



NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release February Newsletters

The Gathering VI Unites Christians and Jews for Common Cause

On Tuesday, March 3, Jews and Christians from throughout the Kansas City metropolitan area will unite for The Gathering, a citywide celebration of hope and a time of prayer for the peace of Jerusalem. The Gathering will be held at 7 p.m. at First Baptist Raytown, located at 10500 E. 350 Highway in Raytown, MO. The Gathering is free and open to the public.

This is the sixth year of The Gathering. This event not only represents a continued strengthening of relationships between the Jewish and Christian communities in Kansas City, but also embodies a united call for peace in Israel.

“The Christian and Jewish communities of Greater Kansas City are shining examples as they momentarily lay down their differences, embrace their commonalities, and unite for a common cause – peace in Jerusalem,” said Paul Brooks, Senior Pastor of First Baptist Raytown.

Brooks is co-chairperson of The Gathering, along with Rabbi Alan Cohen, Director of Interreligious Affairs, Jewish Community Relations Bureau/American Jewish Committee

This year's Gathering VI will take participants on *A Journey From Darkness to Light*. The program will recognize Holocaust survivors and celebrate Israel's 60th anniversary. The program will include children and adult choirs from both the Jewish and Christian communities, prayers for peace and a performance by Mah Tov, a high-energy Jewish rock 'n' roll band, whose dynamic and moving performances have gained a loyal and enthusiastic following across the country. Their fresh and exciting contemporary Jewish music includes original songs as they use rock 'n' roll as a means of teaching Jewish history, Hebrew, Jewish values and more. Their music entertains and educates, informs and inspires.

"The Jewish and Christian communities have built a wonderful bridge to understanding. Much of this has come from our work together on The Gathering as we pray for the peace of Jerusalem. This event is intended to remind us that even in dark moments, we can find light and reason to rejoice together," stated Rabbi Cohen. "Israel is the spark of light and through our shared faiths and voices raised in prayer we help disseminate that light to the world."

The Gathering is sponsored by a diverse group of organizations and agencies, and supported by over 100 individual churches and synagogues.

For more information about the Gathering, visit www.jerusalemgathering.org.

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