

Shout the News
September 2026

SEPTEMBER REFLECTIONS

Robin Linkhart, MCP Team

I love September. Growing up it meant the launch of a new school year and my birthday. In most of the places I lived, it also meant cooler weather rustling into an autumn splendor of falling leaves, the smell of warm apple cider, and bright orange pumpkins, waiting for October's carving competition. From a child's perspective, the most important holidays of the year unfolded on the heels of September as chilly mornings turned to frost.

I still love September and all things autumnal, but deeper meanings and memories have emerged over the years. According to the Christian calendar, September 1 through October 4 is the Season of Creation. A little mini-season strategically tucked in between the folds of earth's orbit around the sun, beckoning us to reawaken to the entwined nature of God, creation, and we humans. A network of sacred connections in all directions, tenuously fragile and indelibly strong in the same moment. A delicate web of life in constant motion as we learn **the timeless dance with God and creation**. The dance that brings new life, healing, and hope. The dance Jesus taught: Love in all directions.

May we fully embrace September's Season of Creation, breathing in all the glory Mother Earth splashes into our days. Celebrate the sacred connections of life. "Be a joyful people. Laugh and play and sing, embodying the hope and freedom of the gospel." (DC 161:1b) **"Let them praise his name with dancing..." Psalm 149:3**

Mark your calendars now to join us for **dance lessons and more** October 24-25 Mission Center Conference at registration link listed below.

MISSION CENTER CONFERENCE

Date: October 23-25, 2026

Location: Camp Nauvoo

Guest Ministry: Debbie Bartlett, CofC Field Support Minister

[Click here to register and request housing](#)
[Information to Know Flyer](#)

Resolutions: All resolutions to be considered should be submitted to Robin Linkhart by September 25th.

Email Robin at rlinkhart@cofchrist.org

Proposed Leadership Changes: **[Mission Center Leadership Letter](#)**
(Reminder: George Barber has removed his name for consideration)

Pre-Conference Legislative Townhall Meetings (Online)

*Sunday, Sept 27th @ 5:00 PM (**[Click here to join](#)**)

*Thursday, Oct 8th @ 7:00 PM (**[Click here to join](#)**)

Pre-Conference Financial Review Sessions (Online)

*Thursday, Oct 15th @ 7:00 PM (**[Click here to join](#)**)

*Thursday, Oct 22nd @ 7:00 PM (**[Click here to join](#)**)

ORDINATIONS

Sunday, August 16, in Burlington, Jena Terrell was ordained to the office of Priest. Evangelist Jerry Wiemann and Elder Dawn Durgin were pleased to ordain Jena, and most of Jena's family attended the service. We enjoyed a delicious meal together following the service.



Not previously reported, Kristy Ourth was ordained to the office of Elder on January 25, the same day Dorothy Burgin celebrated her 99th birthday.



Ordination of Arleta Medley.



September 6th ordination of Cindy Crotty to the office of Elder, by Elders Charlotte Jensen, left, and Anita Zahniser, right, followed by the Lord's Supper in Moline, IL.

ADVENTURE

After a sweltering couple of weeks, the weather was perfect Aug. 15 for the Quad-City area group of friends to take a day trip to Cantigny Park in Wheaton, IL. Before touring the estate of Robert R. McCormick, long-time publisher of the Chicago Tribune and owner of radio station WGN (short for World's Greatest Newspaper), we stopped for a group picture with Dave Gerstel behind the camera.



FUN and SERVICE

Youth Retreat at Galesburg, September 12 and 13.

The youth had a lot of fun including the planning and presenting the Sunday Service for the Galesburg congregation. 31 youth and staff participated.

For a great PowerPoint about this event please go to [Youth Retreat September 12 13 at Galesburg.pptx](#)





Be on the lookout for the announcement of a future Youth Retreat.

This message is being sent on behalf of Robin Linkhart, MC President Team:

“A Gift for the Journey: Honoring Kent & Judy”

For decades, Kent and Judy have been part of the life and story of Cedar Valley Grove Campground.

Kent has cared for the grounds with extraordinary dedication, bringing practical knowledge, construction and maintenance skills, ingenuity, and a steady commitment to keeping things working while stretching every dollar as far as it could go. His contribution has always been about more than buildings and grounds. Those who know him know how freely he has shared his time, ministry, talents, tools, and resources—often stepping in quietly when something needed attention or someone needed help.

Kent has cared for Cedar Valley Grove as though it were his own, and in doing so, he has cared for all of us who have called this place sacred. With the pending sale of Cedar Valley Grove, Kent and Judy now face a significant transition after many years of making their home at the campground. They will need to relocate their household, tools, equipment, and the belongings accumulated through many years of work and service. To surround them with the same spirit of generosity Kent has so freely extended to others, the Cedar Valley–Nauvoo Mission Center is establishing a special fund to help with their relocation and transition expenses.

We hope ministers, members, congregations, campers, former campers, and friends of Cedar Valley Grove will join us in offering a tangible expression of gratitude. This is more than assistance with a move; it is an opportunity to say thank you. For many years, Kent and Judy helped care for a place that has meant so much to us. Now we have the opportunity to help care for them as they begin this next chapter.

We invite you to give generously, according to your ability, as an expression of our shared gratitude and love. May our gift help us say “thank you” for the early mornings, late nights, quiet repairs, unseen problem-solving, personal resources freely shared, and countless ways Kent and Judy helped generations experience Cedar Valley Grove as a place of community, retreat, worship, and sacred encounter.

*May the generosity of many become a blessing
for Kent and Judy on the journey ahead.*

HOW TO GIVE

For Electronic Giving:

Website Link: Give

Select: One Time Gift

“My Home Congregation” select: Cedar Valley-Nauvoo USA Mission Center [3243]

“Sub Fund” select: Relocation Expenses for CVG [568]

Complete and submit

For Checks:

Make check payable to: Community of Christ

Write in the memo section: “Kent LeVan” or “Relocation Expenses”

Mail to: Robert Cook, PO Box 90, Macomb, IL 61455

PLEASE GIVE BY: NOVEMBER 1, 2026