

# One Accord

March/April 2024



**Feast of Tabernacles**  
For All Eight Days

**Winter Camp 2023**

**2022 Annual Audit**  
God Continues to Bless Us



**U.S. SITE DESCRIPTIONS**  
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# personal from the president

## How Important Is the Feast?

The Feast of Tabernacles and Last Great Day are two of the seven annual festivals that we celebrate each year. During the seven festivals, there are seven holy days, but they are not quite the same. Passover is a festival, but it is not a holy day. Also, there are two holy days in the one festival of the Days of Unleavened Bread. So, when considered as a whole, we have both seven festivals and seven holy days.

In one sense you cannot single out any one festival or holy day as being more important than another. They are all essential steps in God's plan of salvation.

Let's consider the command in Leviticus 23:1-2: "And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, 'Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: "The feasts of the LORD, which you shall proclaim to be holy convocations, these are My feasts."'"

God is the "owner" of the festivals, and there is no statement in Scripture indicating He ever gave up that ownership. We attend the festivals each year at His invitation. It is a special and rare privilege to receive such an invitation, and we should never take it for granted.

This year we once again have a variety of Festival sites for your consideration. In addition to our regular sites, we also have three satellite sites in the U.S. in areas where many brethren are no longer able to travel long distances. I am happy to announce the following U.S., Canadian and satellite sites, along with three international sites, for 2024. (The three international sites listed—Ireland, France and Italy—required early registration, which is now complete.)

- Ashbourne, Ireland
- Branson, Missouri
- Cortona, Italy
- Greenville, South Carolina
- Kohala Coast, Hawaii
- Lancaster, Pennsylvania
- Mont Tremblant, Quebec
- Montagnac, France

- New Braunfels, Texas
- Orange Beach, Alabama
- Rapid City, South Dakota
- Redmond, Oregon
- Tucson, Arizona
- Fort Myers, Florida, *satellite site*
- Triadelphia, West Virginia, *satellite site*
- Woodbury, Minnesota, *satellite site*

By definition, our three *satellite* sites will have a limited number of on-site speakers and will webcast most services from another location. Once the local members who need to attend a satellite site have made their plans, any remaining space can be filled by those who would like to attend for family or other reasons.

In addition to the sites listed above, we anticipate more than 30 other sites in different countries, stretching from the Caribbean and Latin America to Africa, India and Asia to New Zealand, Fiji and the Philippines. Be on the lookout for these sites and instructions on what to do if you desire to attend one of them. All of that information will be made available either on our COGWA Feast website ([feast.cogwa.org](http://feast.cogwa.org)) or on the websites of the international areas.

How important is this year's Feast? While all the festivals provide insight into God's plan of salvation, identifying each step along the way, the final two festivals (the Feast of Tabernacles and Last Great Day) point toward a time of great joy and happiness. In a world of darkness, sadness and tragedy, these days picture a very different world.



**Jim Franks**  
President  
Church of God, a Worldwide Association



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## CHURCH of GOD

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**One Accord** is published bimonthly online at [members.cogwa.org](https://members.cogwa.org) by the Church of God, a Worldwide Association, Inc.

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# For All Eight Days

Acts 3:19-21 projects the future time when God will work with all people. Let's embrace this future by coming together on all eight days of the Feast of Tabernacles and Last Great Day.

By Mark Winner

**A**re you familiar with the scripture in the Bible that sums up the whole plan of God? Check out Acts 3:19-21: "Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that He may send Jesus Christ, who was preached to you before, whom heaven must receive until the times of restoration of all things, which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began."

There is a lot stated here. It talks about *times of refreshing*—a time of strength for the weak, rest for the weary and general healing for individuals and nations. The basic extent of this expression is that God will provide peace, love, joy and communion with Himself. This is what the entire world desires and needs. *Refreshing* connotes stimulation because of freshness or newness. It gives a sense of satisfaction and fulfillment.

This prophecy projects us into the future when, for an extended period of time, God will work directly with the nations of the world. It will not be just a local thing. It will affect all peoples throughout all lands—every man, woman and child. As the conditions are met, the provision will extend into the future forever.

## Picturing the future

The Feast of Tabernacles portrays a period of time when some of the most significant events in the existence of man will occur—awesome events that God has highlighted and inspired His servants to preach from virtually the beginning of time.

Acts 3 tells us there will be a restoration of all things. The Greek means restoring that which was in a bad state to a good state. It includes destroying the former and establishing the new. It will usher in a new era—a new

age—one like man has never seen or experienced. And this new way of life will be introduced to the whole world.

So, I have a question: If God has shown us the future, what does He expect of us today when it comes to keeping the Feast of Tabernacles? Does He want us to value it highly? Does He want us to look forward to it? Will we embrace it fully—or just dabble our toes in it, thus telling Him we will decide if it's really that exciting or something we should value?

I pose this question because it is clear that God is bringing complete change to this world. The firstfruits (the saints) will teach the truth to those who never knew it in the past (Revelation 1:6; 2:26; 5:9-10; 20:6). Clearly, those who will be changed into spirit beings and teach alongside Jesus Christ will be those who are fully invested now in what God teaches, as opposed to those who hear it yet fail to fully embrace it.

## Embracing our role

In Daniel 7:22 and 27 and Revelation 3:21 we find that Jesus Christ will share His throne with the saints. This is absolutely awesome and incredible to contemplate. But, again, are we embracing it fully? If we fail to value keeping the Feast for eight days (Leviticus 23:39), does God view us as one of the saints or merely as one *playing*—acting the part of—a saint?

Occasionally one might read Leviticus 23:39 and conclude that one only has to keep the first and eighth days or, at least, that those are the only days one has to go to church services. But when you read it and think about what the intent is and when you combine that with a sincere desire to be fully invested in God's plan, there really is only one conclusion we can draw:

God expects us to "keep the Feast of the LORD for seven days; on the first day there shall be a sabbath-rest, and on





the eighth day a sabbath-rest.”

The idea of coming to services to hear the Word of God expounded on *only* two days (even though those two days are clearly *holy* days) is to miss the obvious point and benefit of what comes from being together with our spiritual family, studying the Word of God and fellowshiping together. Sure, there are tremendous benefits outside of being together at services, such as spending the tithe we have saved on “whatever your heart desires” (Deuteronomy 14:22-26). However, that pales in comparison to the excitement of being together, learning together and focusing on what is ahead for the entire world that is currently in darkness.

### Practicing for eight days

Go back to Acts 3:19-21 and really consider what is shared. The world will be brought out of darkness and shown light (truth). It’s incredible that this message has been preached for millennia and yet so few understand. God will bring together all nations of the earth under His rule.

This new way of life has been introduced to, and understood by, various individuals from the beginning of time. At one stage in history God Himself introduced

the laws that govern that way of life to the whole nation of Israel. Yet it has never been practiced wholesale for any length of time—especially according to the intent and spirit of the law. And that brings us back to the intent and spirit of Leviticus 23:39. The intent and spirit of the law need to be crystal clear to us.

There have been some individuals through the ages who have seriously applied the tenets of what is shared in Acts 3 and Leviticus 23, but God’s way has not been adhered to throughout history as it should have. There have not been enough to hold to this way to leave a bold imprint on the generations which followed. Even when some families embraced this lifestyle, succeeding generations got distracted by philosophies, education and events of their day and forgot the customs, practices and traditions that would have kept God’s way in their memory.

The Feast of Tabernacles pictures the time when God’s way of life will be successfully introduced to the whole world. As you make plans to attend this year, the most important part of our focus should be to fully keep the Feast of the Lord as God intended—for all eight days. ☺☺







# FOUNDATION INSTITUTE perspectives

## Introducing the FI Class of 2024

By Monica Ebersole, FI student

**H**ave you ever wondered what it's like to attend Foundation Institute? This year's class is excited to share a glimpse into their FI experience and all the fun and educational opportunities that this program provides.

