

# OneAccord

March/April 2026



2026



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# personal from the president

## 2026 Feast of Tabernacles

It was Friday evening, Oct. 12, 1962, when we gathered for the opening service of the Feast of Tabernacles in the large metal tabernacle on the grounds of the Radio Church of God in Big Sandy, Texas. After observing God's holy days at home for nearly 10 years, my family and I were thrilled to be attending the Feast in person—along with some 8,000 brethren from around the country and beyond.

I had first begun observing the Feast of Tabernacles in the early 1950s with my mother and sister, but those observances were quite limited. For about a decade, our family had kept the Feast at home. At that time, attending a Festival site was simply not possible for us. We stayed home from school on the holy days and did our best to observe them faithfully, but during the intervening days life continued much as usual. Still, we cherished the Feast and looked forward to it each year.

Attending the Feast in person for the first time in the early 1960s was a powerful and joyful experience. Being surrounded by thousands of brethren, hearing daily messages, singing hymns together, and sharing meals and fellowship left a lasting impression on me—one that has never faded.

Now, more than 60 years later, I find myself once again looking ahead to another Feast of Tabernacles—this time to the 2026 Festival season. It is hard to believe how quickly the years have passed. Yet one thing has not changed: the excitement and anticipation that accompany the Feast each year. I hope you feel the same enthusiasm today that I did when I first attended the Feast of Tabernacles in Big Sandy back in 1962.

As we look ahead to the 2026 Feast season, we once again face an important and enjoyable decision: Where will we attend the Feast this year? I am pleased to announce that we will again be offering a variety of Festival sites in the United States, Canada and other nations. In addition to our regular sites, we will also continue to offer a satellite site in the United States to serve brethren who are no longer able to travel long distances.

The following are some of the Festival sites planned for the 2026 Feast of Tabernacles:

- Bournemouth Beach, England
- Branson, Missouri
- Estes Park, Colorado
- Fort Myers, Florida

- Gettysburg, Pennsylvania
- Loutraki, Greece
- Les Tuquets, France
- Mont-Tremblant, Québec
- Myrtle Beach, South Carolina
- New Braunfels, Texas
- Orange Beach, Alabama
- Seaside, Oregon
- Tucson, Arizona

Each of these locations offers unique opportunities for worship, fellowship and spiritual renewal. Whether you prefer a seaside setting, a mountain environment or a more traditional gathering location, we hope you will find a Festival site that meets your needs and allows you to fully rejoice before God.

All of God's annual festivals provide vital insight into His plan of salvation, clearly revealing each step in His purpose for mankind. However, the final two festivals—the Feast of Tabernacles and the Last Great Day—picture something especially inspiring. They point forward to a time of peace, abundance, healing and restoration for all humanity. In a world so often marked by sorrow, division and uncertainty, these days portray a future filled with hope and joy under the rule of Jesus Christ.

I would also like to encourage you to consider serving during the Feast of Tabernacles in 2026. Over the years, I have found that serving the brethren—whether through ushering, music, sound, hospitality or other responsibilities—greatly enhances the Feast experience. Serving deepens our appreciation for these days and adds to the joy God intends us to experience.

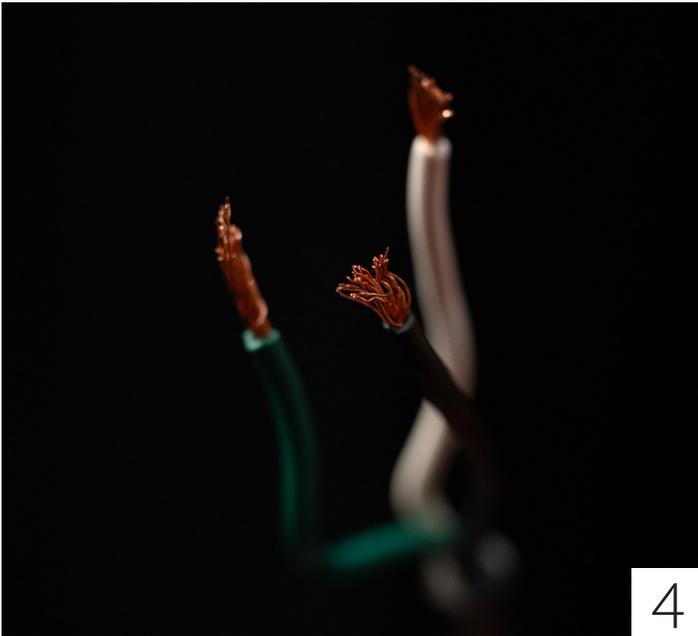
I look forward to seeing many of you at the Feast of Tabernacles this year. May God continue to bless and guide your preparations as we anticipate once again this wonderful time of rejoicing before Him.



**Jim Franks**

President

Church of God, a Worldwide Association



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## CHURCH of GOD

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# 120 Volts of Insight What I Learned From Touching the Wrong Wire

Sometimes, completing a 120-volt circuit with your body can provide some spiritual insights—but we don't recommend it.

By Jeremy Lallier

**Y**ou never forget your first live wire. Mine was over a decade ago. My boss (and future brother-in-law) had been patiently teaching me the ins and outs of residential electrical wiring. During one of our jobs, he had me install a floodlight on the corner of a newly constructed house, warning me before I started that the circuit might be on. I'll never forget his exact words. "It might be on," he said.

So I climbed up my insulated, fiberglass ladder. Carefully, I cut open the wire's outer sheathing. Gingerly, I separated the hot, neutral and ground wires. Slowly, I began stripping off the inner layer of insulation on the hot wire. Angrily, I whirled around to gripe at whoever thought it would be funny to sneak up on a man trying to work with a potentially live circuit.

But there was no one there.

The anger gave way to confusion and then a realization. The twitching sensation in my back wasn't from a prankster with no respect for personal boundaries.

I'd electrocuted myself.

### Seeing sparks—and spiritual parallels

I'm not sure if it's normal to start seeing spiritual parallels after sending an unnatural amount of electrical current through your body, but I found myself musing on the verses in Proverbs that say, "There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death" (Proverbs 14:12; 16:25).

