



Community of Christ

Bethel Congregation
Midlands Mission Center
Welcoming the online community
 Kansas City, KS
 December 14, 2025 10:30AM CDT

The Promise of Joy

Presiding **High Priest Stan Troeh**

Announcements

Welcome

Carol "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" **CCS #423**

Advent Focus **Joyce Shipley**

Invitation to Worship **Luke 2:7-11**

⁷ And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

⁸ In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see--I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹ to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.

***Opening Hymn** "Go, Tell It on the Mountain" **CCS #409**

***Invocation**

***Response**

USA Leadership Greetings

*Make Disciples, Confront Oppression, Create Change
 through transformative action (CCS #406)*

Prayer for Peace **Kaylee Baggerly**

Loving God,

As we contemplate the real meaning of Christmas and the beautiful gift that you gave us, your son Jesus, let us meditate on

the blessedness of that gift to our world and to our hearts, all those years ago.

Let that LOVE and JOY infiltrate our beings to bring us HOPE.... Hope for a brighter tomorrow and to bring us PEACE
 - PEACE for our world, our countries, our communities
 - PEACE for our congregations, far and wide
 - PEACE for our families, our friends
 - PEACE for the poor, the refugee, the homeless, the persecuted
 - PEACE for ourselves.... Let PEACE begin with me.... as the words of the hymn go

We rejoice with you as we build Community, Communities of JOY, HOPE, LOVE and PEACE, in prayer, music, scripture and our daily actions Bring us even closer to your divine presence, enabling us to become inspired and creative in our endeavor to serve you with JOY. In the name of the Prince of PEACE we pray. Amen.

—Robyn Rankin, Wingham, New South Wales, Australia

Hymn "Bring Forth the Kingdom" **CCS #387**

Advent Message **Seventy Kyle Joyce**

Hymn "Canticle of the Turning" **CCS #404**

Disciples' Generous Response <https://bit.ly/BethelGift>

Community of Christ upholds the enduring principle of Grace and Generosity. This means God's grace, especially as revealed in Jesus Christ, is generous and unconditional. This means having received God's generous grace, we respond generously and graciously receive the generosity of others. This means we offer all we are and have to God's purposes as revealed in Jesus Christ. This means we generously share our witness, resources, ministries, and sacraments according to our true capacity. In response to the grace and generosity we have found in God we get the opportunity to joyfully respond in sharing with others, the church and the earth our own outpouring of gratitude and generosity for being found and for what the Lord has done. How can you share generously today?

***Closing Hymn** "Joy to the World" **CCS #408**

***Closing Prayer**

***Congregation invited to stand**

Bethel Community of Christ bethel.forthrightsystems.com
Pastor Rob de Zwart
Financial Officer Jeff Cady
Media Host David Troeh

CCS: *Community of Christ Sings*, ©2013, Herald Publishing House

NRSV: New Revised Standard Version, ©1989, Oxford
University Press, Inc. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Permission to podcast/stream the music and text in this
service obtained from One License with license A-727171.

Announcements

- **Sunday 12/14** 9:45 am **Business Meeting (officers, budget)**
 10:30 am *The Promise of Joy* with Kyle Joyce
- **Monday 12/15** **7:00 pm** [Priesthood Meeting](#) (949 9683 2354)
- **Thursday 12/18** **7:00 pm** **Ministry of the Teacher** lesson 5&6
 Sunday zoom
- **Sunday 12/21** 9:45 am **Lectionary Disc.** – Matthew 1:18-25
 10:30 am *The Promise of Love* Rob de Zwart
- **Our website**, including weekly bulletin, web and zoom links
bethel.forthrightsystems.com.
- Give through [eTithing \(https://www.cofchrist.org/give\)](https://www.cofchrist.org/give)
Optionally, search for Bethel, KS ([link](#))

RECORDINGS

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing - CCS 423 - The Beyond the Walls
Choir <https://youtube.com/watch?v=QMzQ8WWBJds>

Go, Tell It on the Mountain - CCS 409 - The Beyond the Walls Choir
<https://youtube.com/watch?v=0GaGHpEOSA0>

Bring Forth the Kingdom - CCS 387 - The Beyond the Walls Choir
<https://youtube.com/watch?v=tyUsFgy6zQ4>

Canticle of the Turning - CCS 404 - The Beyond the Walls Choir
<https://youtube.com/watch?v=S7GAFySnkFs>

Joy to the World! - CCS 408 - The Beyond the Walls Choir
<https://youtube.com/watch?v=Ow6mBSLbqT0>

Lectionary

3-year cycle engaging significant portions of our Scripture.

