Community of Christ

Bethel Congregation
Midlands Mission Center
Welcoming the online community
Kansas City, KS
November 22, 2026 10:30AM CDT

This Is How It Will Be…

Presiding **Priest Sandra Billings**

Announcements & Welcome

Call to Worship **Psalm 100**

[1] Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth.
[2] Serve the LORD with gladness;
come into his presence with singing.
[3] Know that the LORD is God.
It is he who made us, and we are his;
we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.
[4] Enter his gates with thanksgiving
and his courts with praise.
Give thanks to him; bless his name.
[5] For the LORD is good;
his steadfast love endures forever
and his faithfulness to all generations.

***Hymn of Rejoicing** "All Things Bright and Beautiful" **CCS #135**
***Invocation** **Fred Troeh**
***Response**
Prayer for Peace see insert **Kris Cady**
Centering Hymn "I Sought the Lord" **CCS #175**
Sermon **Elder Jeff Cady**
Ministry of Music "Holy Wisdom, Lamp of Learning" **CCS #55**
Disciples' Generous Response https://bit.ly/BethelGifts

Our Disciples' Generous Response this morning is in the praise portion of our worship. With our offerings, we praise God and express our gratitude for God's generosity.

As stewards, we are not the owners of creation, but God trusts us with the care of everything—creation, gifts and talents, money, or other forms of currency such as seeds or livestock, time, the gospel—for the sake of God's vision of shalom for the world. Community of Christ believes that who we are and all that we have are gifts from God. Life and all creation are God's gifts. God's grace and love for all creation is generous and unconditional. We see God's grace and love represented in the life, ministry, and continuing mission of Jesus Christ.

Our loving Heavenly Father
We come before you with our tithes and offerings asking for a blessing with what we have to offer you this day. May we be good stewards of the things you have given us and continue to bless us and the monetary gifts we give to you this day.
We ask this in the name of your son Jesus. Amen

***Closing Hymn** "Christ's Word to Us" **CCS #632**
***Sending Forth** **Ephesians 1:15-19** **Lynda Lyons**

15 *I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason [16] I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers, [17] that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, [18] so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may perceive what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, [19] and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power.*

***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 11/22** **9:45 am** **Lectionary Disc.—**Matt 25:31-46
  10:30 am ***This Is How It Will Be…***
  Elder Jeff Cady speaking
- **Tuesday 11/24** **7:00 pm** **Together Tuesday** (924 6108 0153)
- **Sunday 11/29** **9:45 am** **Hanging of the Green** (decorating)
  10:30 am ***Hope Dawns*** –Stan Troeh speaking
  Potluck following Service
- **Saturday 12/5** **5:00 pm** **Holiday Dinner**
- **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 55 Holy Wisdom, Lamp of Learning
https://youtu.be/Cg7k48ICXQE

Lectionary

3-year cycle engaging significant portions of our Scripture.

This 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

Next Week Nov 29 **Hope Dawns**
Mark 13:24-37 Psalm 80:1–7, 17–19
Isaiah 64:1–9 1 Corinthians 1:3–9

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

Prayer for Peace
Matthew 25:35-40

34 Then the king will say to those at his right hand,
'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the
kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the
world, 35 for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was
thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a
stranger and you welcomed me, 36 I was naked and you
gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I
was in prison and you visited me.' 37 Then the righteous
will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you
hungry and gave you food or thirsty and gave you
something to drink? 38 And when was it that we saw you a
stranger and welcomed you or naked and gave you
clothing? 39 And when was it that we saw you sick or in
prison and visited you?' 40 And the king will answer them,
'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of
these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me.'

Peacemaking God,

We recognize you as the God of Peace and the source of our peace. The example of Jesus motivates our movement toward peace within ourselves and within the various communities of the world.

Yet peace is so difficult. Our response to wrong and injustice tends toward retaliation and even violence. We expend resources and we live in conflict and war even as we recognize that this is not your way. War and victory are so much easier to celebrate than peacemaking and cooperation.

Help us as we seek to live your way, in your peace. In your forgiveness, move us to respond with nonviolence and peace in the situations we encounter. Help us recognize the Christ among us. Amen.

Requesting Your Input

Next Sunday's service will include several carols. We're asking for your input as we build the service. What specific carols would you like to have included. (Any we can't include on the 29th may be included later in the Advent / Christmas / Epiphany season.)

In *Community of Christ Sings*, the Advent section is #391-407, Christmas is #408-437, Epiphany is #438-448.

Hymn #	Title (or part thereof)
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Or **email** stantroeh@gmail.com or **text** 913-522-9516 by Wed 12/2

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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

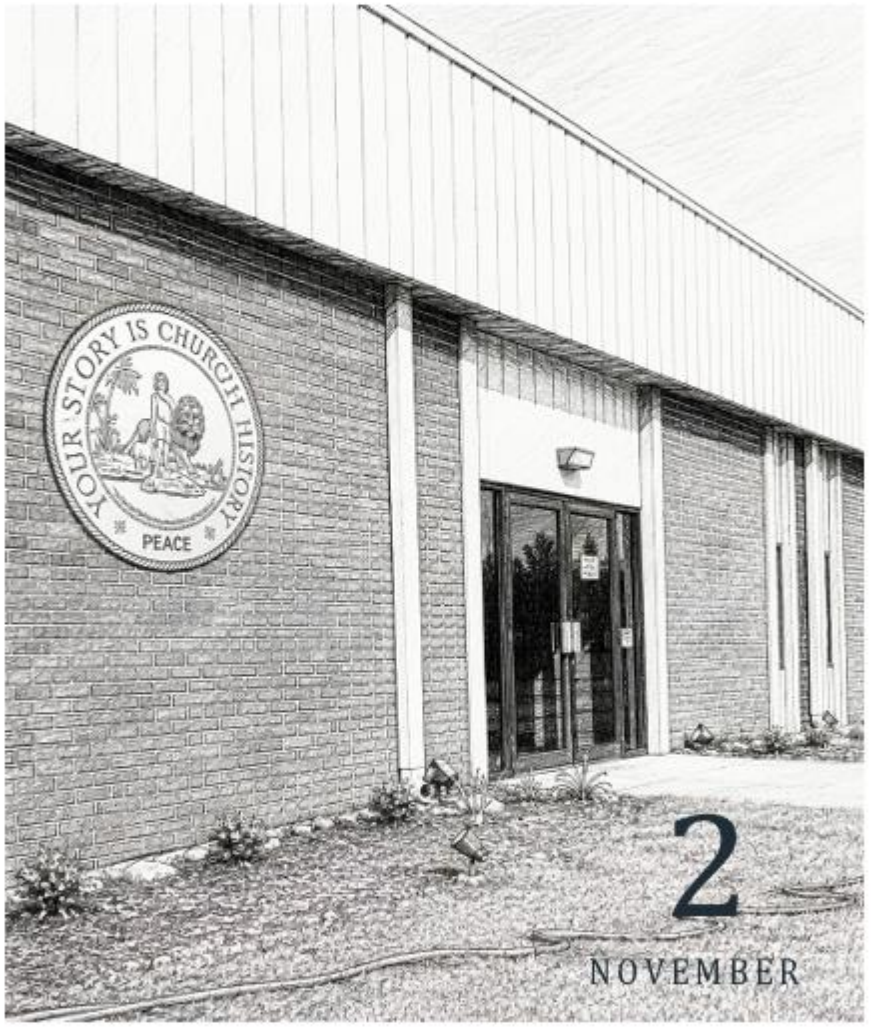
midlandsmc.org

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.