

**Bethel Congregation**

**Midlands Mission Center**

**Welcoming the online community**

Kansas City, KS

March 30, 2025 10:30AM CDT

**Be Reconciled to God**

 **Presiding Elder Rob de Zwart**

 **Welcome & Lent Statement**

I welcome each of you today into Christian community as we gather during our journey through the season of Lent. Lent is a time of reflection, introspection, and penitence, a period of forty days mirroring Jesus’s forty days of fasting and temptation in the desert. It’s a spiritual journey we embark on together as a community, tracing the path from the ashes of Ash Wednesday to the glory of Easter Sunday.

This season is a call to fasting, prayer, and almsgiving. We are reminded of our humanity, our fragility, and our shared reliance on God’s grace. It is a time to confront our weaknesses, confess our sins, and seek reconciliation with God and one another.

Though we observe the solemnity of the season, each Sunday of Lent is also a celebration, a mini-Easter, reminding us of the hope and resurrection that lies beyond the cross. Each Sunday, we pause to gather strength and inspiration as we continue our Lenten journey.

Today, we worship with intention to be reconciled to God as part of our journey. We recognize our sins including the ways we turn away from God, harm one another and creation, and do not recognize who we are as children of God. We seek a closer relationship and union with God whose love transforms us and has the power to reconcile and heal.

 **Invitation to Worship**

Leader:  As we gather today, let us remember the words of the psalmist,

 “Blessed is the one whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.”

**All:        We come seeking God’s grace, ready to confess, and eager to be** **transformed.**

Leader:  Let us enter this sacred space with contrite hearts, embracing the boundless mercy of our Creator.

**All:        In the spirit of reconciliation, we open our hearts to God and one another.**

**\*Hymn** “Praise to the Lord, the Almighty” **CCS #101**

**\*Invocation Susan Boer**

**\*Response**

 **Lent Focus Joyce Shipley**

 **Hymn** “God, Whose Grace Redeems Our Story” **CCS #570**

 **Sermon High Priest Allen Keehler**

 **Disciples’ Generous Response Sandra Billings**

<https://bit.ly/BethelGift>

 **Hymn of Affirmation** “Community of Joy” **CCS #631**

 **Prayer for Peace Jonathan Gray**

 **Sending Forth Doctrine & Covenants 16:3c-e** adapted

*Remember the worth of souls is great in the sight of God; for, behold, the Lord your Redeemer suffered death in the flesh; wherefore he suffered the pain of all people, that all might repent and come unto him. And he hath risen again from the dead, that he might bring all people unto him on conditions of repentance. And how great is his joy in the soul who repents. Wherefore you are called to cry repentance unto this people.*

Go and love God’s people

 **Prayer over Potluck Grace Troeh**

\*Congregation invited to stand

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

Pastor Rob de Zwart

Financial Officer Jeff Cady

Media Host David Troeh

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**Announcements**

* **Sunday 3/30 9:45 am Lectionary Disc.** – **2 Cor 5:16-21**

**10:30 am *Be Reconciled to God,*** Allen Keehler

 **Potluck following service**

* **Tuesday 4/1 7:00 pm** [Together Tuesday](https://zoom.us/j/92461080153) (zoom 924 6108 0153)
* **Sunday 4/6 9:45 am Lectionary Disc.** – **John 12:1-8**

**10:30 am *A Prophet-Woman Broke a Jar***

Communion, Jeff Cady speaking

* **Sunday 4/13 2:30 pm Mission Center Conference**

Mission Road (7842 Mission Rd)

 [zoom](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81075375420?pwd=RwwgTFJsbRtvpi0IzNOkdwbyR3iaWZ.1) (810 7537 5420 pswd 772814)

 [MMC Leadership Letter](https://bethel.forthrightsystems.com/bulletins/MMC_Letter_2025_03_29.pdf) to the Mission Center, dated 3/29/2025

 (link on our website)

