

MICHIGAN CHURCH OF GOD | APRIL 2026

April Newsletter



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WHAT'S AHEAD ACROSS THE STATE



MICHIGAN COG

WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

THRIVE

MAY 1ST & 2ND

MICHIGAN WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

Stewart Road Church of God. 1199 Stewart Rd. Monroe, MI

		
Debbie Dyches	Sonja Kemp	Briana Bennett
Friday PM Saturday Session 2	Women's Ministry Director, Michigan	Saturday Morning Session 1

*"If you walk with Me, you will thrive in the light that gives life."
John 8:12. (The Voice)*

Scan to Register

*Ask hotel for Conference rate

Thrive: Flourishing in Difficult Places," on May 1–2 at Stewart Road Church. This weekend is designed to encourage, strengthen, and equip women to grow even in challenging seasons. Make plans to be part of a powerful time of worship, teaching, and community.

Mark your calendars for the 2026 Michigan Church of God Summer Camp Meeting, happening June 22–26 at Stewart Road Church in Monroe. This week will bring powerful worship, impactful preaching, and moments of renewal for the entire state. Make plans now to join us as we gather together and expect God to move in a significant way.



MICHIGAN CHURCH OF GOD

2026
SUMMER
CAMP MEETING

JUNE 22-26, 2026

Stewart Road Church. 1199 Stewart Rd, Monroe, MI

MICHIGAN COG



**STAFF
REGISTRATION
IS NOW OPEN**

**REC TEAM &
ROOM LEADERS**

www.michigancog.org/youth-and-discipleship www.michigancog.org

Registration for the 2026 Michigan Youth Camp is now open for both Junior Camp and Teen Camp. This year's camp, Battle Tested, is designed to challenge students, deepen their faith, and build lasting friendships. Scan the QR code to register, complete the form, and submit the required deposit to secure your spot. Space is limited, don't wait.

**Register for
Youth Camp today**

2026 MICHIGAN YOUTH CAMP

SCAN THE QR CODE

2026 Junior Camp

2026 Teen Camp

BATTLE TESTED

1. Scan the proper QR Code.
2. Complete the camper registration form in its entirety.
3. Make at least the deposit payment of \$50.
4. Make sure you finalize the form.

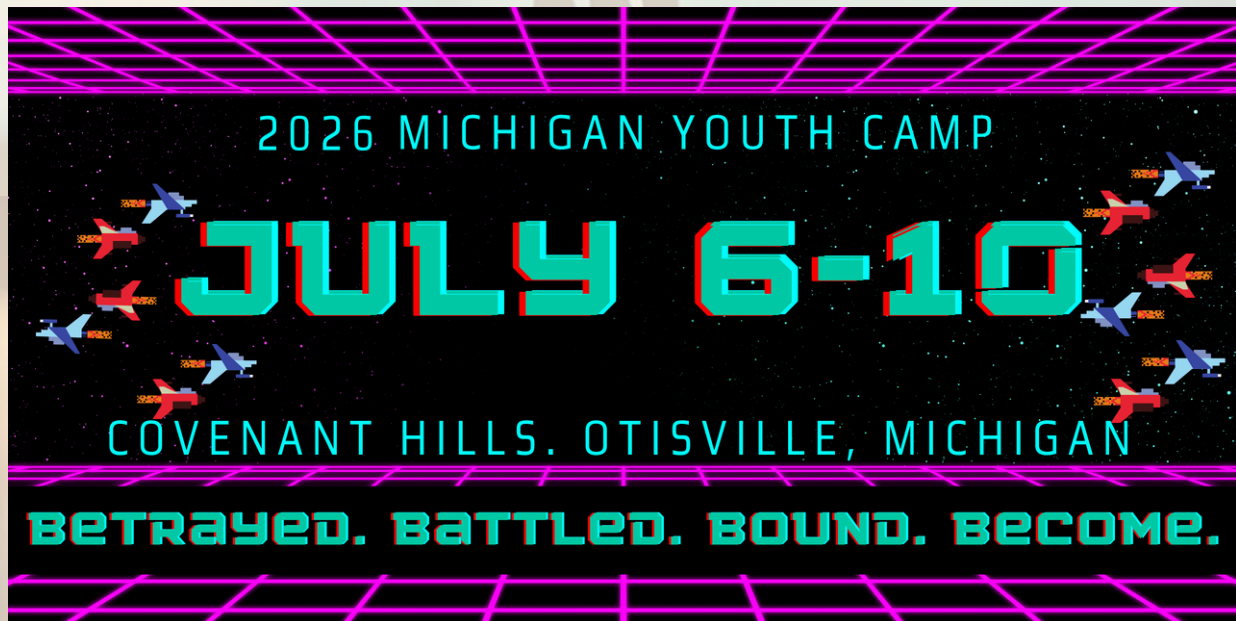
YD Michigan Youth and Discipleship

BETRAYED. BATTLE. BECOME.

