

Welcome to the Feast of Tabernacles!

Rapid City, South Dakota
October 7-14, 2025





United Church of God

Preaching the Gospel, Preparing a People

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Welcome Message	Page 5
General Festival Announcements	6-7
Bible Studies & Seminars	8-9
Feast of Tabernacles 2025 Schedule	10-11
Meals & Activities	12-13
Festival Reminders	14-17
Speaking Schedule	18
Ramkota Best Western Layout	Back Cover

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Feast Coordinator	802-291-0353
Anointing/Counseling	See Page 6
Emergencies	911

Cover photo: Richard Hedrick

WELCOME MESSAGE

Hello, friends!

Welcome to God's Feast of Tabernacles celebration in Rapid City, SD. As we prepare to "rejoice" together before the Eternal, I'd like for you to consider two points of meditation throughout the next eight days:

Throughout the 1800's, Lewis and Clark, Laura Ingalls Wilder, various explorers, missionaries, homesteaders and pioneers made their way across the Dakota Territory in search of a new life. As they traversed the Dakota plains for days, weeks and months, travelers would pitch their canvas tents near a stream and light a fire under the endless prairie sky. Though their shelter was temporary, it was enough—it meant safety, family, refreshment and hope on the journey. In a similar way, when we gather for the Feast of Tabernacles, our temporary dwellings remind us that this world is not our permanent home—the Feast holds the same meaning for us as it did for those early travelers. We are pilgrims, looking ahead to a greater Kingdom where God Himself will dwell with us forever.

South Dakota's state motto is, "***Under God, the People Rule***"—what a fitting reminder as we gather for the Feast of Tabernacles! This motto, echoing across our state, points forward to the time when Christ will return and establish His Kingdom on earth. In that coming age, the resurrected Saints—those who have believed, repented, been baptized, received God's spirit and have remained faithful—will serve as kings and priests alongside Jesus Christ, ruling under the supreme authority of God the Father. As we worship and rejoice together this week, we do more than look back to Israel's wilderness sojourn—we look ahead to the time when the motto of this state will reflect the reality of the entire world: "***Under God, the People Rule.***"

May this year's Feast of Tabernacles strengthen our vision of that Kingdom and deepen our commitment and zeal for the God who has called us to it. And may we all find refreshment and renewed spiritual vigor to hold fast and persevere, knowing *IT WON'T BE LONG* until "*the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed*" (Daniel 2:44)—may the Eternal hasten that Day!

Nick Lamoureux

Rapid City Festival Coordinator

GENERAL FESTIVAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Anointing / Counseling

If you need to be anointed, please first search for an elder you know. Alternatively, you can check at the Information Table for a list of elders and phone numbers, or call 316-250-9891 and ask for Kent Foraker. Room 1301 can be used for anointing before and after services as-needed.

For anybody who may be contagious, *please do not come to services*—even to be anointed—and do not attend activities where others could be infected. Instead, please call the phone number above for an anointed cloth and wait for recovery before attending activities again.

Information Table

The Information Table will be open before and after services, except for on the Last Great Day. Please stop by for Feast information, directions, area attractions and brochures, restaurant menus and UCG literature. The information table also features a Family-Helping-Family donation box. These funds are used to provide Church-sponsored activities (such as group meals or Family Day) free-of-charge to those who could not otherwise afford them. Donations are also used to help fellow brethren attend meals that they may not otherwise be able to afford.

Ridesharing for Open Activity Time

Rapid City has many wonderful activities and attractions to offer! This is a fun way to serve one another—enabling members with the same plans to tour together or carpool. If you plan to visit a certain attraction and have room to take others, please sign the Rideshare list for that activity at the Information Table. Likewise, if you would like to visit an attraction but don't have transportation, you can sign the Rideshare list indicating where you would like to go.