This Week December 14 [The Promise of Joy](#)

| | |
|-----------------------|-----------------|
| Isaiah 35:1-10 | Psalm 146:5-10 |
| James 5:7-10 | Matthew 11:2-11 |

Next Week December 21 [The Promise of Love](#)

| | |
|---------------------------------|----------------|
| Matthew 1:18-25/2:1-8 IV | Isaiah 7:10-16 |
| Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 | Romans 1:1-7 |

Business Meeting 12/14/2025

| | |
|---|-----------------|
| Welcome | |
| Hymn <i>The Lord's My Shepherd</i> CCS #259 | |
| Opening Prayer | |
| Call Business Meeting to Order | |
| Review of Minutes | |
| Election of Pastor | |
| Sustain counselors to Pastor | |
| Sustaining Mission Center Appointments | Jeff Cady |
| CFO | Grace Troeh |
| Recorder | |
| Election of Officers | |
| Secretary | Joyce Shipley |
| Historian | Joyce Shipley |
| Women's Leader | Sandy Billings |
| Building Committee | |
| Ex-office | Pastor & CFO |
| Current members | Sandy Billings |
| | Kyle Joyce |
| | Lynda Lyons |
| | Michael Shipley |
| | David Troeh |
| | Stan Troeh |
| Discussion of 2025 Budget | |
| Other Business | |

Summary of Financial Position 11/30/2025

| | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|
| Current Assets | |
| Bethel Bank Account | 12,237.98 |
| World Church Inv. Pool A | 68,237.90 |
| Total Current Assets | 80,475.88 |
| Liabilities | |
| M/P - World Church | 2,393.00 |
| M/P - Midlands Mission Center | 25.00 |
| M/P - Central Avenue Center of Hope | 477.84 |
| M/P - Chihowa Retreat Center | 60.00 |
| M/P - Midlands Mission Center | -25.00 |
| Total Liabilities | 2,930.84 |
| Net Assets | |
| Operating (loss \$8,350.10) | 76,856.05 |
| Building/Special Proj (rcv'd \$50) | -2,826.15 |
| Agency Accounts | |
| Cong. - Piano/Organ | 635.77 |
| Cong. - Campership | 428.56 |
| Cong. - Women's Ministries | 2,450.81 |
| Total Agency Accounts | 3,515.14 |

| 001 OPERATING FUND | | | |
|---|--------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| | 2025 Annual Budget | 2025 Actual Jan-Nov | 2026 Proposed Budget |
| INCOME/RECEIPTS | | | |
| 001/40200 Operating Contributions | 23,000.10 | 15,920.00 | 23,000.10 |
| 001/40500 Other Income* | 0.00 | 462.30 | 0.00 |
| TOTAL INCOME/RECEIPTS | 23,000.10 | 16,382.30 | 23,000.10 |
| *Not showing Investment Pool Income/loss (yet) | | | |
| *This is showing portion of O.I. receipts sent out as 001/54150 | | | |
| EXPENSES | | | |
| Program | | | |
| Christian Education | | | |
| 001/51050 Sunday School Curriculum | 100.00 | 95.55 | 100.00 |
| 001/51080 Vacation Bible School | 25.00 | 0.00 | 25.00 |
| Worship | | | |
| 001/52100 Bulletins | 200.00 | 186.00 | 200.00 |
| 001/52300 Public Use Licenses | 185.00 | 0.00 | 185.00 |
| Stewardship | | | |
| 001/53200 Stewardship - stamps | 60.00 | 229.30 | 60.00 |
| 001/53300 Audit | 200.00 | 0.00 | 200.00 |
| Missionary | | | |
| 001/54150 Outreach Internation | 0.00 | 641.44 | 0.00 |
| Pastoral | | | |
| 001/55100 Herald in Every Home | 265.20 | 221.40 | 265.20 |
| 001/55200 Fellowship Activitie | 75.00 | 521.19 | 75.00 |
| Music | | | |
| 001/56100 Tuning, Materials | 350.00 | 0.00 | 350.00 |
| Youth Ministries | | | |
| 001/57100 Youth Ministries | 25.00 | 0.00 | 25.00 |
| Program Support | | | |
| 001/58100 Church / Office Supp | 10.00 | 0.00 | 10.00 |
| Camping Program | | | |
| Total Program | 1,495.20 | 1,894.88 | 1,495.20 |
| Facility Expense | | | |
| 001/61000 Building & Ground Maint * | 3,500.00 | 12,133.19 | 3,500.00 |
| 001/63000 Insurance** | 8,804.90 | 0.00 | 8,804.90 |
| 001/64000 Janitorial Service | 1,000.00 | 0.00 | 1,000.00 |
| 001/69001 Electricity*** | 3,600.00 | 1,007.55 | 0.00 |
| 001/69002 Gas | 2,800.00 | 4,503.75 | 2,800.00 |
| 001/69003 Water*** | 350.00 | 801.06 | 0.00 |
| 001/69004 Combined Utility*** | 0.00 | 3,456.57 | 3,950.00 |
| 001/69151 Internet | 850.00 | 785.40 | 850.00 |
| Total Facilities | 20,904.90 | 22,687.52 | 20,904.90 |
| *Insurance reimbursement pending | | | |
| **Paid from Investment Pool A, not shown as an expense (yet) | | | |
| ***Transitioning from Electricity & Water to Combined Utility | | | |
| Assessments | | | |
| 001/73200 MMC Assessment | 600.00 | 150.00 | 600.00 |
| Total Assessments | 600.00 | 150.00 | 600.00 |
| TOTAL EXPENSES | 23,000.10 | 24,732.40 | 23,000.10 |
| NET OPERATING | 0.00 | -8,350.10 | 0.00 |



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. Cost is \$25 unless noted.

