

514 | Coffee in The Swarm | Kenzlee Frizzell  
Project Zion Podcast

**Josh Mangelson** 00:17

Welcome to the Project Zion Podcast. This podcast explores the unique spiritual and theological gifts Community of Christ offers for today's world.

**Mike Hoffman** 00:27

Welcome to Project Zion Podcast and Coffee in The Swarm. This is the show coming from Graceland University where we talk to Graceland students who are part of the Community of Christ. And today and starting this year, actually this academic year, it I'm thrilled to take the opportunity to introduce Julie Wheaton, who will be our student co-host on this with me, Mike Hoffman, the campus minister. So, Julie, welcome. (Hi.) Tell us about yourself.

**Julie Wheaton** 01:03

Okay. My name is Julie Wheaton. I'm a sophomore. I'm a Music Education major. And I go to Liberty St. Community of Christ church in Independence, Missouri. I just love Graceland. Yeah.

**Mike Hoffman** 01:20

Well, and I really appreciate you taking this job. This is a student employment position with campus ministries, where we're trying to do some things creatively in campus ministry this year. And anyway, so that's why Julie has agreed to do this and willing to do this, she's gonna have a career in radio and broadcast. All right. Well, Julie, do you want to introduce our guests today? We're excited about, for being here?

**Julie Wheaton** 01:45

Yeah. Um, so our guest today is Kenzlee Frizzell. Kenzlee you want to say anything else?

**Kenzlee Frizzell** 01:50

My name is Kenzlee Frizzell. I'm a sophomore. I currently am a major in history with a concentration in secondary education like world history in American history.

**Mike Hoffman** 02:02

Now, you just changed that.

**Kenzlee Frizzell** 02:03

Yes, it was psychology and social change, which I still love both of those. But I am taking two history classes, and I just found them really interesting. (Cool.) And so I was like, "You know what? I really want to go deeper into that."

**Mike Hoffman** 02:15

I think it's because I'm old, but I really find history much more interesting than I used to. I mean, I think if, if I had to do it again, I would probably study history. I don't know, it's just that's great.

**Julie Wheaton** 02:28

Where are you from? What church do you go to?

**Kenzlee Frizzell** 02:30

So I currently live in Chicago. We just moved back there this summer. But I grew up there from when I was about six weeks old to eight years old before my parents moved moved us to Pomona because they worked here but basically, I grew up going to lots of different congregations because my dad was always invited to preach there. So I think my first home congregation congregation was called Brainerd, which was a majority of Black church. So that was a different experience. And I really loved growing up doing that. And then when we move to Lamone, I went to the congregations here and then we moved to independence. I went to all of them. I went to Liberty Street for a couple days.

**Mike Hoffman** 03:12

Did you two connect at Liberty Street?

**Julie Wheaton** 03:14

No, actually Kenzlee and I became friends at Lake Donovan Community of Christ church, not sure, um church camp and since it was her, she moved here during the summer, like she moved to Missouri during the summer. And I was her first friend and we ended up going to the same high school. Yeah, so

**Kenzlee Frizzell** 03:33

And then the same college.

**Julie Wheaton** 03:34

Yeah, cool. So what brought you here to Graceland?

**Kenzlee Frizzell** 03:39

So I'm, I'm I think a third generation Graceland student maybe fourth, depending on which side we're talking about. But lots of my family came here. And I really wanted to stay connect connected to the church community, which I knew lots of kids from camp, we're gonna go here, and lots of kids from Spectacular we're gonna go here and I just really wanted to keep that connection. And they actually social change the major drew me to here even I've changed that.

But I've still really enjoyed like learning about that. And that's really unique about Graceland, so.

**Mike Hoffman** 04:09

So, was the social change major actually, was it in place before?

**Kenzlee Frizzell** 04:14

Yeah, it was like brand new.

**Mike Hoffman** 04:16

Okay, I knew it was brand new a few years ago, I just lost track of when that. That's good to hear though. So yeah,

**Julie Wheaton** 04:23

So um, speaking of Graceland and spectacular I know that that's kind of like people call it the grace and experience right? And I would say like for me, I also want to Spectacular and that was part of Graceland experience. So how would you describe your Graceland experience?

**Kenzlee Frizzell** 04:37

Um, I really love how welcoming Graceland is. And I love how everyone's really focused on community and sticking together. I love the housing system because I have a group of people without like, sororities and stuff, which no shame toward sororities, but it's definitely more competitive, and a little bit more anxiety, you know, written stuff. So I really love that how I think system. And once again, I've loved the connection to the church and being involved with COSA. It's allowed me to go to all the events and just socialize a lot and get to know all the new students and even some students I didn't know before. So I just I love that connection that Grayson tries to create with everyone.