* **Central Avenue Center of Hope –** needs non-perishable foods
* **World Conference Info** see links on our website
* **Our website**, including weekly bulletin, web and zoom links [bethel.forthrightsystems.com](https://bethel.forthrightsystems.com).
* Give through [eTithing](https://www.cofchrist.org/give) (<https://www.cofchrist.org/give>)

Optionally, search for Bethel, KS ([link](https://app.securegive.com/cofchrist/bethel-ks-/donate/category))

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

**This Week March 30** [**Be Reconciled to God**](https://www.heraldhouse.org/blogs/worship-planning-tools/30-march-2025)

**2 Corinthians 5:16-21** Joshua 5:9-12
Psalm 32 Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32
Enos 1:3-12 D&C 16:3c-e

**Next Week April 6** [**A Prophet-Woman Broke a Jar**](https://www.heraldhouse.org/blogs/worship-planning-tools/6-april-2025)

**John 12:1-8** Isaiah 43:16-21
Psalm 126 Philippians 3:4b-14
Doctrine and Covenants 24:1,3



Online Ministry & Priesthood Classes

*Center for Innovation in Ministry and Mission (CIMM)*

To enroll or for more information on these classes and the certificate programs, visit [*graceland.edu/CIMM*](https://nam04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.graceland.edu%2FCIMM&data=05%7C01%7Cegarrison%40cofchrist.org%7Cdf29aa6cbb364fd6a5ec08db87ae92ce%7C8afd0cc8f92c4ae0a7e2e6d4b8382b4e%7C0%7C0%7C638252956131190698%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=XX%2Fj%2FV5TX1mHSv7TV3QxaP5ibIW8N3bf%2Fx%2B7%2FzmN1tk%3D&reserved=0). Cost is $25 unless noted.

*Spring B (March 3–April 27, 2025)*

* **Introduction to Priesthood Ministry** – Rick Maupin

**WORLD CONFERENCE 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)
* Explore two pieces of legislation each week online with others: [bit.ly/LegExploration](https://bit.ly/LegExploration)
* **Ministry of the Seventy** – Bethany Lloyd
* **Ministry of the Teacher** – David Lloyd
* **Ministry of the Bishop** – Presiding Bishop Carla Long
* **Christian Ministries Certificate:** **World Religions –** **Dialogue, Understanding, and Peacemaking** – Andrew Bolton ($100)

*Upcoming CIMM Sessions*

CIMM Sessions are short seminars on topics of theology, culture, and Community of Christ Identity, Mission, Message, Beliefs and practices. These sessions are broadcast live on **Zoom at 7:00pm Wednesday nights**. To register, please visit [www.graceland.edu/cimmsessions](https://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.graceland.edu%2Fcimmsessions&data=05%7C02%7C%7C5fba57ab7d3d47a49d4508dcf843c0ef%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C638658217106173881%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=uSOMo8hy9I16vhtLgIMswH81HSpqEL0lchSteS6hSZI%3D&reserved=0).

**PEACE AND JUSTICE SPECIALIST**

Please welcome new MMC employee, **Jessica Pycior**! This exciting addition reflects our ongoing commitment to fostering peace, justice, and compassionate communities. Jessica holds several degrees; is certified and experienced in trauma-informed care, intervention, and training; and is currently pursuing an MA in Peace and Social Transformation with CofC Seminary. Jessica is passionate about restorative justice, advocacy, peace building, community development, animal rescue,

gardening, reading, and writing. With her

extensive experience and passion for social justice,

we are confident she will bring invaluable insights

and energy to our mission. jpycior@midlandsmc.org

* Adult Reunion Text Series: “Hope is Here”
	+ March 12 – Story of Hope – Stassi Cramm
	+ March 19 – Breathe in Hope – Katie Harmon-McLaughlin
	+ March 26 – Turn Toward Hope – Crossing Identity Boundaries – Zac Harmon-McLaughlin
	+ April 2 – Spirit of Hope – Conflict Transformation – Debbie Bayless
	+ April 9 – Onward in Hope – Celebrate Community – Janné Grover
* Preaching Series (cont.): April 16 & 23 (Two-part series) – Quick-egesis: A Quick Exegetical Process for Worship and Preaching – Tony & Charmaine Chvala-Smith