The Foundation Institute class of 2024 is composed of 16 students from 13 different states. Known for their love of card games and tournament-style debates, this year's class has truly felt like family. They've had the opportunity to study side by side, work on group projects together and bond through extracurricular activities. A few of the most notable activities have been the first Friday Bible studies, a themed karaoke night, attending a symphony, volunteering at the Boot Scoot fundraiser and participating in the highly anticipated FI etiquette dinner.

"The most valuable takeaway I've received from FI is the historical context behind the Bible and understanding just how interwoven the Old and New Testaments are. Foundation Institute acts as the mortar that solidifies all the knowledge you had coming into the program and strengthens that foundation."

**Tyler Kratz**

"The most valuable takeaway so far has been the class itself. It's the most amazing class and the most amazing group of young people I have ever been around. The depth of knowledge in the classes and the classmates are what make this program so special."

**Lynn Marshall**

Foundation Institute provides a truly unique opportunity for the students who attend. For nine months, instructors guide students through an in-depth study of the Bible in an effort to help them build a strong spiritual foundation that will last a lifetime.

During their time in the program, the students have the chance to ask questions and get counsel directly from their instructors, as well as share insights and make memories with their fellow students. They are challenged to deepen their understanding of Scripture in a fun and encouraging environment, while also learning the importance of service and the role that each member plays in the work of the Church.

Foundation Institute is an investment in your biblical education that gives you the chance to build lasting friendships along the way. It's safe to say, it is one of the most worthwhile investments you can make. ©A







# Winter Camp 2023

**T**his year's Winter Camp was held from Dec. 27, 2023, to Jan. 1, 2024, at the Sky Lodge Christian Camp in Montello, Wisconsin. We had 22 campers and 20 staff.

A mild winter meant we started out camp with no snow on the ground. However, we ended camp with a lovely snow that was like a snow globe. The campers thoroughly enjoyed the activities in the snow and a snowball fight free-for-all.

Campers learned how to better prepare for and map their future through the daily Compass Checks that the ministerial staff presented each morning. Campers enjoyed a variety of activities, including bunco, volleyball, capture the flag, leadership class, an escape room, an amazing race, kickball, dance and broomball. All the campers participated in the Linus blanket project (our FOI project). We were able to make and donate a total of 15 blankets for needy children.

All of the campers and some of the staff participated in a variety show that ended hilariously with Tom Clark reading the bedtime story "Rinderella," a spoof on Cinderella. The campers had s'mores around a lovely campfire to close out this evening.

On Friday night we had separate group discussions for the girls and for the boys. Afterward there were Bible games, and we had a charcuterie board for a special Friday night treat. Great discussion and participation by all involved made this a memorial event.

On Sabbath morning, the campers enjoyed Bible jeopardy and a hymn sing where many campers tried their hand at leading songs. Sabbath afternoon services were followed by an Italian supper, and the camp owner serenaded the campers in mock operatic style.

On Sunday night everyone got to try out the new dance moves they learned in dance class. Once again, we had a bonfire going and a beautiful arrangement of snacks. Chris Moen emceed the dance, and we all had a great time.

Each evening after fellowship time we sang our chosen hymn for the year before we dispersed. This year it was hymn 142, "Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God." We had a great camp this year with so much unity and bonding of staff and campers. We hope others will come join our happy winter camp family next year as both campers and staff.

**Larry Solomon**





# 2022 Annual Audit

## God Continues to Bless Us

The Church of God continues to experience many financial blessings. As usual, we would like to share our annual independent audit with its positive review of the Church's stable financial position.

By Britton M. Taylor

Our 2022 independent audit was completed in January 2024. The timing of the audit is a little later than previous years. We are happy to share the results with our Church members and donors who generously support the Church of God, a Worldwide Association, Inc.

We are very thankful to report that income received for 2022 was just over \$16 million. This is down about \$750,000 compared to 2021, representing a 4.4 percent decrease. The income was still very good, but not as high as 2021, which was a banner year for income. Income for 2021 exceeded the previous year (2020) by \$3 million. So when we compare 2022 to 2021, it's important to note that we were up against a very strong year—a year that set a record high for income.

In both 2022 and 2021, our income exceeded expenses (by \$2.1 million in 2022 and \$4.1 million in 2021). This put the Church in a positive and stable financial position, allowing the Church to add to cash reserves for future expenses.

We recognize that God the Father and Jesus Christ are the source of these blessings. In the troubled times in which we live, we gratefully

acknowledge God's grace, mercy and blessing that have made our healthy financial state possible.

We give our sincere thanks and appreciation to the generous and faithful members and donors who have given tithes and offerings to support the Church.

### CHURCH OF GOD, A WORLDWIDE ASSOCIATION, INC. STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2022

	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total
<b>REVENUES AND SUPPORT</b>			
Tithes and offerings, individuals	\$ 11,638,755	\$ -	\$ 11,638,755
Local congregation contributions	95,897	-	95,897
Holy Day/Festival Fund offerings	3,483,812	-	3,483,812
Contributions of financial assets	-	723,450	723,450
Interest and investment gain	2,868	-	2,868
Other income	123,684	-	123,684
Net assets released from restrictions:			
Satisfaction of program restrictions	723,450	(723,450)	-
Total revenues and supports	<u>16,068,466</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>16,068,466</u>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Program services:			
Public proclamation	1,564,018	-	1,564,018
Congregational care	5,666,431	-	5,666,431
Education	379,717	-	379,717
Festivals	694,108	-	694,108
International	2,163,986	-	2,163,986
Total program services	<u>10,468,260</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>10,468,260</u>
General and administrative:			
Headquarters office, management and administrative	1,349,198	-	1,349,198
Board of directors	3,737	-	3,737
Insurance and related	2,169,442	-	2,169,442
Total general and administrative	<u>3,522,377</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,522,377</u>
Total expenses	<u>13,990,637</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>13,990,637</u>
Change in net assets	2,077,829	-	2,077,829
<b>NET ASSETS, BEGINNING OF YEAR</b>	<u>11,471,449</u>	<u>751,915</u>	<u>12,223,364</u>
<b>NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR</b>	<u>\$ 13,549,278</u>	<u>\$ 751,915</u>	<u>\$ 14,301,193</u>



We appreciate your ongoing prayers for us to have wisdom and discretion as we follow Christ's lead in our stewardship of the resources He provides.

This year's audited financial statement is for the years ending Dec. 31, 2022, and Dec. 31, 2021. In a confirmation letter dated Jan. 22, 2024, our independent auditing firm, Henry & Peters, P.C., of Tyler, Texas, gave us a favorable, "unqualified" opinion that the financial statements accurately present the Church's financial position and results of operations for 2022 and, by comparison, for 2021.

The unqualified opinion reflects our independent auditor's judgment that, without any identified exceptions, our financial records and statements are fairly and appropriately presented and are in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP).

These results not only positively reflect the performance of the financial operations of the Church of God, a Worldwide Association, Inc., but the entire organization's approach to its fiscal responsibilities. The Ministerial Board of Directors and administration are committed to continuously improving the Church's operations and being the best stewards we can be of the financial resources God provides us to do His work. An unqualified opinion is just one indication of that commitment.

Below we have provided several financial statements that relate to the Church's operations for the year ending Dec. 31, 2022.

You can view the audited financial statements and related unqualified opinion online at [members.cogwa.org/uploads/Church\\_of\\_God\\_a\\_Worldwide\\_Association\\_2022\\_Audit.pdf](https://members.cogwa.org/uploads/Church_of_God_a_Worldwide_Association_2022_Audit.pdf).

