



Community of Christ

Bethel Congregation
Midlands Mission Center
Welcoming the online community
Kansas City, KS
August 2, 2026 10:30AM CDT

Wrestling with God (Sacred Tensions)

Presiding Elder Kristine Shipley

Announcements

Welcome

Invitation to Worship Psalm 17:1-6 New Living Translation

O LORD, hear my plea for justice. Listen to my cry for help.

Pay attention to my prayer, for it comes from honest lips.

Declare me innocent, or you see those who do right.

You have tested my thoughts and examined my heart in the night.

You have scrutinized me and found nothing wrong. I am

determined not to sin in what I say.

*I have followed your commands, which keep me from following
cruel and evil people.*

*My steps have stayed on your path; I have not wavered from
following you.*

*I am praying to you because I know you will answer, O God. Bend
down and listen as I pray.*

Hymn "Gather Us In" CCS #72

Prayer for Peace

God of Grace and Compassion,

As we come to you, we ask to be comforted. We pray that the time is at hand, or not far distant, when we will no longer be influenced by the things of this world that oppress or divide. Our struggles to this end have not been as effective as we would hope, yet we trust there remains a worthwhile struggle to be made—one that by your grace, by your guiding wisdom, will bring about the peace for which we long.

Therefore, we lift our heads, and rejoice, and put our trust in you, God—the God of Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob; the God of peace. Amen.

Hymn "Teach Me, God, to Wonder" CCS #176

Communion Message High Priest Stan Troeh

Hymn "Let Us Break Bread Together" CCS #521

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 may 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 and Wine

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

***Hymn** "Called by Christ to Love Each Other" CCS #577

*Benediction

***Congregation invited to stand**

****Congregation invited to kneel**

Bethel Community of Christ bethel.forthrightsystems.com

Pastor Rob de Zwart

Financial Officer Jeff Cady

Media Host David Troeh

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Announcements

- **Sunday 8/2** **9:45 am Lectionary Disc:** Gen 32:22-31
 10:30 am *Wrestling with God*—Stan Troeh
- **Tuesday 8/4** **KS/MO Primary Election Day**
 7:00 pm [Together Tuesday](#) (924 6108 0153)
- **Sunday 8/9** **9:45 am Lectionary Disc:** Gen 37:1-4,12-28
 10:30 am *When Relationships Are Tough*
 Elder Rob de Zwart speaking
- **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

Gather Us In - CCS 72 - The Beyond the Walls Choir

<https://youtube.com/watch?v=oqtnJmpvw9M>

CCS 176 Teach Me God To Wonder

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

Let Us Break Bread Together - CCS 521 - The Beyond the Walls Choir <https://youtube.com/watch?v=i8ZaHH8qbqQ>

Called by Christ to Love Each Other - CCS 577 - The Beyond the Walls Choir <https://youtube.com/watch?v=79UWmgYlsfw>

Lectionary

3-year cycle engaging significant portions of our Scripture.

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

Genesis 32:22-31	Psalm 17:1-7, 15
Romans 9:1-5	Matthew 14:13-21

Next Week Aug 9 [When Relationships Are Tough](#)

Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28	Psalm 105: 1-6, 16-22, 45b
Romans 10:5-15	Matthew 14:22-33

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. Cost is \$25 unless noted.

August 24 – October 18

- **Ministry of High Priest** – Jennifer Killpack
- **Ministry of Evangelist** – Marava Arnaud & Kris Judd
- **Intro to Priesthood Ministry** – Diane Maupin
- **Ministry of Priest** – Dr. Geri Norman
- **Ministry of Elder** – Apostle Kat Hnatyshyn
- (Christian Ministries Certificate) **Ministries of the Church** - Dr. Linda Stanbridge - \$100
- **Discernment Facilitators Training Class #1** – Katie Harmon McLaughlin - \$50



THANK YOU for another wonderful summer camp season!!

To donate toward the cost of camp or reunion, write a check to *Midlands Mission Center* with the appropriate camp in the memo line and mail it to the MMC office at 7615 N Platte Purchase Dr, Kansas City, MO 64118. You can use this link to donate specifically to the Chihowa Reunion: bit.ly/ChihowaReunion26.



7615 Platte Purchase Dr, Suite 116
Kansas City, MO 64118

presidentteam@midlandsmc.org
www.midlandsmc.org

CHIHOWA FAITHFUL 50

Did you know you can donate to our campgrounds through eTithing?