If you have any questions, please contact director@michigancog.org or call 423-284-5552



2026 MICHIGAN YOUTH CAMP
"BETRAYED. BATTLED. BOUND. BECOME."



Get ready for an unforgettable week at Covenant Hills in Otisville, Michigan | July 6-10, 2026!

This year's camp will take you on a journey of faith, growth, and transformation as we dive into what it means to overcome battles and become who God has called us to be. Don't miss the worship, the word, and the community that will shape your summer and your future.



Junior & Teen Talent 2026 is happening Saturday, April 18, and we can't wait to celebrate the gifts and creativity of students from across Michigan. Registration opens February 8 and closes April 1, so encourage your students to get involved and showcase what God has placed inside them. It's going to be an incredible day filled with passion, excellence, and unforgettable moments.



Teen Talent 2026 is almost here, and it is going to be an unforgettable week. Students from across the nation will gather July 27 through 31 in Orlando, Florida for a powerful combination of creativity, competition, and spiritual growth. Throughout the week, students will experience high-energy services, meaningful connections, and moments that will shape their faith for years to come. Whether they are on stage, behind the scenes, or cheering on their peers, every student is part of something bigger.



YWEA 26: Africa is focused on bringing health, hope, and education to communities in need across the continent. This year’s initiative invites students and churches to be part of a mission that brings real change and reflects the heart of Christ. As we stand on the promise of Jeremiah 29:11, we believe God is using this generation to make a lasting impact—offering hope, building a future, and sharing the love of Jesus in tangible ways.

Each rally is a chance for students to gather, worship, and be challenged in their faith alongside others from across the state. From Central to the Upper Peninsula, these nights are all about connection, growth, and encountering God in a real way. Make plans to be at a rally near you, bring your friends, and come expecting something powerful.

UPCOMING RALLIES

WINTER-SPRING, 2026

YD Michigan Youth and Discipleship

- 1/18** • CENTRAL MICHIGAN RALLY--NORTHPOINT
5920 Jefferson Ave, Midland, MI
- 2/15** • EASTERN MICHIGAN--LAPEER COG
459 E. Oregon St, Lapeer, MI
- 3/1** • SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN--STEWART RD.
1199 Stewart Rd, Monroe, MI
- 4/12** • WESTERN MICHIGAN--ABUNDANT LIFE
4041 Byron Center Ave SW, Wyoming, MI
- 4/26** • NORTHERN MICHIGAN--HOUGHTON LAKE
9949 W Lake City Rd, Houghton Lake, MI
- 5/17** • UPPER PENINSULA--HARBOR LIGHTS
612 2nd Ave S, Escanaba, MI

For More Information: director@michigancog.org
All rallies begin at 6 pm.

Michigan Student & Youth Leaders

2/5



BRYAN STEWART, STUDENT PASTOR,
HOPEWELL COG, CLEVELAND, TN

2/12



CALEB CROOMS, Y&D DIRECTOR,
ALABAMA CHURCH OF GOD

3/19



KELVIN PAGE, LEAD PASTOR, WESTMORE
CHURCH OF GOD, CLEVELAND, TN

4/2



WILL LOTT, Y&D DIRECTOR
KENTUCKY CHURCH OF GOD

5/7



JOHNATHON POPE, Y&D DIRECTOR,
FLORIDA CHURCH OF GOD

6/4



LYNN SWANK AND ADAM MEW
2026 YOUTH CAMP SPEAKERS.

7/2



JEFF MCNALLY, LEAD PASTOR,
GRACEPOINT, RIVERVIEW, MI

8/6



RYAN SHARP, LEAD PASTOR,
RIVERHILLS CHURCH, TAMPA, FL

9/3



CHRIS ONDROVICH, Y&D DIRECTOR,
INDIANA CHURCH OF GOD

10/1



JOSH MARTIN, Y&D DIRECTOR
SOUTH CAROLINA CHURCH OF GOD

11/5



COLE MCCLAIN, YOUTH AND CHILDRENS
OAK CREST CHURCH, MUSKEGON, MI

12/3



ERICH LACKS, Y&D DIRECTOR,
MICHIGAN CHURCH OF GOD

Stormy Weather

Spring weather often includes thunderstorms. I love a good thunderstorm... as long as I am safe and secure in my house watching the celestial fireworks from a distance! I certainly didn't inherit this trait from my maternal grandmother.