CHURCH OF GOD, A WORLDWIDE ASSOCIATION, INC. STATEMENT OF FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2022									
EXPENSES	Program Services					General and Administrative			
	Public Proclamation	Congregational Care	Education	Festivals	International	Headquarters Office, Management and Administrative	Board of Directors	Insurance and Related	Total
Bank services and fees	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 83,112	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 83,112
Building and equipment fees	-	19,590	56,251	143,107	-	-	-	-	218,948
Contracted services and fees	371,197	-	-	5,393	-	175,355.00	-	-	551,945
Depreciation	-	-	-	-	-	187,570	-	-	187,570
Domestic support:									
Discretionary assistance	-	154,974	-	140,887	100,583	-	-	72,800	469,244
Discretionary retirement pay	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	791,247	791,247
Insurance and health care	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,305,395	1,305,395
Internet and related	142,899	-	-	-	-	2,000	-	-	144,899
Local congregation subsidies	-	1,390,820	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,390,820
Other	2,231	51,344	11,438	1,743	36,151	171,127.00	-	-	274,034
Postage and shipping	56,406	2,763	-	1,271	12,314	9,633	-	-	82,387
Printing	89,406	1,614	-	-	-	6,711.00	317	-	98,048
Salaries and related expenses	762,967	3,288,515	135,001	340,888	579,958	598,151	-	-	5,705,480
Supplies	116,083	8,806	7,704	38,835	3,077	10,595	-	-	185,100
Telephone and utilities	868	24,658	-	-	1,448	46,341	-	-	73,315
Travel, mileage, meals and lodging	16,128	723,347	27,313	18,823	230,660	19,814	3,420	-	1,039,505
Youth camp and activities	-	-	142,010	3,161	24,850	-	-	-	170,021
Equipment and facilities	5,833	-	-	-	-	38,789	-	-	44,622
International subsidies	-	-	-	-	1,174,945	-	-	-	1,174,945
Total expenses	\$ 1,564,018	\$ 5,666,431	\$ 379,717	\$ 694,108	\$ 2,163,986	\$ 1,349,198	\$ 3,737	\$ 2,169,442	\$ 13,990,637



## Greensboro Participates in Hilltop Project

Several volunteers from the Greensboro, North Carolina, congregation worked together to collect supplies for the Randolph County Family Crisis Center. Every year the center serves hundreds of unfortunate adults and children who are in need.

Volunteers gathered household items and school supplies. One volunteer was fortunate enough to find new and gently used book bags.

Our goal was to donate 50 household kits. Each household kit consisted of full-size containers of cleaning supplies and laundry detergent, so 50 kits was a large donation. It was so large, in fact, that several volunteers were needed to deliver the supplies. The crisis center was overwhelmed by the generosity of our donation.

We are so grateful to Foundation Outreach International for approving this project and for the opportunity to serve the community and work together to help those less fortunate. We pray for the day when everyone will live in a safe world without abuse or human trafficking, and every child will be loved.

**Karen Dolby**



## Williamsburg Holds Youth Day

Nov. 4, 2023, was a very memorable Sabbath for the Williamsburg, Virginia, congregation. The teens and young adults served in a very special way—from song leading to opening and closing prayer, sound and special music. That particular Sabbath was our Thanksgiving dinner, coordinated and served by our young people as well.

William Bruton began services by leading the congregation in three hymns with the assistance of our sound crew, Jasmine Jones and Colin Gwin. Colton Little gave the opening prayer and announcements. After that week's *In Accord* was shown, Ian Larkin led the congregation in a hymn and announced special music, a piano solo performed by Zipporah Nedlock. Larry Lambert gave the sermon, titled "Serving as a Youth in God's Church," and Colin Gwin gave the closing prayer.

After services concluded, Emma and Reese Gwin led the young ladies in preparing the hall and presenting the food for our Thanksgiving dinner. The hall was beautifully decorated with fall colors and decor. The preteens assisted in serving the food and clean up.



At the end of the day, we "older" folks felt very happy and secure in the knowledge that our young people are on the right path to becoming our leaders of tomorrow.

**Wilma Lambert**



## Bentonville Holds Pie Night

On a Wednesday evening in mid-November, the Bentonville, Arkansas, congregation had “Pie Night.”

Everyone gathered for a meal at the local IHOP restaurant, and those who desired breakfast for dinner—or any other items on the menu—enjoyed a meal.

Following everyone’s meal, IHOP allowed us to have pies that were graciously provided by two ladies in the local congregation, Andrea Kapales and Rachelle McGowen.

There was a vast assortment of pies to choose from, more than could be consumed. The sweet treats were a nice way to top off a fine evening of food and fellowship and were truly enjoyed.

**Vicki Willoughby**



## Blackwells Honored on Retirement

On Sabbath, Nov. 18, 2023, the combined congregations of Harrison, Arkansas, and Joplin and Springfield, Missouri, gathered for the retirement of their beloved pastor, Mike Blackwell. Mr. Blackwell and his wife, Carol, diligently served the congregations in Missouri and Arkansas for 29 years.

Jim Franks and Doug Horchak presented Mr. Blackwell with a beautiful commemorative vase, highlighting the Blackwells’ service in the pastoral ministry. Tanya Horchak gave Mrs. Blackwell a spray of red roses, which was particularly touching since Mrs. Horchak has known the Blackwells since she was a girl.

In addition to the Franks and Horchaks, other longtime colleagues and friends from the headquarters office and members from surrounding congregations were present to honor the Blackwells.

Sabbath services included a beautiful piano solo and two split sermons focused on Mr. Blackwell’s

service and serving the brethren through endurance. Afterward, the local congregations treated the Blackwells, guests and brethren to a Thanksgiving-themed potluck meal, an appropriate theme that captured the day’s mood!

In honor of the Blackwells and to help them remember the impact they had, the three congregations presented them with a customized memory quilt that featured photos and memories from almost three decades. The members also signed the quilt with loving words. Additional gifts of fishing poles, tackle and photo books of God’s beautiful creation (Mr. Blackwell’s favorite) were presented and shared over cake.

Local members will miss having Mr. Blackwell as their church pastor, but are grateful the Blackwells will remain in the Springfield congregation.

**Lyndi Fultz**





# Congregations Give Farewell and Welcome



On alternate Sabbaths of Dec. 2 and 9, 2023, the Cincinnati-Dayton, Ohio, and Indianapolis, Indiana, congregations officially said farewell to Dave and Pam Myers and welcomed Ron and Nancy Kelley. Mr. Myers' new role as the Ministerial Services operation manager called him and Mrs. Myers away to greater service in God's Church.

In his parting sermon, Mr. Myers highlighted the phrase *finally, my brethren*, inspiring the brethren to continued spiritual growth. On the alternate Sabbath, Mr. Kelley's sermon provided introduction and intentions to spur growth in members personally and in the congregations as a whole.

After services, each congregation enjoyed a reception with food, fellowship and gifts to thank the Myers and to celebrate the Kelleys' arrival. The Cincinnati congregation

gave the Myers a decorative tray that shows Ohio and Indiana on one side and the dates and locations of their previous congregations since entering the ministry on the other side. The Indianapolis congregation's gifts included Hoosier-made wines and a finely finished cutting board shaped like the state of Texas.

To welcome the Kelleys, the two congregations presented gift baskets that included Hoosier wines and homemade items to keep them warm in the Midwest winters, which are colder than those the Kelleys left behind in North Carolina.

The receptions—with a turkey potluck, cake and favorite snacks—gave everyone extended fellowship time. Brethren shared their happy memories up to the present and excitement for the Myers' and Kelleys' future roles.

