

## **The Gathering VII Unites Christians and Jews for Common Cause**

On Sunday, February 20, 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 begin at 3 p.m. at Congregation Beth Shalom, 9400 Wornall Road in Kansas City, MO. The Gathering is free and open to the public.

This is the seventh 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 VII will celebrate *America and Israel: Standing Together*. Pastor Paul Brooks and Rabbi Alan Cohen will share their joint hopes and prayers that Christians and Jews can through, their standing together, help bring the people of the Middle East closer to peace. There will be a musical presentation performed by children and adult choirs from both the Jewish and Christian communities and area clergy will participate and lead prayers for peace.

“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,” comments Rabbi Alan Cohen. “Presidents from Washington to the present have emphasized the values of our country and that of Israel and the Jewish people are integrally linked. Our Gathering7 will illuminate these shared views.”

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](http://www.jerusalemgathering.org).