Community of Christ

Bethel Congregation
Midlands Mission Center
Welcoming the online community
Kansas City, KS
November 15, 2026 10:30AM CDT

Invest in God's Future

Presiding **Teacher Ylva Hup**

Announcements

Welcome, Caring and Sharing

Prayer of Intercession

Ever-present God, we bring before you our concerns for our brothers and sisters within the sacred community called Earth. We have received your grace and pray for those who have expressed their needs today and for those needs unknown to us that remain on the hearts of your children. Through Jesus Christ we pray, Amen.

Call to Worship based on **Psalm 123:1,3**

To you we lift up our eyes, O Lord.
Have mercy upon us, we pray.

***Hymn of Praise** "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow" **#53**
***Invocation** **Ylva Hup**
***Response**

Sung Response "God of Wonder, God of Thunder" **CCS #18**

Prayer for Peace **Susan Boer**

Lord,
Our sight turns inward as we remember others who affect our lives.
They pass before us in review, and we hopefully ask:
Forgive us for transgressions committed and for compassion withheld.
Hold us all close as unique and worth-full souls.
May we be at peace, one with another. Amen.

Confessional Responsive Reading see insert

Hymn of Blessing "Christ, You Call Us All to Service" **CCS #357**

Spoken Word **Elder Grace Troeh**

Hymn of Reflection "Help Us Express Your Love" **CCS #621**

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

9b. When your willingness to live in sacred community as Christ's new creation exceeds your natural fear of spiritual and relational transformation, you will become who you are called to be. The rise of Zion the beautiful, the peaceful reign of Christ, awaits your wholehearted response to the call to make and steadfastly hold to God's covenant of peace in Jesus Christ.

9c. This covenant entails sacramental living that respects and reveals God's presence and reconciling activity in creation. It requires whole-life stewardship dedicated to expanding the church's restoring ministries, especially those devoted to asserting the worth of persons, protecting the sacredness of creation, and relieving physical and spiritual suffering.

The promise we make when living in sacred community means respecting, caring for, and loving God's creation. It means using our whole selves to bring God's love to others. It especially means knowing everyone has worth, protecting God's sacred creation, and helping those who are hurting.

Video Plant Trees for Christ YouTube

***Closing Hymn** "Christ Has Called Us to New Visions" **CCS #566**
***Benediction** **Ylva Hup**
***Sending Forth**

Go! Be trustworthy with the gifts with which God has blessed you. Invest in the people you meet each day. Love and bless—as you have been loved and blessed. Go with God.

***Congregation invited to stand**

Bethel Community of Christ	bethel.forthrightsystems.com
Pastor	Rob de Zwart
Financial Officer	Jeff Cady
Keyboards	John Mueller
Media Host	David Troeh

CCS: *Community of Christ Sings*, ©2013, Herald Publishing House

NRSVue: New Revised Standard Version updated edition, ©2021 Nat'l Council of Churches of Christ. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Permission to podcast/stream the music and text in this service obtained from One License with license A-727171.

Announcements

- **Sunday 11/15** **9:45 am** **Lectionary Disc.—**Matt 25:14-30
  10:30 am ***Invest in God's Future***
  Elder Grace Troeh speaking
- **Tuesday 11/17** **7:00 pm** **Priesthood Meeting** (949 9683 2354)
- **Sunday 11/22** **9:45 am** **Lectionary Disc.—**Matt 25:31-46
  10:30 am ***This Is How It Will Be…***
  Elder Jeff Cady speaking
- **Sunday 11/29** **Potluck following Service**
- **Sunday 12/13** **9:45 am** **BUSINESS MEETING**

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 53 Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow
https://youtu.be/9uIzVX-gffg

CCS 18 God Of Wonder, God Of Thunder
https://youtu.be/81qJ5ChIsGM

Christ, You Call Us All to Service - CCS 357 - The Beyond the Walls Choir https://youtu.be/dqNJ3J9zurA

CCS 621 Help Us Express Your Love https://youtu.be/nTzdAA1Rqto

Lectionary

3-year cycle engaging significant portions of our Scripture.

This Week Nov 15 **Invest in God's Future**
Matthew 25:14-30 Judges 4:1-7
Psalm 123 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Next Week Nov 22 **This Is How It Will Be. . .**
Matthew 25:31-46 Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24
Psalm 100 Ephesians 1:15-23

Generosity Cycle https://cofchrist.org/generosity-cycle/

Confessional Responsive Reading

Rob, Ylva, congregation

Rob: A new day dawns…new beginnings…new discoveries.

Ylva: Lord, you enlighten our lives and still we live in darkness, afraid to risk. Forgive us, we pray.