**Don Frisz**

**Photo by Lisa Hoverman**



## Columbia Holds First Annual Bunco Night

Dec. 2, 2023, holds the honor of being the first annual tacos and bunco night for the Columbia, Missouri, congregation. Instead of a typical potluck, people brought tacos shells and toppings to share.

After a messy but entirely delicious meal, we moved into the other room where tables for playing bunco had been set up with dice and score cards. A few had learned the game at camp, but for most it was a brand-new experience.

We concluded our fun with laughter and prizes for the most wins, the least wins and the most "baby buncos."

**Shalynn Mellerup**

**Photo by Amanda Porter**



## Nashville Enjoys Pizza and Karaoke



On Dec 2, 2023, the Nashville, Tennessee, congregation enjoyed a spirited and joyous night of pizza and karaoke. Applause and cheers filled the air after each number, whether it was sung by seasoned or first-time karaoke enthusiasts.

The night featured a mix of children's music and lively foot-tapping numbers. The event brought together members of all ages for an evening of music, laughter and cherished memories.

**Tiffany Hamilton**



# Houston Hosts Volleyball Weekend and Teen Activity

Over the weekend of Dec. 9, 2023, the Houston North, Texas, congregation hosted a regional volleyball weekend for adults and teens from the surrounding congregations of Dallas, Fort Worth, San Antonio, Austin and East Texas.

Services were held at the Klein Multipurpose Center with approximately 345 brethren in attendance. The teen instrument ensemble accompanied hymns, and the teen choir sang two selections for special music.

After sundown, over 30 teens and a group of parent volunteers gathered for a series of “minute to win it” games. The competition was lively as six teams played a variety of games, earning points and winning candy at the end. A big thank-you to Brian and Rhonda Waddle for coordinating this fun activity.

Volleyball games were held both Saturday night and Sunday morning at Element Sportsplex. There were approximately 10 adult teams and four teen teams competing in the tournament. This is all made possible by the many volunteers who plan this annual weekend and serve as coaches, referees, scorekeepers and other roles. This regional event has become a highlight of the Houston social calendar and for all those who make the trip to participate each year.

**Tyenne Hewitt**



## East Texas Orient Express Mystery Dinner

On Dec. 2, 2023, the East Texas congregation held its second annual mystery dinner. Written, organized and designed by Melissa Fulgham, this year's theme was “Mystery on the Orient Express.” This event contained a cast of quirky characters played by volunteer members of the church, a delicious potluck dinner that featured Hungarian goulash as the main course, and hours of fun.

Melissa cleverly integrated real elements of post-World War II history into a compelling story of a separated lineage and missing inheritance that was unraveled as the night went on. The attendees worked together to find clues and solve puzzles to piece everything together.

At the end of the evening rewards for the best acting and the best costume were given out to members who participated. Further, since members were able to submit their best attempt at solving the case of the missing inheritance, one member earned the title of “Best Detective” and another the title of “Most Creative.”

**Raegan Diaz**





## Joplin Ladies Take Day Trip

On Monday, Nov. 6, 2023, a group of ladies from the Joplin, Missouri, congregation went on a day trip together, visiting The Pioneer Woman Mercantile and Lodge in Pawhuska, Oklahoma. The caravan included several ladies from the Tulsa, Oklahoma, and Bentonville, Arkansas, congregations for a fun-filled road trip to the Food Network star's restaurant, bakery and store.

This destination location is the hundred-year-old Osage Mercantile building, which has been tastefully renovated. In addition to visiting the Mercantile, the ladies added a fun side trip to tour the Lodge on Drummond Ranch, which serves as the production location for The Pioneer Woman show.

The best part of the entire day was the opportunities for the ladies to spend time together laughing and strengthening friendships.

**Lyndi Fultz**



## Bentonville Provides Baskets for FI Students

Following services on Nov. 9, 2023, the Bentonville, Arkansas, congregation put together care baskets for the Foundation Institute students to have during their second semester of classes at FI.

The baskets were delivered and gratefully received, with smiles all around.

**Vicki Willoughby**



## Teens Prepare Blankets for FOI Project

For our latest FOI project, teens from the Cincinnati-Dayton and Columbus-Cambridge, Ohio, congregations cut the edges and corners for 60 fleece blankets for children in foster care. They also cut a fourth of the blankets so they could be tied.

The teens' work was in preparation for a church social, where we will tie the blankets together as a congregation!

That will then be followed by a teen service opportunity at Warm Welcomes Foster Care, where the teens will put the finished comfort blankets in provided backpacks to be given to foster children.

**Anna Zimmerman**  
**Photo by Rachelle Metzger**







We encourage members to send announcements to be featured in *One Accord*. We feature events in members' lives, including baptisms, births, engagements, weddings, significant anniversaries (25, 40, 50, 60, etc.), and obituaries. Typically they run between 50 and 100 words; however, we ask that all submissions stay under 250 words. Please submit a high-resolution color photo along with the written copy to your congregation's reporter.

## Births



**Riley Alice Prince**

Ethan and Cheree Prince of the Springfield, Missouri, congregation welcomed a new baby girl on June 14, 2023. Riley Alice Prince weighed 8 pounds and 1 ounce and measured 19½ inches long. Riley's grandparents, uncles and aunts are thrilled to have a new baby girl added to their family,

yet perhaps most excited is Riley's 2-year-old big sister Morgan.

**Lyndi Fultz**

### **Loretta Amanaki Pelesikoti**

On Sept. 17, 2023, Siaosi "George" and Kara Pelesikoti, of the Twin Cities, Minnesota, congregation, welcomed Loretta Amanaki Pelesikoti. Loretta is Kara's grandmother's name and Amanaki (Ah-mah-nah-key) is the name Hope in Tongan. She is affectionately called Loa for short.

Big brother Enzo was excited to meet Loa, who weighed in at 7 pounds, 9 ounces and measured 20.5 inches.

Loa is the third grandchild of Kisi and Latai Pelesikoti and the second grandchild of Kent and Kristy Foraker.

**George and Kara Pelesikoti**

## Weddings



**Lynne and Jim Sparks**

Broken Arrow, Oklahoma, was the location of the start of a life together as Jim and Lynne Sparks became husband and wife in a beautiful ceremony on Nov. 5, 2023. After dating for 14 months, the couple wanted to spend the rest of their lives together and tied the knot.

The ceremony was officiated by Tom Clark, pastor of the Van Buren, Bentonville and Mena, Arkansas, congregations.

The Sparks will reside in Broken Arrow and will attend the Tulsa,

Oklahoma, and Van Buren, Arkansas, congregations. Congratulations to the happy couple!

**Aurora Gossett**



**Tori and Rob Worsham**

On the afternoon of Dec. 17, 2023, Rob Worsham and Victoria "Tori" Shook were married at the Thunderbird Resort on Treasure Island, Florida. Jim Haeffele (then pastor of the St. Petersburg, Florida, congregation, which Tori attended) officiated the wedding.

A strong storm with high winds and heavy rain had passed through the day before and previous night, but God graciously allowed the storm clouds to clear and the sun to shine brightly just in time for the outdoor ceremony.

The ceremony itself was held in one of the courtyards of the resort, and afterward Rob and Tori provided refreshments and finger foods for everyone.

The ceremony was a short one attended by only a few immediate family members. Locally, Tori's dad, daughter and daughter's family (including two granddaughters) were in attendance. As well, Rob's daughter and son-in-law were able to make the trip down from Virginia to attend. Rob's mom and sister were able to be there digitally through Zoom.

Rob and Tori are thankful that God blessed them with a beautiful day and a lovely ceremony. They reside at Rob's home in Virginia and attend with the Roanoke, Virginia, congregation, pastored by Larry Lambert.

