



# Community of Christ

**Bethel Congregation**  
**Midlands Mission Center**  
**Welcoming the online community**  
Kansas City, KS  
October 27, 2024 10:30AM CDT

## Heal Our Blindness

**Presiding** **Seventy Kyle Joyce**

### Announcements

**Gathering Hymn** “Gather Us In” **CCS #72**

### Greetings and Welcome

As we gather, let us pause a moment to breathe in this space.  
Notice what is before you, behind you, around you. Feel the ground below you. Take a deep breath in and slowly let it out. We are so grateful for each soul present. God is here. Let us be aware of God’s movement in our worshipping together.

**Call to Worship** **Psalm 34:1-8,19-22**

*I will bless the Lord at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth. My soul makes its boast in the Lord; let the humble hear and be glad. O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt his name together. I sought the Lord, and he answered me, and delivered me from all my fears. Look to him, and be radiant; so your faces shall never be ashamed. This poor soul cried, and was heard by the Lord, and was saved from every trouble. The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear him, and delivers them. O taste and see that the Lord is good; happy are those who take refuge in him. Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord rescues them from them all. He keeps all their bones; not one of them will be broken. Evil brings death to the wicked, and those who hate the righteous will be condemned. The Lord redeems the life of his servants; none of those who take refuge in him will be condemned.*

**\*Welcoming Hymn** “Draw the Circle Wide” **CCS #273**

**\*Invocation**

**\*Response**

**Prayer for Peace/Community** see insert **Jordan Joyce**  
**Hymn of Peace** “Lay Your Hands” **CCS #545**

**Message** **Elder Rob de Zwart**

**Hymn** “Healer of Our Every Ill” **CCS #547**

### Disciples’ Generous Response

During this time of Disciples’ Generous Response, we focus on aligning our heart with God’s heart. Our offerings are more than meeting budgets or funding mission. We can tangibly express our gratitude to God through our offerings, who is the giver of all.

We continue our reflection using the Generosity Cycle as we focus on the Discover phase. Let us consider, how is God blessing us at this moment? Our lives can become so familiar to us that we stop noticing the generosity of God. This is an opportunity to look and see the many ways we are blessed every day.

As we share our mission tithes either by placing money in the plates or through eTithing, use this time to thank God for the many gifts received in life. Our hearts grow aligned with God’s when we gratefully receive and faithfully respond by living Christ’s mission.

<https://app.securegive.com/cofchrist/bethel-ks-/donate/category>

**\*Hymn** “Light Dawns on a Weary World” **CCS #240**

**\*Sending Forth** **Doctrine and Covenants 163:4a**

**\*Congregation standing as able**

Bethel Community of Christ [bethel.forthrightsystems.com](https://bethel.forthrightsystems.com)

Pastor: **Rob de Zwart**

Financial Officer: **Jeff Cady**

Media Host: **David Troeh**

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## Announcements

- **Sunday 10/27 9:45 am** Lectionary Disc.—Mark 10:46-52  
**10:30 am** *Heal Our Blindness*  
**Speaking: Elder Rob de Zwart**
- **Tuesday 10/29 7:00 pm** [Together Tuesday](#) (zoom)
- **Thursday 10/31** **Halloween**
- **Friday 11/1** **All Saint's Day**
- **Sunday 11/3 >>>>TIME CHANGE – Fall Back<<<<**  
**9:45 am** Lectionary Disc.—Mark 12:28-34  
**10:30 am** *Love God, Love Neighbor*  
**Hybrid Communion**  
**Speaking: High Priest Stan Troeh**
- Tuesday 11/5 Election Day (in the U.S.)
- Saturday 11/9 Campfire
- Our website, including weekly bulletin, web and zoom links  
[bethel.forthrightsystems.com](http://bethel.forthrightsystems.com)
- Give through [eTithing](https://www.cofchrist.org/give) (<https://www.cofchrist.org/give>)  
Optionally, search for Bethel, KS ([link](#))

**Lectionary:** 3-year cycle engaging significant portions of our scripture

**This Week October 27** [Heal Our Blindness](#)

**Mark 10:46-52/10:46-54 IV** Job 42:1-6, 10-17  
Psalm 34:1-8, 19-22 Hebrews 7:23-28  
Doctrine and Covenants 163:4a

**November 1 (All Saints Day)** [God Makes All Things New](#)

Revelation 21:1-6a Isaiah 25:6-9  
Psalm 24 John 11:32-44  
Doctrine and Covenants 165:6c

**Next Week November 3** [Love God, Love Neighbor](#)

**Mark 12:28-34/12:33-40 IV** Ruth 1:1-18  
Psalm 146 Hebrews 9:11-14  
Doctrine and Covenants 165:6a

## Prayer for Peace/Community

Today's Prayer for Peace was inspired by the hymn, "When the Darkness Overwhelms Us," CCS 314, words and music by Jim Strathdee.

*"...Free our minds for dreaming of a time when war shall ever cease,  
Free our eyes for vision that leads us to the ways of peace."*

*Freeing God,*

*Our shoulders are sore. Our eyes are strained. Our backs ache. Time feels heavy. Darkness overwhelms us. Grayness suffocates us. Light eludes us. Peace seems impossible and a foolish pursuit. And yet...*

*We come together and share our stories: stories of communities overcoming apathy; stories of friends sharing heavy loads; stories of the spirit breathing life into our bodies. These stories light a small flame in our hearts.*

*Today, we pray that you would feed those flames of peace, and that we would carry them carefully yet boldly to all corners of darkness. And in doing so, justice will prevail and peace will cover the Earth.*