Rob: I have called you by your name because you are my beloved. I knew you before you were born. You are loved.

Ylva: Lord, at times we do not listen. The noises of our world seem to drown out the sweetness of your still, soft voice. Forgive us, we pray.

Rob: I have prepared the way before you and equipped you for the journey.

Ylva: Lord, at times we don't see your path because our focus is on other things in this world. Forgive us, we pray.

Rob: Each of you, my children, are blessed with talents that, when joined together, create beautiful diversity in the world that I love. Receive my unconditional grace and grow in trust and the knowledge that you belong to me.

People: PRAISE GOD! The Lord has forgiven us and gives us strength to continue the journey to make Christ's mission our mission.

Community of Christ

Your Story Is Church History

If you, your family or your congregation have a story or announcement you'd like to have highlighted in a futue Sacred Newsletter. Please send an email to
jpy cior@ midlandsmc.org
rheverling@ cofchrist.org

midlands
Community of Christ

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

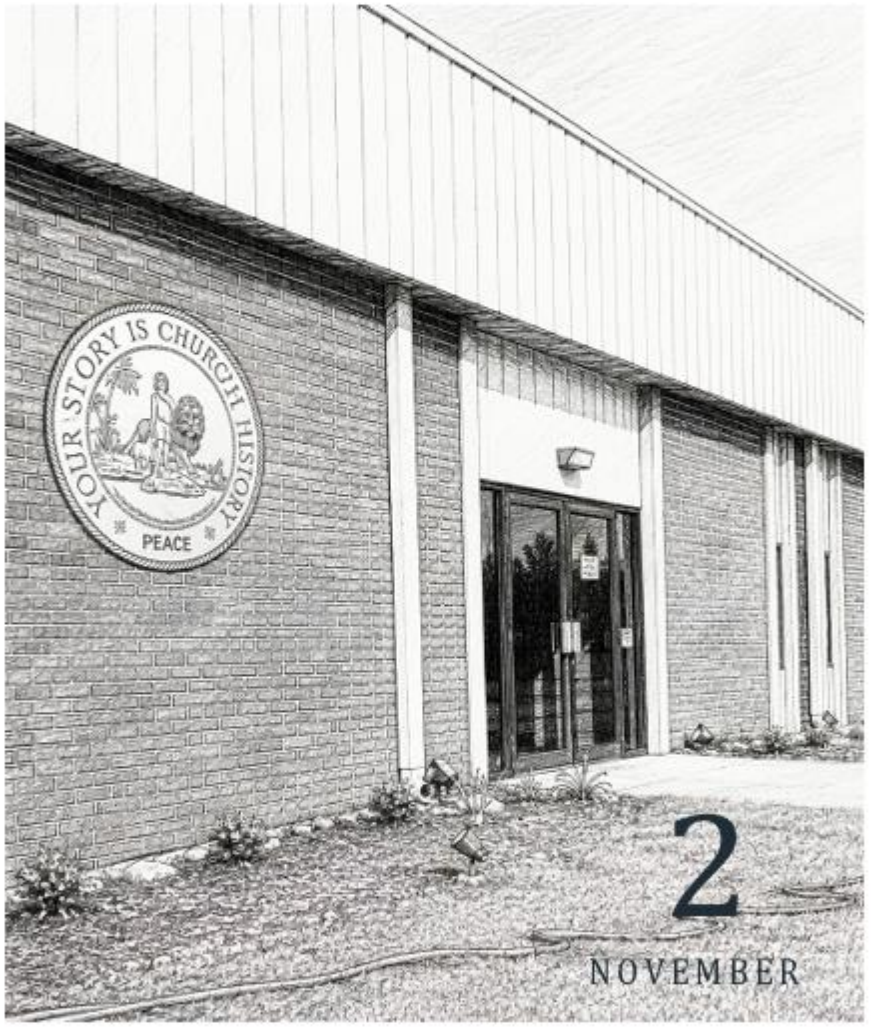
midlandsmc.org

presidentteam@midlandsmc.org

(816) 468-7878

SACRED

Midlands Mission Center Community of CHrist USA



Issue Highlights:
Midlands MC at the Peace Forum
A Decade of Being A Pastor
Olathe & Shawnee Dr. Celebrate 75 years!

CONNECT WITH US:
midlandsmc.org



75 year anniversary of Shawnee Drive Congregation

"Serving the community is our legacy in all the ways; from helping the schools make sure students have the supplies they need so they can just show up and have fun to creating a church space where everyone is accepted." - Haumana, Shawnee Drive





Celebrating 75 years of Olathe Congregation

Olathe Congregation just had its 75th anniversary as well and has been selected for this issue's Congregation Highlight. Olathe Congregation has had a year rich with youth and family ministry; From bible reenactments on Sunday morning to baby blessings to picnics in the park.

