

Coffee in the Swarm | Jocelyn Dailey

SUMMARY KEYWORDS

House Presidents, Graceland, camps, community, student, spec, connection, church, Ontario

SPEAKERS

Jocelyn Dailey, Josh Mangelson, Mike Hoffman

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 00:33

Welcome to "Coffee in the Swarm", a *Project Zion Podcast* production coming to you from Lamoni, Iowa campus of Graceland University. The Swarm is our on-campus restaurant in the Newcom Student Union. This year our podcast has been co-hosted by student chaplain, Julie Wheaton, but unfortunately, she's not available to be with us today. This is Mike Hoffman, campus minister, and this is where we interview students at Graceland who are connected in some way, shape, or form to the Community of Christ. Today's guest is Jocelyn Dailey. We were just discussing before we came on the podcast, that she was actually in my Critical Thinking class when she was a first-year student. That makes her a junior in case you're wondering. So, Jocelyn, welcome, and tell me a little bit about yourself.

Jocelyn Dailey 01:19

I'm majoring in Interdisciplinary Studies. Yeah, my three focuses are English, art and social sciences.

Mike Hoffman 01:26

Cool. So, social science general, or is there a specific social science?

Jocelyn Dailey 01:31

Specifically, psychology, I guess. I took...

Mike Hoffman 01:33

Psychology.

Jocelyn Dailey 01:34

I took one sociology class though.

Mike Hoffman 01:35

Okay, so...

Jocelyn Dailey 01:36

I guess that makes me...

Mike Hoffman 01:37

...which counts in interdisciplinary. What do you want to do with that? Do you know?

Jocelyn Dailey 01:41

I'm not sure. I took one elementary ed class, and it was children's literature, and I just found that super interesting. And I thought that would be a fun way to combine almost all three areas, illustrating and writing children's literature, because I, I really enjoyed that course and being in there with people that are going to be like, future teachers.

Mike Hoffman 02:00

Yeah.

Jocelyn Dailey 02:01

Yeah. So, maybe we'll see where that goes.

Mike Hoffman 02:04

Great. That's cool. Where are you from?

Jocelyn Dailey 02:07

Ontario, Canada, specifically, Campbellville. It's a very small town, forested area.

Mike Hoffman 02:13

When you say small town, like smaller, as small as Lamoni or bigger than Lamoni? Lamoni has about 1200 residents if you don't count Graceland students. Do you know?

Jocelyn Dailey 02:26

I'm not even sure of the population.

Mike Hoffman 02:27

Does it have a stoplight?

Jocelyn Dailey 02:29

It does. It has one. It's got one

Mike Hoffman 02:30

Okay. I grew up in the Midwest. I grew up not far from here, so, yeah. So, alright. What was it like for you in the Church in that area where you were when you grew up?

Jocelyn Dailey 02:41

Um, it was really interesting. We didn't have as many young kids, I think, like growing up, especially not as active in the Church, I think. I was definitely one of the main people that, well, my mom ran a lot of the stuff and so I, I don't wanna use the word guilted, but I got pulled into a lot of things, which is okay, like...

Mike Hoffman 03:01

Because your mom was doing it.

Jocelyn Dailey 03:02

Yeah, at the time, it was nerve wracking to get up and sing in front of everybody. I was always nervous to do that. But looking...

Mike Hoffman 03:09

Sure.

Jocelyn Dailey 03:09

...back on it, I think it helped a lot with public speaking and being comfortable in a group. It was also, like, she always told me, she like, all these people love you and are there to support you. Like it's not meant to be nerve racking, like, and they just...

Mike Hoffman 03:20

Right.

Jocelyn Dailey 03:20

...enjoy having you, like be a part of the service. I was very active in that way. I really liked it.

Mike Hoffman 03:27

Did you go to camps when you were growing up?

Jocelyn Dailey 03:29

I did. Yeah.

Mike Hoffman 03:30

Where did you go to camp?