1. Go to www.cofchrist.org/give
2. Scroll down and click the USA map
3. Click "Online through Kindred" and select "Give Now"
4. Fill out the information as a one-time or recurring gift
5. Under "My Home Congregation" select Midlands Mission Center
6. Under "Sub Fund" select a campground

Chihowa is looking for a Faithful 50 to offer sustained financial support. Join the group by pledging \$50 each month. This contribution can be submitted through the directions for Kindred above, mailed to the MMC office with *Chihowa Faithful 50* in the memo line, or placed in your congregation's offering plate with the envelope marked appropriately. *We are grateful for your generosity that ensures the grounds can continue to provide a home for ministry well into the future.*

SAVE THE DATE

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



Purveyors of Awe @ The Temple

Spiritual Leaders and the Science and Practice of Awe

9 am – 4 pm Saturday, August 22

The science of awe has seen a surge in the last decade, highlighting its benefits of emotional regulation, greater feelings of connection, and inspiration to self-giving, among others. Dr. Marcia McFee, PhD., will guide us in learning about cutting edge scientific research, connecting it to the spiritual wisdom from various voices. More information and registration with a sliding-scale fee can be found at <https://www.centerforlivingwater.org/purveyors-of-awe>.

Twist Weekend @ Topeka

Teens Working In Service Together

7pm Fri, Aug 28 – 12pm Sun, Aug 30

Campers grades 6th–12th grade 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.

EMERGE Online Youth Gathering

6pm Sun, August 30

All youth ages 14–18 are invited to join this Zoom gathering to connect, make new friends, and share life together with others across the church. Everyone is welcome, and we'd love to see you there! Zoom link: bit.ly/EmergeNov2025

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

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

YAM: Young Adult Ministries

6 pm Sundays

These weekly Zoom gatherings are different each week but follow a rotation of various avenues of spiritual exploration:

- 1st Sun – spiritual experiences and devotional practices
- 2nd Sun - Disarming Scripture, how CofC engages scripture for mission
- 3rd Sun – Spirit and Sound, how music shapes our spirituality and faith
- 4th Sun – Sacredness of Creating, gather, share crafts and hobbies
- 5th Sun – Practice Sabbath, a day of rest

For more information, contact Mikki Phillippe at mphilippe@cofchrist.org.

from the desk of Rob Heverling

Nothing Like the Rest of Their Lives

I'm slowly restoring my energy levels from my week at Spectacular. But it's a good, tired feeling. I was there as part of our Spec Delegation Staff. My first time at Spec in more than 40 years.

Getting to know the young people from Midlands and Far West Mission Center was a meaningful experience. Learning how to say MidFarWestLands took a day or two.

"Nice to meet you, Rob. What delegation are you from?" I reply,
"Err... Ahh... Far Mid... no... Lands Far away... no... Mid...Far...West Lands... Yes, MidFarWestLands!"

Our delegation had remarkable young people and a remarkable staff.

On Thursday evening, the Spec Worship Team choreographed a Communion Service. Our Jessica Pycior was part of the Worship team, and the way she worked with and inspired the young people revealed how her gifts helped shape all the unique Spec worship experiences.

But the Communion Worship was extra special. I felt the Holy Spirit approaching... rising... flowing... into our gathering of 800+ people, mostly teenagers. As I offered the Lord's Supper, I was allowed to see each young person I served as though I were looking at each one through the eyes of Jesus. It was a powerful Sacrament experience.

Every night we gathered with the campers in our dorms and shared a devotion before 'lights out'.

During devotions, we talked about the Highs and Lows of the day. Most nights the highs were about winning a game of volleyball, basketball, pickleball, etc.

But on the Thursday night after the Sacrament of Communion, it was significant when many of the young men in devotions said, "My High today was the worship service."

As I listened to them, I couldn't help but think about the words my son, Hayden, said to me three years ago when he was 30 years old: "Dad, I need my worship experience to be nothing like the rest of my life."

What the teenage boys in the MidFarWestLands delegation experienced on that Thursday night was *nothing like the rest of their lives*.

It captured their attention. I thank God for the opportunity to share that sacrament service with those young people. I pray that, as adults, our vision will be activated by God, and we will risk something new so that our young people will be confronted by the presence of the Living God again... and again... and again. That their journey with God becomes so profoundly meaningful in their lives, and they come to realize that these experiences, which are nothing like the rest of their lives, happen relentlessly in our Spirit-filled worship experiences of the Community of Christ.

Shalom, Shalom,

Rob