**Rob and Tori Worsham**



## Anniversaries



**Bridget and Brian Shell**

The Cincinnati-Dayton, Ohio, congregation had the opportunity to celebrate a milestone anniversary with two beloved members, Brian and Bridget Shell. Their commitment was honored with cake and pictures of their wedding.

Brian and Bridget enjoyed a small cake at home, as Bridget is not often able to be physically present for services.

On Sept. 17, 1983—40 years ago—Brian and Bridget Shell became man and wife. How did a country girl and a city boy begin their adventure? With Bridget's curiosity about the voice answering the phone when she called one of her good friends from childhood. Bridget's friend was Brian's sister-in-law!

From there, Bridget put on her running shoes and chased Brian until they went on their first date. Right away, they each knew that the other was the person they wanted to spend the rest of their lives with.

They were married in Norwood, Ohio, in the house of a friend of Bridget's mom. When Bridget was little, she dreamed of having her wedding there and walking down the beautiful steps in the house.

They each had a son from a previous marriage—Allen Shell and Jacob Cain. The boys wanted a sister, and three years later Brian and Bridget were blessed with a daughter named Holly.

After about five years of marriage, Brian's brother introduced him to

“the plain truth about Christmas.” Brian and Bridget were baptized together on May 8, 1988.

Brian and Bridget love being together. For many years they worked jobs together. They are each other's best friend.

**Jennifer Foster**



**Linda and Cliff Beal**

On Oct. 21, 2023, the Joplin, Missouri, congregation celebrated the 50th wedding anniversary of Cliff and Linda Beal.

Cliff and Linda were married on Oct. 19, 1973. The couple went to high school together, and they were the quintessential high school sweethearts. He was the charming football hero, and she was the bubbly cheerleader, and the two continued dating through college. One day, when Linda was visiting Cliff's family during college break, she noticed that his mom had a pile of church literature and was curious about it. His mom explained it, and Linda says she instantly believed it!

Upon returning to college, Linda subscribed to *The Plain Truth*. Not long after Cliff told Linda, “I don't believe in Christmas anymore.” To his surprise (and delight), Linda wholeheartedly agreed, and they decided it was “all or nothing” when it came to their faith.

After college, they married, started attending church, were baptized and started a family in Grove, Oklahoma. They raised four children, Clifton, Edward (deceased), Ruth Ann and Bryan (deceased). They have four granddaughters and two great-grandsons.

Over the years, Cliff was a powerline worker in Missouri and Tulsa, Oklahoma, and Linda worked in the school system for 25 years. They moved to Neosho, Missouri, in 2003, and have built a successful family window-washing business with their son Clifton and daughter Ruth Ann. They love the fact that their granddaughters and great-grandsons also work with them.

Cliff and Linda are dedicated servants to the brethren in the Joplin and Springfield, Missouri, congregations.

**Lyndi Fultz**

## Baptisms



**Robyn Bievenour**

On Oct. 3, 2023, during the Feast of Tabernacles in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, Robyn Bievenour was baptized by her pastor, Scott Lord.

Robyn attends the York, Pennsylvania, congregation.

**Scott Lord**



**Donna Loree Chaudron**

The Mobile, Alabama, congregation is so excited to announce the baptism



of Donna Loree Chaudron. She was baptized May 2, 2023, by our pastor, Wes Cohron. The baptism took place at the home of Loree Rhodes on the most beautiful spring day.

Welcome into the family of God, Donna. We are so excited to have you as part of the family.

**Debbie Daugherty**



**Lauren Schumacher**

On the Sabbath of Dec. 9, 2023, the entire Roanoke, Virginia, congregation assembled together for the baptism of Lauren Schumacher. She was baptized by Larry Lambert, her former pastor. Van Hanson, an elder in the congregation, joined in the laying on of hands ceremony.

After the baptism, we all returned across the street to our church hall for a nice reception in celebration of this wonderful event.

Welcome, Lauren, to the Body of Christ.

**Larry Lambert**



**Elisabeth "Isa" Vaughn**

We are pleased to announce a new member was added to the family of God on the Sabbath of March 11, 2023. Elisabeth Vaughn, known by

her close friends as Isa, is the daughter of Gregory and Dara Vaughn. She attends the Dallas, Texas, congregation with her parents and her two brothers.

Andy Burnett, her pastor, performed the baptism, and Clyde Kilough and Philip Dick assisted with the laying on of hands.

Isa was surrounded by her family and many close friends from the local congregation. Afterward, everyone enjoyed wine, cheese and other hors d'oeuvres to celebrate.

**Dara Vaughn**

## Obituaries



**Jeanette Brandt Treybig**

Jeanette Brandt Treybig was born Nov. 15, 1925, near Columbus, Texas, in Colorado County. She died of natural causes on Oct. 24, 2023, in The Woodlands, Texas. She was the oldest child and only daughter of Gerhard Alfred Brandt and Linda Berger Brandt. She had two younger brothers, Wilfred and Royce, who both preceded her in death.

She is survived by three children, David H. (Teddi) Treybig, Kenneth (Kathy) Treybig and Karen Treybig Doig; seven grandchildren, Sharon Babcock, Kevin Treybig, David J. Treybig, Kamie Stoner, Justin Doig, Brian Doig and Ethan Doig; and 14 great-grandchildren. Jeanette's husband of 57 years, Harold, preceded her in death on Dec. 18, 2005.

Jeanette married Harold Treybig on April 10, 1948, and both were baptized as members of the Church of God in May 1953.

Jeanette was a devoted wife and mother who enjoyed sewing, reading and preparing healthy meals for her family. A favorite pastime was having a meal with friends and playing cards or dominoes. She also assisted her husband in his CPA practice and in his service to the Church as an elder.

Jim Franks officiated her memorial service, which was held after the



**Nick Slaughter**

On Pentecost, May 28, 2023, the Austin, Texas, congregation was delighted to welcome a new elder into the congregation. Nick Slaughter was ordained an elder during the services by pastor David Treybig and five other elders, two of whom were visiting from other congregations.

Pictured in the photo (from left) are Clay Mills, David Treybig, Jim Servidio, Nick Slaughter, David Gatley, David J. Treybig and Jack Hendren.

Mr. Slaughter was ordained a deacon in May of 2019. Since that time, he has served in many capacities. He has been in charge of A/V and hall setup for services. He has also coached many teen and adult sports teams.

Nick and his wife, Sarah, have been married for 31 years and have two daughters, Isabella and Sabrina. The Slaughters have attended the Austin congregation since 2001.

**Ardith Weiss**



Houston North congregation services on Nov. 11, 2023.

**David Treybig, Ken Treybig  
and Karen Doig**



**June Davies**

June Davies, a longtime member of the Church in Vancouver, British Columbia, died Dec. 31, 2023, with her family by her side.

June was in her late 80s. She had been suffering with stage 4 cancer for the last several years. Since 2018, she had been living in an assisted care facility in New Westminster, British Columbia, due to her illness. She was able to attend her final Feast of Tabernacles in Victoria in 2023, with her son and daughter-in-law. She was grateful to be able to attend in spite of her health.

June has a rich history in the Church. She was baptized in 1961 and was a pioneer member of that first service in Vancouver. She even worked as a receptionist for the Canadian office of the Worldwide Church of God in Vancouver. She later headed up the local used clothing program in the local congregation. In addition, she was able to send used clothing to the brethren in the Philippines.

June was preceded in death by her husband, Lorne Davies Sr. She is survived by her two sons, Lorne Jr. and Glyn, their wives and numerous grandchildren. Per her request, there was a very small private memorial with immediate family.

**Jon Pinelli**



**Scott Robert Cannon**

At 5:40 p.m., Monday, Dec. 25, 2023, Scott Robert Cannon died from heart failure while in the hospital for issues related to neuropathy. His doctors were able to resuscitate him, but after several days spent in a medically induced coma, he was ultimately declared brain dead.