Jocelyn Dailey 03:32

There was Monetville, which was...

Mike Hoffman 03:34

Okay.

Jocelyn Dailey 03:34

...one campground, and Ziontario was the other one.

Mike Hoffman 03:37

Okay.

Jocelyn Dailey 03:37

Yeah. So, I did go to kids camp, and then junior high, senior high. And then I actually went to Spec.

Mike Hoffman 03:42

Okay. All right. A lot of camping experiences anyway. So...

Jocelyn Dailey 03:46

Yeah.

Mike Hoffman 03:46

...with that kind of connection to the Church and everything, what brought you specifically to Graceland? Was it the Church connection? You know, there's lots of colleges and universities to choose from, so was there something in particular?

Jocelyn Dailey 03:58

Well, both my parents had grew up in the church, different congregations, but they went to all the same camps, and they both went to Spec as well. And then going to Spec, they just saw how amazing Graceland was, and my dad's parents were connected with Graceland as well. And so.

Mike Hoffman 04:14

Did your parents go to Graceland?

Jocelyn Dailey 04:15

They did, yeah. They spoke very highly of it. And so obviously that's why I went to Spec, like you have to go, even though I was like a little nervous about it 'cause of going to another country for camp, but I went with all my friends, so that made it okay.

Mike Hoffman 04:28

Were you able to go to Spec all three years, or?

Jocelyn Dailey 04:31

Yeah...

Mike Hoffman 04:32

Okay.

Jocelyn Dailey 04:32

...because my last year I would have gone was when COVID hit for that summer.

Mike Hoffman 04:35

Oh, yes. So, you couldn't go that year?

Jocelyn Dailey 04:37

No, which was a real heartbreaker. I was looking...

Mike Hoffman 04:40

Yeah, 'cause that would have been...

Jocelyn Dailey 04:41

...forward to it.

Mike Hoffman 04:41

...right before you started Graceland?

Jocelyn Dailey 04:43

Yeah.

Mike Hoffman 04:43

Okay. Okay.

Jocelyn Dailey 04:44

Yeah.

Mike Hoffman 04:44

A lot of things have changed. But well, that's a whole 'nother...

Jocelyn Dailey 04:48

Yeah.

Mike Hoffman 04:48

...topic, so. Well, that's cool that you had a connection, your parents went here and that kind of thing. So, so, how would you describe your Graceland experience so far? I know that you're in, a house president. So, what's that been like?

Jocelyn Dailey 05:00

Very interesting. I think this has been my favorite year here.

Mike Hoffman 05:05

Really.

Jocelyn Dailey 05:06

Yeah, because you'd think that being a house president would bring a lot of stress, which it has, but...

Mike Hoffman 05:10

A lot of stress. Yeah.

Jocelyn Dailey 05:11

Yeah, but not enough that I haven't completely loved it.

Mike Hoffman 05:15

Okay, well, that is good. That is one of the things I thought about was like, what it's like to be a house president. It's your favorite year so far though.

Jocelyn Dailey 05:21

Yeah. I found a lot of comfort in all the other house presidents. I wasn't friends with all of them, but then during our training, it was like spending a whole month together. Like, it almost felt like camp because we were here on campus together and...

Mike Hoffman 05:33

Okay.

Jocelyn Dailey 05:33

...doing fun activities, so. They definitely did a great...

Mike Hoffman 05:36

So, that training literally was important then so, and camaraderie, I mean support actually, probably from your other house presidents. That's very cool.

Jocelyn Dailey 05:45

Yeah.

Mike Hoffman 05:45

Yeah, Okay. What house are you in?

Jocelyn Dailey 05:47

Shalom.

Mike Hoffman 05:48

Shalom. And so, who have been your sibling houses, like fall and now spring?

Jocelyn Dailey 05:55

Like this year, or?

Mike Hoffman 05:55

Yeah, this year is what I was thinking of.

Jocelyn Dailey 05:57

We had Agape first and then right now we have Orion.