What I was doing on the ladder *seemed* right. I believed I was doing everything the right way—and yet, that didn't stop me from getting shocked.

My brother-in-law later explained that I'd probably brushed my hand against the ground wire while stripping out the hot wire, inviting the electrical current to travel right through me. (Turns out that, yes, the circuit was in fact on.)

It's the same way in life. It doesn't matter how strongly you or I *believe* we're doing something right; unless we're *actually* doing it right, we aren't necessarily protected from the consequences. For instance, explaining to a police officer that you didn't know the speed limit was 30 miles per hour slower than what you were driving probably won't get you out of a ticket.

Likewise, I didn't have the opportunity to sit down with the circuit and explain that I didn't want to be an electrical conductor. None of my careful planning shielded me from the very real consequences of one unintentional hand movement.

### Turning to God's Word for direction

In our walk with God, is He satisfied if we just follow *most* of His commands? Will He be pleased with us as living sacrifices if we spend our lives pursuing what *seems* right to us?

God Himself had His answer to that question recorded in the book of Isaiah: "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways," says the LORD. "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts" (Isaiah 55:8-9).

God is not interested in what *we* think is the right way to do something. He's interested in what *is* the

right way to do something—the way He's preserved for us in His Word, the Bible. At its core, the Bible is an instruction manual contrasting two major paths in life: the harm and unhappiness that come from poor decisions and the blessings and joy that come from wise ones.

### "No stripes" is better than "few stripes"

We do have some comfort in knowing that there's a difference between unintentional ignorance and willful disobedience. As Jesus explained in the parable of the faithful steward, "That servant who knew his master's will, and did not prepare himself or do according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes. But he who did not know, yet committed things deserving of stripes, shall be beaten with few. For everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required; and to whom much has been committed, of him they will ask the more" (Luke 12:47-48).

The ideal situation, I think we can all agree, is *not being beaten with stripes at all*. But even though God shows us love and compassion beyond what we deserve, there are times when the natural consequences of our ignorance (or even honest mistakes) can come with all the swiftness of a live circuit.

The better we get at knowing and doing our Master's will—that is, the more time we spend familiarizing ourselves with the way He ordered the universe and how He expects us to exist within it—the fewer shocks we're going to experience.

### Choose the right route

At times, it can be tempting to take the route that seems right to us—but it's a route that inevitably leads to death (and sometimes electrical shocks along the way). Following God, on the other hand, gives us a pathway that helps us avoid and survive life's dangers while pointing us toward its joys.

As King David, a man after God's own heart, once wrote, "Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good; blessed is the man who trusts in Him! Oh, fear the LORD, you His saints! There is no want to those who fear Him" (Psalm 34:8-9).

Which path will you take? ☺



# The Blessing of International Feast Travel

By Doug Horchak

**T**raveling internationally during the Feast of Tabernacles is a wonderful blessing!

COGWA has Feast sites that are open for transfers in India, the Philippines, Fiji, New Zealand, South Africa, France, United Kingdom and Greece. As well, we have some sites in Latin America that offer English translation (Mexico, Guatemala and Chile), as well as a number that are Spanish-only.

These different sites offer a great opportunity to travel for the Feast! They allow you and your family to get to know your spiritual family in another part of the world, as well as experience a different culture and learn more about another country's customs, history, politics and geography!

But there are some important things you should do and consider as you make plans for such an enriching travel experience. They may help you and your family enjoy this enriching, educational and inspiring experience even more.

## Currency issues

Journeying to a foreign country requires you be prepared to deal

with foreign currency. You'll want to consider the *exchange rate* from your local currency (U.S. dollars for most of you) to the local currency of the country you will be visiting.

A "dollar" in Canada or Australia means something different than a "dollar" in the United States! Knowing the exchange rate will help you budget as well as responsibly spend your tithe while there!

In most countries, you will find it easiest to use a credit card to pay for such things as hotels, car rentals and most restaurants. This is a safe way to pay for such expenses during the Feast.

However, having some local currency with you is also essential. In some countries small businesses, taxis, etc. will take only local currency. You will want to check that out prior to departing. That said, it can be convenient to exchange money at the overseas airport after you arrive.

## Travel documents

This is a very important part of your planning.

**Passport:** Having a valid passport is essential. And your passport must be valid for at least six months beyond your travel dates.

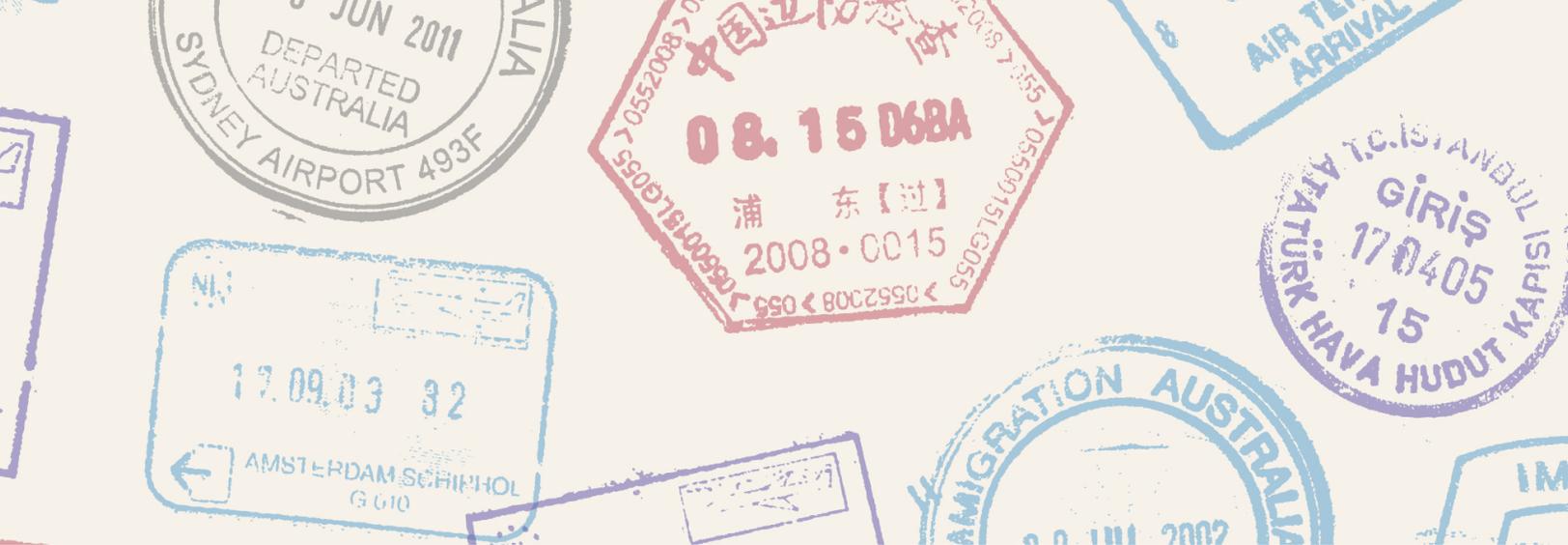
If you need a passport (or need to renew your passport), *start the process now.*