For 75 years, Olathe Community of Christ has been more than a congregation—it has been a family. Rooted in love, belonging, and service, this intergenerational community brings together a rich tapestry of people, perspectives, and lived experiences. In a world often divided by political and ideological differences, Olathe continues to prioritize relationships over division, finding unity not in thinking alike, but in caring for one another. Across generations, its members share a commitment to building meaningful connections, nurturing families, and making a positive impact beyond their walls. Seventy-five years later, their greatest legacy remains the community they continue to create.



This is the way

with

rob heverling

your mission center president

I am not a good golfer. When I was a young man, I owned a bag of used clubs. Put me on a scramble team, and my mates could count on a couple of long, straight, tee shots. There is something about standing on a hilltop tee box, a par 5 with the lush fairway cut out of the rough, showing the way to the green. The hole unfolds before you, framed by grand trees and shimmering ponds. And then, the head of your driver finds the perfect path in your backswing. From that crescendo, you uncoil with a bit of violence, like a trebuchet, and strike the ball with pure power, and it rockets off the tee, rising above the horizon, its trajectory looking like it may never come down.

Perhaps because it's rare for me, that kind of golf shot feels transcendent.
This is like experiencing the grace of God. Transcendent.

Presbyterian pastor Tim Keller once said, "God's grace is not a potion that we drink to escape reality; it is a power that transforms reality."

At Graceland College, my advisor was Professor of English and Writing, Jon Wallace. Jon had us read *Rabbit, Run*, a John Updike novel.

There is a memorable golf scene in *Rabbit, Run*, where the main character, Harry "Rabbit" Angstrom, is playing golf with an Episcopal priest named Jack Eccles. In this part, Eccles is interrogating Rabbit about why he left his wife. Rabbit is just trying to play golf, but Eccles's pestering about his failed marriage is making him angry. It's a tension-filled scene.
Much more remarkable than my description of a tee shot, here's Updike's version:

[Rabbit's] heart is hushed, held in mid-beat, by anger. He doesn't care about anything except getting out of this tangle. He wants it to rain. In avoiding looking at Eccles, he looks at the ball, which sits high on the tee and already seems free of the ground. Very simply, he brings the clubhead around his shoulder into it. The sound has a hollowness, a singleness he hasn't heard before. His arms force his head up, and his ball is hung way out, lunarly pale against the beautiful black blue of storm clouds ..... It recedes along a line straight as a ruler-edge. Stricken; sphere, star, speck. It hesitates, and Rabbit thinks it will die, but he's fooled, for the ball makes its hesitation the ground of a final leap: with a kind of visible sob takes a last bite of space before vanishing in a falling. "That's it!" he cries and, turning to Eccles with a grin of aggrandizement, repeats, "That's it."

Like me, Rabbit is not a good golfer. In that moment, he feels stress, anger, and a sense of failure. But then his reality is momentarily transformed.

This is the path of a disciple of Jesus. Or at least it's been my experience of feeling undone, anxious, and self-critical, but through disciplined prayers of praise to God, thanksgiving, repentance, and asking for help, I am gifted these moments of grace when my strained reality is altered. I see new pathways, and I feel loved and hopeful again.
Experiencing God's grace is like having your short-circuiting life rewired.
Oh, it will short-circuit again. But the love of God will be there... again.
This is the way.

Shalom. Shalom, Rob

JPAT BOOK STUDY

7pm Tuesdays 11/10

Join us as we explore Healing the Heart of Democracy by Parker Palmer. As the tension of living in a divided nation grows, finding common ground becomes more difficult each day. Palmer uses our hearts as a guide to reconcile and restore our democracy of freedom and responsibility. Registration is at bit.ly /JPAT-BS26.

More at jp atkc.squarespace.com

SAVE SOME DATES

November 6 — You've had a busy week. The job is stressing you out. Maybe the work/life balance of your family is overwhelming. Struggling at college? Feeling a little lonely? Need an infusion of hope and peace? Maybe you just need a lift?

Come be part of *The Lift*... a new nearby community you can belong to. Come and be yourself. Share a meal, good conversation, music, and be ministered to.

Come be part of *The Lift*. A Free Community Dinner will begin Nov. 6 with a worship service and dinner every Friday at 6 pm.

New church plant coming to the Highlands facility.