Mike Hoffman 06:00

Okay. Okay.

Jocelyn Dailey 06:02

Yeah, big difference between the houses. But I've definitely enjoyed having both of them.

Mike Hoffman 06:06

Okay. You know, it's interesting to me to watch the changes between the years because...

Jocelyn Dailey 06:11

Yeah.

Mike Hoffman 06:12

...you know, a house will take on a certain personality. I don't know if it's really the house president, but, so, maybe it is, a little bit, but it takes on a certain characteristic, and then different year, the house president changes, and then it can be very different. So, do you know what your plans are for next year after this?

Jocelyn Dailey 06:29

I was elected the CHPP, so.

Mike Hoffman 06:32

You were, so...

Jocelyn Dailey 06:33

Yeah.

Mike Hoffman 06:33

So, okay. I guess I should have tracked that. Okay...

Jocelyn Dailey 06:36

That's okay.

Mike Hoffman 06:36

...so, you're gonna be president of the Council of House Presidents. Okay. Excellent.

Jocelyn Dailey 06:40

I'm very excited.

Mike Hoffman 06:41

Okay. That's really good. I mean, that's really quite an honor too, because you are elected by house presidents. And for those of you listening that might not be familiar, Graceland has this really incredible, unique housing system. So, this year's house presidents would have elected you for next year, right?

Jocelyn Dailey 06:58

Yes.

Mike Hoffman 06:59

So, that's the only Graceland student government body officer that's not elected by just...

Jocelyn Dailey 07:04

The student body.

Mike Hoffman 07:04

Yeah.

Jocelyn Dailey 07:05

Yeah.

Mike Hoffman 07:06

Okay. So very cool.

Jocelyn Dailey 07:07

Yeah. That was super interesting. And it does feel like an honor for sure 'cause those are my friends and colleagues, and they have seen me the most, especially in that role. That position, the way I look at it is like, you are representing house presidents, and you're almost like the house president for the house presidents because obviously they don't have one. So, you're that person for them to go to.

Mike Hoffman 07:28

Yeah.

Jocelyn Dailey 07:28

And to have all my best friends think that I would be suited for that, like, it's really awesome.

Mike Hoffman 07:31

But all your best friends now are probably not coming back as house presidents, so...

Jocelyn Dailey 07:36

Yup.

Mike Hoffman 07:36

...you'll be overseeing all new candidates for house presidents. It's not that you wouldn't know some of them...

Jocelyn Dailey 07:41

Yeah.

Mike Hoffman 07:42

...but hope it wasn't scary.

Jocelyn Dailey 07:43

No.

Mike Hoffman 07:44

That's cool. Very good. And as an adviser to the Council of House Chaplains, I'll be then, meeting with you every week, so.

Jocelyn Dailey 07:51

Yeah.

Mike Hoffman 07:51

Very cool. That's great. So, you've shared with us a little bit about, you're an interdisciplinary major, which means you sort of create your own program here. So, do you have plans after you graduate, which would be after next year, right? So...

Jocelyn Dailey 08:05

Yeah.

Mike Hoffman 08:05

...what do you want to do? Find a job, go to graduate school?

Jocelyn Dailey 08:09

I've thought about grad school, but thinking about whether I would go for, like English or art. Like, all of my art professors, they just talked about how the critiques are really hard, and it's very difficult, just like mentally to go through it. I don't know. There's benefits to it, because I could definitely see myself being a teacher someday and maybe I should have started as a education major. I don't know. People that always told me they could see me as a teacher. But I was always that person, I was like, I'm never going to be a teacher. I can see myself one day.

Mike Hoffman 08:37

And now, now you can see that. That's cool.

Jocelyn Dailey 08:38

Yeah.

Mike Hoffman 08:39

You know, that's interesting. When I was in school, I never really thought at all about being, I mean, I didn't even reject it. I just didn't think about it. And then for years I've worked in youth ministry. So, it's, but you're thinking of that...