**Travel ETA or visa:** These days most countries require an electronic travel authorization (ETA) or visa to enter their country. Be sure to check the travel requirements from your country of origin to the country you are going to well in advance of your travel. The ETA is usually simpler to acquire and is completed online (usually within 72 hours of travel). Visas, on the other hand, while often completed online, may be acquired well in advance of travel. A valid passport is required to obtain an ETA or visa.

## Health and security

Check with your doctor or online at the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) (or equivalent in your country) to make sure you have the necessary vaccinations for your destination. Please note, some countries will recommend vaccinations that are not actually required.

You will also need to make sure you have adequate amounts of any prescription and over-the-counter medications you take. Be aware, some medications are legal in the



U.S. but illegal in other countries. Again, speak with your doctor or look online at the CDC website.

- Ask your insurance provider if an emergency would be covered, and if your policy applies to overseas travel. You might consider travel insurance.
- Be aware of the importance of drinking clean water. Depending on the country you are traveling to, drinking *only bottled water* may be the safest approach.
- Make two copies of your passport. Leave one with someone you trust in your home country and take the other copy with you. Having that information could come in handy if you lose your passport. Making an electronic copy can also be very helpful.
- Look for information about places to go and unsafe places to avoid. You can search online or read travel guide books.

### Electronics and electricity

We live in an electronic/digital age. Be aware that voltage in many

parts of the world is 220-240, as opposed to 110 voltage in the U.S. While most chargers for phones and computers are designed to handle such voltage differences, be aware that hair dryers and curling irons often are not!

You may also need plug adapters to allow your device or appliance to plug into the type of outlet used in the country you're traveling to.

If you plan to use your cell phone overseas, you can check with your local service provider to activate global capabilities on your phone for the time of your travel. This may prove to be much more affordable than roaming charges.

### Packing your luggage

Since lost luggage is always a possibility, be sure to pack such essentials as medications and an extra set of clothing in your carry-on bag. It is also important to have your checked bags identified with a name tag attached. Check with your airline if there are fees for checked or carry-on bags.

### Language translation

While we recommend you consider only Feast sites that offer

church services in English (or your native language), be aware that there some excellent, free language translation apps for your smartphone that can help you navigate your travels overseas. There's a lot more preparation you can do. You might try to learn a few foreign words to be able to communicate at least somewhat. Write down the address of your hotel, so you will remember how to get back after exploring!

### Realistic expectations

Traveling abroad is a wonderful blessing to be sure. However, when traveling, it is important to remember you are a guest in a different country and culture. Often there are differences in the way things are done in that country—even within the Church.

Recognize you're a visitor in a different culture with a different language. Things will often be done differently than you're used to. Being patient with others can go a long way in making your Feast travels more enjoyable!

Wherever you may be traveling abroad for the Feast, plan ahead and be prepared! Have the adventure of a lifetime! ©📍

## Student Life Outside the Classroom

By Ella Erickson, FI student

The past couple of months FI students have used the semester break and a long weekend for memorable experiences and meaningful connections outside the FI classroom.

One highlight was attending this year's Winter Family Weekend, which was filled with inspiring messages, sports and plenty of time to socialize. I had the opportunity to play volleyball in the B league, and the competition was both fun and challenging. My classmate Aubrey Kapales also stayed busy, playing volleyball and competing in the pickleball tournament—and earned third place! In the evenings, there was never a shortage of things to do—karaoke, trivia, card games, dance lessons and more. Some of my favorite moments were simply spending time in the skybridge, catching up with old friends and getting to know new ones.

While many of us were enjoying the Winter Family Weekend in Louisville, fellow FI students Paul and Tiffany Hamilton were on an unforgettable adventure abroad. They spent two weeks in Egypt and Turkey, exploring the Great Pyramids of Giza, riding camels, trying new foods, visiting old ruins and ancient buildings, and even relaxing in Turkish salt spas. It was exciting to hear about their experiences.

Over the Martin Luther King Jr. weekend, Aubrey, Tiffany and I had the wonderful opportunity to attend the Women's Enrichment Weekend in Houston, Texas. This special event marked the first women's weekend held in 14 years and brought together around 180 women from across Texas and beyond. It was especially meaningful for me to reconnect with friends who traveled all the way from Minnesota to be there.

The theme of the weekend, "Strength and Honor Are Her Clothing," from Proverbs 31:25, was woven beautifully throughout the entire program. Friday

evening began with a relaxed drop-in where we enjoyed snacks and fellowship. On Saturday morning, we gathered for a delicious brunch before Sabbath services.

The service opened with four beautiful special music selections, coordinated by Kristen Mazza, that set a reverent and uplifting tone. Dave Myers, from headquarters, then gave a powerful sermon on the traits of godly women in the Bible. Mr. Myers reminded us how women serve as the heart of the Church. That evening, after dinner, we enjoyed mixer games, a prayer journaling activity, and a volunteer project where we made cards for children in hospitals, which was an especially touching experience.

