



Community of Christ

Bethel Congregation
Midlands Mission Center
Welcoming the online community
Kansas City, KS
August 9, 2026 10:30AM CDT

When Relationships Are Tough

Presiding **Seventy Kyle Joyce**

Hymn of Praise “As the Wind Song through the Trees” **CCS #42**

Announcements

Welcome

As we gather, let us pause a moment to breathe in this space. Notice what is before you, behind you, and around you. Feel the ground below you. Take a deep breath in and slowly let it out. We are so grateful for each soul present. God is here. Let us be aware of God’s movement in our worship together.

Call to Worship **Psalms 105:1-3,5 NRSVue adapted**

Leader O give thanks to the Lord, make God’s deeds known among the peoples.

People **Sing praises to the Lord; tell of God’s wonderful works.**

Leader Remember the wonderful works of our God, the miracles and the judgments spoken,

People **Glory in God’s holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.**

All **Praise the Lord!**

***Hymn** “Come and Bring Light” **CCS #287**

*Invocation

Prayer for Peace

God of Peace and Justice,

We pray today for those who have known injustice, and for those who have experienced deep betrayal due to greed, jealousy, or hatred. Theirs is a deep pain that begins to heal through the reconciling power of your Spirit. Allow your Presence to be

evident for those hurting and feeling alone. Grant courage to those who are witnesses of reason, who serve with hands of friendship. Open our eyes to understand more responsible choices. Let us soften our hearts to seek compassion and reconciliation. We pray for healing and wholeness for all of creation. In the name of the One who taught of justice, reconciliation, healing, and wholeness — Jesus. Amen.

Hymn “Listen in the Silence” **CCS #153**

- What changes would be beneficial in your relationship with God?
- How can you find, or make, time to remember God throughout the day?
- What Christ-like attitude do you choose to work on daily, and how?

Message **Elder Rob de Zwart**

Hymn “The Summons” **CCS #586**

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

Holy God, thank you for sending your Spirit, the Spirit of the risen Christ, from heaven. Help us to be like the early disciples, praying patiently as we wait for your guidance and power. Fill our hearts and minds with your gifts of faith, hope, and love. May our conversations with people of every language and culture around us witness to your grace and mercy. We dedicate ourselves and our offerings to your good purposes in the world through our church’s mission by the power of your Spirit. We pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.

***Hymn** “For Everyone Born” alt. verse 4 **CCS #285**

*Benediction

***Sending Forth** **Doctrine and Covenants 154:7b**

Support one another in love, confident that my Spirit will be with you even as I have gone before you and shown you the way.

***Congregation invited to stand**

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 8/9** **9:45 am** **Lectionary Disc:** Gen 37:1-4,12-28
 10:30 am *When Relationships Are Tough*
 Elder Rob de Zwart speaking
- **Thursday 8/13** **2:00 pm** **Women's meeting** at Lynda's
- **Sunday 8/16** **9:45 am** **Lectionary Disc:** Gen 45:1-15
 10:30 am *Overcome Vengeance with Love*
 Elder Grace Troeh 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

As the Wind Song through the Trees - CCS 42 - The Beyond the Walls Choir <https://youtube.com/watch?v=dXcn6brw7dg>

Come and Bring Light (SATB) - CCS 287 - The Beyond the Walls Choir <https://youtube.com/watch?v=kY298STbVbk>

Listen in the Silence - CCS 153 - The Beyond the Walls Choir <https://youtube.com/watch?v=5UGWjGGxj2U>

The Summons - CCS 586 - The Beyond the Walls Choir <https://youtube.com/watch?v=7xk2HlXZCJk>

For Everyone Born - CCS 285 - The Beyond the Walls Choir (2024) <https://youtube.com/watch?v=cdOvOXEiss0>

Lectionary

3-year cycle engaging significant portions of our Scripture.

This 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

Next Week Aug 16 **Overcome Vengeance with Love**

Genesis 45:1-15	Psalm 133
Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32	Matthew 15: (10-20), 21-28

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

Midlands Mission Center

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