



Community of Christ

Bethel Congregation
Midlands Mission Center
Welcoming the online community
Kansas City, KS
February 15, 2026 10:30AM CDT

Bring Witness / Baptism High Priest Stan Troeh

Presiding

Announcements & Welcome

Invitation to Worship

III Nephi 5:45-49

45 And behold he stretched forth his hand unto the multitude, and cried unto them, saying, Blessed are ye if ye shall give heed unto the words of these twelve whom I have chosen from among you to minister unto you, and to be your servants;

46 And unto them I have given power, that they may baptize you with water, and after that ye are baptized with water, behold I will baptize you with fire and with the Holy Spirit;

47 Therefore blessed are ye, if ye shall believe in me, and be baptized, after that ye have seen me, and know that I am.

48 And again, more blessed are they who shall believe in your words, because that ye shall testify that ye have seen me, and that ye know that I am.

49 Yea, blessed are they who shall believe in your words, and come down into the depths of humility, and be baptized; for they shall be visited with fire and with the Holy Spirit, and shall receive a remission of their sins.

*Hymn "Come and Bring Light" CCS #287

*Invocation

*Response

Prayer for Peace

I am so blind, Lord,
I cannot see the clearing.
I only feel my way
by the restraining thorn.
I do not dare to trust my foot's direction,
feeling for paths in unsure error worn.

Speak to my mind,
direct my true alignment,
light my dim eyes,
my certainty increase.

Out of the maze of self and narrow vision,
lead me to mount the high lookout of peace. Amen.

--Cleo Hanthorne Moon, *Daily Bread*, September, 1966

Message

Elder Rob de Zwart

Hymn "The Summons"

CCS #586

Baptism of Kaylee Marie Baggerly

by Seventy Kyle Joyce

Hymn "God Weeps"

CCS #212

Presidency Letter

Hymn "Lord, Lead Me by Your Spirit"

CCS #209

Optional Hymn "O Christ, My Lord, Create in Me"

CCS #507

Optional Hymn "Holy Spirit, Come, Confirm Us"

CCS #505

Hymn "My Savior Said That I Should Be"

CCS #589

Confirmation of Kaylee Marie Baggerly Seventy Kyle Joyce
and Elder Kristine Shipley

Hymn "Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love" CCS #367, alt v2

Disciples' Generous Response

<https://bit.ly/BethelGift>

*Closing Hymn "For Everyone Born"

CCS #285, alt v4

*Benediction

*Response

*Congregation invited to stand

Bethel Community of Christ

bethel.forthrightsystems.com

Pastor

Rob de Zwart

Financial Officer

Jeff Cady

Media Host

David Troeh

Keyboards

John Mueller

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Announcements

- **Sunday 2/15** **9:45 am** Lectionary Disc. – 2 Peter 1:16-21
- **10:30 am** *Bring Witness* – Rob de Zwart
Kaylee's baptism & confirmation
- **Monday 2/16** **7:00 pm** Priesthood Meeting (949 9683 2354)
- **Tuesday 2/17** **7:00 pm** Together Tuesday (924 6108 0153)
- **Wednesday 2/18** **ASH WEDNESDAY** – beginning of LENT
- **Sunday 2/22** **9:45 am** Lectionary Disc. – Matthew 4:1-11
10:30 am *Faithfully Persevere* – Stan Troeh
- **Our website**, including weekly bulletin, web and zoom links
bethel.forthrightsystems.com.
- Give through eTithing (<https://www.cofchrist.org/give>)
Optionally, search for Bethel, KS ([link](#))

Recordings

Come and Bring Light - CCS 287 - The Beyond the Walls Choir

https://youtube.com/watch?v=USMkEj_tsz4

The Summons - CCS 586 - The Beyond the Walls Choir

<https://youtube.com/watch?v=7xk2HIXZCJk>

God Weeps - CCS 212 - The Beyond the Walls Choir

<https://youtube.com/watch?v=FQLrFIgorFI>

Lord, Lead Me by Your Spirit (A Cappella) - CCS 209 - The Beyond the Walls Choir <https://youtube.com/watch?v=53rhH5wOOUc>

CCS 367 Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us With Your Love

<https://youtube.com/watch?v=f70XXmEM5QM>

For Everyone Born - CCS 285 - The Beyond the Walls Choir

(2020) <https://youtube.com/watch?v=akF3oWZoIXE>

Lectionary

3-year cycle engaging significant portions of our Scripture.

This Week February 15 Bring Witness

2 Peter 1:16-21 Exodus 24:12-18
Psalm 2 Matthew 17:1-9

Ash Wednesday Feb 18 Faithfully Prepare

Matthew 6:1-6,16-21 Joel 2:1-2, 12-17
Psalm 51:1-17 2 Corinthians 5:20b—6:10

Next Week February 22 Faithfully Persevere

Matthew 4:1-11 Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-17
Psalm 32 Romans 5:12-19

LENTEN PRACTICE

NCC Calls the Nation to Prayer with “Deliver Us from Evil” Lenten Campaign

Expanding Its #WeWillNotBeSilent Initiative, the NCC Invites People of Faith and Goodwill, Churches and Community Groups, Across the Country to Unite in Daily Prayer Beginning Ash Wednesday

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA (NCC) is launching “**Deliver Us from Evil**,” a nationwide Lenten prayer campaign beginning **Ash Wednesday, February 18, 2026**.