October 20 – December 14, 2025

- **Introduction to Scripture** – Daniel Nowiski
- **Ministry of the Deacon** – I. David Lloyd
- **RCYW Core Training** – I. David Lloyd

January 5 - March 1, 2026

- **Introduction to PASTOR Ministry** (ends Feb. 15)
- **Ministry of the Disciple**
- **Christian Ministry Cert. Spiritual Formation** – Kris Judd (\$100)

CIMM Sessions are short seminars on topics of theology, culture, and Community of Christ Identity, Mission, Message, Beliefs and practices.

These free sessions are broadcast live on **Zoom at 7:00pm most Wednesdays**. To register, visit www.graceland.edu/cimmsessions.

- Dec 3 – **Ministry to the Unhoused** – Gleen Johnson
- Dec 10 – **Jesus as an Untouchable** – Joshua Bennett
- Dec 17 – **God with Us: Reclaiming the Truth of the Nativity: Unveiling the Theological Power Behind a Familiar Story** – Dave Anderson

Central Mission Center Temple School Courses

- **Intro to Scripture:** 6:30 – 8:30 pm Mondays 1/5 to 2/9 @ Stone Church

More information and registration instructions can be found at centralmission.org/temple-school/.



Midlands Mission Center

7615 Platte Purchase Dr, Suite 116
Kansas City, MO 64118

presidentteam@midlandsmc.org
www.midlandsmc.org

ONLINE RESOURCES

The USA Mission Field has a new website! cofchristusa.org

eNews website: cofchrist.org/news/new-gathering-resources-website

Worship resources are in a new location on the “Gathering Resources” gathering.cofchrist.org/ Scroll down to “Lectionary Calendar” under “Plan”, then use the arrows to navigate to the correct month and date.

CENTER FOR LIVING WATER

www.centerforlivingwater.org

Grounded in the contemplative tradition of Christian spirituality, the Center for Living Water encourages attendees to seek spiritual transformation and peaceful living through practice and action.

- **Sacred Flow: Mindful Community Yoga** – 8pm 1st Wednesdays
- **Conversation Café** – 7pm 1st & 3rd Thursdays
- **Soul Collage: Art & Soul** – 7pm 3rd Tuesdays
- **Sacred Pulse: Mindful Music** – 6pm Dec 20



Huixqui Sisters Holiday Concert

Under the Spiral Concert Series

7pm Saturday, December 13

Pronounced like “whiskey”, this vocal duet originally from Huixquilucan, Mexico, is accompanied by guitar and keys. The duo creates custom arrangements of their favorite songs, with a vocal blend only achieved by sisters and vocal precision. Tickets are \$20 each and can be reserved at bit.ly/SistersHolidayTix.

Autumn Lecture Series

Journey with us as we explore a number of fascinating individuals and topics from Community of Christ's past. More information and registration for each event can be found at bit.ly/AutumnLecture25.

- 7pm Tues, Dec 2 – *"The Peter and Mary Whitmer Family and Diversity in the 1830s Church of Christ"* with Mark Staker
- 7pm Thurs, Dec 4 – *"Cecil Ettinger's Journey to Nigeria"* with David Ettinger

EMERGE Online Youth Gathering

6pm Sunday, December 28

All youth ages 14–18 are invited to join this Zoom gathering to connect, make new friends, and share life together with others across the church. Everyone is welcome, and we'd love to see you there!

Zoom link: bit.ly/EmergeDec2025

Peace Colloquy: Houselessness & Community Action Ignites Sacred Action

This fall, Midlands and Central Mission Centers came together at the Community of Christ Temple for a transformative Peace Colloquy that invited disciples and seekers alike to embody faith as *liberation in action*.

The event, grounded in the theme **“Building Bridges, Amplifying Voices & Taking Action,”** offered more than conversation—it became a living testimony of what happens when we allow the Spirit to move among us with courage and compassion.

Participants heard stories of resilience and liberation: a trans musician whose honest sharing and song brought the sanctuary to tears; a woman courageously recounting her journey through houselessness after leaving an abusive marriage; and a group of young men, connected through *Artists Helping the Homeless*, whose compassion and service reflected Christ's friendship that crosses every social line.

Attendees were not only inspired—they were *activated*. In keeping with the Colloquy's call to “take action,” participants made tangible commitments to carry peace into their own communities. Since that weekend, members have registered as foster parents, attended city council meetings for the first time, and joined local efforts to support unhoused neighbors. Each pledge, large or small, has become a spark of divine liberation rekindled across our mission centers.

This year's colloquy was more than an event—it was a movement of holy reawakening. A reminder that God's Spirit still breathes through our collective action; that hope is not naïve, but grounded; that faith is not about perfection, but about showing up where love calls.

As one participant wrote afterward, *“I left the colloquy believing again that change is possible—and that I have a role in it.”*

May we continue to live unashamed of the gospel of liberating love. May our peace be active, our justice courageous, and our hope stubborn enough to transform the world. Ending Houselessness is possible.

Peace and Justice Specialist, Jess Pycior