



Community of Christ

Bethel Congregation
Midlands Mission Center
Welcoming the online community
Kansas City, KS
March 8, 2026 10:30AM CDT

Faithfully Reconcile

Presiding Elder Grace Troeh

Hymn "Welcome, Jesus, You Are Welcome" CCS #277

Announcements

Welcome

Call to Worship Psalm 95:1-7

¹ *O come, let us sing to the LORD;
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!*
² *Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;
let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!*
³ *For the LORD is a great God,
and a great King above all gods.*
⁴ *In his hand are the depths of the earth;
the heights of the mountains are his also.*
⁵ *The sea is his, for he made it,
and the dry land, which his hands have formed.*
⁶ *O come, let us worship and bow down,
let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!*
⁷ *For he is our God,
and we are the people of his pasture,
and the sheep of his hand.*
O that today you would listen to his voice!

***Hymn** "My Life Flows On in Endless Song" CCS #263

***Invocation**

***Response**

Lenten Focus Moment Joyce Shipley

Hymn "Lead Me, Lord" CCS #450, 3 times

Prayer for Peace

O God of shalom,
we have built up walls to protect ourselves from our enemies,
but those walls also shut us off from receiving your love.
Break down those walls.
Help us to see that the way to your heart
is through the reconciliation of our own hearts with our
enemies.
Bless them and us, that we may come to grow in love
for each other and for you, through Jesus Christ. Amen
—Nolan Palsma, Pitcher Hill Community Church,
North Syracuse, NY

Message Priest Sandra Billings

Hymn "Jacob's Ladder" on screen

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

Sending Forth Doctrine and Covenants 164:5-6a

5 It is imperative to understand that when you are truly baptized into Christ you become part of a new creation. By taking on the life and mind of Christ, you increasingly view yourselves and others from a changed perspective. Former ways of defining people by economic status, social class, sex, gender, or ethnicity no longer are primary. Through the gospel of Christ a new community of tolerance, reconciliation, unity in diversity, and love is being born as a visible sign of the coming reign of God.

6a. As revealed in Christ, God, the Creator of all, ultimately is concerned about behaviors and relationships that uphold the worth and giftedness of all people and that protect the most vulnerable. Such relationships are to be rooted in the principles of Christ-like love, mutual respect, responsibility, justice, covenant, and faithfulness, against which there is no law.

***Hymn** "Rain Down" CCS #260

***Benediction**

***Congregation invited to stand**

Bethel Community of Christ

Pastor

Financial Officer

Media Host

bethel.forthrightsystems.com

Rob de Zwart

Jeff Cady

David Troeh

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Announcements

- **Sunday 3/8** 9:45 am **Lectionary Disc. – Romans 5:1-11**
10:30 am **Faithfully Reconcile**
Sandy Billings speaking
- **Thursday 3/12** 2:00 pm **Women’s Meeting** at the church
- **Sunday 3/15** 9:45 am **Lectionary Disc. – John 9:1-41**
10:30 am **Faithfully See–Seventy** Kyle Joyce
- **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

CCS 277 Welcome, Jesus, You Are Welcome Music, Lyrics, Voices, Video <https://youtube.com/watch?v=twg7m80vU-s>

Rain Down (2021) - CCS 260 - The Beyond the Walls Choir
https://youtube.com/watch?v=vPF3chvC_cl

Lectionary

3-year cycle engaging significant portions of our Scripture.

This Week March 8 [Faithfully Reconcile](#)

Romans 5:1-11	Exodus 17:1-7
Psalm 95	John 4:5-42

Next Week March 15 [Faithfully See](#)

John 9:1-41	1 Samuel 16:1-13
Psalm 23	Ephesians 5:8-14

Midlands Spring Retreat & Conference April 24-26

We will focus on **Momentum**.

We hope for **momentum** in our congregations, **momentum** in our mission center, and **momentum** in our individual lives, including in our journey with God.

*Please encourage members and friends of your congregation to attend. We think it will be a restful and inspiring weekend together. More to come! Here's the registration link to the retreat. -Rob



Registration QR, link

<https://pci.jotform.com/form/260544721815052>

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. 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.

