



Community of Christ

**Bethel Congregation
Midlands Mission Center
Welcoming the online community**

Kansas City, KS

April 5, 2026 10:30AM CDT EASTER MORN

Awake to New Life

Presiding

Elder Jeff Cady

Angels, roll the rock away, Alleluia
Death, yield up your mighty prey,
See, he rises from the tomb,
Rises with immortal bloom,
'Tis the Savior! Seraphs raise,
Your triumphant shout of praise,
Let the earth's remotest bound,
Hear the joy-inspiring sound!
Praise him, all ye Heavenly choirs!
Praise him, sweep your golden lyres!
Praise him in the noblest songs,
Praise him with ten thousand tongues! Alleluia, Alleluia!

Easter Invocation

Hymn "Jesus Christ Is Risen Today" **CCS #476**

Welcome!

Come and share in the joy of Easter. Enter and sense the astonishment of the disciples. Be alive to the message of hope from the women. God is the giver of life; Christ is the Redeemer of life; the Spirit empowers us for life. Alleluia! Christ is risen! Light pushes out the darkness; enlightenment fills our minds; and the Awakening to New Life emboldens our Souls. We are here today in acknowledgment of the events more than two millennia ago. As if we were there to see the Risen One, we are overwhelmed.

***Hymn of Joy** "Christ Is Alive" **CCS #473**

The women who went early to the tomb and finding it empty, ran to bring the news to the mourning disciples, "Come, and See!"

*Response

Lenten Focus Moment

Joyce Shipley

Prayer for Peace

Kris Cady

Scripture

Matthew 28:1-10

Hymn

"Now the Green Blade Rises"

CCS #482

Easter Message

"Awake to New Life"

Elder Rob de Zwart

Invitation to the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Today commemorates both the events of two millennia ago, but also every time we partake of the bread and wine symbolizing the sacrifice Jesus made for us, we renew our covenant to always remember Him to always have his Spirit to be with us. This renewal follows you and me when we leave this place, when our homes and families surround us, when we are in our private place, or helping our neighbors in need. Feel that Spirit that encompassed you when you first accepted the Peaceful One for who He is.

**Blessing and Serving of the Bread and Wine Sandy Billings

Disciples' Generous Response

<https://bit.ly/BethelGift>

Alma 1:40 (adapted)

They imparted of their substance everyone according to that which they had, to the poor, and the needy, and the sick, and the afflicted. We are challenged to give generously in ways that imitate God's generosity. This is the example that true disciples present as the meaning of Easter people.

***Hymn of Celebration** "Lift Your Glad Voices"

CCS #475

*Benedictory Responsive Sending Forth

*Congregation invited to stand

Bethel Community of Christ

bethel.forthrightsystems.com

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Announcements

- **Sunday 4/5** **9:30 am** **EASTER BREAKFAST**
10:30 am *Awake to New Life*-Rob de Zwart
Hybrid Communion
- **Thursday 4/9** **2:00 pm** **Women's Meeting**
- **Sunday 4/12** **9:45 am** **Lectionary Disc.—1 Peter 1:3-9**
10:30 am *Living Hope*—Sandy Billings
- **Our website, including weekly bulletin, web and zoom links** bethel.forthrightsystems.com.

Recordings

Jesus Christ Is Risen Today - CCS 476 - The Beyond the Walls Choir <https://youtube.com/watch?v=xlv9Wab6Hs>

Christ Is Alive! - CCS 473 - The Beyond the Walls Choir <https://youtube.com/watch?v=IUWlgmtxh2o>

Now the Green Blade Rises (2022) - CCS 482 - The Beyond the Walls Choir <https://youtube.com/watch?v=nHxGfnpsMIs>

Lift Your Glad Voices CCS 475 <https://youtube.com/watch?v=nBZy1SO2eZg>

Lectionary

3-year cycle engaging significant portions of our Scripture.

This Week **April 5** [Awake to New Life](#) (Easter)

John 20:1-18 **Matthew 28:1-10**
Jeremiah 31:1-6 Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
Colossians 3:1-4

Next Week **April 12** [Living Hope](#)

1 Peter 1:3-9 Acts 2:14a, 22-32
Psalm 16 John 20:19-31

Prayer For Peace

As we also light our peace candle, let us remember those who are affected by war, and those who have no freedom. Our own understanding of our own place seems clear until we see so much more we can do to truly love our neighbor. We feel helpless and frustrated with our own place in our country, our community, homes, and families. Staying close to the message of Christ will plant us on the firm foundation that is the Rock upon which we build our Faith, our Hope, and our Actions.

God and Creator of all, your Son's resurrection brings new life and renewed hope. Help us to live as new people in pursuit of peace. Grant us wisdom to hear the cries of the oppressed, and the courage to make a difference in their lives.

