

## 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/cimmsessions](http://graceland.edu/cimmsessions).

- **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).