Sunday began with another brunch and a keynote message from Pam Myers, titled "Apparel Parallel." She spoke about Christian Dior's attention to detail in fashion design and connected it to God as our Master Designer, who lovingly shapes each of our lives. Mrs. Myers' presentation was followed by a roundtable discussion, led by Sarah Slaughter. Mrs. Slaughter used different fabrics to spark thoughtful questions and meaningful conversation among the women.

After lunch, we attended breakout sessions, including Tammie Smith's session, "Be Prepared. Be Strong. Be Beautiful," which encouraged us to spend intentional time with God, rely on Him fully, and remember that true beauty comes from within.

One of the most impactful moments of the weekend was the panel discussion, which Tiffany and I were honored to participate in. The five women on the panel shared heartfelt stories of answered prayers during times of trial. The weekend concluded with thoughtful closing remarks from Gale Black, one of the event's organizers.

These past two months have been busy, encouraging and full of moments that strengthened both friendships and faith. We are grateful that FI encourages these experiences outside the classroom. ☺☺



# NEWS OF THE WORK

## Education Center Building Update



We were excited to see the concrete mixer trucks rumble through on Feb. 18, when our construction company began pouring concrete. The crew started with the fire lane and the parking lot on the east side of our property.

**Jim Franks**

## Online Photo Directory of Ministry

An online photo directory of elders serving in the Church worldwide is available on the [members website](#).

You can go to it by clicking on “About Us” and then “Ministry.”

The directory provides a picture of each elder and his wife, along with the congregation(s) they serve, sorted by 10 different regions. The directory also includes widows of elders.

We hope you’ll enjoy browsing through the pages of pictures and getting to know the ministry of the Church of God, a Worldwide Association.

## Stats & Facts

The number of messages the Church replies to continued to grow in 2025. In 2025 we sent 35,423 responses, narrowly breaking the previous record of 34,941 responses, set in 2024.

	2024	2025
Jan.	1,632	5,160
Feb.	2,242	3,932
March	2,933	3,087
April	3,200	2,765
May	3,485	3,358
June	2,540	2,430
July	3,012	2,789
Aug.	3,393	3,113
Sept.	3,533	2,320
Oct.	1,876	1,475
Nov.	3,749	2,324
Dec.	3,346	2,670
<b>Total</b>	<b>34,941</b>	<b>35,423</b>

## Upcoming Travel

David and Marguerite Evans

- March 29 to April 5, Homer, Alaska, to be with brethren for Passover and Unleavened Bread.

Jim and Sharron Franks

- March 7, Houston, Texas, for the congregation’s 70th anniversary.
- March 22 to April 8, India and Sri Lanka, to be with brethren for Passover and Unleavened Bread.
- April 18, Austin, Texas, for David Treybig’s retirement.

Doug and Tanya Horchak

- March 18-29, Bolivia and Peru, to visit brethren and hold ILP classes.
- April 7-12, Mexico, to visit brethren and hold ILP classes.

Clyde and Dee Kilough

- March 7, Houston, Texas, for the congregation’s 70th anniversary.
- April 12-26, Greece, for *Life, Hope & Truth Presents* video shoots.

Ralph Levy

- March 29 to April 5, Dominican Republic, to be with brethren for

Passover and Unleavened Bread.

Joel and Marjolaine Meeker

- March 16 to May 1, Indian Ocean, Africa and Europe, to visit brethren.

Dave and Pam Myers

- March 1-3, Branson, Missouri, for the North Central ministerial meetings.
- March 7, Houston, Texas, for the congregation’s 70th anniversary.
- March 8-10, Waco, Texas, for the South Central ministerial meetings.
- March 30 to April 2, Toronto, Ontario, for Passover and first day of Unleavened Bread.
- April 5-9, Kansas City and Wichita, Kansas, for last day of Unleavened Bread.
- April 17-19, Austin, Texas, for David Treybig’s retirement.

Britton Taylor

- March 22 to April 8, India and Sri Lanka, to be with brethren for Passover and Unleavened Bread.

## Ministerial Services



### Ministerial Services Team Meets at Headquarters

The Ministerial Services team met with MS operation manager Dave Myers at the Church office on Feb. 3-4. This annual meeting enables us to make sure we're meeting the needs of our U.S. congregations and pastors.

In addition to Mr. Myers and his wife, Pam, this year's attendees included Gary and Gale Black, Tom and Mary Clark, Kevin and Belinda Epps, Mike and Zelda Hanisko, Dave Register, Mark and Colleen Winner.

Commenting on the value of the team and the conference, Mr. Myers stated, "As operation manager, I rely on the input, advice and experience of the Ministerial Services

team. The team is composed of senior men with experience, who are seen as mentors and valuable sources of wisdom and advice by the ministry."

## International Work



### President Visits Melbourne Congregation

Jim Franks and Doug and Tanya Horchak visited our congregation in Melbourne, Australia, on the Sabbath of Jan. 31, along with the pastor of Australia, Jon Pinelli, and his wife, Debbie. There were 34 in attendance, which was very encouraging for this new congregation. Mr. Pinelli expects the congregation in Melbourne to have an attendance of 25 to 30.

The Melbourne congregation is served locally by newly credentialed elder Paul Vaughan and his wife, Sue. Mr. Vaughan was ordained in 2009. These servants have been attending with us for the past year.

### ILP Classes Held in Auckland

Jim Franks and Doug and Tanya Horchak visited the Auckland, New Zealand, congregation on Feb. 7. In between Mr. Franks' and Mr. Horchak's split sermons, the Auckland church choir performed lovely special music for the 65 in attendance.

On Sunday Mr. Franks and Mr. Horchak taught classes for those couples involved in the International Leadership Program (ILP). The classes—"Learning From Our Mistakes" and "Giving Sermonettes and Split Sermons"—were well received.

The ILP has already borne fruit in New Zealand. Ordained just two years ago, Isaac Khalil (and his wife, Natasha) and Biju Joseph (and his wife, Teresa) are of great service to the brethren in New Zealand.

# CHURCH POTLUCK

What's cooking in your congregation?

## Gainesville Chili Cook-Off and Bonfire



After services on Dec. 13, 2025, members of the Gainesville, Georgia, congregation enjoyed a memorable chili cook-off and bonfire at the home of John and Kristine Bennett. Everyone enjoyed tasting a wide variety of chili recipes while gathering around a glowing bonfire that became the highlight of the night—perfect for conversation and laughter.