Welcome Sermonette by Mr. John Elliott

United Church of God president, John Elliott, has prepared a Feast of Tabernacles “welcome” sermonette video to be played at all Festival locations on the opening day. *“Did you know the first nine times the word “rejoice” appears in the Bible are related to keeping the Feast of Tabernacles? The excitement and joy of the Feast is a time to worship God and share His blessings with one another!”* Mr. Elliott's 10-minute sermonette on rejoicing at the Feast concludes with an inspiring musical number from Psalm 34.

Hospitality Room

Please join us in the Hospitality Room [listed on the map at the back of this brochure as the “Oak Leaf Lounge”] one hour before the start of the main service each day, where we will be sharing fellowship, coffee, and cookies! The room will close 15 minutes prior to services to allow everyone to find their seats in a timely manner. Food and drink must remain in the room.

Mothers’ Room

The Mothers’ Room is located in the Roosevelt Room. Since this is not a large room, this area should be used for a minimum amount of time according to one’s need. If older children accompany a mother and infant, please make sure they sit quietly with you and do not disturb others. Since mothers are listening to services, please restrict your talking to that required for the needs of your child. Discipline should not be done in this room.

Youth Festival Activity Booklets

All attendees who registered their child for the Feast may pick up their Festival Youth Booklets at the Information Table. There are three separate booklets for grades K-1, grades 2-3 and grades 4-6. Please give your child’s name to the volunteer and they will check off your child’s name when they receive their book. If you did not register for the Feast, please wait until all other books have been passed out and then if there are any extra you may pick up one for your child. You may also print out the booklets from the UCG website if there are no extra booklets available.

Youth Education Classes

Separate from the Youth Festival Activity Booklets, Festival Youth Instruction (FYI) classes are available for children ages 5-12. There will be two classes for each grade category during the Feast of Tabernacles. We encourage the children to show their take home crafts and discuss with their parents what they learned in class each time.

The classes are divided into the following grade categories:

- **Kindergarten through 2nd Grade**
- **3rd Grade through 5th Grade**

Children are not required to bring anything to class—teachers will have supplies for each child to use during FYI. Youth Instruction will be conducted in the Hospitality Room from 10:00-10:30 AM on Thursday, Oct. 9 and Monday, Oct. 13.

BIBLE STUDIES & SEMINARS

Bible Studies

- **Main Bible Study** (*Scott Ashley*): The concept of wilderness is mentioned hundreds of times in the Bible, but what does “wilderness” mean in a biblical context? Part of this study will provide an overview of the land of Israel, explaining what “wilderness” is and why it is so commonly mentioned. We know that major Bible figures like Moses, Abraham, David and Jesus Christ spent considerable time in the wilderness. What did it mean to them? There is also another type of wilderness—the spiritual wilderness in which mankind has wandered for thousands of years cut off from God. Through this Feast we learn how God will bring mankind out of this spiritual wilderness and transform the world under Christ’s reign on earth.
- **Young Adult Bible Study** (*Scott Krohn*): Culture and societal in the Millennium will be dramatically different than what we see around us today—do you have a clear *vision* of just what the World Tomorrow will be like? Language, music, fashion, creativity and the arts—these will undergo drastic transformation under the guidance of Jesus Christ and the resurrected Saints! This Bible study will zero-in on some of these aspects of the coming Kingdom of God—making connections between knowledge, application, and vision for the future! Lunch will be provided, and after the study, Mr. Krohn will lead the group in an afternoon of easy hiking in the beautiful Skyline Wilderness Area. Please join the study or speak with Mr. Krohn for more details.
- **Teen Bible Study** (*David Jones*): Everyone builds their life on something—friends, success, popularity, money. However, there is only one foundation that can’t be shaken: Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 3:11). He is the Alpha and Omega, the Rock upon which we stand and build our lives, our spiritual home. But what if we stumble? What happens when we fall? In this study we will consider what it means to build our foundation on Christ and how to find our way home when everything else crumbles.

Kingdom of God Seminars

Wednesday evening, Oct. 8 we will host a two-part Kingdom of God presentation for *Beyond Today* subscribers in the main meeting hall. The seminars will discuss the Kingdom of God as the central message of Jesus’ gospel message, the times leading up to Christ’s return, and some of the changes that will come about when God’s government is established on earth. Your prayers are requested for God to bless this campaign in accordance with His perfect will!

