



Community of Christ

Bethel Congregation
Midlands Mission Center
Welcoming the online community
Kansas City, KS
June 21, 2026 10:30AM CDT

Grow in Grace

Presiding

Teacher Ylva Hup

Announcements

Father's Day

Dads are the rock that holds us strong,
A compass to guide us all along.
The foundation of our lives they create,
A stronghold of love that's never late.
With strength and support, they stand by our side,
A beacon of hope that never hides.
Dads are the world we live in each day,
And their love is what lights the way.

The Community Welcomes and Shares Joys & Concerns

Call to Worship *A Prayer of David* **Psalm 86:1-3, NRSVue**

*I Incline your ear, O LORD, and answer me,
for I am poor and needy.*

*²Preserve my life, for I am devoted to you;
save your servant who trusts in you.*

*You are my God; ³be gracious to me, O Lord,
for to you do I cry all day long.*

***Hymn of Community** "Teach Me, God, to Wonder" **CCS #176**

***Invocation** **Jonathan Gray**

***Response**

Prayer for Peace

Susan Boer

Focus Moment

Grace Troeh

Community Hymn "We Are Companions on a Journey" **CCS #552**

Spoken Word

Elder Rob de Zwart

Hymn of Generosity "Into My Heart"

CCS #573

Disciples' Generous Response

<https://bit.ly/BethelGifts>

The focus lectionary scripture from Romans describes baptism and the newness of life that occurs with following Jesus. While the scripture appears to be an individual focus, it is also a call to community. In our offering, we give as individuals, but our giving provides for ministry that builds the community. The Amish community often comes together in times of planting, harvesting, blessings, and tragedy. This expression of giving is often manifest when one family has a particular need and comes together to provide an opportunity for new life amid what would otherwise be chaos.

***Closing Hymn** "The Summons"

CCS #586

***Closing Prayer**

Ylva Hup

***Responsive Reading**

Leader: God is the Great Weaver of Life.

People: Jesus is our hope.

Leader: The Holy Spirit moves among us.

Postlude

***Congregation invited to stand**

Bethel Community of Christ

bethel.forthrightsystems.com

Pastor

Rob de Zwart

Financial Officer

Jeff Cady

Media Host

David Troeh

Keyboards

John Mueller

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Announcements

- **Sunday 6/21** 9:45 am **Lectionary Disc:** Romans 6:1b-11
10:30 am *Grow in Grace*—Rob de Zwart
- **Tuesday 6/23** cancelled ~~Together Tuesday~~
- **Sunday 6/28** 9:45 am **Lectionary Disc:** Romans 6:12-23
10:30 am *Grow in Grace*—Kyle Joyce
- **Our website, including weekly bulletin, web and zoom links:** bethel.forthrightsystems.com
- **Give through eTithing** (<https://www.cofchrist.org/give>)
Optionally, search for Bethel, KS (or use [link](#))

Recordings

CCS 176 Teach Me God To Wonder

<https://youtube.com/watch?v=xITMpqrtZ7I>

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

CCS 573 Into My Heart (2nd 2026)

<https://youtube.com/watch?v=V9eawL7mIHY>

The Summons - CCS 586 - The Beyond the Walls Choir

<https://youtube.com/watch?v=7xk2HIXZCJk>

Lectionary

3-year cycle engaging significant portions of our Scripture.

This Week Jun 21 [Grow in Grace](#)

Romans 6:1b-11 Genesis 21:8-21
Psalm 86:1-10, 16-17 Matthew 10:24-39

Next Week Jun 28 [Grow in Christ](#)

Romans 6:12-23 Genesis 22:1-14
Psalm 13 Matthew 10:40-42

Prayer for Peace

God of mountains, meadows, moments, and mystery,
We set aside this time to focus on the pursuit of
peace,
a peace that at times seems close, but at other times
seems so far away.

During this time, we are challenged to find newness in
life.

This newness seems unfathomable in a world where
issues separate us;
issues of race, borders, politics, climate abuse, and
economic disparity.

And still other matters of religion, doctrine, and
differences in rural and urban communities. Please help
us to be mindful of and celebrate our differences.

Just as we have been provided with an illustration of
new life and growth,

help us to provide rich soil in which our communities
can grow.

Help us to provide water for the thirsty ones.

Help us provide examples of your Son for a world
which seems so dark.

Help us to be pursuers of peace—

as we plant seeds of peace;

as we listen among the dissonance;

as we cultivate your vineyard.

Loving God, help us to be aware of the other.

It is in knowing the other that we listen and build
peace together. Amen.



Online Ministry & Priesthood Classes *Center for Innovation in Ministry and Mission (CIMM)*

To enroll or for more information on these classes and the certificate programs, visit graceland.edu/CIMM. Cost is \$25 unless noted.

June 29 – August 23

- **Ministry of High Priest** – Jennifer Killpack
 - **Ministry of Evangelist** – Marava Arnaud & Kris Judd
- CYW Core Training** (continued from May 4)

CIMM Sessions are on summer break and fall schedules are coming soon!



SAVE THE DATE

What: Midlands Mission Center Fall Conference

When: Sunday, November 1, 2026

Where: Topeka Community of Christ

More details will be coming!





Midlands Mission Center

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

Book Recommendation

The Presiding Bishopric is promoting a new book to support both congregational life and family ministry. The Generosi-Whatzit Book invites us to shift the conversation from "What do I want?" to "How can I help?"—a question that can shape both discipleship and community life. It is an interactive guide to help families and congregations explore generosity as a way of life through simple, meaningful activities.