The evening was enhanced by the musical talents that several members shared. Children were especially delighted in the s'mores bar. The combination of good food, shared music and a beautiful bonfire made the event a special time for fellowship.

**Ava Sanders**

## Fort Worth Seniors and Young Adults Play Bingo



Thirty seniors and young adults in the Fort Worth, Texas, congregation gathered after Sabbath services on Jan. 17 to enjoy a potluck dinner and an exciting evening of bingo. Bingo was a new experience for some young adults, but the seniors were well-acquainted with the game. Throughout the activity, players were animated and amicably competitive, and laughter filled the room. The winner of each game got to choose from among the many gifts on the prize table. The real gift, though, was the time and fun shared between the different generations.

**John Payne**

## South Africa Hosts Youth Camp

In December 2025 South Africa held a youth and young adult weekend at Bush Willow Tented Camp in Muldersdrift in the Gauteng province.

We had 14 campers in total. We enjoyed activities like a hike, a game drive, games and a bonfire each night. The young men officiated much of the Sabbath service.

God's hand was truly seen throughout the whole of the camp, blessing us with wonderful fellowship together and pleasant weather. We ate all of our meals together and ended each night with a hymn. It was truly a memorable weekend shared with God's people.

**Hannah Brück**



## Akron-Canton Raises Funds



The Akron-Canton, Ohio, congregation held its annual auction on Jan. 10, reminding us how meaningful it is when a community gathers with a shared purpose.

The night began with a pizza dinner, giving everyone a chance to fellowship before our silent auction and pay-and-take opened.

As the night went on, friendly bidding brought both smiles and laughter, but more importantly, it brought impact. The funds raised will cover some of our congregation expenses and allow us to sponsor two students through FOI.

We appreciate the generosity of those who donated and those who bid.

**Kami Purdy**

## Arizona Churches Hold Bake Sale Auction

On Jan. 10, the combined Arizona congregations (Phoenix, Prescott Valley and Tucson) enjoyed a potluck meal after services, followed by a live bake sale auction after the Sabbath. Auctioneer Charles Drown led members through bids on nearly 40 baked items, donated for the event.

There was a lot of fellowship, gamesmanship and laughter as members and their families did their best to make the winning bids! We were delighted to raise a nice sum to help pay for our local activities, coffee and social supplies, Sabbath classes and annual senior service project.

**Lori Anderson**



## Columbus-Cambridge Service Project

On the Sabbath of Jan. 17, the Columbus-Cambridge, Ohio, congregation shared a potluck meal. Then after the Sabbath, members worked together on a Hilltop Outreach Program project—assembling snack packs and postpartum care packs for those staying at the Ronald McDonald House in Columbus, Ohio.

When the packs were delivered the next day, the staff was truly appreciative of the donations.

**Denise Hadley**



## Fort Worth Enjoys Dinner and a Show

“A great night all around!” That was the sentiment of members of the Fort Worth, Texas, congregation following services on Jan. 10, after a potluck dinner and fun show. Acts included comedy, folkloric dancing, gymnastics and lots of music. A group of teens offered a skit on a biblical theme, and some seniors presented a look back at musical hits of the 1950s, '60s and '70s. There were a few surprises that thrilled the audience. “We had no idea you could do that!” was voiced more than once.

**John Payne**

## Moens Honored on Retirement

On Sabbath, Jan. 3, the West Michigan congregation recognized the retirement of their much-loved associate pastor, Chris Moen, and his wife, Angela. Over their 23 years in the ministry, the Moens have served in Mississippi, Louisiana, Florida, Ohio and Indiana before coming to Michigan in 2017.

Jim Franks and Dave Myers presented Mr. Moen with a commemorative vase, and Pam Myers presented red roses to Mrs. Moen. Split sermons focused on Mr. Moen's years of service, the importance of endurance and the need for a heart of service.

It has been a blessing for the West Michigan congregation to have the Moens' loving service and shepherding.

**Rebekah Leyden**



## Sherman Holds Fun Show



On the Sabbath of Jan. 10, almost 180 members gathered for the Sabbath service and a potluck meal, followed by the annual Sherman fun show later that night.

The evening featured a variety of acts, ranging from an amazing bagpipe performance to a silly song by our very own Bob the Tomato and Larry the Cucumber!

The night was full of laughter, and we greatly appreciate everyone who participated, whether on stage or in the audience. We're looking forward to next year's fun show!

**Elena Salyer**



## Youngstown Holds Themed Potluck

The Youngstown, Ohio, congregation enjoyed a wonderful themed potluck on Jan. 17. This month's meal had a United Kingdom theme, following a plan for our socials to recognize our brethren and congregations around the world.

Special decorations elevated the evening, along with popular U.K. foods to savor and, naturally, yummy unique desserts. The extra effort by our cooks, as well as a special care package of goodies sent from England, made the evening simply delightful. Fellowship and appreciation for all that God provides completed the day!

**Bruce Courtney**





We encourage members to send announcements to be featured in One Accord. We feature events in members' lives, including births, weddings, significant anniversaries (25, 40, 50, 60, etc.), baptisms, ordinations and obituaries. Entries should run between 50-100 words with obituaries being 100-250 words. Please submit a high-resolution color photo along with the written copy to your congregation's reporter.

## Anniversaries



**Brenda and Willis Hogg**

On Nov. 1, 2025, the East Texas congregation honored Willis and Brenda Hogg for their 50th wedding anniversary with a beautiful celebration filled with joy and fellowship. Friends in other congregations also came to participate in commemorating this significant milestone.

During the festivities, Ken Treybig read a touching biography written by the Hogs' daughter, Kelli, capturing

the couple's life and history. Willis and Brenda expressed their deep gratitude for their Church family, their loved ones and the honor shown to them on this meaningful day.

**Judy McNeely**



**Kristine and John Bennett**

John and Kristine Bennett were celebrated for their 25th wedding anniversary on Dec. 13, 2025. They were married on Dec. 2, 2000, in Duluth, Georgia, and are the happy parents of three beautiful children: Kason, Kara and Avalin.

