

2024 Ohio River Valley

Christian Intentional Community,
Nurturing Communities Network & Catholic Worker

Gathering

Invitation & Info Packet

Sisters! Brothers!

We give thanks to our God for the chance to gather together, share our lives and stories, sing, dance, and learn from one another. Come join this celebration of mutual aid, clarification of thought, and communal life. - The Bloomington (IN) Christian Radical Catholic Worker

DATES: Friday, May 24 – Sunday, May 26, 2024
(See complete schedule below)

NEW LOCATION!!: Camp Bedford 33 Church Camp Road Bedford, IN 47421
<https://www.campbedford.com/camp-facilities> Camp Phone is 812-329-1222

WHAT IS THE OHIO RIVER VALLEY?: It is the land area that serves as the drainage basin feeding the Ohio River. For our purposes it means folks living in or near Indiana, Ohio & Kentucky (plus Chicago and Michigan and from wherever else folks come).

COST: The whole kit'n'kaboodle cost of hosting the Gathering runs the Bloomington Catholic Worker about \$2600. (This works out to a cost of ~\$20 per adult, per night.) Please contribute according to your ability: come for free if you need to, pay more if you are able. **DO NOT LET THE COST PROHIBIT ANYONE FROM YOUR COMMUNITY FROM ATTENDING.**

ACCOMMODATIONS: There are a total of 10 cabins that fit 10 campers each in bunk beds. There are outlets and lights in the cabins. There is a central bath house for the cabins. Men's and women's bath houses have 6 showers, multiple toilets, and 5 sinks each. We will also be able to tent camp in specific areas. These areas are closest to the Old Hearth Lodge. Campers can utilize the 4 bathrooms in the Old Hearth Lodge. Please plan to clean up after your own sleeping area and to participate in the bathroom cleanup for your sleeping area. If you are interested in paying for an RV hook-up, let Andrea know. The additional cost to you will be \$40/night.

ARRIVAL & PARKING: Check-in time is anytime Friday after 1p. Members of the Bloomington Catholic Worker will be around to welcome you and orient you to the new space. Please feel free to stop at the Overlook Lodge (the biggest building) to drop off food in the kitchen. You may park at the Overlook Lodge or the Old Hearth Lodge. You

may drive to your cabin to unload and then leave your car parked at one of the lodges for the remainder of the weekend.

ACCESSIBILITY: We are eager to accommodate all people with all needs. If you have questions about the space and want to be sure it will work for you, please do give Andrea a call at 812-339-4456 (landline) or 812-679-2454 (cell); we would be eager to figure things out.

CHILDREN: Children are strongly welcomed and encouraged to attend. There will be times set aside for childcare, always with multiple adults watching the children. Older kids will be split from the younger ones to enable more age-appropriate play.

THE POOL: The pool is only accessible for swimming and playing when a lifeguard (Thanks, Hochstetters!) is on duty and the gate is unlocked. We plan for this to be on Saturday afternoon as well as another time. Stay tuned!

RSVPs/REGISTRATION: RSVPs & registration are helpful. Please do reach out in advance if you need to reserve a cabin for your own family/group or want to offer an activity/addition to the schedule. Call the Bloomington Catholic Worker at 812.339.4456 or email Andrea Martinie Eiler, amartinieeiler@gmail.com to RSVP.

ALCOHOL POLICY: Camp Bedford will allow us to have self-served (grab it from the fridge yourself) wine and beer. Please also bring delicious non-alcoholic alternatives. Do not bring hard liquor.

PET POLICY: Pets are not allowed at Camp Bedford.

CATHOLIC & CHRISTIAN STUFF: The name "Catholic Worker" can be confusing, even to Catholic Workers. Let it be known that this will be a diverse and ecumenical gathering. All people of all denominations and faith traditions (or lack thereof) are welcome. There will be an ecumenical Christian worship service on Sunday morning as part of our gathering. The closest Catholic parish for those who wish to attend is St. Vincent DePaul Catholic Church, 1723 I St., Bedford, IN 47421.

ODDS & ENDS:

- **We'd love to expand our invitation list, Please pass the word!** • Any and all guests who are able to be around children are welcomed and encouraged.
- Even if you're not delegated a responsibility below, **we need your help!** Sign-up sheets will be available at the gathering to help with dishes, cooking, kid-care, clean-up and the like.

WHAT TO BRING:

- FOOD!!!! To share and to cook! There is ample storage space in the kitchen.
- Coffee & fixins'
- Yummy non-alcoholic beverages!
- Flashlights
- Your own bedding.
- Towels if you intend to bathe.
- Camping Gear if you are camping.
- Swimming gear
- Musical Instruments
- Frisbees, Soccer balls, basketballs, tennis gear, gaga balls.
- Excited Hearts
- Hiking Gear if you're a woods person

WHAT NOT TO BRING:

- Dogs or Pets

TAKE NOTE: Camp Bedford requests that we do not go down to the river. Also, if you are in the woods and encounter signs saying, "Stay off of County Property," please do not go any farther!

QUESTIONS & CONTACT INFO: We're looking forward to hearing from you! Direct any questions to Andrea at the Bloomington Catholic Worker (821 N Blair Ave, Bloomington IN 47404-3353). You can call 812.339.4456 (landline), 812-679-2454 (cell), or email Andrea at amartinieeiler@gmail.com. To reach someone the same-day of the Gathering, try Ross's cell at 765.337.6399.

THE SCHEDULE:

Friday 24 May

Arrival anytime after 1:00pm

6:00pm - **Dinner** by the Bloomington Fab Five: Elams, Laura, Colvards.

7:30pm - **Evening Prayer & Singing** on deck of Overlook Lodge, led by Matt Pflederer.

8:30pm - **Fireside Music Jam and Ice Cream** at Ampitheater/Fire pit

11:00 - **Compline**

Saturday 25 May

7:30-9:00am - **Breakfast** by Englewood Christian Church

9:00 - **Morning Prayer & Singing** on deck of Overlook Lodge, led by Little Bear Creek.

9:30-10:15 - **Introductions, chore assignments & day planning**

10:15-11:10 **Roundtable Discussions (With Childcare)**

11:15-12:00 - **Roundtable Discussions, Soccer Game, or other Play (With Childcare)**

12:15-1:15pm - **Lunch** by Little Bear Creek

1:30-4:00 - **Swimming**; crafting; hiking; chess & games inside; naps and restful things.

4:30-5:30 - **Roundtable Discussions (With Childcare) Also Practice Time for the ORV Open Dance Band** in Old Hearth Lodge that will be performing TONIGHT at the dance! **YOU can join!**

6:00 - **Dinner** by Lydia's House Catholic Worker

7:15 - **Evening Prayer** on deck of Overlook Lodge, led by Chris Colvard

8:00 - **Contra/Square Dance with Kyla calling and YOU playing in the ORV Open Dance Band**

11:00 - **Compline**

Sunday 26 May

7:30-9:00am - **Breakfast** prepared by all the Teens, South Bend, and JPUSA

9:30 - **Ecumenical Worship** led by Lydia's House Catholic Worker

10:30-11:30 - Retreat Center **Clean-up**

12:00 - **Lunch** with Leftovers & Farewells

2:00 - Depart