Mama Durham was scared to death of storms; so frightened, in fact, that my grandfather built a cement block "storm pit" bunker into the red clay hill behind their house. Her "bunker" included a bed, kerosene lamps, matches, and a battery-powered radio. She ran to that shelter the first time thunder rolled. (A devastating tornado ripped through Six Mile when she was 8 years old, destroying property and killing many people. It made a lasting impression on her!)

Where do you run when the pressures and storms of life come rolling into your world? Do you have a "storm pit?" I love [Isaiah 25:4](#) - *"You (Lord) have been a refuge for the poor, a refuge for the needy in his distress, a shelter from the storm and a shade from the heat."*

That's the kind of protection that will guard us through every difficulty we might face - lean financial times ... the times we're at the end of the rope, and the knot is slipping ... and the times when crises loom like dark clouds on the horizon. In times like these, our God is not some aloof deity; He is willing and available to be our refuge, shelter, and shade if we will just run to Him.

"The name of the LORD is a strong fortress; the godly run to Him and are safe." ~
[Prov. 18:10](#) NLT

Gotta run,
Sonja

Here's a fancy theological word for you: aseity.

Aseity is the word theologians use to describe the absolute self-sufficiency and independence of God. He was not created and he has no needs or lack; he is completely self-existent and self-sufficient.

Now you know why you seldom, if ever, hear that word. It is only used to describe one Being in the entire universe—God.

We, on the other hand, are the opposite of self-existent and self-sufficient; we are absolutely and completely dependent on others for our very existence and our continued existence.

Take your breakfast for example. That slice of toast you ate this morning (I hope it wasn't burnt) would have been impossible without the kind grocer who sold it to you. (We're not even going to get into all that went into you getting a car and fuel and insurance on that car to drive to the grocery store or who built the store, stocked the shelves, and...well you get the picture.)

But back to that grocer. Of course, he had to get your bread from a baker who got his flour from a miller who got his grain delivered to him by a trucker who works for a commodities company who brought the grain from a farmer who serves the soil (and prays for rain).

Pretty complicated uh? And I haven't even gotten into how you got the butter to put on your toast or the toaster to toast your bread or the electricity to run the toaster.

All that to say, Michigan Church of God, we need each other. It is not only a privilege and joy to be a part of the amazing MICO family, but also vitally necessary.

Do we always get it right? Of course, not—what family does.

But when we are at our best it means that everyone matters and everyone cares.

Obviously, you and I can't be everyone, but we can do our part. We can care, and we can contribute. We can lean into embracing a godly dependency that says, "I refuse to be an island unto myself but instead choose to be a part of something bigger than my own interest and survival."

It's call family.

And I am thankful to be a part of this special and sacred family called the Michigan Church of God family, and I am thankful that you are a part too.

In the words of Sylvester Stallone playing the part of boxer Rocky Balboa – speaking of he and his wife, Adrian – "I got gaps and she got gaps, together we got no gaps."

That's us MICO family! With God on our side, together we got this! I truly believe we are a part of something that really matters and is making an eternal difference.