John and Kristine attend the Gainesville, Georgia, congregation, and were surprised with a special gathering following Sabbath services. Family and friends joined in honoring the couple with a thoughtful gift, cake and refreshments.

Their marriage is a lovely reflection of faith, devotion and the joy found in walking life together.

**Ava Sanders**



**Pam and Dan Weitzel**

Dan and Pam Weitzel's 50-year love story began with a blind date

in March 1974. Despite Pam's initial hesitation, they began dating, with Dan traveling from his Navy post in Norfolk, Virginia, to visit her in Ohio.

Their connection deepened through letters and calls while Dan was at sea, and they married on July 19, 1975.

They came into the Church in 1977 and welcomed their daughter, Amanda, in 1982. They've been blessed with a son-in-law, Mark Croft, and four grandchildren. The Weitzel and Croft families attend the Houston North, Texas, congregation.

**Tyenne Hewitt**



**Barbara and Charley Moore**

On Dec. 20, 2025, the Youngstown, Ohio, congregation honored Charley and Barbara Moore for their 65th wedding anniversary, a milestone they reached on Dec. 17. The congregation presented flowers to the couple, and all shared a delicious cake.

The Moores are longtime members and servants in this area. Charley has been a very active deacon for decades, still dependably helping with hall setup and other duties. Barb is known for her easy sense of humor and special care of the congregation over the years.

The Youngstown congregation cherishes this special couple!

**Bruce Courtney**

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## Baptisms



**Taylor Hansen**

On the bright and sunny afternoon of Feb. 6, 2026, Taylor Hansen was baptized into the family of God. Numerous family and friends were present to observe the special occasion, and a toast was heartily shared immediately afterward. The ceremony was performed by James Ellis, pastor of the Houston South, Texas, congregation. We are pleased to welcome Taylor into the Body of Christ!

**James Ellis**

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## Obituaries



**Barbara Chambers**

Barbara Chambers, age 78, of Rocky Mount, Virginia, died at home on Sunday, Aug. 31, 2025, after a long battle with pulmonary fibrosis. She will be greatly missed by members of the Roanoke, Virginia, congregation and all who knew her.

Barbara came into the Church in the late 1970s and was a faithful member until the very end. She was

kind and gentle to everyone who had the opportunity to meet her. She loved baking and was known for her pumpkin pies, strawberry cheesecake and pound cake in a jar. She loved crafts, especially knitting blankets for her family and others.

No matter the challenges she faced in this life, Barbara always carried herself with laughter and a smile. She has finished her race and now rests after a life well fought.

**Tom Burrows**



**Wendell C. Travers**

Wendell C. Travers, 82, of Cambridge, Maryland, died on Wednesday, Dec. 17, 2025, at University of Maryland Hospital in Baltimore. He was born to the late Charles Goldsborough Travers and Mary Elizabeth Burton Meekins in Fishing Creek, Maryland, on Sept. 3, 1943.

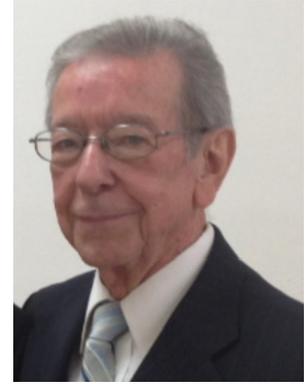
Mr. Travers graduated from Cambridge High School in 1961. He served in the U.S. Navy during Vietnam. In 1970, he went to the police academy and began his employment with the city of Cambridge. From 1974 to 1978 he worked for the city of Salisbury, and from 1978 to 1996 worked for the Hurlock Police Department and retired as chief.

He enjoyed fishing and watching baseball, and he loved spending time with his grandchildren. He was a deacon in the Salisbury congregation of COGWA.

A funeral service was held on Monday, Dec. 22, 2025.

He is survived by his wife, Dianna, his daughter Catherine Neal and husband Eric, three granddaughters, a grandson, a sister and several nieces and nephews.

**Scott Lord**



**LeRoy Hart**

LeRoy "Lee" Hart, 88, a deacon, in the Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, congregation, died unexpectedly on Saturday, Nov. 1, 2025, of complications following a motor vehicle accident.

Lee was the sole proprietor of Precision Dental Lab, where he worked until May 2025.

Lee was a devoted husband of 56 years to his beloved Monica (Bartko) Hart, a loving father to his daughter Georgina (Mark) Machen, and adoring pappy to Bryanna Lee and Kelsey Paige.

Lee was baptized in October 1967. Lee and Monica married on Aug. 31, 1979.

Lee was ordained a deacon in December 2015. Over the years Lee served on many work projects, participated in the chorale, offered dental services and advice to those who asked, and was always one to offer aid when and where there was a need.

Lee was outspoken and had the heart of a true servant. Everyone who knew Lee knew of his sense of humor and his love for God's way of life.

Lee is greatly missed, and we look forward to seeing him in the resurrection.

**Judy Henry**

Assigned site  
registration begins  
**March 8, 2026**  
[feast.cogwa.org](http://feast.cogwa.org)



# 2026 U.S. AND CANADIAN SITE DESCRIPTIONS

## Branson, Missouri

For the 31st year, Branson, Missouri, nestled in the heart of the Ozark Mountains, will once again host the Feast of Tabernacles. Attracting over 10 million visitors annually, Branson offers an enchanting blend of natural beauty, family-friendly fun and world-class entertainment, making it a unique destination for all ages.

The area's breathtaking landscapes are complemented by crystal-clear lakes, creating an ideal playground for outdoor enthusiasts. Whether you enjoy boating, fishing, hiking or golfing, Branson provides the perfect backdrop for your outdoor adventures.

Those who enjoy a more relaxed pace will want to visit Branson Landing, a premier outdoor shopping, dining and entertainment hub. It is the perfect spot for an evening stroll along the waterfront to enjoy the captivating fountain shows, synchronized to music and lights.

