



Community of Christ

Bethel Congregation
Midlands Mission Center
Welcoming the online community
Kansas City, KS
April 19, 2026 10:30AM CDT

Living Invitation

Presiding **Priest Sandra Billings**

Gathering Hymn "Now Sing to the Lord" **CCS #108**

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship **Mosiah 8:66, 68-69**

...now I say unto you, that the time shall come that the salvation of the Lord shall be declared to every nation, kindred, tongue, and people....Break forth into joy, sing together, ...for the Lord hath comforted his people, ...and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

Song of Joy "Alleluia" **CCS #103, twice**

Responsive Reading

Leader: Christ is risen!

People: Christ is risen, indeed!

Leader: We give praise and honor to his holy name!

People: Praise be to Christ Jesus, our Risen Savior!

Leader: Alleluia!

People: Alleluia! Amen!

***Hymn** "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name" **CCS #105**

***Invocation**

***Response**

Prayer for Peace see insert

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

Psalm 116:12-13, 17-19

¹² What shall I return to the LORD for all his bounty to me? ¹³ I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the LORD;

¹⁷ I will offer to you a thanksgiving sacrifice and call on the name of the LORD. ¹⁸ I will pay my vows to the LORD in the presence of all his people, ¹⁹ in the courts of the house of the LORD, in your midst, O Jerusalem. Praise the LORD!

Generous financial stewardship begins with a desire to meet our obligations. We tithe. We give to God, who has given to us. It begins there but is not content to reside there. Generosity always wants to do more! It moves us from minimums to maximums, from law to life, from obligation to opportunity. Generosity happens when choice replaces obedience. The spirit of giving overrides the rule of giving. "Have to" becomes "want to" and each gift, small or large, is of equal measure when offered generously.

Hymn "We Are Companions on the Journey" **CCS #552**

Sermon **Elder Jeff Cady**

***Closing Hymn** "Take the Path of the Disciple" **CCS #558**

***Benediction**

***Sending Forth** **Doctrine and Covenants 157:17**

17 In all your efforts, therefore, continue to trust in my grace and respond in love to the leadings of my Spirit. If you will come before me in unity and love I will bless you with a great outpouring of compassion, both for one another and for the world into which you are sent. Amen.

***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 4/19** 9:45 am **Lectionary Disc**--Luke 24:13-35
10:30 am **Living Invitation**—Jeff Cady
- **Monday 4/20** 7:00 pm **Priesthood Meeting**
(zoom id 949 9683 2354)
- **Sunday 4/26** 9:45 am **Lectionary Disc**--John 10:1-10
10:30 am **Living Abundantly**--Grace Troeh
- CANCELLED – Mission Center Retreat 4/24-4/26
- **Our website, including weekly bulletin, web and zoom links bethel.forthrightsystems.com.**

Recordings

CCS 108 - Now Sing to Our God - Music && Text WITH VOICES https://youtube.com/watch?v=K_s9AMm3_m4

CCS 103 Alleluia <https://youtube.com/watch?v=5pw03EnBhCc>

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name! - CCS 105 - The Beyond the Walls Choir <https://youtube.com/watch?v=oMwdoqVX4SQ>

We Are Companions on the Journey - CCS 552 - The Beyond the Walls Choir <https://youtube.com/watch?v=fm7K9siabag>

Take the Path of the Disciple - CCS 558 - The Beyond the Walls Choir <https://youtube.com/watch?v=RXOFMidJ5Lg>

Lectionary

3-year cycle engaging significant portions of our Scripture.

This 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

Next Week April 26 Living Abundantly

John 10:1-10 Acts 2:42-47
Psalm 23 1 Peter 2:19-25

Prayer for Peace

Teach us, we pray, Peace-speaking God, the language of shalom. We have not yet learned your ancient, unfamiliar tongue. Our accent is that of the foreigner. Our gestures are awkward. Tongues tangle, throats hurt, and mouths tire of trying to shape many new sounds.

But we are willing to start at the beginning; learners asking for help; practicing again and again and once again until we hear your inflection in our voice, catch your nuance in new words from patient teachers of peace.

One day, slowly, haltingly may we hear in our voice the faint hint of music, the rhythmic beauty of the language of peace. May our words be with a gesture of hands and movement of feet. Letter by syllable by word may we speak the vision of your new world into being.

Help us say, “forgive me, please,” to our families. Teach us to pronounce “healing” in hospital rooms, to plead “reconcile” in our places of work, to proclaim “justice” when we call our government’s representatives. Then, in the dark of our weary nights, Lord, will you please whisper in us, “shalom”?

God, Eternal Word of peace, speak the language of shalom through us, stanza by stanza in the world, we pray, in Jesus’s name. 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/>



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