Jocelyn Dailey 08:50

Yeah.

Mike Hoffman 08:50

...any way, so. That's a lot of things to consider, too. Do you think you'll go back to Ontario, or do you think...

Jocelyn Dailey 08:56

I think so.

Mike Hoffman 08:57

Okay.

Jocelyn Dailey 08:57

Yeah. So, I think if I decide to one day do teaching, like I have to go like teachers college or something like that. But as of right now, I'm not sure about grad school. I think I would definitely take a year off. I'm definitely not going to go right to school after I graduate.

Mike Hoffman 09:10

Take a year off. That's, yeah, okay.

Jocelyn Dailey 09:11

Yeah.

Mike Hoffman 09:12

Okay. There's lots of things going on in the Community of Christ right now. Do you have any particular hopes or thoughts about the future of Community of Christ?

Jocelyn Dailey 09:21

Looking more at like what I was involved in, like camps and, like the older people and like the church community, like I think more connection between them, 'cause I'm not sure that they really are aware of like summer camps and like, that's where the connections start, really.

Mike Hoffman 09:38

With young people, you're talking about?

Jocelyn Dailey 09:40

Yeah, but especially like, just in Community of Christ, they always emphasize on the fact that those are your lifelong friends. That's what my parents always told me, and they are still best friends with all their friends from camp, then.

Mike Hoffman 09:50

Okay.

Jocelyn Dailey 09:50

I think I have found...

Mike Hoffman 09:51

Still connected with a lot of your friends from camp?

Jocelyn Dailey 09:54

Yeah, with...

Mike Hoffman 09:55

Some of them here?

Jocelyn Dailey 09:56

Oh, one.

Mike Hoffman 09:57

Okay. Alright.

Jocelyn Dailey 09:58

Yeah, but I found a lot of similar traits in people that were a part of Community of Christ, but from the States, obviously.

Mike Hoffman 10:04

Okay.

Jocelyn Dailey 10:05

There's a different type of connection between us and I, I wish that people that didn't know as much about like the camps like, all the people that might not have gone like, I wish they knew like how important they were. Maybe they'd want to support them a bit more.

Mike Hoffman 10:17

I think camps are just an incredible experience for young people. And we have family camps. We have reunions. Did you go to reunions, or?

Jocelyn Dailey 10:25

When I was very little.

Mike Hoffman 10:26

Okay.

Jocelyn Dailey 10:26

And then I did go right before COVID hit, like that last summer. I did go and I was like, oh, I'd love to go back. And then COVID hit, but.

Mike Hoffman 10:35

There's part of me that just doesn't want to acknowledge COVID, the pandemic...

Jocelyn Dailey 10:39

Yeah.

Mike Hoffman 10:39

...and yet it has changed how we operate so much. I don't know if you've ever had a chance to meet, sit down with President Veazey, Steve Veazey of Community of Christ, or any of the general church leaders or anything like that? Is there anything you would tell them if you could tell them something specific about, either about your experience, or about what you wish for the Church.

Jocelyn Dailey 10:59

I have a big appreciation for the openness of Community of Christ. I know it's probably different in all congregations, but there are similarities between Graceland and what I've heard at like, Afterglow, and the services here...

Mike Hoffman 11:12

Okay.

Jocelyn Dailey 11:12

...and services at home, looking at like, gay rights, trans rights, like everything like that. I think it has been a big part of my life.

Mike Hoffman 11:20

My understanding about Canada is that you were ahead of the United States in gay rights, trans rights, those kinds of things. And now we're seeing even a little bit of a backlash here in the United States. It's tough to sort of analyze but, yeah, okay. Well, Jocelyn, thank you for joining me today. I guess this basically wraps things up for this episode of "Coffee in the Swarm". Thanks for listening. This is Mike Hoffman signing off until next time. Thank you. Thanks for joining us, Jocelyn.

Jocelyn Dailey 11:49

It was fun.

Josh Mangelson 11:58

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