ABC Samplers

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to attend *Ambassador Bible College* at UCG's Home Office in Milford, OH? Perhaps you've heard one of the many recorded classes playing on [UCG Radio](#) or watched some of the recent video recordings and wanted to learn more. For those who may be unable to attend or are interested in experiencing what an ABC class might be like, we are offering three morning "ABC Sampler" sessions. The presenters have previously-taught ABC class material and are pleased to share excerpts from the following ABC courses:

- **Revelation** (*Dave Jones*): At the end of the Bible we find "*the Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show His servants—things which must shortly take place*" (Revelation 1:1). Jesus spoke to John and gave him a series of messages to be delivered to seven Church of God congregations in the first century—yet these messages are also given for our admonishment, today. In Revelation 3:7-13 we find Jesus' message to the Church in Philadelphia. Join us to discover what this letter meant to the first century Philadelphians and what it means for us today.
- **Harmony of the Gospels** (*Scott Ashley*): Galatians 4:4 tells us, "*But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son...*" What does this phrase mean? Conditions had to be right for the coming of the Messiah and the establishment of His Church. These conditions existed for only a brief time during the first half of the first century in the Holy Land—any other time would have been impossible for this part of God's plan to be fulfilled. There had to be a period of stability and peace for the Messiah to be born and carry out His mission and for the Church to be established. This was only possible due to the rise of the Roman Empire and the "Pax Romana"—the "Peace of Rome" that was established throughout the Empire at this time. The Holy Land was largely in chaos and warfare before and after this brief window of time. Other factors, such as the universality of the Greek language, also helped the early Church carry out its mission.
- **Doctrines** (*Nick Lamoureux*): Jesus Christ **IS** coming back! Yet most of humanity—including the majority of Christians—do not understand *WHEN* He will come back, *WHY* He is coming back, and *HOW* He will make His appearance when He does return. Jesus warns His disciples that just before His second-coming, "*false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect*" (Matthew 24:24). We must make absolutely certain that we know what the Bible says—and what it *DOESN'T* say—about the pivotal event of Jesus Christ's return.

FEAST OF TABERN

Rapid City

Monday Oct. 6	Tuesday Oct. 7 Holy Day	Wednesday Oct. 8 2 nd Day	Thursday Oct. 9 3 rd Day	Friday Oct. 10 4 th Day
<i>Arrival & Setup</i>		<u>SERVICE</u> 10:00-12:00 PM	<u>SERVICE</u> 10:00-12:00 PM (Festival Youth Instruction @10)	ABC S "Revel 8:30-9: <u>SERV</u> 10:00-12
Department Head Meeting 3:30-4:15 PM	<u>HOLY DAY</u> <u>SERVICE</u> 2:30-4:30 PM	YA Meal, Activity & Bible Study ~1:30-5:30 PM		
<u>OPENING SERVICE</u> 7:30-9:30 PM Sunset: 6:21 PM	Sunset: 6:20 PM	Kingdom of God Seminars 7:00-9:00 PM Sunset: 6:18 PM	Pizza Party & Family Dance 7:30-11:00 PM Sunset: 6:16 PM	<u>BIB</u> <u>STU</u> 7:00-8: Sunset: 6

