



# Community of Christ

Bethel Congregation  
Midlands Mission Center  
Welcoming the online community  
Kansas City, KS  
May 3, 2026 10:30AM CDT

## Living the Way

**Presiding**

**Priest Sandra Billings**

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Prayer for Peace**

Heavenly Father, cleanse our soul and renew our feelings of physical, intellectually, emotionally and Spiritually. Remove all doubt, fear, and sin, and fill us with Your Holy Spirit. Restore our faith, guide our steps, and strengthen our walk with You. Let Your love transform our heart, renew our mind, and revive our spiritual energy. We surrender completely to Your care, trusting Your wisdom and mercy. Help us live fully for You, Lord, embracing Your guidance and healing in every area of our life, in Jesus' name. Amen.

**\*Hymn** "Who Is This Jesus" **CCS #38**

**\*Invocation** **Jeff Cady**

**\*Response**

**Scripture Reading** **John 14:1-14**

**Hymn of Calling** "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus" **CCS #499**

**Sermon** **High Priest Stan Troeh**

**Spiritual Practice** [youtube.com/watch?v=Vq9J8qqrGag](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vq9J8qqrGag)

**Invitation to Communion**

All are welcome at Christ's table. The Lord's Supper, or Communion, is a sacrament in which we remember the life, death, resurrection, and continuing presence of Jesus Christ. In Community of Christ, we also experience Communion as an opportunity to renew our baptismal covenant and to be formed as disciples who live Christ's mission. Others might have different or added understandings within their faith traditions.

We invite all who participate in the Lord's Supper to do so in the love and peace of Jesus Christ.

**\*\*Blessing and Serving of the Bread & Wine** **Joyce & Sandy**

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

*...live in thanksgiving daily, for the many mercies and blessings which God grants you.*

**Pie Principles for Generosity** [youtube.com/watch?v=GT7C1SfDHug](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GT7C1SfDHug)

Lord, we are thankful for our many blessings. We have been given the gift of love, acceptance, and sharing in our lives. We confess there are times when we do not share the wealth you have freely given us with those who need it most. We know your voice is calling, yet we do not listen. Give us the courage and strength to hear you, and to find ways to share your love and peace with others. Help us give freely of our finances, time, or loving support. We come today with a willingness to serve and follow you, as you are the way, the truth, and the life. Amen.

**Mission Prayer**

**Unison reading**

God, where will your Spirit lead today?  
Help me be fully awake and ready to respond.  
Grant me courage to risk something new  
and become a blessing of your love and peace.  
Amen.

**\*Commitment Hymn** "Go, Make of All Disciples" **CCS #363**

**\*Sending Forth** **Doctrine and Covenants 163:1-2**

**\*Response**

**\*Congregation invited to stand**

**\*\*Congregation invited to kneel**

Bethel Community of Christ [bethel.forthrightsystems.com](https://www.bethel.forthrightsystems.com)

Pastor **Rob de Zwart**

Financial Officer **Jeff Cady**

Media Host **David Troeh**

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## Announcements

- **Sunday 5/3** 9:45 am Lectionary Disc--John 14:1-14  
10:30 am *Living the Way*—HP Stan Troeh  
Hybrid Communion Service
- **Sunday 5/10** 9:45 am Lectionary Disc: 1 Peter 3:13-22  
10:30 am *Living Anticipation*-Rob de Zwart
- **Our website, including weekly bulletin, web and zoom links:** [bethel.forthrightsystems.com](http://bethel.forthrightsystems.com)
- **Give through eTithing** (<https://www.cofchrist.org/give>)  
Optionally, search for Bethel, KS ([link](#))

## Recordings

CCS 38 - Who Is This Jesus - Music Lyrics and Voices

<https://youtube.com/watch?v=xcJl6uygeSQ>

Spiritual Practice Video

<https://youtube.com/watch?v=Vq9J8qqrGag>

Pie Principles for Generosity

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GT7C1SfDHug>

## Lectionary

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

**This Week May 3** [Living the Way](#)

**John 14:1-14** Acts 7:55-60

Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16 1 Peter 2:2-10

**Next Week May 10** [Living Anticipation](#)

**1 Peter 3:13-22** Acts 17:22-31

Psalm 66:8-20 John 14:15-21

## Scripture Reading

John 14:1-14

*1 “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. <sup>2</sup>In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? <sup>3</sup>And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. <sup>4</sup>And you know the way to the place where I am going.” <sup>5</sup>Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” <sup>6</sup>Jesus said to him, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. <sup>7</sup>If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”*

*8 Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” <sup>9</sup>Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? <sup>10</sup>Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. <sup>11</sup>Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, but if you do not, then believe because of the works themselves. <sup>12</sup>Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. <sup>13</sup>I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. <sup>14</sup>If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.*

## Sending Forth

Doctrine and Covenants 163:1-2

*1 “Community of Christ,” your name, given as a divine blessing, is your identity and calling. If you will discern and embrace its full meaning, you will not only discover your future, you will become a blessing to the whole creation. Do not be afraid to go where it beckons you to go.*

