



# Community of Christ

**Bethel Congregation**  
**Midlands Mission Center**  
**Welcoming the online community**  
Kansas City, KS  
July 26, 2026 10:30AM CDT

## **Come as You Are**

**Presiding**

**Elder Jeff Cady**

**Announcements**

**Hymn** “Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart” **CCS #48**

**Welcome**

**Tell Me a Story BJ/Country Gardens**

**Call to Worship** (Light the candle of PEACE)

*Charge: How can we—as one small group—be fully open to the wonder of a new creation within our gathering?*

**Congregation: May we see God creating a living wholeness vibrant with Joy, energized with discussions of hope and new visions.**

*Charge: May we be open to learning through disagreements, open to seeing fresh possibilities. Let us sense the blessings that come from birthing new directions.*

**Congregation: May our fears transform into hard work of building, letting our hearts move our hands to embrace diversity and plans that free our dreams into reality.**

**\*Opening Hymn** “Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love” **CCS #367**

**\*Prayer of Invitation** **Fred Troeh**

**\*Response**

**Moment of Silent Meditation**

*I came as I was, but I learned a lesson. It changed me forever.*

**Hymn** “Come Now, You Hungry” **CCS #227**

**Spoken Word** **Seventy Kyle Joyce**

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

Psalms 105:1-4

*1 Oh give thanks unto Jehovah, call upon his name; Make known among the peoples his doings. 2 Sing unto him, sing praises unto him; Talk ye of all his marvelous works. 3 Glory ye in his holy name: Let the heart of them rejoice that seek Jehovah. 4 Seek ye Jehovah and his strength; Seek his face evermore.*

**\*Closing Hymn** “All Are Called”

**CCS #606**

**\*Benediction/Prayer for Peace**

**Kris Cady**

**\*Sending Forth**

**Doctrine and Covenants 163:11a**

*May we answer the call to be that community and offer the ministry of Jesus Christ to our friends and our neighbors, to the poor and the homeless, to the immigrant and the refugee. We are commissioned to serve. GO IN PEACE!*

**\*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

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## Announcements

- **Sunday 7/26** 9:45 am **Lectionary Disc:** Romans 8:26-39  
10:30 am *Come as You Are*—Kyle Joyce
- **Sunday 8/2** 9:45 am **Lectionary Disc:** Gen 32:22-31  
10:30 am *Wrestling with God*—Stan Troeh
- **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 (or use [link](#))

## Recordings

CCS 367 Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us With Your Love

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eeAydX3zTDY>

Come Now, You Hungry - CCS 227 - The Beyond the Walls Choir

[https://youtube.com/watch?v=B4nAWuTbp\\_s](https://youtube.com/watch?v=B4nAWuTbp_s)

All Are Called - CCS 606 - The Beyond the Walls Choir

<https://youtube.com/watch?v=-aD7ek3MInE>

## Lectionary

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

**This Week Jul 26** [Come as You Are](#)

**Romans 8:26-39**

Genesis 29:15-28

Psalms 105:1-11, 45b

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

**Next Week Aug 2** [Wrestling with God \(Sacred Tensions\)](#)

**Genesis 32:22-31**

Psalms 17:1-7, 15

Romans 9:1-5

Matthew 14:13-21

## **Benedictory Prayer for Peace**

God of our struggles, our hearts are heavy for the children who go without food every day. We hear the deafening silence of those voices who yearn to be heard and relieved of their suffering. We also hear the cries for peace and justice as all creation groans with the heaviness of greed and careless consumption of valuable resources. We long for peace...your peace.

*God of Understanding*, we grieve because we cannot meet everyone's need or resolve every injustice in our world. We weep for those who have lost their way, and hold close the ones who are starving for knowledge of your love and grace.

God of Compassion, today we feel the warm embrace of your Spirit as we let down our walls of doubt, pride, and guilt. As we become more attentive to the gentleness of the touch of divine grace through your Spirit, we seek sacramental vision so that we will see others with new insight as was taught by your son, Jesus, the peaceful One. May we come to know your loving nature and remember that you are a God of miracles and the warm center of our being. When we choose to live according to your Spirit, our eyes and our ears will become attuned to the sacredness in our sisters and brothers. The spaciousness within your welcome continues to expand and gives hope for the unfolding future.

O Searcher of our Hearts, may we come to realize that the sacredness that dwells within the very nature of who you are, also dwells within each of us and gives us life within you. May we go into the world this day and be the very breath of your peace.

We pray this in the name of your son Jesus, the peaceful One, Amen.

—Cheryl Saur, Used with permission

# Take Note

## 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](http://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

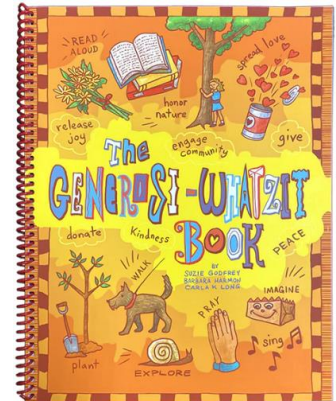
What: Midlands Mission Center Fall Conference  
When: Sunday, November 1, 2026  
Where: Topeka Community of Christ  
*More details will be coming!*



## 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](http://bit.ly/HHGenerosity) and will be coming soon to Amazon.



## 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](http://bit.ly/CofCFBGroup).

## 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, 6<sup>th</sup>–12<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:MMC_Youth@midlandsmc.org).

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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 <del>POSTPONED TO 2028</del>         |
| 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 [mcfofteam@midlandsmc.org](mailto:mcfofteam@midlandsmc.org).



# from the desk of Rob Heverling

Become a Blessing.

Getting out of the shallows of the Mission Prayer.

That's what happened to us during the Midlands/Central MO Family Camp this past week.

The Mission Prayer may seem like a simple four lines, but as we relentlessly probed this Community of Christ petition, multiple dimensions were revealed.

We found ourselves *in the deep*.

Our priorities recalibrated.

Now, many of us will prepare for the Chihowa Family Camp starting on July 5<sup>th</sup>. Same song, 2<sup>nd</sup> verse... getting out of the shallows of the Mission Prayer.

I hope many of you can join us at the coming Chihowa Family Camp, even if you can't do the whole thing. I hope you can join us for a few days.

As we prepare for the Chihowa Family Camp and surrendering to the Holy Spirit through the Mission Prayer, I am reminded of this account in Brennan Manning's book, The Signature of Jesus. It reads like this...

*Brother Dominique Voillaume, a Franciscan monk, died in Paris in 1970. His body was found in his little apartment. He died of a heart attack. Although those who knew him called it a heart surrender...because he had been giving pieces of his heart away for many years.*

*There was one final entry into his journal.*

*The words have become a model for my life. What to aspire to...  
The journal entry reads...*

*"All that is not the Love of God has no meaning to me. I can truthfully say I have no interest in anything but the love of God, which is in Jesus Christ.*

*If God wants it to, my life will be useful through my word and witness.  
If God wants it to, my life will bear fruit through my prayers and sacrifices.*

*But the usefulness of my life is God's concern, not mine.*

*It would be indecent of me to worry about that."*

Shalom, Shalom, Rob