While designed for families, the resource also works well in Sunday school, small groups, youth settings, and intergenerational gatherings. Each section includes scripture, a guided activity, and reflection questions to support connection and conversation. The Generosi-Whatzit Book is available through Herald House at bit.ly/HHGenerosity and will be coming soon to Amazon.

welcome! Registration is now open! 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

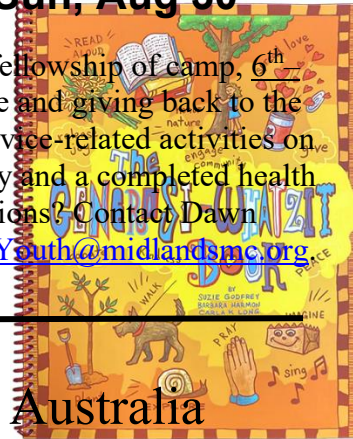


Twist Weekend @ Topeka

Teens Working In Service Together

7pm Fri, Aug 28 – 12pm Sun, Aug 30

At TWIST, amongst all the FREE fun and fellowship of camp, 6th-12th grade campers learn the value of service and giving back to the community while participating in various service-related activities on Saturday. Please bring an insurance card copy and a completed health form found on the MMC website. Questions? Contact Dawn 816.718.8307 or Greg 816.210.4943 MMC_Youth@midlandsmc.org



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.

International Peace Forum

Seeds of Peace: Environmental Justice and Action

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 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.

What are we inviting people to...ideological movements that are already pervasive in their lives? Or experiences that are nothing like the rest of their lives?

Shalom, shalom

Rob

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02-13-2015

THANK YOU FOR CALLING IN SICK, MRS. EDWARDS, BUT IT IS REALLY NOT NECESSARY



02-06-2015

SIRI ... SAY GRACE

from the desk of
Rob Heverling

My words are inspired by last Sunday's worship experience at the Highlands where the choreography of the singing, and prayers and different kinds of spoken messages refocused and elevated the command of Jesus to his disciples, "*Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.*"

Towards the end of my 33-year career in the broadcast news business, my company, E.W. Scripps, interviewed thousands of news consumers in cities across the United States to determine why our audiences were shrinking and why so many people were moving away from our local news platforms. To be interviewed, a person had to spend a minimum of one hour a day consuming news: TV News (watching or consuming online), reading a newspaper, listening to news radio, reading a news magazine, etc.

Some of the common themes that emerged from interviewing these hardcore news consumers:

- Local news had lost its way. No longer prioritizing remarkable, unbiased, in-depth journalism.
- We had become too political: serious news consumers valued strong journalism, balance in reporting with multiple points of view.
- Our stories were too short; they wanted long-form, in-depth reporting and more investigative content, holding the powerful accountable.
- We were too trivial, too silly at times, and put too much effort into entertaining our audience.
- Basically, hardcore news consumers claimed they didn't consume our content as much anymore because our **mission**

no longer stood out, we were trying too hard to appeal to a very broad audience, and we had 'lost our salt'.

I have seen some parallels in the mission of the church, not just Community of Christ, but many churches. Sometimes I think *ideology has been elevated above theology*, elevated above the gospel.

As a news director, after that huge news consumer research project, I became much more focused on our core mission of producing remarkable journalism. We stopped doing a lot of what we thought would appeal to a large younger audience. We reinvested in our priority mission of journalism. And after a few years, our news costuming audience had grown. More serious news consumers *of all ages* were consuming my TV station's news content.

This way of thinking is influencing how I lead in Community of Christ.

For example, even in our intensely polarized society, my political ideology is not the top priority in my Faith journey.

Leaning into the Gospel of Christ and trying (and failing) to live out the Sermon on the Mount has to be my priority.

I will not allow a political point of view to dominate my persona.

In Acts 1, even though the disciples had been exposed to all of Jesus' teachings, just before He ascended, it's apparent their tunnel vision remains when they press Him **for an earthly, political kingdom.**

6 ... "Lord, are you at this time [finally!] going to restore the kingdom to Israel?"

But for all intents and purposes, Jesus responds to their priority and says his priority for them is to preach the gospel, convert people, and grow the number of disciples in the world. He is more explicit in Matthew about this Great Commission.

The early church was up against an even more hostile and polarized culture than what we currently experience in the United States. But Christianity and the gospel message were brand new then. Perhaps after more than a couple of thousand years and a comparatively pretty easy life, that message no longer enralls us. Perhaps for the Community of Christ, evangelism has been swept aside in our own politically charged culture with more relevant, more passionate, dare I say more meaningful priorities.

Don't misunderstand me. I support social justice. I am looking forward to working our booth at the 2026 KC PrideFest, reinforcing our Welcoming and Inclusive mission. With enthusiasm, I will attend the church's 2026 Peace Forum, which focuses on critical environmental issues affecting our planet. I uplift our Central Avenue of Hope, confronting poverty in our community every day. But I am mindful that many organizations share these priorities. Be mindful not to dilute the church's core mission.

My top priority is sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ and showing others how leaning into the Gospel, learning the ways of the Holy Spirit, even in our suffering, is the most sustaining force there is.

Social justice is important, but I caution elevating it to the top of our Faith movement where we are united in a gospel translated into social policy.