FACLES SCHEDULE

, SD 2025

Friday Oct. 10 Day	Saturday Oct. 11 5 th Day	Sunday Oct. 12 6 th Day	Monday Oct. 13 7 th Day	Tuesday Oct. 14 Last Great Day
<p>ABC Sampler: "Doctrines" 8:30-9:20 AM</p> <p><u>SERVICE</u> 10:00-12:00 PM</p>	<p>ABC Sampler: "Gospels" 9:30-10:20 AM</p>	<p>ABC Sampler: "Doctrines" 8:30-9:20 AM</p> <p><u>SERVICE</u> 10:00-12:00 PM</p>	<p><u>SERVICE</u> 10:00-12:00 PM (Festival Youth Instruction @10)</p>	<p><u>HOLY DAY</u> <u>SERVICE (AM)</u> 10:00-12:00 PM</p>
	<p>Teen Bible Study 1:00-2:00 PM</p> <p><u>SERVICE</u> 2:30-4:30 PM</p>	<p>Senior Luncheon 12:30-2:30 PM</p>		<p>LGD Buffet Luncheon 12:00-2:00 PM</p> <p><u>HOLY DAY</u> <u>SERVICE (PM)</u> 2:30-4:00 PM</p>
<p><u>BIBLE</u> <u>STUDY</u> 6:30 PM</p> <p>Sunset: 6:14 PM</p>	<p>ABC Info Mtg 4:30-5:15</p> <p>Teen Activity ~6:15-9:00 PM</p> <p>Sunset: 6:13 PM</p>	<p>Sunset: 6:11 PM</p>	<p>Sunset: 6:09 PM</p>	<p>Teardown & Departure</p> <p>Sunset: 6:07 PM</p>

MEALS & ACTIVITIES

Pizza Party, Family Dance & Fellowship Evening

At last year's Feast in Sturgis, members shared how much they enjoyed having a memorable evening full of pizza, dancing, and conversation. This year's event will take place on Thursday, Oct. 9 from 7:30-11:00 PM at the back of the main meeting hall, which means there will be plenty of room!

Some may wish to dance the night away, while others may prefer to sit and simply chat—getting to know other Feast-goers. There may also be some who choose to focus primarily on the “feasting” aspect of the evening—eating as much pizza as they can and only staying for the meal portion of the activity. Whatever your preference, please plan to join us for a fun evening!

The hotel will be providing the pizzas for us, and there is no charge for the event (*although contributions are appreciated to help offset the cost of roughly \$20/person*). Pizza will start being served at 7:45 PM, and the dance (and fellowship!) will continue for throughout the evening.

Senior Luncheon

At this year's Feast in Rapid City, we happily welcome all seniors (age 65+) and their spouses to attend the Senior Luncheon on Sunday, Oct. 12th from 12:30-2:30 PM. This year's Senior Luncheon will offer our seniors a chance to fellowship, laugh, and share stories while breaking bread together!

The theme for the Senior Luncheon is, “*Here I Am.*” This was the response of faithful individuals like Abraham, Moses, and Samuel when they were called by God. In similar fashion, we would like to hear the stories of your calling!

Last Great Day (8th Day) Buffet Luncheon

To make it easier on families and those who may not desire to venture too far from the meeting hall between morning and afternoon services on the Last Great Day (Oct. 14)—and to squeeze in one more fellowship opportunity—we will be offering an Italian-themed buffet lunch meal after the morning service (~12:00 PM). We hope you will join us to share one final “feast” before the concluding service of this year's Feast of Tabernacles celebration in Rapid City!

Young Adult Activity

Please see the details about the Young Adult Bible Study for more information.

Teen Activity

WARNING: *Excessive laughter, gutter balls, and sudden bursts of competitive spirit may occur!* Grab your friends, lace up those stylish bowling shoes, and join us for a fun night of strikes, spares, and laughs during the Feast!

- **When:** Saturday, Oct. 11, 6:15–9:00 PM
- **Where:** [Robbinsdale Lanes, 805 East Saint Patrick St, Rapid City, SD 57701](#)
- **Cost:** \$17.50 per person (covers 2.5 hours of bowling)
- **Food:** Not included, but available for purchase at the venue

We hope all our teens (and some of their parents!) will join us for the evening, so if cost is a concern, please speak with Sondra Hines or Mandy Williams beforehand or at the time of the event.

Community Outreach

Please make your way to the Information Table to learn about (or suggest) any opportunities for community outreach.