Blessings to all,

David L. Kemp

Administrative Bishop, Michigan Church of God

Church of God in Michigan
2026 February Tithe Stats

Church and Pastor	Tithes	Worship
Stewart Road Church of God, Mark Ingram	78,506.85	551
Dexter Lake Church of God, Paul Tindall	37,944.00	209
Oak-Crest Church of God, Richard D. Rogers	36,010.67	205
Victorious Life, Scott Weaver	24,499.92	109
Grace Point Church, Jeff McNally, Jr.	23,269.00	238
Family Worship, Eric Rogers	19,256.00	79
Hill Creek, Wesley Hunter	16,856.87	89
The River, William E. Wahl	16,256.00	179
Harvest International, Frederick Nichols	15,513.25	22
New Hope Community, Victor Williams	15,073.77	81
Walton Blvd Church of God, M. Tony Barbour	14,943.71	110
Riverhills Church Detroit, Ryan Sharpe	14,742.50	120
Power & Praise, Christopher Blankenship	13,739.00	182
Genesee Rd Church of God, Vaughn Eller	12,309.25	88
Heritage Community Church, Adam Schultz	11,841.05	50
Family Tabernacle, Jeffrey Howard	10,878.00	35
Victory Temple, Dennis Wick	9,912.14	44
White Cloud Church, James Fader	9,735.22	66
Restoration Pointe, Gregory Gitter	9,445.00	58
LifePoint, Ronald Schubert	8,784.50	129
Heritage Park, Robert Rennie	7,961.00	50
Big Jackson, John McGhee	7,510.00	92
Durand Church of God, Mark Fernandez	7,476.00	107
Kingdom Life Church of God, Steven Bishop	7,315.64	124
City Church, Steve Totten	7,166.00	90
The Summit, Jim Morrison	7,017.00	60
Hope Community Church, Glenn Gilman	6,811.44	40
Sandusky Church of God, Jeffrey Noble	6,552.91	27
Connection Point, Thomas E. Rea	6,471.70	41
Grand Haven, Nathan Strom	6,219.69	49
International Church of God, Joy John	6,000.00	185
Central Church of God, Chris Johnson	5,839.00	88
Houghton Lake Church of God, Jacob Nicoletti	5,577.91	50
Lighthouse Church of God, Matthew West	5,437.07	70
Lighthouse Worship, Roger Fleming	5,332.62	80
New Harvest, John Criswell	5,267.75	30

Upper Room Church of God, Alex Fernandez	4,799.00	88
Family Life Center, Ryan Snyder	4,741.92	95
Trinity Church of God, Mark Wellhousen	4,723.00	20
Holly Church of God, Eugene Blankenship	4,600.00	43
Redemption Outreach, Scott Tysick	4,500.00	0
Harrison Church of God, Willis Pilman	4,046.00	20
Revival Center, Greg Casto	4,017.25	35
Harvest Intern'l Min., Michael Czarnik	3,954.50	30
Kalkaska, Church Alive, David Morrison Jr.	3,888.25	21
New Covenant, Ronald Jacobs II	3,877.30	60
Christian Church for all Nations, Danielle Andre	3,761.61	0
Highest Praise, Wesley Starr	3,760.69	48
Clinton Church of God, Gary Adams	3,435.00	0
Lapeer Church of God, Dakota Leming	3,397.82	65
Redemption Place, Deborah Leshner	3,365.58	25
The Point, Ellis Fortune	3,235.00	98
Fountain of Praise, Debra Schilling	3,115.00	20
Crossroads Church of God, Daniel W Blankenship	2,950.00	15
North Point Worship Cntr, Michael B. Arp	2,882.80	45
New Hope Ministries, J. Ron Dunn	2,828.00	13
Garden City Church of God, John H Stamper, III	2,735.00	22
Living Word, Frankie Lucas	2,623.57	22
Flat Rock Church of God, James Williams	2,391.00	16
Sebewa, Thomas Jablonski	2,102.81	20
Lighthouse Village, Anthony M. Fields	2,059.00	24
Living Word, Jephtha Bryant	1,980.00	22
Family Life Worship, Charles Kiesgen	1,872.00	40
Strong Tower, Doug Trudell	1,686.00	38
Andrus Street Church of God, Don Browning, Jr.	1,630.00	77
Inland Lighthouse, David Goheen	1,475.00	8
Lawton Church of God, David R. Cripps	1,404.00	9
Zeeland Church of God, Douglas Koglin	1,341.06	18
Redford Church of God, Shirley Stafford	1,110.00	21
Hastings Church of God, Jeremy Singleton	651.00	11
House of Hope God's House, Tom Coppens	295.00	7
Faith Chapel, Betty Marlow	60.00	6
Abundant Life, Richard South	N/R	0
Cornerstone, Warren R. Davis	N/R	0
Harbor Lights, Anthony Morrison	N/R	0
Lake Orion Church of God, William S. Curnell	N/R	0
No Limits Ministries, Robert Renfro	N/R	0

Ray of Light, Mary Hoots	N/R	0
Renew Church, Justin Candela	N/R	0
Sheridan Church of God, Robert Carpenter	N/R	0
Solid Rock, Wayne Ramey	N/R	0
The Church, Nick Heine	N/R	0
The Harbor Church of God, Frederick Weaver	N/R	0
Trenton, Donald Drews	N/R	0
West Branch Church, Tom Plashek	N/R	0

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