



# Community of Christ

**Bethel Congregation**  
**Midlands Mission Center**  
**Welcoming the online community**  
Kansas City, KS  
February 22, 2026 10:30AM CDT

## Faithfully Persevere

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

**Hymn of Praise** "Creator God We Sing" **CCS #114**

### Announcements

### Welcome

*As we follow Jesus into the Lenten wilderness, we ask: What does faithfulness look like in our world today? Jesus shows us a way shaped by emptying—a willingness to release power, privilege, and excess so that love and justice can take root.*

*This Lent, we are invited to notice the ways our culture's economic systems often value profit over people and consumption over creation. Jesus calls us instead toward a vision of economic justice—a "kingdom economy" grounded in generosity, fairness, and creative abundance. The scriptures are full of examples of God's call to a kingdom economy where love reigns over fear, and we invest in the treasures "that do not wear out," where treasure and heart meet that value the depth of creation and human life over systems that take and deplete.*

**Call to Worship** **Psalm 32:10b-11, NRSVue**

*Steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the Lord. Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart.*

**\*Hymn** "Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley" **CCS #452**

**\*Invocation**

**\*Response**

### Prayer for Peace

Dear Lord,

In our rush and hurry, we so often miss your presence in our everyday life. Please help us: *Take a deep, three-count breath before reading on.*

to stop and take note;

to see with your eyes... your creation and world;

to hear with your ears...this world's songs of joy and sorrow;

to feel with your skin...the pain & suffering of those near & far;

to use the hands, feet, and soul you have supplied us...to reach those in need;

to make "the" difference...in the here and now.

We sincerely pray, Amen.

### Lenten Moment

**Joyce Shipley**

### Hymn

"Listen in the Silence"

**CCS #153**

+ What changes would be beneficial in your relationship with God?

+ How can you find, or make, time to remember God throughout the day?

+ What Christ-like attitude do you choose to work on daily, and how?

### Message

**High Priest Stan Troeh**

### Hymn

"Leftover People in Leftover Places" **CCS #275**

### Disciples' Generous Response

<https://bit.ly/BethelGift>

Doctrine and Covenants 163:10b (see insert)

**\*Closing Hymn** "Can We Calculate Our Giving" **CCS #617**

**\*Benediction**

**\*Response**

**\*Congregation invited to stand**

Bethel Community of Christ

[bethel.forthrightsystems.com](https://bethel.forthrightsystems.com)

Pastor

Rob de Zwart

Financial Officer

Jeff Cady

Media Host

David Troeh

Keyboards

John Mueller

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## Announcements

- **Sunday 2/22**      **9:45 am** **Lectionary Disc.** – Matthew 4:1-11  
                         **10:30 am** *Faithfully Persevere* – Stan Troeh
- **Wednesday 2/25**    **5–7 pm** **Board Games**  
4th Wednesday of the month is board game night at Bethel.  
Open to all. Bring your own snack, family friendly.
- **Sunday 3/1**            **9:45 am** **Lectionary Disc.** – John 3:1-16  
                         **10:30 am** *Faithfully Question* – Jeff Cady
- **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](#))

## Recordings

Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley (a cappella) - CCS 452 - The Beyond the Walls Choir <https://youtube.com/watch?v=43GGLVbFeLE>

Listen in the Silence - CCS 153 - The Beyond the Walls Choir  
<https://youtube.com/watch?v=5UGWjGGxj2U>

CCS 617 - Can We Calculate Our Giving - Music and Lyrics (NO VOICES) <https://youtube.com/watch?v=2Hxo2q0h9tI>

## Lectionary

*3-year cycle engaging significant portions of our Scripture.*

**This Week February 22** [Faithfully Persevere](#)

**Matthew 4:1-11**

Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-17

Psalm 32

Romans 5:12-19

**Next Week March 1** [Faithfully Question](#)

**John 3:1-17**

Genesis 12:1-4a

Psalm 121

Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

## Disciples Generous Response

Doctrine and Covenants 163:10b

*Come before your Eternal Creator with open minds and hearts and discover the blessings of the gospel anew. Be vulnerable to divine grace.*

Prayer

Holy God, thank you for sending your Spirit, the Spirit of the risen Christ, from heaven. Help us to be like the early disciples, praying patiently as we wait for your guidance and power. Fill our hearts and minds with your gifts of faith, hope, and love. May our conversations with people of every language and culture around us witness to your grace and mercy. We dedicate ourselves and our offerings to your good purposes in the world through our church's mission by the power of your Spirit. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

# Take Note

## 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](http://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](http://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



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## 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 MITIOG      |
| 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!**

# Navigating Your Financial Future

**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](http://bit.ly/FinancialFutureFeb26).

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## 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](http://bit.ly/SpiritualRetreatFeb26). Questions can be directed to Central Missouri MC President Mary Jo Sartin at 660.747.6193.

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## 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/](http://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](http://bit.ly/EmergeFeb26)

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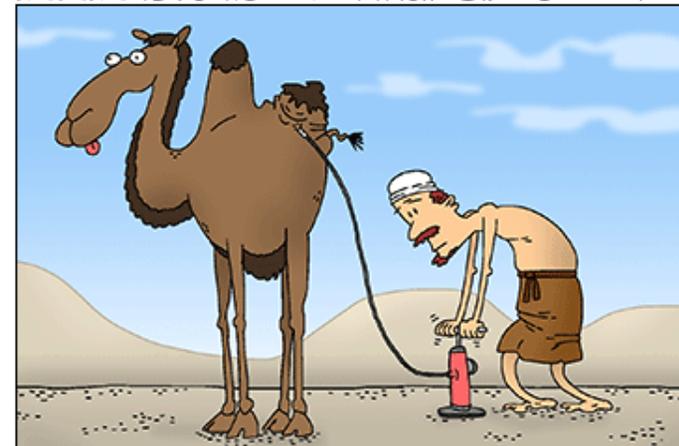
## Silent Retreat @ Camp Ozark

*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](http://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