Representing 37 member denominations and more than 30 million Christians across Orthodox, Mainline Protestant, Evangelical, Anglican, Peace, and historic African American traditions, the NCC has issued this bold call to collective prayer as an extension of its ongoing #WeWillNotBeSilent campaign, which has mobilized people of faith to raise their prophetic voices for justice, compassion, and the protection of the vulnerable.

The NCC is asking people across the country, regardless of religious tradition, to join in a unified act of faith. **Here’s how to participate:**

- *Pray daily at noon wherever you are.*
- *On Ash Wednesday, participants are asked to wear black throughout the day as a visible sign of witness and unity.*
- *Create or obtain a sign bearing the words “**Deliver Us from Evil** — **Matthew 6:13**,” take a photo, and share it on social media platforms and tag NCC (IG: @nccc.usa; FB: @nationalcouncilofchurches; Threads: nccc.usa; X and Bluesky: @ncccusa).*
- *Gather with prayer partners, prayer groups, or your congregation.*

“‘Deliver Us from Evil’ takes its name from the prayer Jesus taught, recognizing that the challenges facing today’s communities demand more than strategy. They require spiritual intervention,” explained Bishop Vashti Murphy McKenzie, NCC president and general secretary.

LENTEN PRACTICE (continued)

Bishop McKenzie continued: “This is a communal cry. Jesus did not pray, ‘Deliver me from evil.’ He prayed, ‘Deliver us from evil.’ We pray for parents, teachers, and caregivers who are weary, children going hungry, pastors under pressure, families facing challenges, and communities under threat. We pray for one another because none of us is safe alone.”

“*Deliver Us from Evil*” builds on the foundation laid by the NCC’s #WeWillNotBeSilent campaign, which called on the ecumenical community to use its collective voice as an instrument of justice and moral witness in the public square. As #WeWillNotBeSilent declares that the church will speak boldly against injustice, “*Deliver Us from Evil*” anchors that prophetic courage in the oldest discipline the Church has known: prayer.

“*The Lord still answers prayer,*” Bishop McKenzie affirmed. “*The God of the Exodus is still breaking chains. The Christ of Calvary is still defeating sin, death, and hell. Then, after we pray, we get up off our knees, roll up our sleeves, and go to work!*”

NCC Media Contact: Layla Nielsen, Layla@LaylaNielsen.com



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.

March 2 – April 26

- **Introduction to Priesthood Ministry**
- **Ministry of the Teacher** – David Lloyd
- **Ministry of the Seventy** – Bethany Lloyd
- **Ministry of the Bishop** – Carla Long
- Christian Ministry Cert. **Introduction to New Testament** - Tony & Charmaine Chvala-Smith (\$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.

- Feb 4 – **Called to Question: The Story of CofC Theology part 7**, Tony & Charmaine Chvala-Smith
- Feb 11 – **CofC Scripture: Editing Cannon**, David Howlett
- Feb 18 – **Called to Question: The Story of CofC Theology part 8**, Tony & Charmaine Chvala-Smith
- Feb 25 – **Lenten Practices**, Tyler Marz/Karin Peter



Midlands Mission Center

Community of Christ

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Navigating Your Financial Future

MMC Spring Conference

Save the date **April 24-26** for a mission center retreat at Chihowa culminating with spring conference on Sunday, April 26.

Summer 2026

June 5–16 Caravan	July 12–19 Spectacular
June 18–22 Doniphan Family Camp	July 12–17 MITOG
June 28–July 3 Junior/Middle School Camp	July 23–25 Youth Quest
July 5–10 Chihowa Family Camp	

CARAVAN 2026

We Are One in the Spirit!

Students who have completed grades 9–12 are invited on this 12-day quest to immerse ourselves in our Enduring Principles as we journey. We will spend the first half of our trip visiting Nauvoo, Kirtland, and the Sacred Grove in Palmyra learning about our Church history and where we came from. The second half of this exciting expedition will include exploring who we are as a faith community today and what we as disciples can do to live the Enduring Principles as we move into the future. We will visit the National Mall and the Smithsonian museums in Washington DC, Monticello in Virginia, the Beck Cultural Exchange Center in Knoxville TN, the Nashville Zoo, and the Lorraine Motel Civil Rights Museum in Memphis. We end with a Temple tour the last day.

Registration opens soon!

7– 8:30 pm Sunday, February 1

The Presiding Bishopric is hosting a financial education session and discussion with Certified Financial Planner® Paul Dreher for individuals aged 45–65. Join us for a program designed to help you understand key financial topics, assess your financial direction, and explore the benefit of a personalized retirement plan. Gain practical tools for planning your financial future. Register at bit.ly/FinancialFutureFeb26.