FESTIVAL REMINDERS

Ambassador Bible College

Ambassador Bible College (ABC) is an educational institution which conducts an exciting nine-month study of God's Word. ABC is sponsored by the United Church of God and located at our Home Office in Milford, OH. The curriculum covers the Bible from Genesis to Revelation, and has other Bible-related classes which place emphasis on building godly character, leadership development, godly service and how to live as a Christian in this increasingly secular world. For anyone interested in learning more about ABC or attending in future years, there will be an informational meeting with an ABC representative and graduates on Saturday, Oct. 11 after services in the Hospitality Room. To download an application, please go to abc.ucg.org.

Applause for Special Music

The United Church God requests that you not applaud for sermonettes, sermons or special music during the Feast. One exception to this request *continues* to be the performance of the children's choir. In general, it can be shown that the Bible makes a distinction between music for worship and music for celebrating and entertaining. There is no biblical statement prohibiting applause, but since special music is a part of our service worshipping God, we request that you *refrain from applauding* and instead offer any encouragement or appreciation to the individuals on a personal level. A number of musicians and singers have stated a preference for no applause, wishing only to contribute to our worship of God. To those who feel this way, it is embarrassing to receive applause for their efforts.

Etiquette for Services

Please consider these guidelines, based on biblical principles of courtesy and respect:

- **Be on Time:** While a few brethren may occasionally be late for Church services, regularly arriving late to services demonstrates a lack of respect for both God and the other members. Please do your best to be on time each day. Singing praises to God during the hymns is the actual beginning of our services honoring God.
- **Cell Phones:** Cell phones should be turned off or put on vibrate during Church services. If it is necessary to answer a call during services, you should do so outside the meeting hall so as not to disturb others around you.
- **Clothing:** What kind of clothing is appropriate for Church services? We should come before God wearing our best. Our attire should be modest and such that shows the proper respect for worshipping before God.

- ***During Church Services:*** With a large number of members coming together for the Feast, we often need to address extra people seated in or wandering through the lobby and/or the back of the meeting hall. While there may be a reason for a few people in these areas during services, it is generally inappropriate to be fellowshiping or wandering around while services are being conducted. Ushers and security personnel will be assigned to limit unnecessary traffic in these areas during scheduled services and Bible studies. Please contribute in a positive way by remaining in your seat during services unless otherwise necessary.
- ***Children:*** Children are a great blessing! That being said, parents should focus on the need to train their children to sit or be occupied quietly during services. It is understood that this takes work, effort, and patience, and those without children should take this into consideration—showing patience and support for them. However, if a child's behavior becomes disruptive, a parent or guardian should, as quietly as possible, remove the child from services and tend to his or her needs.
- ***Video Games:*** Whether to allow any video games at services is a parental choice. However, many are not quiet and can be distracting. If a child is old enough to play a video game, it is likely that he or she is old enough to learn from the service.
- ***Fragrance Allergies:*** Over the last few years our society has significantly increased with those suffering from fragrance allergies. We do not want to isolate those members into private rooms to listen to services. Unless there is a special need or emergency we are asking members to refrain from wearing perfumes and colognes to services and indoor activities. Your cooperation will allow others to attend services.
- ***Emergency Assistance:*** There are a few instances of unexpected emergencies that affect a member's finances while at the Feast. Before asking other brethren for financial help and before anyone gives financial assistance to others, all requests or offers of assistance should be coordinated through the business office. In most cases, the Church may have already provided assistance to people and additional funds given directly from other brethren may not be necessary.

Literature Distribution & Merchandising

Only those materials approved by the Festival Coordinator may be distributed at Feast sites. It is inappropriate to sell, display or distribute at our information tables or booths anything of a commercial or fundraising nature without prior approval. No other religious material—or any political materials—can be displayed or distributed at any United Church of God Festival site.

Family-Helping-Family Program

God intends the Feast to be a time of spiritual and physical rejoicing! Although we all have the opportunity for a spiritually rewarding Festival, we would like to make it possible for everyone to enjoy Feast-time physical activities. If you have extra second tithe, please consider making a donation to help other brethren and families participate in our group activities. A box for donations is located at the Information Table. If you need help to attend the above activities, please speak with the Festival Coordinator so we can help make arrangements. After the Feast if there are additional contributions beyond the donations, the excess will be applied to the general fund for the Rapid City Feast site. This program is being sponsored at all U.S. and Canadian Feast sites.