**Mike Hoffman** 05:16

So if you're listening and not sure what coast it is, can you tell us what COSA stands for?

**Kenzlee Frizzell** 05:22

Um, I'm pretty sure it stands where Council? Wait. Yeah, Council Of Student Activities? Possibly? (Sure.) Something like that?

**Mike Hoffman** 05:32

I don't I don't remember. Yeah,

**Julie Wheaton** 05:34

Yeah. Um, but it is a question activity. Yes. This see gets a little confusing. I don't know. I feel like I hear from many different people. It's something else, but it's definitely something a student activities. Yeah, sure.

**Mike Hoffman** 05:46

So you plan to social, are you on the board? Are you?

**Kenzlee Frizzell** 05:50

I'm just a rep for my Hall, which is Sariah.

**Julie Wheaton** 05:53

And I'm a Shalom rep.

**Mike Hoffman** 05:55

Oh so you're both on, oh gosh. But so you plan that, like the big events socially? Like things in November coming up? (Yes.) Okay. Those kinds of things.

**Julie Wheaton** 06:05

Yes. Like last night, for example, we were just helping out with roller skating. And we had to be like, in charge of like giving people the roller skates and cleaning them and stuff like that, like, we put like, activities like that together,

**Kenzlee Frizzell** 06:16

which doesn't sound very fun. But when you get to socialize with everyone, and like, even though you're one cleaning and setting up, you still get to be involved and like, talk to everyone. So I really love that aspect of it.

**Mike Hoffman** 06:26

Was last night is actually like pretty well attended? (Oh, yeah.) I didn't realize what was going on.

**Kenzlee Frizzell** 06:31

Lots of people were there. So that was really fun. Yeah,

**Julie Wheaton** 06:34

yeah. So I know that you're a costa rep this year. But I also knew that last year you were Senate rep and what what's like the difference between the two? What do you like more about one or the other?

**Kenzlee Frizzell 06:44**

So last year, I was a freshman. So I kind of had to pick up what open spots we had on House Counsel and one of those was Senate. And basically in Senate, we discuss appropriations and things we want to invest our money into or spend our money on. So we we try to improve campus and improve student life. So basically, that's what I helped with last year. And then COSA we plan all the activities. I personally really enjoy COSA because it's very much more hands on in the Student Life of things and the activities. So I really love the social aspect of COSA. But once again, to Senate was also super interesting. And being able to support like, we could fund cosa events and fund certain things. So I really liked that aspect, too. Sounds pretty cool. Yeah.

**Julie Wheaton 07:24**

So I know that you're in Inspire last year. Right? So my question about that was, how do you how was Inspire last year like kind of connecting to church here and here at Graceland.

**Kenzlee Frizzell 07:35**

So I really liked inspire because it got all of us church kids connected, because that was something we all had in common. And I liked discussing the certain aspects that we did last year, like how we can bring ministry into, you know, Graceland student life, and I really liked that. And I just liked how it brought us all closer together and gave us an opportunity to talk about that one thing we have in common of going to Community of Christ and having that connection with each other.

**Julie Wheaton 08:00**

Yeah, okay, awesome. So, um, so since you do you are a Community of Christ member? What do you think Community of Christ will look like here in the future? Here in the next, let's say, 10 years?

**Kenzlee Frizzell 08:16**

That's a very hard question. Um, a lot of Community of Christ members are getting to an older age. And that can be hard, because I would say that Community of Christ is shrinking a little bit and the younger ages, but I think if we continue to do more youth activities, and invite more people, we can definitely grow that. I don't know what's gonna happen to Community of Christ in the future, but I hope we have lots of new ideas. I know, a friend wrote something in the magazine last year that was about improving, you know,

**Mike Hoffman 08:51**

Was that the Herald magazine?

**Kenzlee Frizzell 08:52**

Yeah, the Herald magazine, she talked about, we needed to bring more youth activities in, and something that spoke more to the youth. Because we do we are very traditional, and we like to stick to that. So I think changing that could be extremely inviting to new youth and new people who want to join Community of Christ. And I think the aspect that communication is so welcoming, and accepting and relatively progressive, we can bring more youth who are into that into a safe church that they'll be welcomed into.

