



Bentonville, Van Buren and Mena, AR

June 13, 2020

Speakers

Upcoming Events

Van Buren	Sermonette: <i>In Accord</i>	
	Sermon: Tom Clark	
Bentonville	Sermonette: Nathan Froedge	
	Sermon: Dennis Fultz	
Mena	Sermonette: <i>In Accord</i>	
	Sermon: Tom Clark	

Today – Regular services – all three Congregations!

Sunset time is for Alma, Arkansas	
Sunset tonight	8:33 pm
Sunset next Friday	8:35 pm

Announcements

Mena services: Due to a relaxation of the restrictions placed on our normal building by the regional SDA conference, we have been invited to return to the building for services effective this week! As with the other congregations, we will still not have snacks, coffee or pot luck meals yet, but we will be able to hold complete services in our normal location once again!

Feast Assistance: Each year many faithful brethren donate extra funds from their Festival tithe so that other needy members can receive the financial assistance they need to attend the Feast of Tabernacles. Last year these generous contributions enabled nearly 200 people to attend the Feast who would have been unable to attend otherwise. The Church recognizes its responsibility to see that those contributions are distributed fairly and equitably.

If you have no tithable income or if you have faithfully saved your Festival tithe and will still not have sufficient funds to attend the Feast this year, we will be happy to help where we can. If you think you will need additional funds to be able to attend the Feast this fall, please contact our local Festival advisor, Dennis Fultz or Bill Gossett, or your pastor to get a *Festival Assistance Member Information* form. Complete the form and return it to your pastor or festival advisor as soon as possible. (All information on the form will be treated as confidential.)

Ministerial Services has asked us to have all assistance applications turned in by July 13, so please pick up the form and return it to your congregation’s Festival advisor or your pastor as quickly as possible.

Local webcasting: With our return to normal services times and locations, we will be returning to our normal webcasting schedule. That means our “channel” will not be on the public cogwa.tv front page any longer. Ours is considered a private page, which we will maintain. So we will be webcasting from Bentonville beginning at 2:30 pm. Our webcast address is cogwa.tv/webcasts/bentonville.

Camp Cancellation: The COGWA administration has had ongoing discussions with our CYC camp directors for the last few months, striving to take into consideration all the factors that might affect our ability to effectively run our summer camps. As all are aware, we made the decision earlier to cancel our June camps due to the restrictions that came about from the COVID-19 pandemic.

In the weeks that followed, the camp directors continued to study the situation and evaluate the protocols that would be required if we sponsored our camps. The camp team met again with the administration this past week, on June 3, to discuss our ability to run our camp programs in light of the current community standards and guidelines required of overnight (residential) camps.

Unfortunately, we find that the restrictions that caused us to cancel our June camps are still in place and will likely be so throughout the summer. As such, it seemed unreasonable to the administration and the camp directors to attempt to run our camps amid restrictions requiring social distancing, face coverings, disinfection protocols, transportation restrictions etc. Sadly, this realization necessitates the cancellation of our remaining summer camps.

While this is disappointing to us all—especially our campers—our camp directors will do their best to provide a virtual program that will help to fill the void left by cancellation of our summer camps. Listen for announcements on this as the summer progresses. We would add that we are still planning to host our CYC Winter Camp in late December and are looking forward to a dynamic and exciting camp program in the summer of 2021.

We have appreciated your prayers about this decision and feel that God has led us to the wisest choice at this time.

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