*2a. Jesus Christ, the embodiment of God’s shalom, invites all people to come and receive divine peace in the midst of the difficult questions and struggles of life. Follow Christ in the way that leads to God’s peace and discover the blessings of all of the dimensions of salvation.*

*2b. Generously share the invitation, ministries, and sacraments through which people can encounter the Living Christ who heals and reconciles through redemptive relationships in sacred community. The restoring of persons to healthy or righteous relationships with God, others, themselves, and the earth is at the heart of the purpose of your journey as a people of faith.*

### The Instrument of Love

Being at a different Midlands MC congregation each week has been outstanding! On Sunday, April 26, I worshipped with the Shawnee Drive Community of Christ.

**Worship** is so important, *including the time we all take to prepare to worship*. There were specific elements choreographed into the Shawnee Drive Sunday Worship that helped my mind open and warm my heart.

One by one, each person who played a part in the worship wove a thread of **Love** into the tapestry of the worship experience. A critical question asked during the worship was, *What is LOVE to you?* or *What comes to mind when you think of LOVE?*

Many responded to the question. I heard people inferring that Love meant **compassion**. Love means **supporting** others. Love implies **devotion**. Love means being **empathetic**. Love means **support**. Love brought about **acceptance**. Love creates **peace**.

While I didn't answer out loud, as I listened, it was clear that every perspective on Love shared was based on **sacrifice**.

And sacrifice *is* the character of Jesus.

Christlike Love is sacrifice. Sacrifice does not put a priority on individualism or being your most authentic self.

If we love like Jesus, it compels us to **put a priority on sacrificing for others**.

Our church's late Apostle Arthur Oakman once said, *"Sacrifice is the instrument of love; in fact, sacrifice is its only instrument. The only way love knows how to accomplish its purpose is to sacrifice itself, to give itself away.*

And so, my Midlands Sisters and Brothers, I ask that we challenge ourselves to be more relentless in our sacrifice for others. That we reflect the love of Jesus in all we are confronted with.

**Love God with all your heart, might, mind, and strength. And love others as you love yourself.**

Let sacrificial Love be our priority. The priority for ourselves, for our congregations, and for future new expressions of the Community of Christ.

Shalom, Shalom. Rob



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## Online Education

### Online Ministry & Priesthood Classes

Information and \$25 enrollment at [graceland.edu/CIMM](http://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/cimmssessions](http://graceland.edu/cimmssessions).

- May 6 – **Reunion 2026 Adult Class #4**
- May 13 – **Reunion 2026 Adult Class #5**

## World Church Facebook Group

We're excited to announce a new Facebook group hosted by the World Church Communications Team! Join to find event announcements, updates, and news from around the church. Platforms like Facebook and Instagram are now designed to reach people who don't follow us yet. This means our public pages are better for introducing Community of Christ to new people than for staying connected with those who already know us. The new Facebook group is where we'll connect directly with members, seekers, and friends. We encourage you to keep following and sharing from our public social media because every share helps more people find our message of Christ's peace. Join at [bit.ly/CofCFBGroup](https://bit.ly/CofCFBGroup).

## Youth Leader Check-In

**12 pm or 8 pm Friday, May 22**

Local congregational leaders and teachers, mission center youth leaders, and youth camp directors are encouraged to attend to hear updates, build community, and share encouragement before the busy camping season. The check-in will include more information about the new Camping Guide, updates to the Registered Child and Youth Worker training, and information about upcoming national and international youth events. Register here at [bit.ly/YLCheckInMay26](http://bit.ly/YLCheckInMay26).

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## Historic Sites Tour to Australia

**September 5 – 18**

Trace the footsteps of the early missionaries and hear stories about Australia's founding church members. Visit the beautiful Tiona reunion ground as well as famous sites such as the Sydney Opera House, the Great Barrier Reef, and so much more! Extend your travels with optional pre- and/or post-tours filled with church history, scenic views, fellowship, and delicious foods. Information at [bit.ly/CofCAustralia26](http://bit.ly/CofCAustralia26).

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## International Peace Forum

*Seeds of Peace: Environmental Justice and Action*

**October 16 – 18**

The event builds on the tradition of the International Peace Colloquy, offering worship, learning, and community engagement. All are welcome! Registration is now open! [cofchrist.org/peace-forum](http://cofchrist.org/peace-forum)

# Experience Summer Camp!!

## Youth Camps 2026

June 5–16 — Caravan \$500 **POSTPONED TO 2028**  
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  
Directors: 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](http://www.midlandsmc.org/camps) Find camp & click “Register Here”
- FAMILY CAMP [www.midlandsmc.org/family](http://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](http://bit.ly/MMCcampership26). **Application forms must be submitted TWO WEEKS prior to the event.** If you have questions, please contact [mcfoteam@midlandsmc.org](mailto:mcfoteam@midlandsmc.org).