**Julie Wheaton 09:21**

You know, I think that's actually a good point. Because at my church, there is a giant gap between we have about people who are like, 50s 60s like, that's like, I would say, like 70% of our church, and then, like, 20% might be like, 40s I don't know. And then there's like, the 10% like this tiny little bit, you know, like, there was like a pretty big group of us, like seven eight of us that just graduated high school and like and now we're in college, but I think that's definitely like a good point. Like personally, for Liberty Street, we do tend to, you know, like stick to certain things and like, recently, like, I'm on my pastoral search like committee to like, find pastors and things like that, and so I definitely agree with you, I think, yeah, bridging, like being able to bridge in, you know, like, kind of connect each other's ideas will definitely, like help Community of Christ.

**Mike Hoffman 10:15**

I think that's, you know, you mentioned it being an Inspire last year and those kinds of things. That's one of the goals of Inspire, which is, for those listening, it's actually a ministry practicum that we do here. It's not really a class, and it's that it is for credit. And the idea behind that is, we're going to sort of learn and try to figure out like, what are some new ways of doing things, and I'm pretty excited about some of the new things we're doing on campus ministries this year, because we are actually going to do a blackout poetry event. Okay, so I don't do you know what that is? It's where you take a piece of like, an article or a page out of a book. And then you create a poem by blacking out words and using the unblackened words, if that's the way to say it, to create something. (Yeah. I really like that.) We're trying to be creative about like, and the idea here is that, you know that when you go, because my follow up question to that is, what would you like, will you go back to church once you graduate, you know? And what do you hope to do with that, but the idea is, while you're here, we can explore some creative ideas and say, you know, okay, let's sort of mix things up when I go back. So,

**Julie Wheaton 11:31**

Yeah, so I know that you're a history major, and everything. So what is your plan for the future?

**Kenzlee Frizzell 11:38**

Um, I hope to become a history teacher in secondary education. I really love the idea of teaching high schoolers. And I just think history is such an important subject, obviously, all of us kind of write it off as one of those boring lecture classes. But I think there's some really important aspects of history that help us learn where we are today, and how we got here, and how we can change the future. And I definitely think I want to go into that more than just, you know, who flew the first plane? Like, why are we why is this the (It's the Wright brothers) Like, why is the system in America the way it is today? And how can we improve that? And I mean, that's a deep, like, intricate subject, but I really want to get into that more, and that subject.

**Mike Hoffman 12:21**

So what's your favorite way to ask it your favorite time period or favorite area of history? I don't know whether you have one.

**Kenzlee Frizzell 12:32**

Um, I

**Mike Hoffman 12:33**

American history or European history?

**Kenzlee Frizzell 12:36**

A class I'm taking this year, it's called African Diaspora. And I find that extremely interesting, because the system of America is extremely intricate. And I like looking into those. I don't know how to explain it. But African American history in the United States, obviously, it's not taught a lot. I didn't learn a lot about it in my public education. And learning about it. Since I've come to Graceland has been extremely eye opening. And it's helped me understand why the world is the way it is today. And I just I really find that extremely interesting and extremely important. So I that's a part that I found really interesting. And it kind of brought me into history a little bit more. So

**Mike Hoffman 13:14**

yeah, that, you know, you said, you said at one point that you had been a social change major. Yeah. But you know, it sounds I hear in your, well, let me ask you this, rather than say, I heard this, but is it related your your interest in history, is it related to somewhat justice issue?

**Kenzlee Frizzell 13:35**

Absolutely. Yes. Actually, some of my social change classes were history classes, that taught me a lot about that kind of, you know, subject, and that was like, Oh, my gosh, I find this aspect of social change, extremely interesting. So it's like, I want to learn more about the history because you can't really change the present or the future without knowing where you

were before. Right. And so I think that's a really important aspect of social change. And so social change was what kind of led me into the history. So yeah,

**Julie Wheaton** 14:02

Yeah. Okay, well, Kenzlee, I'm sure anything else you'd like to add?

**Kenzlee Frizzell** 14:09

Thank you. So we covered a lot, I hope. Yeah. That's a good good conversation. All right.

**Mike Hoffman** 14:14

Well, I thank you both Kenzlee.

**Kenzlee Frizzell** 14:17

Thank you for having me!

**Mike Hoffman** 14:20

And Julie, thanks for Co-hosting our first time. Well, we'll see how this goes. I look forward to our next month's project. So all right, thank you both.

**Kenzlee Frizzell** 14:30

Thank you.

**Josh Mangelson** 14:39

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