



Bentonville, Van Buren and Mena, AR

April 11, 2020

Speakers

Local Webcast – 9:30 am
Webcast from Headquarters – 12:00

Upcoming Events

April 15th – Last Day Unleavened Bread

Sunset time is for Alma, Arkansas	
Sunset tonight	7:46 pm
Sunset next Friday	7:51 pm

Announcements

Local Services: Bentonville, Van Buren and Mena: We will be webcasting services locally tomorrow at 9:30 am. You may go to cogwa.tv which will take you to the main page. There is a link at the top of the page to Headquarters webcasts, and if you scroll down to Bentonville you can find our local webcast. We plan to be up and broadcasting by 15 minutes prior to services beginning.

Headquarters Weekly Update – April 2, 2020

Sabbath services—April 11, 18 and 25

- Each US congregation is webcasting local services. *Our webcast time is 9:30 am.*
- We will also be webcasting a full Sabbath service (hymns, sermonette or split sermon, announcements, sermon) at [12 p.m. Central](#) Daylight Time from headquarters on cogwa.tv and [Roku](#). For those calling in, the dial-in number is **605-472-5473**, and the participant code is **130095**.
- All local services will be held either before or after the webcast from headquarters, so there will be no scheduling conflict.

Feast of Unleavened Bread—April 15

- Last holy day services (one service only) from headquarters at [12 p.m. Central](#) Daylight Time on cogwa.tv and [Roku](#).

Sabbath services in May

Just this week U.S. President Trump extended the “social distancing” advisory through the month of April, and we have certainly learned in the last few weeks that everything is quite unpredictable in this situation. But we will soon be making contingency plans for May and will be prepared for continuing as we are or making applicable changes. We will keep you informed.

Holy day offerings

For U.S. members: Instructions regarding the holy day offering are available [here](#). For members outside the U.S.: Each region is responsible for determining how to best collect the offering, and pastors will communicate that to the members.

Feast registration to open Sunday April 12: All member households are encouraged to begin the Feast registration process tomorrow (Sunday) after 9 am EDT. While we understand there could still be some restrictions by Feast time, we are praying for, and expecting that we will be able to keep the Feast as planned.

If anyone has been accepted to keep the Feast in Jordan or Greece this year, it is recommended that you register with an alternative site just in case. The system will allow you to make changes if we see those two sites will be able to be used as planned.

Our local feast advisors will be Dennis Fultz (Bentonville) and Bill Gossett (Van Buren & Mena). If you have any questions or concerns, please contact one of them.

COGWA Youth Camps (reminder): With the current COVID-19 restrictions, many have asked about our plans for our CYC summer camps. Our COGWA camp directors in the United States have been in contact with the facilities that we rent to check on our booking reservations. Our first camp is now 11 weeks away.

It is our hope and prayer that by the time our camp dates arrive, all activities will be able to go forward, and “social distancing” will be a thing of the past. At this point in time, we are planning for all of our camps to go forward as scheduled. Of course, if federal, state or local restrictions continue into late spring or summer, we will have to reevaluate at that time.

In the meantime, we strongly encourage campers and staff to *apply for U.S. camps now*, as normal. If an unforeseen situation arises where a camp has to be canceled, we can easily *refund your tuition*. But, due to the current uncertainty, we suggest that you *not* purchase airline tickets at this time.

Camp Application System Opens: For the past several months, we have been working toward a new application system for COGWA Youth Camps that will integrate with our database system. We are now happy to announce that the system will open at 10 a.m. Central Daylight Time on Sunday, March 15, at which time you can start applying for our 2020 camps.

You will start at the same place you’ve always gone—the COGWA Portal. When you log into the account, you will see the CYC application notice at the bottom left of your screen. To this point, everything will look the same. However, when you click on the “Apply” button, you will notice things starting to change.

The instructions in the blue box above your list of household members will be much larger with a lot more detailed instructions. We encourage you to read everything in that blue box **very carefully!** You will note several important points, including the following highlights:

- There are new forms spread across several pages and very little will be “pre-populated” (automatically filled in), so you will have to enter a lot of information for each household member this year.
- However, once you have entered that information for an applicant, applying for a second camp will be very quick. Whatever you entered will pre-populate any subsequent 2020 camp application—for that applicant.

- Please note, this will apply for **each household member individually**.
- This system will require you to upload a photo with **each application**, so you will need to have handy a recent full-face digital photo (taken within the last three months) to upload with each application.

We understand this will take a little more time this year, but it will allow us to pull that data into our new system to be able to pre-populate additional applications. The system is new, and though we have tested it extensively, it is quite possible that we may need to make a minor tweak here or there. Once we have this year's data and are comfortable with how the system is working, we will be able to address how much we can pre-populate forms for everyone next year.

We appreciate your patience in working with this new system. If you have any trouble or questions, you can contact us at registration@cogwa.org, and we'll be happy to assist you.

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