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**SAVE THE DATE**

Feb 28 – Mar 2 TWIST @ Shawnee Drive

March 15 Intro to Scripture Class

March–April TBD Ministry of the Elder Class

**Midlands Mission Center Spring Conference will be held 2:30 –** **5:00pm Sunday, April 13 at Mission Road (7842 Mission Rd, Prairie Village, KS) &** [Zoom](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81075375420?pwd=RwwgTFJsbRtvpi0IzNOkdwbyR3iaWZ.1) (ID: 810 7537 5420 pswd: 772814)

Intro to Scripture Class @ Shawnee Drive

**9 am – 5 pm Saturday, March 15**

Dawn and Greg Bassett will instruct this in-person priesthood class with Zoom access available soon. A light lunch will be provided.

Virtual Elder Class @ Gateway MC

**March–April TBD**

Gateway Mission Center will offer the Ministry of the Elder Temple School Course via Zoom this spring. If you are interested in attending, please contact MC President Cheryl Saur at csaur@cofchrist.org.

World Conference 2025

DELEGATES: World Conference will be held **May 30 – June 6, 2025.** Midlands is seeking **two more delegates** - contact khnatyshyn@cofchrist.org

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 at 309.706.6179 or BBryant@CofChrist.org.

VIDEO SUBMISSIONS WANTED: The worship team is gathering short, simple videos to share during our worship services. Choose one or both prompts:

Hope Is…? [bit.ly/WC25Hope](https://bit.ly/WC25Hope)

Based on daily themes: [bit.ly/HopeThemes](https://bit.ly/HopeThemes)

CALL FOR MUSICIANS: The Graceland Director of Bands is putting together a group of musicians for 5 June, the Thursday evening worship service of World Conference. Rehearsals, distribution of music, and meetings will all happen online prior to conference. All musicians, current and former, are encouraged to sign up, regardless of age and experience. [bit.ly/WC25Music](https://bit.ly/WC25Music)

**REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!** Early bird pricing is in effect through April 1. [bit.ly/25WCRegistration](https://bit.ly/25WCRegistration)

Experience Summer Camp!!

**Youth Camps 2025**

June 26 – 30 Sr High Float Trip @ Meramec State Park

July 12 – 19 Spectacular @ Graceland

July 13 – 17 Junior / Middle School @ Chihowa

July 13 – 18 Camp MITIOG @ Doniphan

July 24 – 26 Youth Quest @ Olathe

Junior, Middle School, and Senior High prices increase $25 after 5/15

**Family Camps (Reunion)**

**Doniphan** – Excelsior Springs, MO – June 18 to 22

Joint event with Central Missouri Mission Center

Guest Minister: Apostle and Presiding Evangelist designee Mareva Arnaud Tchong

Contact: Kat Hnatyshyn, 816.506.6948

**Chihowa** – Perry, KS – July 6 to 11

Guest Minister: Apostle Richard James

Director: Doug Albro, 316.734.4214

**Family Camp Prices (Early Bird/Regular)**

Age Doniphan (6/2) Chihowa (6/16)

Adults (age 18+) $300/$320 $250/$270

Youth (age 13-17) $225/$245 $165/$185

Children (age 5-12) $120/$140 $120/$140

Children (age 0-4) $25/$45 $25/$45

Registration COMING SOON at [www.midlandsmc.org](http://www.midlandsmc.org)

**Camp Cook Assistant Needed**

If you love food and serving others, please consider volunteering to assist with meals at Chihowa Reunion July 6-12 and/or youth camp July 13-17. We are blessed to have expert Mary Huffman as a master of the kitchen, and she would love to share her skills and knowledge and shepherd an apprentice. If interested, please contact mohuffman@sbcglobal.net.