Branson remains one of the most affordable Feast sites in the United States, offering diverse housing options for every budget. You'll find a welcoming community with a variety of places to call home, including cozy rustic cabins, comfortable and clean hotel rooms and modern condos with stunning mountain or lake views.

This year, we will return to the Yakov Smirnoff Theatre on the north side of town. This venue provides

ample seating and has proven to be an excellent facility for our gathering.

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

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

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

**Dennis Fultz**

## Estes Park, Colorado

The Rocky Mountain site for the Feast of Tabernacles 2026 will be Estes Park, Colorado.

The town of Estes Park is nestled in a valley with spectacular views at every angle. This breathtakingly beautiful area is known as the gateway to the Rocky Mountain National Park,

which contains 415 square miles of picturesque mountain landscapes (more than 60 peaks exceeding 12,000 feet), vast alpine tundra, forests, lakes and abundant wildlife such as elk, moose, mule deer and bighorn sheep. It is a hiker's dream, but also makes for a beautiful drive.

The elevation of the town is around 7,500 feet, which can affect visitors not acclimated to high altitudes, so plan to drink plenty of water and take it easy for the first couple days.

Estes Park offers many lodging options, from beautiful vacation homes to cabins, condos or hotel rooms. Make sure to do your research and book early; the brilliant foliage of fall makes it a peak season.

The downtown area is walkable with abundant

shops and restaurants, but most lodging is not within walking distance of services at the Estes Park Events Complex. There are free shuttles in town, so take some time to look up their routes and schedule.

We'd love to have you come visit Colorado to enjoy an amazing and fulfilling Feast of Tabernacles!

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

**Lodging tax rate:** 14.2%.

**Closest airport:** Denver International Airport (DEN), 73 miles.

**David Gatley**

## Fort Myers, Florida

Beautiful Fort Myers, Florida, will once again host the Feast of Tabernacles—and **2026 marks its first year as a full festival site**, rather than a satellite location. We warmly encourage you to join us and enjoy the balmy weather and stunning Gulf Coast of Southwest Florida. The site can accommodate up to 200 attendees.

The natural beauty of Florida's Gulf Coast, combined with excellent lodging and a convenient venue for services, makes Fort Myers an outstanding choice for the Feast.

Services will be held at the beautiful Crowne Plaza Fort Myers Gulf Coast. This attractive property features a large lake on its north side and is located directly across the boulevard from Gulf Coast Town Center, home

to more than 30 top-rated restaurants. Those who stay at the Crowne Plaza will enjoy a complimentary buffet breakfast. It is an easy walk to the ballroom for daily services.

Southwest Florida also offers many nearby attractions. The Edison and Ford Winter Estates in Fort Myers are open daily for tours. Fort Myers Beach, Sanibel and Captiva Islands—each known for beautiful white-sand beaches and seashells—are about a 30-minute drive away. The Naples Zoo is roughly a 35-minute drive south, and guided boat tours of the Ten Thousand Islands in Everglades National Park are about an hour drive away.

In late September and early October, daytime highs typically range from the upper 80s to lower 90s, providing warm, pleasant weather throughout the Feast.

**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**

## Gettysburg, Pennsylvania

This is a new Feast site! Services will be at the [Wyndham Gettysburg Hotel and Conference Center](#). We will offer Spanish translation during services.

For housing, the Wyndham offers standard rooms (king or two queens) or king suites, as does the neighboring [Courtyard by Marriott](#). All rooms have a refrigerator, microwave and coffee maker.

Resort dining includes [The Oak Room](#), “The signature restaurant at Wyndham Gettysburg, where farm-to-table cuisine meets elegant steakhouse dining” ([gatewaygettysburg.com](#)). Also nearby are the [Gateway Family Diner](#) and the [Courtyard by Marriott](#) restaurant. These three restaurants are within walking distance and share the same grounds on Presidential Circle (or “The Circle”).

[DestinationGettysburg.com](#) provides off-site dining information, which includes casual dining, family-friendly restaurants, farm-to-table dining and fine dining experiences, e.g., [La Bella Italia](#), [Sign of the Buck](#) and the historic [Dobbin House](#).

Regarding activities, a family dance, teen game night and more are planned. The Gateway Theater 8 is also on The Circle. The [Fields of Adventure](#) is a family-friendly outing (weekends only). Additionally, [Sight & Sound Theatre](#) tickets are reserved for the premiere of [Joshua](#).

Other off-site activities include [Living History](#), [Cyclorama](#), [bus tours](#) and [Beyond the Battle Museum](#). For more activities, see [DestinationGettysburg.com](#).

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

**Lodging tax rate:** 11%.

**Closest airports:** Harrisburg (HIA), 45 miles; Baltimore-Washington (BWI), 62 miles.

**Kevin Epps**

## Mont-Tremblant, Québec

We are delighted to return to Mont-Tremblant for the Feast in 2026. This resort village is 90 minutes from Montréal and 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 and include 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. Alternatively, you may opt for a tasting tour to discover local artisanal maple syrups, chocolates and cheeses.

We hope you will join us this year to keep the Feast at Mont-Tremblant! To register, please follow the standard Feast registration process. If you have questions, 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**

## Myrtle Beach, South Carolina

We are excited to hold the Feast in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, again. Now a thriving metropolis, Myrtle Beach began as a getaway for residents of Conway, South Carolina. It was finally incorporated as a town in 1957 and was named after the area's southern wax myrtle shrubs.

Today Myrtle Beach is known as the golf capital. Currently, there are 87 premier golf courses throughout the area. It is also considered to be one of America's most popular vacation destinations. The area boasts a variety of motel and condo units as

well as limitless restaurants and shopping adventures.

The biggest draw is its miles of coastline—and opportunities to play in the sand, collect seashells and catch some waves.

Myrtle Beach also has the oceanfront Myrtle Beach Boardwalk, its iconic SkyWheel, Ripley's Aquarium, several live shows in theaters, miniature golf courses, jet skiing and parasailing. There are 350 acres of shopping, restaurants and other attractions at Broadway at the Beach.

Services will be held at the Crown Reef Beach Resort and Convention Center. This facility includes an on-site hotel with kitchenettes, and in the last two years it has updated its bathrooms, beds and linens. Additional housing is available in Myrtle Beach and nearby North Myrtle Beach.