- March 4 – **Creating a Welcoming and Affirming Community through Harmony** – Andy Markle
- March 11 – **So Many Meanings to Jesus's Death** – Tony & Charmaine Chvala-Smith
- March 25 – **Sacraments as Trail Markers** – David Lloyd



Midlands Mission Center

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

presidentteam@midlandsmc.org
www.midlandsmc.org

MMC Spring Conference

Save the date **April 24-26** for a mission center retreat at Chihowa culminating with spring conference **2pm Sunday, April 26**. More information and registration to come at www.midlandsmc.org!

Summer 2026

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|--|------------------------|
| 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!

Young Adult Sundays

6 pm Sundays, beginning March 1

Church doesn't always happen in a building. YAM (Young Adult Ministries) Sundays are a place to explore our faith without judgement or expectations, offering a weekly Sunday experience for everyone. These gatherings will be different each week but follow a rotation of various avenues of spiritual exploration. For more information or the Zoom link, email mphillippe@cofchrist.org.

EMERGE Online Youth Gathering

6pm Sunday, March 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!

Check the CofChrist website event page for a Zoom link.

Silent Retreat @ Camp Ozark

The Mystery of Silence: Be Still and Know

March 13 – 15

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.

No Kings Rally

12 – 3 pm Saturday, March 28

Join JPATKC at the No Kings 3.0 Rally. Meet 100 feet due east of the horse fountain at Mill Creek Park at The Plaza, 47th Mill Creek Parkway. Wear your JPATKC shirt and join your voice with other Kansas Citizens concerned about chaos, corruption, and cruelty. To purchase a \$20 shirt, contact Geri Norman at jpatkc@gmail.com.

Chihowa Workday(s)

April 11 and April 13 – 17

Please join us anytime on Saturday April 11 to help prepare the grounds for the upcoming summer camping season. Jobs include painting, planting trees, cutting trees and brush, and more. Bring tools or show up ready to be assigned a job. The church RV Association will be on the grounds April 13-17, and you are also welcome to come out anytime during that week to join 25+ individuals giving their time and talent to upkeep our valuable campgrounds.



HE FOUND THAT EATING FRUITS OF THE SPIRIT DIRECTLY WAS LESS FILLING

from the desk of Rob Heverling

RELENTLESS

We moved into our new house.

In less than a week three different security company representatives loudly knocked on our door and rang our doorbell. Each one selling the value of their security system.

The first two salespeople had well researched, well-rehearsed pitches.

The third salesman was much younger than the other two. He didn't make a hard pitch at all.

He told me about himself, where he lived, and how he came to be employed by this company.

He asked what I did for a living and what I was *passionate* about.

I briefly told him about my work history and how I came to my current job as Midlands Mission Center President and why this was *meaningful* to me.

I told him how for the first time in several years we lived close to our kids and grandkids, and this was one of our *passions!* He listened.

Then he told me about how much he enjoyed hanging out with the young kids of his older sister and brother. He really liked being the cool uncle.

Eventually he made his lowkey security system pitch.

I liked this young man. As we talked, he genuinely seemed interested in my life.

And I was interested in his life. He felt authentic. I told him door-to-door sales was really challenging, but if he was good at sales, there was a real opportunity to be financially successful.

I declined his security system offer.

We declined every offer.

The third salesman asked after a few months, when we were settled in, could he come back for a visit?

"Of course!" I said, "It was good to get to know you a little."

Now, unless something changes dramatically, we don't plan on investing in a complete security system. But again, I really liked the young man. I suppose

there's a chance he might change our minds, but really, I simply would like to convert his interest in selling me a security system into a budding friendship.

It's too soon to tell, but perhaps he knows his investment in me is part of a **relentlessness** that is often a necessity for closing a deal.

I have learned being **relentless** is critical in demonstrating genuine care for others and (eventually) inviting people into being part of the Community of Christ.

This is no *Art of the Deal*.

This is a **relentless** pursuit of *building trust, companionship, and love* for other people who could be changed by being in relationship with us and discovering how *meaningful* our unique community and mission can be in their lives.

It's not really about saving souls; it's about inviting people to allow us to be part of their unique faith journey or helping them start their journey. And guiding them to experience the power of a Spirit-led community.

Be **RELENTLESS!** Be unyieldingly persistent in building authentic relationships with new people that can end up with an invitation that just might be too *meaningful* to decline.

Shalom, shalom, Rob