Scott was a dedicated father to his two sons, Matthew and Zachary, a loving and caring son to his mom and dad, and a loving and protective brother to his two sisters. He loved God, God's people and God's truth.

For over 15 years, Scott endured extreme pain in his feet, legs and chest from neuropathy as a result of type 2 diabetes. At the age of 43, he underwent a quintuple bypass surgery and later had two stints.

We look forward to seeing him soon in God's Kingdom as a powerful spirit being, completely healed, serving God the Father and Jesus Christ, and helping others who have had to experience pain and suffering.

We will miss Scotty terribly—his love, his humor, his concern for others, his companionship, his courage, and so much else.

We thank everyone who prayed for Scott and us during Scott's extreme health battle over many years and now with his death.

He is survived by his sons, Matthew (Savannah) Cannon and Zachary Cannon; his loving parents, James and RoseAnn Cannon; his sisters, Rebekah (Christian) Leyden and Elizabeth (Justin) Glasgow; his nieces and nephews, Isaac and Matthias Leyden, and Willa, Josiah and Shiloh

Glasgow; and scores of uncles, aunts, cousins and dear family members.

**Jim and RoseAnn Cannon**



**Pam Ward**

On Oct. 30, 2023, longtime Church member Pam Ward died at age 73. Pam was born in Cincinnati, Ohio, on Dec. 29, 1950.

From birth, Pam had very limited vision, and over the course of her life, she worked with eight guide dogs. Pam was happy to explain to children how her dogs helped her, and she was very supportive when fellow Church members faced vision problems.

While in college at the University of Minnesota, Pam was impressed by the beliefs and example of a fellow blind student, who connected her with the local Worldwide Church of God minister. This was the beginning of her rich spiritual vision! After her baptism in 1971, she met her husband Bob at church services in Grand Forks, North Dakota. She and Bob were married for 51 years.

Pam will long be remembered for her vocal solos and involvement in Feast choirs, for her ready smile and for her devotion to God. Pam was a true friend who loved beauty, animals and gardens. She is survived by her husband Bob; one brother, Phil; many cousins, nieces and nephews; and her current guide dog, Joey.

After Sabbath services on Nov. 25, the Twin Cities, Minnesota, congregation had a memorial service during which members shared their lasting impressions and memories of Pam.

**Liz Boyle**





## 2024 U.S. SITE DESCRIPTIONS

### Branson, Missouri

For the 29th year, we will host the Feast of Tabernacles in the beautiful Ozark Mountains of Branson, Missouri. Since the Feast begins later this year, Branson will show off its fall colors when we arrive. Branson truly is a one-of-a-kind family destination.

With more than 9 million visitors annually, Branson is constantly adding new things for the whole family, including abundant shopping and dining. Branson is also known as the “live entertainment capital of the world,” where there is truly something for everyone.

For outdoor enthusiasts, Branson is fast becoming one of the premier golfing destinations in the country. If you want to be waterside, stroll the paved trails at

Table Rock Lake and Lake Taneycomo.

Housing is available to match almost any budget. Every year, Branson has proved to be one of the most affordable Feast sites in the United States. Branson has a place for you, with options ranging from economical motels to four-star hotels, condominiums that satisfy any taste, or charming cabins that offer peace and tranquility.

This year, services will again be held at the newly-renovated Yakov Smirnoff Theatre on the north side of Branson. This theater has plenty of seating and has proven an excellent venue for the Feast.

**Fragrance-controlled room available:** Yes.

**Lodging tax rate:** 12.35 to 13.5%, depending on location.

**Closest airport:** Springfield-Branson (SGF), 55 miles.

**Dennis Fultz**

### Fort Myers, Florida (Satellite)

Beautiful Fort Myers, Florida, will again be the host city for the Church’s Florida satellite site.

As a satellite site, Fort Myers is intended first to be for Florida brethren who cannot afford to travel to sites outside of Florida. After the first two weeks of registration, Fort Myers will be open to anyone. The site can accommodate up to 200 people.

The beauty of the Gulf Coast and the excellent venue for accommodations and services make this a very good choice for 2024.

Services will be held at the beautifully renovated Crowne Plaza Fort Myers Gulf Coast (formerly Holiday Inn Airport at Gulf Coast Town Center). Brethren who stay at the

Crowne Plaza will enjoy a free buffet breakfast.

There are over 30 top restaurants at the Gulf Coast Town Center, across the main boulevard from the Crowne Plaza.

This area of southwest Florida offers many attractions. The Edison and Ford Winter Estates in Fort Myers is open daily. The causeway to Sanibel and Captiva Islands is 30 minutes away, as is Fort Myers Beach. All three have beautiful white-sand beaches, and there are plenty of seashells to gather on Sanibel and Captiva Islands. The popular Naples Zoo is 35 minutes away, and the western Everglades National Park’s Ten Thousand Islands guided boat tour is just one hour away.

High temps during the Feast typically range from the upper 80s to lower 90s.

**Fragrance-controlled room available:** No.



**Lodging tax rate:** 11.5%.

**Closest airport:**

Southwest Florida International Airport (RSW), 5 miles. (Hotel/airport shuttle is complimentary.)

**Chuck Sinon**

## Greenville, South Carolina

Located in the northwest corner of South Carolina, Greenville is set among the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains. Downtown Greenville is a historic Southern city that has gracefully transitioned from one of the Southeast's best-kept secrets to one of its hottest destinations.

It is rapidly becoming known as a paradise for outdoor lovers. The city will surprise you and charm you with countless restaurants, shops, a waterfall and gorgeous scenery, all of which can be seen by walking, biking or even a Segway tour. If you enjoy family activities, this is a site you will love. Whether you're looking for hiking, Topgolf, escape rooms or zip-lining, Greenville has it. If you are a foodie, you will be pleasantly surprised. (For further information, go to [visitgreenvillesc.com](http://visitgreenvillesc.com).)

Greenville has an easy-to-access airport for those flying to the Feast. The surrounding area also offers a number of outdoor activities, allowing you to take in the natural beauty of this part of the country.

We will be keeping the Feast at the [Embassy Suites](#)

and [Golf Resort](#). Each room is a suite (bedroom and separate living room) that includes a fridge and microwave. The price includes a full hot breakfast daily, as well as free drinks and snacks each afternoon. It has its own golf course and indoor and outdoor pools.

We hope you will consider joining us in Greenville for God's Feast.

**Fragrance-controlled room available:** Yes.

**Lodging tax rate:** 12.12%.

**Closest airport:**

Greenville (GSP), 10 miles.

**Mark Winner**

## Kohala Coast, Hawaii

Aloha! We will be returning to the Big Island of Hawaii for the Feast this year. Our host location for 2024 will once again be the four-star Hilton Waikoloa Village Resort, situated about 20 minutes north of the city of Kona and the international airport. The resort is located on the world-famous Kohala Coast, on the west side of the largest of the Hawaiian Islands.

The oceanfront Hilton Waikoloa Village is on 62 acres of lush tropical grounds that include a private beach and bay, four pools, five restaurants, a fitness center, a spa, two championship golf courses, gardens and coastal hiking trails.

We are expecting an attendance of 300 to 400. All of our services and meetings, and most of our

activities, will be held at the Hilton Waikoloa Village, where we have reserved a large block of rooms at deeply discounted rates.

There is plenty to do and see on Hawaii's Big Island. Of course, sightseeing, shopping, fine dining, fishing, ocean water sports and beaches abound. The Volcanoes National Park and Hawaii's famous stargazing opportunities are also highlights.

Organized activities will include a teen pizza pool party, a young adult activity, a family sailing and snorkeling adventure on a private charter boat, and a best-ball golf tournament.

