



PRESS RELEASE: Omaha Tornado 50th Anniversary Interfaith Worship Service

Event: Omaha Tornado 50th Anniversary Interfaith Worship Service

When: May 6, 2025, at 7 p.m.

Where: First United Methodist Church, 7020 Cass St., Omaha NE 68132

Contact:

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Description

Together and First United Methodist Church co-host a special interfaith worship service remembering those impacted by the devastating tornadoes that struck May 6, 1975 – the event that led to the formation of Together.

OMAHA – Clergy and lay leaders from ten area religious institutions are collaborating on a special interfaith service to be held May 6, 2025, at 7 p.m., commemorating the devastating tornadoes that struck Omaha that day. The service will be held at First United Methodist Church on Cass Street, co-hosted by First UMC and Together, a nonprofit organization that seeks to end hunger and homelessness in our community, which was formed in the wake of this devastating event.

The ten faith institutions involved are: Countryside Community Church, Dundee Presbyterian Church, First Christian Church, First United Methodist Church, King of Kings Church, Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church, Saint Luke United Methodist Church, Temple Israel, Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, and The Water's Edge Church. In addition to the service, all the participating churches will ring their bells at 4 p.m. on May 6 to mark the 50th anniversary of the tornado strike. Other area religious organizations are invited to join in this commemoration.

The service will feature music and prayers, as well as recollections from those who survived the storms or were involved in forming Together. Photographs and artifacts from the tornado will be on display during an informal reception that will follow the service.

After the devastating tornado swept across Omaha on May 6, 1975, the leaders of seven area religious organizations assembled the Together cooperative effort to help people affected by the disaster. As

tornado relief wound down, Together's founders realized that thousands of families in Omaha still needed assistance with food and shelter every day. Unanimously, the leaders voted to continue Together's community services on an ongoing basis. Today, with the help of donors and volunteers, Together operates Choice food pantries in Omaha and Council Bluffs and helps people obtain or retain a safe place to live through a variety of housing assistance programs. Together works to ensure that each and every one of our neighbors has access to a safe, affordable home and healthy food/ We address immediate needs while serving as a catalyst for changing our community's response to ending hunger and homelessness on a systemic level.

"We are honored to help organize and host this event, to remember those who were impacted by the terrible storms that struck our city 50 years ago, and to give thanks for the vision and compassion that inspired church leaders to form Together," said Mike Hornacek, president and CEO of Together. "Most of them are gone now, of course, but I think they would be proud to know the organization they started is still going strong and working every day to improve the lives of our neighbors who are faced with a housing crisis or food insecurity."