*In the name of Jesus, who frees us and leads us.*

*Amen.*

## Sending Forth D&C 163:4a

*God, the Eternal Creator, weeps for the poor, displaced, mistreated, and diseased of the world because of their unnecessary suffering. Such conditions are not God's will. Open your ears to hear the pleading of mothers and fathers in all nations who desperately seek a future of hope for their children. Do not turn away from them. For in their welfare resides your welfare. The earth, lovingly created as an environment for life to flourish, shudders in distress because creation's natural and living systems are becoming exhausted from carrying the burden of human greed and conflict. Humankind must awaken from its illusion of independence and unrestrained consumption without lasting consequences.*

# Take Note



Midlands Mission Center

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Kansas City, MO 64118

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www.midlandsmc.org

## Online Ministry & Priesthood Classes *Center for Innovation in Ministry and Mission (CIMM)*

The Center for Innovation in Ministry and Mission, through the Graceland University Community of Christ Seminary, has opened fall classes for enrollment. To enroll or for more information on these classes and the certificate programs, visit [graceland.edu/CIMM](http://graceland.edu/CIMM). Cost is \$25 unless noted.

*Fall B Session (October 21 – December 15)*

- **Introduction Scripture**
- **Ministry of the Deacon**
- **Children & Youth Worker Core Training (no CEU credit)**
- **Christian Ministries Certificate: Community of Christ Theology w/ Adam Bouverette (\$100)**

*Spring A (January 6-March 2, 2025)*

- **Introduction to Pastors Ministry**
- **Ministry of the Disciple**
- **Christian Ministry Certificate: Practical Ministry w/ Zac Harmon-McLaughlin TBD**



## Voter Registration

For the Nov. 5th general election, new voters must be registered by 10/9 in Missouri and 10/15 Kansas. This can be done online, in person, or by mail.

Kansas: <https://www.kdor.ks.gov/Apps/VoterReg>

Missouri: <https://www.sos.mo.gov/elections/goVoteMissouri/register>

## SAVE THE DATE

- |                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| October 8         | Live PB Session on Zoom                     |
| October 11 – 13   | TWIST @ Wichita                             |
| <b>October 20</b> | <b>MMC Conference @ Mission Road 2:30pm</b> |

## NONVIOLENCE STATEMENT FEEDBACK

In response to 2019 WCR 1319, the First Presidency has crafted a draft Statement on Nonviolence. You are invited to read the statement and provide feedback on each section **by February 28, 2025**. The FP will review the feedback and update as necessary by May 2025.

Statement: [bit.ly/NonviolenceStatement](https://bit.ly/NonviolenceStatement) (click “Draft Statement”)  
Survey: [bit.ly/NonviolenceSurvey](https://bit.ly/NonviolenceSurvey)

## WORLD CONFERENCE 2025

**DELEGATES:** World Conference will be held **May 30 – June 6, 2025**, in Independence, MO. Midlands will elect our delegates at conference **October 20**. To submit an application: [bit.ly/WC2025delegate](https://bit.ly/WC2025delegate).

**LEGISLATION:** Fourteen pieces of legislation have been submitted by mission centers and World Church Standing Teams for this gathering. View the legislation: [bit.ly/WC25Legislation](https://bit.ly/WC25Legislation)  
View the background and support statements: [bit.ly/WC25LegSupport](https://bit.ly/WC25LegSupport)

**ZOOM SUPPORT:** Volunteers are needed to support remote legislative sites. Multiple roles for non-delegates are available based on schedule, interest, and skills. Contact Brad Bryant at 309.706.6179 or [BBryant@CofChrist.org](mailto:BBryant@CofChrist.org).

# Presidents of Seventy Training

## *Living Hospitality*

**6:30 – 8:30 pm October 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>**

Join us in person at the Temple or online! This training will include a wide range of topics focused on practicing intentional hospitality in everyday moments of life. Together with God, we can change and reshape the world through hospitality, grace, and generosity.

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## Live Gatherings with Presiding Bishopric

**12pm or 8pm Tuesday, October 8**

Two online gatherings will cover the same topics. A recording will be available for those unable to attend. To register visit [bit.ly/PBOct8](http://bit.ly/PBOct8)

- Worldwide Mission Tithes
- June Financial Update
- Endowment Funding
- Sept. WC Finance Board Mtg
- Generosity Cycle
- Giving Tuesday

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## JPAT Book Study

**7pm Tuesdays 10/8, 10/22, 11/4\*, 11/19**

Join us as we explore *The Time Is Now, A Call to Uncommon Courage* by Joan Chittister. A beloved nun and social activist offers a soul-stirring guide for all who feel disillusioned and dissatisfied with the power-hungry institutions and systems of this world. Registration is at [bit.ly/JPAT-BS](http://bit.ly/JPAT-BS). \*Please note date change to a Monday in November to avoid election day.



*Christ's Mission, Our Mission*

## Twist Weekend @ Wichita Webb Rd

**7pm Fri, Oct 11 – 12pm Sun, Oct 13**

Youth grades 6<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> are invited to a weekend of fun and service. We will be reconnecting with our friends from camps and youth activities and making a difference in our communities!

Bring \$25 fees, insurance card copy, and a completed event form, which can be found at [www.midlandsmc.org/youth](http://www.midlandsmc.org/youth). For questions and to RSVP, contact Dawn 816.718.8307 or Greg 816.210.4943

[MMC\\_Youth@midlandsmc.org](mailto:MMC_Youth@midlandsmc.org).

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## Call of the Beloved Community

### *Independence Square*

**12pm Thursday, October 17**

Are you concerned about the rise of “Christian nationalism” and its call to end the separation of church and state? Monthly rallies have begun in greater Kansas City to lift up the alternate view of the Beloved Community, a term popularized by Martin Luther King, Jr. to describe the inclusive, egalitarian, and compassionate message of Jesus. For more information contact [sjones5214@gmail.com](mailto:sjones5214@gmail.com).