Upcoming CIMM Sessions

November 4
The Nauvoo Expostior Begat the Reorganization - Tony Chvala-Smith

November 11
Community of Christ Priesthood - President Janne' Grover

November 18
Nomads for Peace- Andrea & Mark Johnson

December 2
Community of Christ Bylaws - President Stassi Cramm

December 9
Israel/Palestine Pt 2 - Andrew Bolton & Panel

December 16
Liberation Theology & Collective Salvation - Michael Wright

REGISTER HERE www.graceland.edu/academics/community-of-christ-seminary /center-for-innovation-in-ministry-and-misssion/

Donate here:
Follow this QR code to donate to any ministries in Midlands Mission Center

Racial Justice Summit

Sat Nov 7, 12:00 - 5:30 pm

The event sponsored by KC Disciples Becoming Beloved Community features Rev. Dr. Hanna R. Broome. It will be held at Intersect KC in KCMO. Register at KCDisciples.org/racial-justice.

6pm Sundays YAM (Young Adult Ministry) online – contact Mikki Phillippe at mphilippe@cofchrist.org.

6pm Sunday, September 27 – Youth EMERGE online – contact Humberto Tinsman htinsman@cofchrist.org

~~Bi-monthly online Young Adult Coffee Talk – htinsman@cofchrist.org for information and the link.~~

*all events are at Community of Christ Temple 201 S. River Blvd. Independence MO 64050 more at centerforlivingwater.org

Sacred Flow Wed November 4 7:30 - 8:30 pm
Sacred Pulse Sat November 21 6:00 - 7:00 pm

Midlands at Peace Forum





Community of Christ International Headquarters held our recurring Peace Forum in October. This year awarding Bill McKibbins with the International Peace Award. Midlands showed up in strong spirit and participation. See Tom & Susan Webber

Hope from a Midlands Young Adult



Josie Jenson is a member of The Highlands Congregation and a first-year college student at MCC Maple Woods focusing on her gen-eds and considering future study in psychology. Josie loves painting, art and playing the piano. Right now she's loving playing hymns.

When asked what gives her hope in this moment, what's she's most excited to see happening in Midlands Josie answered the dinner church.

"The Lift." Jenson elaborated, "I'm looking forward to that. I'm hoping that it be a new thing that it be a blessing to many people not just church people. That's kind of the goal as Christians, to be a blessing to other people. The way it's framed is a new way of thinking for me. It's framed not as trying to get people to go to church, but to focus on and create a meaningful space for unchurched people."

Alli Arnold - 10 years Serving Olathe Pastor Team



"I'm grateful for the space I've gotten to make for other expressions of spiritual formation that might be familiar or routine to us. My hope is that younger people in Olathe congregation have seen and felt that there is space and there are lots of way to fully spiritually connect and express yourself. I personally don't connect as much outwardlly or in big groups, but in more interpersonal practices. Spirituality that is accessible anywhere has become incredibly meaningful to me."

Alli has served on the Olathe pastor team for 10 years. You can't ask one person in the congregation about her impact without many voices nearby excitedly weighing in. Her leadership and and ministry have been impactful and we're excited to see what she does in her ministry next.

CENTRAL AVENUE CENTER OF HOPE

EMPOWER | HEAL | THRIVE | BELONG

11 N. 15th St., Kansas City, KS 66102
(913) 233-2511
www.centralavenuecenterofhope.org

We are currently transitioning to a new full-time site director, Michelle Anderson. We are also in search of a part-time team lead. Do you know of a good candidate? If so, let Michelle know.
michelle@centralavenuecenterofhope.org

We Always Need Donations for pantry and paper
see more on our website

Upcoming:
Thanksgiving Dinner
Christmas Dinner

***Not taking Thrift Store Donations for the time being**

Get ivolved with SHARE

Share, Inc. (or Share Incorporated) is a non-profit organization responsible for overseeing specific outreach ministries, most notably Camp MITIOG more at midlandsmc.org

SHARE

Harmony (online church)
harmony_lgbt

Welcoming & Affirming
Congregations in KC metro

Lees Summit
1101 NE Independence Ave
Lee's Summit, Mo 64086

Woods Chapel
500 NE Woods Chapel Rd
Lee's Summit, Mo 64064

Liberty
1220 West Liberty Drive
Liberty, Mo 64068

University
1900 University Drive
Lawrence, Ks 66044

The Table
201 S River Blvd
Independence, Mo 64050

Bethel
8510 Leavenworth Rd
Kansas City, Ks 66109

Shawnee Dr
4440 Shawnee Drive
Kansas City, Ks 66106

Harmony
Online

Harmony provides advocacy, education, and resources for Queer voices* in Community of Christ with a shared vision of full participation.