An Invitation to the Ministry of Silence

Online Ministry Retreat

9 – 11 am Saturday, February 7 OR 21

Central Missouri and Coastal Bend Mission Centers are hosting this online ministry led by Evangelists Diane Allison and Mark. Members of the Midlands Mission Center are invited to attend. Register at bit.ly/SpiritualRetreatFeb26. Questions can be directed to Central Missouri MC President Mary Jo Sartin at 660.747.6193.

Climate Webinar

4pm Sunday, February 15

The North American Climate Justice Team is hosting a webinar entitled *Imagining Our World Beyond Fossil Fuels: An Adventure in Prophetic Imagination*. You are invited to imagine a world beyond fossil fuels, pollution and climate-based injustices. Register at letsgo.bio/climatejustice/

EMERGE Online Youth Gathering

6pm Sunday, February 22

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/EmergeFeb26

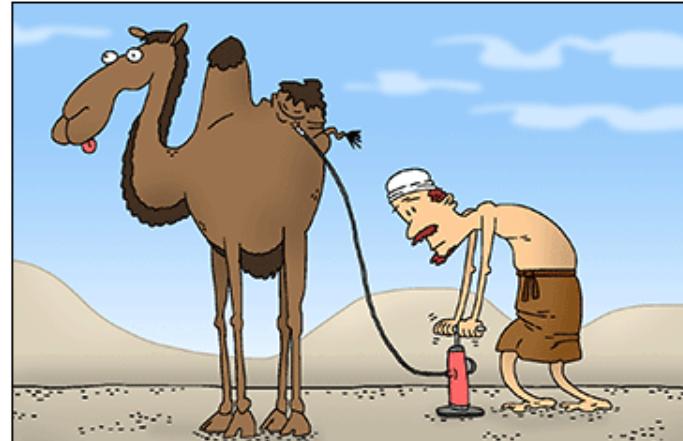
Silent Retreat @ Camp Ozark

The Mystery of Silence: Be Still and Know

March 13 – 15

In silence, the Holy Spirit guides us into those places within where hidden dreams and ideas wait to be revealed, trapped beneath our hurts and fears. The South Central States Mission Center invites you to participate in a weekend SILENT SPIRITUAL RETREAT at Camp Ozark south of Joplin, MO. Evangelist Paul Beaulieu and the SCS Mission Center Team will facilitate the retreat. The \$90 registration fee includes food and lodging. More information and registration form at bit.ly/SilentRetreatMar26 Payment can be made at the retreat, but registration must be sent beforehand.

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02-23-2015

from the desk of Rob Heverling

Shalom, shalom, everyone.

Extreme cold and snow can be a bummer.

However, I have noticed when I am layered up, (wearing warm boots and mittens), going out at night walking our Standard Poodle, Lucy (she is also wearing boots), can be a surprisingly *peaceful* experience. I've found these simple frigid, snowy walks are a good time to connect with God. The cold seems to allow me to better perceive the touch of the Holy Spirit that comes during my simple prayer walk.

On our life journey with God, I hope you have experienced *sudden peace* in moments of stress. In very low points of our lives the Holy Spirit often surprises us with a moment of reassuring peace...even a *spark of joy* in the depths of our suffering.

Jesus said, "*Truly, truly, I say to you, you will weep and lament... you will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will turn into joy.*" -John 16:20.

It's hard to convey the experience of a moment of joy in the depths of sorrow to an *unchurched person*. This small burst of joy that sparks hope seems impossible. Simply telling an unchurched person *how immersing one's life in the gospel of Christ will dramatically change her/his life* will probably not be very **meaningful** to them.

I passionately believe in the truth of this statement: **People will ONLY commit their valuable time to what is most meaningful in their lives.**

Our faith communities are simply not meaningful to unchurched people.

And this is our challenge...making our *gospel peace movement* meaningful to the unchurched.

We don't change the gospel. The gospel is unchanging. But we better figure out how to connect the gospel to the unchurched in the most meaningful ways. We must think of our peace mission in very pragmatic ways.

One simple example: **Finding life and joy after divorce.** We invite lots of people to this three-part series starting on a specific Sunday morning. There are many divorced people. They're hurting. They struggle to find peace. So, we network and promote a very pragmatic and **meaningful** solution to restoring peace in a divorcee's life.

I'm not suggesting this will suddenly bring dozens of new unchurched people into our faith communities. But what I am saying is this kind of series is profoundly **more meaningful** to unchurched people who have long established **new routines... new rituals** on Sunday morning. A series like this **might be meaningful enough** to get some to come and visit and listen to a well-produced sermon with expert advice from credible counselors weaved with scripture and perhaps a personal testimony of finding peace, even joy in the depths of a cold, sorrowful, long lasting life experience.

Our Community of Christ Faith Movement can become **meaningful** in the lives of so many people who need to experience the flow of the Holy Spirit washing over them and through them in a loving, accepting group of fellow imperfect people.

No perfect people allowed in our church.

It's great to be your new Midlands Mission Center President. I look forward to spending time in your church communities.

Once again, shalom, shalom.

Rob