



Bentonville, Van Buren and Mena, AR

August 8, 2020

Speakers

Upcoming Events

Van Buren Sermonette: *In Accord*
Sermon: Dennis Fultz

Bentonville Sermonette: Ariel Mundo
Sermon: Tom Clark

Van Buren Sermonette: *In Accord*
Sermon: Dennis Fultz

Today – Regular services – all three
Congregations!

Sunset time is for Alma, Arkansas	
Sunset tonight	8:14 pm
Sunset next Friday	8:08 pm

Announcements

Fall Holy Days: With the ongoing reports of the coronavirus infection, Headquarters has asked that we plan for only one service for both the Feast of Trumpets and the Day of Atonement. Atonement we typically only have one service, and each of our congregations meet in the normal meeting hall.

However we do need to make a change for Trumpets. Normally we combine all three congregations in Van Buren and have double services. Unfortunately, that building is not large enough for us all to be together and have “social distance” space between families for seating. That means we are going to have to meet in two locations.

At this point we are planning to combine Mena and Van Buren for PM services at the Van Buren hall. Bentonville will meet for AM services at the normal hall. With the ban on snacks and food at the hall, we will not be able to bring lunch or have a pot luck as we’ve had in the past.

Feast Attendance Survey: The year 2020 has been a tremendous challenge that none of us could have foreseen. The impact of the pandemic has presented us with obstacles we never could have imagined. However, with God’s help, we’ve been able to meet those challenges and move forward.

Now, with less than eight weeks until the Feast of Tabernacles, we’ve come to understand that none of the Feast sites outside of the United States will be able to host American members this year. Those brethren from the U.S. who have registered for the Caribbean; France; Quebec; Victoria, B.C.; the U.K.; South Africa; the Philippines; Australia; New Zealand; and other international site will need to change their plans.

It also looks as if all of our Latin American sites will only be able to host the Feast for brethren from their own countries—tourists from outside will not be allowed.

We are preparing all of our sites to make the necessary changes and adjustments to hall attendance and meeting protocols, as required by state and local COVID-19 orders. Yet we realize that some of our brethren within the United States are wanting to reduce their domestic travel, as well.

Because of these changes in international travel and restrictions within the United States, we know that many of you are having to change your Feast travel plans for 2020. As a result, we **need your assistance** so that we can provide the safest environment for God's people to keep the Feast this year.

On **Sunday, Aug. 16, an email** will be sent to all U.S. members who have registered for the Feast. The email will include a link to a three-question survey for you to confirm your plans for observing the Feast this year. We ask that all members complete the survey before midnight, Wednesday, Aug. 19.

One of the questions you will be asked is whether, due to concerns about travel, etc., you and your family now desire to attend your local assigned site. Please know that even if your local assigned site is currently "closed," you still can choose that option.

Since the impacts of the COVID-19 virus have been changing from week to week, we are doing our very best to prepare for keeping the Feast at the 11 regular and satellite sites throughout the U.S. The plan for keeping the Feast at these various sites includes the component of offering live webcasting of services for days when members may not be able to attend in person.

It is very important that each member/registrant complete this survey. The data generated from this email survey will provide needed information to ensure our members have seating available when they attend in-person services. Therefore, as a registered Feast attendee, it is imperative that you fill out this survey when you receive it.

Because we will need this information very soon, we ask that you complete the survey by **no later than Wednesday, Aug. 19.**

Virtual Children's Choir: While we will be unable to have a live, in-person children's choir at the Feast of Tabernacles this year, we would still like to provide an opportunity for the children to sing and offer special music to God and His people. We plan to do this through the Virtual Children's Choir!

We would like to invite all children between the ages of 5 and 12 to participate in the Virtual Children's Choir. Our plan is for the final product to be played for special music one day at all of our U.S. (and some international) Feast sites this fall.

In order to participate, parents will need to video record their children singing the song. We will be singing "Firmly Anchored," written by Church members Judy Troyer and Emily Smith. This is the song that many children learned during Virtual Preteen Camp this summer.

Complete instructions for participating in this project, along with music, lyrics and rehearsal files, can be found by logging onto the Virtual Children's Choir page here: [Virtual Children's Choir](#) and typing the password **FOTmusic2020**

We hope that many of our families will take advantage of this unique opportunity and add some joy to our Feast of Tabernacles celebration!

Church Administration

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