Holy Day Offerings

Holy Day offerings will be taken up at services on Tuesday, Oct. 7 (First Day of the Feast), and during the AM service on Tuesday, Oct. 14 (Last Great/Eighth Day), in fulfillment of the biblical command in Deuteronomy 16:16. Please be prepared to worship God with an offering. Checks should be made payable to “United Church of God” and envelopes will be available at services for those who need them. Alternatively, you can submit your offering online at: ucg.org/give.

Sermon Recordings

Feast sermons will be uploaded to feast.ucg.org after they have been reviewed for quality and content. To access them, select the “sermons” tab and then select “name of local Feast site” from the drop-down menu.

Teen Activity Liability Policy

“The United Church of God, *an International Association* provides adult chaperones at all officially sponsored activities for teens during the Feast of Tabernacles at all U.S. locations. Officially sponsored activities are those announced from the pulpit and/or included in the printed announcements. Our standing policy and expectation at Feast of Tabernacles teen activities is that teens (under the age of 18) are to remain at the activity until it is over and/or until their parent(s) or other authorized adult arrives to pick them up. The Church asks that parents advise activity chaperones in advance if they want their teen to be able to leave the premises prematurely during an activity. The Church is not responsible for the oversight of teens once they have left the protection of sponsored activity locations, nor for activities they may engage in that are not officially sponsored.”

Housing Survey & General Survey

Did you especially enjoy one aspect of the Feast? Did you experience any site-specific challenges? What thoughts do you have on the lodging you used? Do you have a suggestion for a future Festival site location? To increase participation with both the Housing Survey and General Survey, we are using three methods to encourage Feast-goers to fill out a Feast survey this year:

1. **QR Codes:** The two surveys can be filled out by scanning the QR code below with your phone, and the codes will be activated **beginning Friday, Oct. 10**, the fourth day of the Feast.
2. **Paper Handouts:** If you prefer to fill out a paper survey or do not have access to a smartphone or computer, handouts will be distributed **beginning Oct. 10**. (If you are able, please consider filling out the surveys electronically. This reduces the amount of manpower required to enter, submit, and tally all the data from the paper surveys.)
3. **E-mail:** The survey will also be e-mailed to everyone after the Feast who registered in case you did not have a chance to fill them out during the Feast itself, or if you prefer not to use the QR code. The annual Housing Survey greatly assists in future negotiations and provides legitimate feedback to the hotels, and the General Survey will greatly assist in future planning. Please take a few minutes to fill out both surveys.

Housing Survey:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/DGBJFMP>



General Survey:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/JBLNNGG>



Speaking Schedule

	Songleader	Sermonette	Sermon
Opening Night Mon, 10/6	Gabriel Holzwarth	—	Nick Lamoureux
Holy Day Tues, 10/7	Scott Thouvenin	Video: John Elliott	Joe Dobson
2nd Day Wed, 10/8	David Cook	Samuel Hines*	Kent Foraker*
3rd Day Thurs, 10/9	Michael Fooshe	Gregory Sanny	David Jones
4th Day Fri, 10/10	Wesley Rhys Krohn	Austin Chance	John Karlik
5th Day Sat, 10/11	Gabriel Holzwarth	Gregory Sanny*	Michael Fooshe*
6th Day Sun, 10/12	David Cook	Scott Krohn*	Scott Thouvenin*
7th Day Mon, 10/13	Wesley Rhys Krohn	John Velazquez	Fred Wittlake
Holy Day AM Tues, 10/14	Scott Thouvenin	Michael Fooshe	Scott Ashley
Holy Day PM Tues 10/14	Michael Fooshe	—	Nick Lamoureux
<i>* Denotes Split Sermon</i>			

RAMKOTA BEST WESTERN MAP

