Gertsen Yetts, Richard Pack, William H. (Bill) Gertsen, LaDonna Unruh Voth, and Karen Gertsen; great-nieces and nephews, and great-great-nieces and nephews.



**Roland P.
Brown—June 5,
1926—August
16, 2019**

Roland was born in Kaichow, Ho-pei, China, to Henry and Maria Brown who were missionaries in China. In 1941, when the Japanese invaded China, he was transferred to North Newton to stay with relatives who'd also served as missionaries to China. He completed his pre-med studies at Bethel College, and graduated from medical school at the University of Chicago. A lifelong Mennonite, he performed alternate service in Idaho and New Jersey during his residency. In the early 1950s, Roland was sent to the relatively underdeveloped east coast of Taiwan under the auspices of the Mennonite Central Committee. There, after becoming a medical missionary under the General Conference Mennonite Church, he established the Mennonite Christian Hospital. From the hospital's inception in the 1950s, until his retirement in the early 1990s, Roland performed both the roles of surgeon and hospital superintendent. He married Sophie Schmidt in 1948. They served as medical missionaries for nearly 50 years in Taiwan, except for Roland's two years as surgeon at the Indian Medical Center in Phoenix in the 1970s. They adopted three children: Cliff, Carol and Keith.



**John M. Hiebert—
December 4,
1936—August 17,
2019**

John M. Hiebert was born to John and Marie Hiebert in Mountain Lake, MN. John was baptized and was a member of the Bethel Church in Mountain Lake. After high school graduation he moved to North Newton, where he went to work at the Mennonite Press before enrolling at Bethel College. He continued to work at the Mennonite Press for the next 50 years. In 1963 he took the position as art editor of *The Mennonite*, a position he held for 34 years. While at Bethel College, he met Margaret Koehn. John and Margaret married in 1958. At the time of marriage, John and Margaret became members of BCMC. Survivors include Margaret, wife of 61 years, and two children: Matthew Hiebert (wife, Laurie) and Kristen (husband, Mark Evans). There are four grandchildren: Rachel Evans, Daniel Evans, Lauren Hiebert, and Kara Hiebert.



**Fern Lynette
Goering— June 14,
1920—October 13,
2019**

Fern was born in Moundridge, KS to Andrew C. and Katharine (Flickner) Goering. She was baptized at Eden Mennonite Church, Moundridge. Following graduation from Moundridge High School, she attended Bethel and Bethany Colleges. On June 18, 1943, she married Roland Goering. Roland pastored a number of Mennonite churches, with Fern sharing faithfully in the ministries of these churches in McPherson, Halstead and Hillsboro, KS, Reedley, CA and Freeman, SD. Roland suffered a stroke, and Fern provided his care until close to his death on February 20, 2002. Those preceding her in

death are her parents, sisters Emma (Everett McWilliams), Dorothy, Adina, and Sophia; brothers Martin, Peter (Mary), Lester (Ruth), and Orlo (Helen), sisters-in-law Erma (Dan Goering), Welma (David Thiessen), Welda (Harold Schmidt), Florence (Warren Swanson) Ellen (Reuben Schrag); brothers-in-law Howard (Darlene), Harley, Wilburt (Erma), and Vernon (Marna). Survivors include sisters-in-law Joy (Leslie Thiessen), Lorita (Herb Zook), Marna (Vernon Goering) and a host of nieces and nephews.



**John Kent Sheriff—
January 9, 1966—
October 15, 2019**

J. Kent Sheriff, 53, died at Ascension Via Christi St. Francis Hospital in Wichita, KS, from complications following heart surgery. Born in Hillsboro, IL to parents John K. and Elsie M. (Bacon) Sheriff, Kent spent most of his life in North Newton and Newton, KS. He was a 1985 graduate of Newton High School and attended Bethel College from 1985-1990 majoring in Art, a creative interest he pursued throughout his life. In 1990, Kent married Michelle (Cornelsen) Sheriff at Bethel College Mennonite Church. Employed by Bethel College for more than 20 years, Kent prized his roles and friendships within the Bethel community. Survivors include Kent's spouse Michelle and their son Jarett; Kent's parents John and Elsie; Kent's sister Karen Sheriff LeVan, her spouse David LeVan, and their children Will and Brett LeVan; Michelle's parents Ken and Connie Cornelsen; Michelle's brother Rob Cornelsen and his partner Sarah Jane Jeffries; and beloved uncles, aunts, cousins, and friends.

**Douglas R. Schmidt—February 24,
1954—September 15, 2019**
Douglas was the son of Gerald A. Schmidt and Irva LaVonne (Schmidt) Schmidt. Married to Mercedes Estavez. Daughter Athina L. Schmidt. Douglas died in Hilton Head, NC.

Bethel College Mennonite Church
P.O. Box 364
North Newton, KS 67117

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Worship schedule (Check weekly bulletins and church website, bethelcollegemennonitechurch.org, for updates and details on worship and other events) Sunday worship is at 9:30 am, unless otherwise noted. Fellowship Time in the Gathering Place with coffee, water and tea available is at 10:30 am. Faith Formation is at 10:50 am. Everyone is welcome!

Note: Any given Sunday's events may be subject to change. "The Kaleidoscope" can be viewed online on the website.

November 3: Stewardship Sunday

Worship with sermon by Dawn Yoder Harms; music by Chancel Choir

November 10: Worship with sermon by Renee Reimer; music by Jr and Cherub Choirs

November 17: Communion, Worship with sermon by Dawn Yoder Harms; music by Chancel Choir

November 24: Thanksgiving Sunday

Worship with sermon by Nathan Koontz; music by Chancel Bells

December 1: Advent 1

Worship with sermon by Renee Reimer; music by Chancel Choir

December 8: Advent 2

Worship with sermon by Dawn Yoder Harms; music by Chancel Choir

December 15: Advent 3

Worship with sermon by Eric Massanari; music by Chancel Bells

December 22: Advent 4

A Christmas Program will take place during the worship service with special music provided by the Junior and Cherub Choirs. Senior high youth will share a Christmas story skit during worship. Prelude music will feature children and youth.

December 29: A Christmas worship service filled with lots of music and storytelling. No Sunday school following worship. Bring Christmas goodies to share during fellowship time.