You will find plenty of helpful information and pictures on our Facebook page: [COGWA FOT Kohala Coast](#). We look forward to seeing you on the Big Island for the Feast this year! Aloha!

**Fragrance-controlled room:** No.

**Lodging tax rate:** 17.96%.

**Closest airport:** Kona (KOA), 20 miles.

**Dave Register**

## Lancaster, Pennsylvania

We're pleased to be returning to Lancaster's top-rated luxury hotel—[Eden Resort & Suites](#). Church services will be in the luxurious Crystal Ballroom.

For housing, we'll have standard rooms (two queen beds) and a variety of suites. All rooms have

a refrigerator, microwave and coffee maker.

Resort dining includes a new restaurant, [Bistro 2Two2](#). This restaurant joins two longtime favorites—Arthur's Terrace and Encore Lounge. Additionally, the award-winning [Champagne Sunday Brunch](#) should resume this year, for the first time since 2020.

Off-site dining includes Pennsylvania Dutch restaurants, buffets and much more. One of the favorites is the [Shady Maple Smorgasbord](#), especially on Monday nights (steak night). "Experience the excitement of dining at the United States' largest smorgasbord, featuring 200 feet of deliciously authentic Pennsylvania Dutch cooking." For more options, see the [Lancaster Visitor's Guide—Where to Eat](#).

For group activities, a block of tickets is reserved at the Sight & Sound Theatre for the premier season of [Daniel!](#) A family dance is also planned, as well as a Family Day activity at the [Cherry Crest Adventure Farm](#).

Additional family-friendly attractions are the [Biblical Tabernacle](#), [Civil War History and the Underground Railroad in Lancaster](#), [Green Dragon](#) farmers' market (Fridays only), [Strasburg Rail Road](#), [Dutch Wonderland](#) family amusement park (ages 3+). For more details, see [Discover Lancaster](#).

**Fragrance-controlled room available:** No.



**Lodging tax rate:** 11%.

**Closest airports:**

Harrisburg (HIA), 30 miles; Philadelphia (PHL), 65 miles; Lehigh Valley (ABE), 68 miles; Baltimore-Washington (BWI), 85 miles.

**Kevin Epps**

## Mont-Tremblant, Québec

We are delighted to return to Mont-Tremblant for the Feast in 2024. This resort village 90 minutes from Montréal is home to a host of boutiques, restaurants, spas and hotels. Its French Alps-style buildings are linked by pedestrian-only, cobblestone streets. Lake Tremblant provides a beautiful reflection of fall colors and is home to one of the area's many multipurpose trails.

Services will be held at the AX Hotel located 8 miles from the resort village. AX Hotel offers standard rooms, as well as studio suites with kitchenettes. Numerous off-site housing options are available, including Microtel by Wyndham, Fairmont, Westin, Holiday Inn, Residence Inn and others.

Services will be in English and French, alternating each day between the two languages, with translation available. Activities will be available for all ages, such as a game night, a variety show and an FOI service project. We hope to provide a family atmosphere that you will enjoy!

You won't want to miss the excursion to Parc

Omega, a wildlife park that is home to a wide variety of Canada's native species. Another popular excursion is riding the gondola to the top of Mont-Tremblant to view the fall colors.

We hope you will keep the Feast with us at Mont-Tremblant! To register, please follow the standard Feast registration process. If you have questions or are considering spending the Feast in Québec this year, please contact Daniel Harper at [daniel.harper@cogwa.org](mailto:daniel.harper@cogwa.org).

**Fragrance-controlled room availability:** Yes.

**Lodging tax rate:** 18.9%.

**Closest airport:**

Montreal-Trudeau International Airport (YUL), 80 miles.

**Daniel Harper**

## New Braunfels, Texas

New Braunfels is a small town of approximately 100,000 people located in the hill country of Texas, just 30 miles northeast of downtown San Antonio. Its German heritage is evident in the city's buildings, culture and cuisine. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, New Braunfels was the third-fastest-growing city in the United States from 2010-2020.

Services will be held in the New Braunfels Civic/Convention Center, 375 S. Castell Ave., New Braunfels, Texas 78130.

Nestled at the convergence of two rivers,

New Braunfels offers many recreational opportunities that include water, such as floating one of the rivers or swimming in the largest spring-fed pool in Texas!

For those interested in history, there are seven museums to visit and the historic district of Gruene (a district within the city of New Braunfels) to explore. And for dining, there are many restaurants nearby where visitors can sample German dishes, Texas barbecue and contemporary fare.

If you'd like to venture beyond the local area, San Antonio is just 30 miles south on Interstate 35. There you can tour the historic Alamo, wander the River Walk, go up the Tower of the Americas, visit SeaWorld and enjoy Six Flags Fiesta Texas theme park.

The average daily high temperature in New Braunfels in October is 81 degrees F. and the average low temperature is 57 degrees F. Anticipated attendance is 300.

**Fragrance-controlled room:** Yes.

**Lodging tax rate:** 13%.

**Closest airport:** San Antonio (SAT), 36 miles.

**David Treybig**

## Orange Beach, Alabama

For the 11th year, Orange Beach, Alabama, will again welcome COGWA for the Feast of Tabernacles. We meet in the beautiful Orange Beach Event

Center, located in the Wharf District, which hosts many fine restaurants, shopping and lots of outdoor activities for the whole family.

Orange Beach is one of our largest Feast sites in the United States and offers wonderful fellowship opportunities. We will host teen and young adult drop-ins at the beginning of the Feast for fellowship and a way to make new friends and memories. We will also have a golf scramble and a teen outing on the beach.

A highlight of the Feast is Family Day. We'll provide carnival games, novelty Olympics, a sing-along and a host of games and activities, all in an afternoon of sun and fun!

There are multiple beach locations—stretching across several miles—that allow for parasailing, diving, deep-sea fishing, glass-bottom boat and dolphin tours, beach volleyball and a host of other Gulf-related activities. If your interest isn't beautiful white sand, then just minutes from the beach are golf, sailing and several theme parks for the young at heart.

If sand, surf and sun are calling you this year, we encourage you to join us for God's Feast in Orange Beach!

**Fragrance-controlled room available:** No.

**Lodging tax rate:** 16%. (Be sure to read details on each property listed in the housing information. Some Orange Beach accommodations include taxes and fees in their rates.)



**Closest airport:**  
Pensacola, Florida (PNS),  
30 miles.

**Phil Sandilands**

## Rapid City, South Dakota

Once again, we will be holding the Feast of Tabernacles in the beautiful Black Hills of South Dakota. Voted one of the best small towns in the United States in 2023, Rapid City is a very popular destination for conventions and tourism.

The Best Western Ramkota Hotel will serve as our host facility again this year. Housing will be available on-site. There are also numerous other hotels in every price range and many vacation rental properties in the area.

Come explore the many wonders of this area, including the amazing Mount Rushmore, Crazy Horse Memorial, Badlands National Park, historic Deadwood, and the scenic Black Hills.

The Black Hills contain attractions such as Custer State Park, where you can observe herds of buffalo, pronghorns, mule deer, elk, bighorn sheep and plenty of prairie dogs roaming 71,000 acres.

The area also is home to Bear Country USA, where you can experience the drive-through wildlife park and a walk-through wildlife area as well. It's a great opportunity to see nature up close and personal!

The average high

temperature for October in Rapid City is 60 degrees F. and the average low is 39 degrees F.

We look forward to seeing you and enjoying a wonderful Feast together!

**Fragrance-controlled room available:** Yes.

**Lodging tax rate:**  
9%, plus a \$2 per night occupancy fee.

**Closest airport:** Rapid City Regional Airport (RAP), 10.9 miles.

**Mark Whynaucht**

## Redmond, Oregon

Our Pacific Northwest Feast of Tabernacles site in 2024 will return to the crossroads of central Oregon—Redmond.

