



Community of Christ

Bethel Congregation
Midlands Mission Center
Welcoming the online community
Kansas City, KS
April 12, 2026 10:30AM CDT

Living Hope

Presiding Elder Grace Troeh

Gathering Hymn "Earth and All Stars" CCS #102

Welcome and Announcements

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!*

***Opening Hymn** "Gather Your Children" CCS #77

***Invocation**

***Response**

Prayer for Peace

Creator God;
Help us cherish this, our home.
Help us remember that we must protect it,

For it is not our home only,
but home to all that you lovingly created to live here.
Teach us to look upon each person
And see each as kin, and precious.
Touch us with gentleness for those we do not agree with.
For all of us have made mistakes.
We ache for the troubles of our time.
Soothe our grief, strengthen our resolve, draw us close to you.
Help us Creator God, to hear your will for us
And to follow your ways of peace.
Amen

Message Priest Sandra Billings

Hymn "God Who Cares for All Creation" CCS #14

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

Our faithful response to God's call to care

Sending Forth Doctrine & Covenants 161:1-3 excerpts

***Closing Hymn** "Wind Upon the Waters" CCS #49

***Closing Prayer** Dawn Bassett

***Response**

***Congregation invited to stand**

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

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Announcements

- **Sunday 4/12** 9:45 am **Lectionary Disc.**--1 Peter 1:3-9
10:30 am *Living Hope*—Sandy Billings
- **Tuesday 4/14** 7:00 pm [Together Tuesday](#)
(zoom id 924 6108 0153)
- **Sunday 4/19** 9:45 am **Lectionary Disc.**--Luke 24:13-35
10:30 am *Living Invitation*—Jeff Cady
- CANCELLED – Mission Center Retreat 4/24-4/26
- **Our website, including weekly bulletin, web and zoom links bethel.forthrightsystems.com.**

Recordings

Earth and All Stars - CCS 102 - The Beyond the Walls Choir
<https://youtube.com/watch?v=G815-ETZ-i0>

Gather Your Children - CCS 77 - The Beyond the Walls Choir
(2021 Mix) <https://youtube.com/watch?v=DDpmDXGYxDs>

Wind upon the Waters - CCS 49 - The Beyond the Walls Choir
<https://youtube.com/watch?v=SUQ0Hha5cHo>

Lectionary

3-year cycle engaging significant portions of our Scripture.

This Week April 12 [Living Hope](#)

1 Peter 1:3-9 Acts 2:14a, 22-32

Psalm 16 John 20:19-31

Next Week April 19 [Living Invitation](#)

Luke 24:13-35 Acts 2:14a, 36-41

Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19 1 Peter 1:17-23



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