



Community of Christ

Bethel Congregation
Midlands Mission Center
Welcoming the online community
Kansas City, KS
August 23, 2026 10:30AM CDT

Practice Creative Resistance

Presiding Elder Grace Troeh

Gathering Hymn "Draw the Circle Wide" CCS #273

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship Psalm 24:2-8 NRSVue

² if it had not been the LORD who was on our side,
when our enemies attacked us,

³ then they would have swallowed us up alive,
when their anger was kindled against us;

⁴ then the flood would have swept us away,
the torrent would have gone over us;

⁵ then over us would have gone
the raging waters.

⁶ Blessed be the LORD,
who has not given us
as prey to their teeth.

⁷ We have escaped like a bird
from the snare of the fowlers;
the snare is broken,
and we have escaped.

⁸ Our help is in the name of the LORD,
who made heaven and earth.

*Opening Hymn "God of the Ages" CCS #7

*Invocation

Focus Moment Kaylee Baggerly

Prayer for Peace David Troeh

Reader: "Hear, O my people, I am Jesus Christ of whom you have
sung and testified and in whose name you pray."

People: Lord, we hear you.

Reader: "I am the spirit of love and peace which is in the world
and yet not known by the world."

People: We know your love for us, and your love for all people

Reader: Your call is to live your lives as an expression the love I
have given you and embody my peace to all those your
lives touch. So many need my peace, many whom only you
may be able to reach.

People: We will try to live your love and peace, we will try to
discern those who need your peace, but sometimes it is
difficult.

Reader: I will be with you always. Listen for my presence and I
will guide you and teach you my peace. I will give you my
love to share.

People: We will carry your love and peace to the people our lives
touch.

All: Amen

Message Seventy Kyle Joyce

Generosity Hymn "From You I Receive" CCS #611

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

*Closing Hymn "In Christ We Live" CCS #326

*Closing Prayer Doctrine and Covenants 161:7

⁷ The Spirit of the One you follow is the spirit of love and peace.
That Spirit seeks to abide in the hearts of those who would
embrace its call and live its message. The path will not always be
easy, the choices will not always be clear, but the cause is sure and
the Spirit will bear witness to the truth, and those who live the
truth will know the hope and the joy of discipleship in the
community of Christ. Amen.

*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 8/23** **9:45 am** **Lectionary Disc:** Exodus 1:8—2:10
10:30 am *Practice Creative Resistance*
Seventy Kyle Joyce speaking
- **Wed. 8/26** **5–7 pm** **Game night**
- **Sunday 8/30** **9:45 am** **Lectionary Disc:** Exodus 3:1-15
10:30 am *Encounter God's Solidarity*
Elder Jeff Cady speaking
Potluck following service
- **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

Draw the Circle Wide - CCS 273 - The Beyond the Walls Choir
(2022) <https://youtube.com/watch?v=ZZfDGTf8QE>

From You I Receive • CCS 611
<https://youtube.com/watch?v=MNiIWlt513w>

Lectionary

3-year cycle engaging significant portions of our Scripture.

This Week Aug 23 **Practice Creative Resistance**

Exodus 1:8—2:10	Psalm 124
Romans 12:1-8	Matthew 16:13-20

Next Week Aug 30 **What Do We Owe Each Other?**

Exodus 3:1-15	Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b
Romans 12:9-21	Matthew 16:21-28

Generosity Story

The rains came like thunder — angry, unrelenting, and uninvited.

In Paynesville, Liberia, more than 10 homes belonging to members of New Hope Congregation were destroyed in a single night. Walls collapsed, roofs were torn away, and families lost nearly everything.

But the church did not close its doors.

Pastor G.A. Anderson, upon hearing what had happened, instructed that the church building be opened as a shelter. That night, pews became beds. The altar where prayers had been offered now echoed with the breathing of sleeping children and the prayers of weary parents.

For weeks, the church became more than a place of worship. It became home.

And then something extraordinary happened.

During worship one Sunday, a woman named Mother Jamamma stood and said, “I have nothing... but I’ll give 2,000 Liberian dollars to begin the reconstruction.” It was only about \$10 USD, but it was everything she could give.

Her gift opened something in the congregation. Teenagers offered what little money they had. A shoemaker gave all he had earned that week. Children gave up their lunches to feed the workers. A market woman sold cloth to buy roofing materials. Men, women, and youth volunteered their time to rebuild.

Within two months, all 10 homes had been rebuilt — not with wealth, but with love, prayer, unity, and generosity. When people asked Pastor Anderson how it happened, he simply said, “We gave what we didn’t have... and God gave us more than we needed.”

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