We will be utilizing the Eagle Crest Resort for our Feast of Tabernacles services, as well as a number of other activities. The Eagle Crest Resort is located just a few miles outside the actual town of Redmond. The resort will also serve as our housing locale with a variety of different housing options. The spacious ballroom-style meeting facility at Eagle Crest will serve as our meeting hall for daily services.

The area has a wide variety of outdoor activities. Hiking trails are in abundance in the area, as well as in the Cascade Mountains located just 30 minutes away. Several picturesque lakes are located nearby, as well as the Deschutes River, if you enjoy fishing.

If you are looking for a unique experience, take a 20-minute drive to the Western-themed town of Sisters. Antique shops, unique stores and restaurants make for an interesting afternoon visit to this quaint town. Restaurants and shopping can also be found in the town of Redmond or a little further down the road in Bend, Oregon. The area has a variety of antique and boutique-style shops, as well as restaurants for all budgets.

If you are looking for a laidback, slower-paced country Feast site, come keep the Feast in Redmond, Oregon, this year.

**Fragrance-controlled room available:** No.

**Lodging tax rate:** 19%.

**Closest airport:**  
Redmond Municipal Airport (RDM), 8 miles;  
Portland International Airport (PDX), 148 miles.

**Jon Pinelli**

## Triadelphia, West Virginia (Satellite)

Triadelphia, West Virginia, will serve as a wonderful Feast site for area members who cannot travel a great distance. The Feast site and housing are located in a nice area of shopping and restaurants known as [The Highlands](#). Services will be held at The Highlands Event Center.

The Highlands is just off Interstate 70 and is easy to get around in.

It is near Oglebay Park just outside of Wheeling, West Virginia. Oglebay is a beautifully landscaped, 2,000-acre public park and wedding venue that offers additional amenities that any Feast attendee is likely to enjoy.

Church housing will be at the Fairfield by Marriott, which is connected to The Highlands Event Center. Each room includes a coffee maker, microwave and mini-fridge. A full breakfast will be offered daily.

**Fragrance-controlled room available:** No.

**Lodging tax rate:** 12%.

**Closest airport:**  
Pittsburgh International Airport (PIT), 50 miles.

**Mark Winner**

## Tucson, Arizona

The Southwest region is returning to Tucson, Arizona, for the 2024 Feast of Tabernacles!

The Loews Ventana Canyon Resort has requested our return. This beautiful four-star resort, nestled in the canyon, is a quiet setting designed for relaxation, entertainment and fellowship. Loews offers us not only a wonderful meeting space, but beautifully appointed rooms, gift shops, a bistro, four restaurants, outdoor pools, spa, tennis courts and two golf courses.

Services will be in the Kiva Ballroom, so those staying at the resort will enjoy not only a beautiful room and view, but also



an easy walk to services and activities. The Loews has offered our members tremendously discounted rooms and has waived the resort fee and parking fees. The rates for this wonderful venue are equal to or less than the rates of most hotels in the valley, yet it is a top-notch resort!

Tucson offers many options in entertainment. Tombstone, Arizona, is a short drive to the south, and the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum is a short drive to the west. Tucson also offers jeep or Hummer desert tours, hiking, horseback riding, rock climbing, Funtasticks fun park, or simply driving to beautiful Mount Lemmon.

Tucson has numerous dining choices, including breweries, custom burger places, steakhouses, Italian restaurants and wonderful Mexican cuisine.

Enjoy this beautiful Western Feast site, and watch it come to life once again as we celebrate the Feast in 2024.

**Fragrance-controlled room available:** No.

**Lodging tax rate:** 12.05%.

**Closest airport:** Tucson (TUS), 18.7 miles.

**Paul Carter**

## Woodbury, Minnesota (Satellite)

Once again, the satellite site for the Wisconsin and Minnesota area will be Woodbury, Minnesota, an eastern suburb of St. Paul

and only 13 miles from the Wisconsin border. "Satellite site" means that services will be provided via webcast from one of the other Feast sites. While we will be a small site, there will be plenty of good fellowship.

The extended-stay hotel where we have a block of rooms is the Residence Inn (205 Radio Dr., Woodbury, MN). The Residence Inn is a short drive from historic downtown Stillwater. It offers a free shuttle service, Monday to Friday, within a 5-mile radius. Services will be held next door to the Residence Inn (a short walk) at the Courtyard by Marriott (185 Radio Dr., Woodbury, MN).

There are many good restaurants and retailers. Cub Foods, Whole Foods and Trader Joe's are a short distance away. There are many attractions in the greater Twin Cities area as well, including Como Zoo and Mall of America.

A complimentary breakfast buffet is provided each morning, and each room has a kitchen so you can prepare your own meals.

The hotel includes a business center, free Wi-Fi and on-site laundry. Pets are allowed. You may also enjoy the outdoor fire pit and are welcome to utilize the patio grill.

**Fragrance-controlled room available:** No.

**Lodging tax rate:** 8.38%.

**Closest airport:** Minneapolis-St. Paul (MSP), 20 miles.

**Larry Solomon**

## International Feast Sites

### Africa

Benin City, Nigeria  
Douala, Cameroon  
Cape Coast, Ghana  
Giti, Rwanda  
Gonubie, South Africa  
Gweru, Zimbabwe  
Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo  
Kitgum, Uganda  
Kpalimé, Togo  
La Mé, Côte d'Ivoire  
Mapoko, Zambia  
Migori, Kenya  
Mugina, Burundi  
Salima, Malawi

### Asia/Pacific

Baguio City, Philippines  
Sri Lanka  
Pacific Harbour, Fiji  
Taupo, New Zealand

### Caribbean

Barbados  
Jamaica  
Lethem, Guyana  
St. Kitts

### Europe & Middle East

Ashbourne, Ireland  
Cortona, Italy  
Montagnac, France  
Tunbridge Wells, England (Satellite site)

### Latin America

El Quisco, Chile  
El Rodadero, Santa Marta, Colombia  
Huancho, Peru  
Quetzaltenango, Guatemala  
Santa Cruz, Bolivia  
Sierra de la Ventana, Argentina  
Veracruz, Mexico

Note: Not all locations in this list are final. Please check [feast.cogwa.org](https://feast.cogwa.org) for up-to-date information on international sites.

## Assigned site registration begins April 28, 2024

[feast.cogwa.org](https://feast.cogwa.org)

### ATTENTION THOSE WITH FRAGRANCE-SENSITIVITY ISSUES

We are aware that some of our members suffer from sensitivities to fragrances. We try to address this issue at the Feast sites where we can do so. We cannot control all the issues necessary to make an area truly fragrance-free, so we cannot guarantee a "fragrance-free" room. But certain sites are able to provide a "fragrance-controlled" room or "fragrance-sensitive" area. Those who have fragrance issues will generally find this area to be an aid in dealing with their sensitivities.



# **RUN THE RACE**

**Obtain the Prize**

## **2024 CAMP DATES**

### **TEEN**

Sequoia (Teen): July 14–21, 2024  
Camp Long: July 21–28, 2024  
Camp Athens: July 28–Aug. 4, 2024  
Heritage: Aug. 11–18, 2024  
Winter Camp: to be determined

### **PRETEEN**

Lone Star: June 9–12, 2024  
Camp Harmony: June 30–July 4, 2024  
Midwest Preteen Camp: June 30–July 4, 2024  
Sequoia (Preteen): July 14–17, 2024  
Arrowhead: Aug. 4–7, 2024

**look for updates on registration at**  
**[camps.cogwa.org](https://camps.cogwa.org)**