



# Community of Christ

**Bethel Congregation**  
**Midlands Mission Center**  
Welcoming the online community  
Kansas City, KS  
May 17, 2026 10:30AM CDT

## Living Blessings

**Presiding** Elder Kristine Shipley

## Welcome and Announcements

**Gathering Hymn** “Gather Your Children” CCS #77

**Invitation to Worship** Psalm 47:1,6

*Clap your hands, all you peoples;  
shout to God with loud songs of joy.  
Sing praises to God, sing praises;  
sing praises to our King, sing praises.*

**\*Hymn** “I Love to Tell the Story” CCS #370

## \*Invocation

## \*Response

## Prayer for Peace

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy.

O, Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love; For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; it is in dying that we are born again to eternal life. Amen.

—attributed to Saint Francis of Assisi

**Children’s Moment** Joyce Shipley

**Hymn** “On the Journey to Emmaus” CCS #272

**Message** Elder Lynda Lyons

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

**\* Hymn** “Send Me Forth” CCS #651  
**\*Sending Forth** Luke 24:46-48  
*And he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.*

*Go and share your testimony.*

**\*Congregation invited to stand**

Bethel Community of Christ [bethel.forthrightsystems.com](https://bethel.forthrightsystems.com)  
Pastor Rob de Zwart  
Financial Officer Jeff Cady  
Media Host David Troeh  
Keyboards John Mueller

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## Announcements

- **Sunday 5/17** 9:45 am **Lectionary Disc:** Luke 24:44-53  
10:30 am *Living Blessing*—Lynda Lyons
- **Monday 5/18** 7:00 pm **Priesthood Mtg** (949 9683 2354)
- **Saturday 5/23** 10a-1pm **Open house graduation party for Jordan** (4043 N 123<sup>rd</sup> Ter)
- **Sunday 5/24** 9:45 am **Lectionary Disc:** Acts 2:1-21  
10:30 am *Amplify All Voices*—Kyle Joyce
- **Monday 5/25** **Memorial Day**
- **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

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

CCS 370 - I Love to Tell the Story - Music Lyrics Voices  
Video - Online Choir <https://youtube.com/watch?v=S7HjDON5ELs>

CCS 272 - On the Journey to Emmaus - Beyond the Walls  
Choir <https://youtube.com/watch?v=Uhjksh9C2rU>

Send Me Forth - CCS 651 - The Beyond the Walls Choir  
(2024) <https://youtube.com/watch?v=VJ3X8rf59AQ>

## Lectionary

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

**This Week May 17** **Living Blessing**

<b>Luke 24:44-53</b>	Acts 1:1-11
Psalm 47	Ephesians 1:15-23

**Next Week May 24** **Amplify All Voices** -- Pentecost

<b>Luke 24:44-53</b>	Acts 1:1-11
Psalm 47	Ephesians 1:15-23

### 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).