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

**Lodging tax rate:** 7%. (If you stay at the Crown Reef, all taxes and fees are included.)

**Closest airport:** Myrtle Beach (MYR), 2.5 miles.

**Mark Winner**

## New Braunfels, Texas

New Braunfels offers a Feast experience where families and brethren naturally come together to rejoice, relax and experience deeper connection throughout the Feast.

We have exclusive use of the convention center, which serves as a hub for fellowship. Its flat floor, wide rows and aisles, parents' rooms and a fragrance-controlled room make it easy for all ages to move about comfortably and stay after services. In addition, we offer Spanish translation and hearing assistance, as well as a video feed in the parents' room. Complimentary coffee and pastries draw people together and set the tone for fellowship.

That sense of ease extends outward into the town itself. Set in a walkable historic downtown, the site is surrounded by German bakeries like Naegelin's, farm-to-table restaurants, classic Texas beef barbecue and relaxed gathering spots for meals together.

New Braunfels is a destination in its own right; with water activities, golf and easy outings like Natural Bridge Caverns close at hand. Housing options range from affordable hotel suites with kitchenettes to condos to luxury homes along the river and in nearby Gruene. It's easy for extended families to stay together and still move around independently.

New Braunfels is also close enough for afternoon trips to San Antonio's River Walk and Austin's renowned restaurants.

In late September and early October, **average temperatures** range from

lows in the 50s to highs in the 80s.

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

**Lodging tax rate:** 13%

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

**Nick Slaughter**

## Orange Beach, Alabama

For the 13th year, the Feast will again be held in Orange Beach, Alabama. 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 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.

**Wes Cohron**

## Seaside, Oregon

This year's Pacific Northwest Feast site will once again be located in the beautiful coastal town of Seaside, Oregon.

Services will be held at the Best Western Plus Ocean View Resort, located on the Pacific Ocean. A 1920s promenade is located next to the hotel on the oceanfront side and provides access to many things to do in this seaside town.

Best Western's beautiful ballroom will accommodate up to 200 people. The guest rooms offer views of the ocean, the mountains and the town of Seaside. There are over 30 restaurants nearby with a wide variety of cuisines to choose from. Best Western's on-site restaurant, the Ocean Bakery Café, is open for breakfast from 7 to 11

a.m. and for grab-n-go from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Seaside and the surrounding area offers a wide variety of attractions. In addition to the beach, Seaside Aquarium is located close by on the promenade. Fort Stevens State Park is a short drive to the north. There are several golf courses nearby, and Haystack Rock and Cannon Beach are only a 15-minute drive to the south.

To get an idea of the many attractions available in Seaside, go to [seasideor.com](http://seasideor.com) to explore.

Late September and early October is considered one of the best times to visit, with mild temperatures and a low chance of significant rainfall. September is often called the second summer.

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

**Lodging tax rate:** 12.5%.  
**Closest airport:** Portland (PDX), 70 miles.

**Larry Lambert**

## Tucson, Arizona

This year, we will be holding the Feast of Tabernacles at the Hilton Tucson East. This beautiful property is situated just a few miles from the majestic Santa Catalina Mountains to the north and the Rincon Mountains to the east. The view of these two ranges is stunning from the Hilton.

There are several amazing nature trails popular for hiking and bicycling. Seven Falls is a moderate 8-mile

out-and-back trail in Sabino Canyon, known for its desert oasis feel with creek crossings and waterfalls. The area also sports multiple golf courses and scenic picnic venues with national parks and forest areas in the foothills.

Museums in the area include the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum and the Presidio San Agustín del Tucson Museum, among many others. The area also supports music and dance arts at several venues in the city.

Planned events at the hotel will include a family dinner and dance, youth Bible lessons and our annual seniors' luncheon.

Temperatures in late September normally range from highs in the 80s or 90s and lows in the mid-60s. Rainfall in September is sparse, so you can expect good weather conditions for all outdoor activities.

We encourage as many as possible to stay at the Hilton. The room choices are either a king bed or two queen beds. Some have adjoining rooms for larger families or friends.

See you in Tucson!  
**Fragrance-controlled room available:** No.

**Lodging tax rate:** 8.7%.  
**Closest airport:** Tucson (TUS), 13 miles.

**Phil Sandilands**

## International Feast Sites

### Africa

Chemba Gokwe, Zimbabwe  
Gonubie, South Africa  
Gweru, Zimbabwe  
Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo  
Kitgum, Uganda  
Kpalimé, Togo  
Kumasi, Ghana  
Kwara, Nigeria  
Mapoko, Zambia  
Migori, Kenya  
Mugina, Burundi  
Salima, Malawi

St. Philip, Barbados  
Trinidad and Tobago

### Europe & Middle East

Bournemouth Beach, U.K.  
Les Tuquets, France  
Loutraki, Greece

### Latin America

Ciudad Vieja, Guatemala  
Costa del Sol, El Salvador  
El Quisco, Chile  
El Rodadero, Santa Marta, Colombia  
Huanchaco, Peru  
Los Cedros, Santa Cruz, Bolivia  
Pehuén-Có, Argentina  
San Miguel de Allende, Mexico

### Asia/Pacific

Kolkata, India  
Mae Sot, Thailand  
Negombo, Sri Lanka  
Pacific Harbour, Fiji  
Tauranga, New Zealand

### Caribbean

Lethem, Guyana

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

# CYC 2026 DATES



## PRETEEN

Camp Harmony: June 14-18, 2026

Midwest Preteen Camp: June 28–July 2, 2026

Camp Lone Star: July 19-22, 2026

Camp Arrowhead: Aug. 2-5, 2026

## TEEN

Northeast Teen Camp: June 28–July 5, 2026

Camp Long: July 19-26, 2026

Camp Athens: July 26–Aug. 2, 2026

Winter Camp: Dec. 28, 2026–Jan. 3, 2027

Young Adult Challenger Program: May 31–June 7, 2026



**APPLY AT**  
**[camps.cogwa.org](https://camps.cogwa.org)**

(Don't forget to order your 2026 Snapshot!)