Give us perseverance and the strength to be "Easter" people for a world in need, no matter their faith traditions. All are persons of worth requiring us to pass along the generosity from Your love. May we practice "Love for our neighbor" just as we show love for you. May our covenant with you renew our resolve to always remember the sacrifice Your Son, the Peaceful One, made for us.

Praise to you, Creator! AMEN

Sending Forth

Send us forth...	To witness for the Risen Christ.
Send us forth...	With renewed purpose as we strive to bring about the Kingdom.
Open our eyes...	To see the injustices on our world.
Open our ears...	To hear the pleas of those in distress.
Open our hearts...	To embrace those who are marginalized.
Open our hands...	To respond as Your hands in a waiting world.
Send us forth...	Send us forth to serve. AMEN



Thoughts of Momentum from Rob

As many of you know, a deeper, more meaningful connection with each other comes when gathered in worship, fellowship, and exploration, especially at a Community of Christ campground. With this in mind, I encourage you to consider sacrificing time to join us for the Midlands Spring Conference Retreat this April 24-26 at Chihowa. Laura and I have already registered and are looking forward to meeting more of you this weekend. As we emerge from this sacred season of Easter, I pray that the Holy Spirit imbues us with momentum. Momentum is the theme of the Spring Conference.

Many of us in the middle-aged group, many in the 70+ age group, have memories of our congregations being vibrant, full of kids and young adults. We remember multiple generations who worshiped, loved each other, and with Christ-like passion cared for those in need in our communities. And we wonder if we will experience this again? Well, perhaps there are signs of momentum.

More Gen Z and Millennials are seeking meaning. More are exploring church, some for the first time in their lives. They crave meaning... authentic relationships they can trust. These days, it's not always clear what is real. Young adults have infinite digital connections and experiences, but those relationships often feel inauthentic and hollow.

Young people seek depth in their experiences and relationships.

They are hoping for something more, hoping to experience real love from others. More Zoomers and Millennials are curious about God and worship, want to study the words and actions of Jesus, and are considering the possibility of experiencing the power of the Holy Spirit.

This is what they hope for. Hope is here!

During my sessions at our Momentum Spring Conference, we'll explore together the evidence of renewed interest among young adults in the organized church. And what we can do as members, congregations, and even new expressions of church to make our journey together in Faith more meaningful to young adults who are seeking.

I hope you sign up for the Spring Conference Retreat! Register here: <https://www.midlandsmc.org/>



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Online Education

Online Ministry & Priesthood Classes

Information and \$25 enrollment at graceland.edu/CIMM.

May 4 – June 28

- Introduction to Scripture – David Lloyd
- CYW Core Training

CIMM Sessions

Broadcast live and free on Zoom at 7:00pm most Wednesdays.

Register at graceland.edu/cimmsessions.

- April 1 – Nationalism as an Afront to the Christian Message – Matt Frizell
- April 8 – Emerging Role of the Temple – Joelle Wight
- April 15, 22, 29 – Reunion 2026 Adult Class #1, 2, 3

Chihowa Workday(s)

April 11 and April 13 – 17

Join us anytime to paint, plant trees, cut 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.

Films for a Cause: Gaza Is Our Home

2:30 pm Sunday, April 26

Intersect KC presents this documentary covering the first-hand suffering endured by a family trapped in the Gaza Strip. A panel discussion with director Monear Shaer follows until 5pm. A \$10 donation is suggested, and concessions will be available for purchase. The event is hosted by Independence Boulevard Christian Church at 606 Gladstone Ave, KCMO.

Please RSVP at bit.ly/GazaHome26.

CARAVAN: 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.

Experience Summer Camp!!

Youth Camps 2026

June 5–16	Caravan \$500
June 28–July 3	Junior/Middle School Camp \$335 (\$355 after 5/15)
July 12–19	Spectacular @ Graceland \$495 (\$595 after 6/30)
July 12–17	Camp MITIOG @ Doniphan
July 23–25	Youth Quest @ Olathe

Family Camps (Reunion)

Doniphan – Excelsior Springs, MO – June 18 to 22
Joint event with Central Missouri Mission Center
Guest Minister: Apostle Richard James

Chihowa – Perry, KS – July 5 to 10
Guest Minister: Tony & Charmaine Chvala-Smith
Director: Dawn & Greg Bassett



Family Camp Prices (Early Bird/Regular)

Age	Doniphan*	Chihowa
Adults (age 16+)	\$360	\$260
Youth (age 13-15)	\$320	\$170
Children (age 5-12)	\$320	\$125
Children (age 0-4)	FREE	\$25

*Price for main lodge, cabins and RVs are cheaper



Register NOW

- YOUTH: www.midlandsmc.org/camps Find camp & click "Register Here"
- FAMILY CAMP www.midlandsmc.org/family : Find your camp and choose "Pay" now (credit card) or "PAY LATER" (check, cash, credit)

Camperships are available: bit.ly/MMCcampership26. **Application forms must be submitted TWO WEEKS prior to the event.** If you have questions, please contact mcfoteam@midlandsmc.org