



Bentonville, Van Buren and Mena, AR

August 22, 2020

Speakers		
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Upcoming Events

Van Buren	Sermonette: <i>In Accord</i>	
	Sermon: Jack Willoughby	
Bentonville	Sermonette: <i>In Accord</i>	
	Sermon: Tom Clark	
Mena	Sermonette: <i>In Accord</i>	
	Sermon: Jack Willoughby	

Sept 19	Feast of Trumpets
Sept 28	Day of Atonement
Oct 3–10	Feast of Tabernacles & Last Great Day

Sunset time is for Alma, Arkansas	
Sunset tonight	7:58 pm
Sunset next Friday	7:50 pm

Announcements

Feast Baskets: We would like to continue our tradition of giving Feast baskets to our widows, elderly and shut-ins. However, with concerns about germs, we are going to do the baskets a little differently this year. If you would like to donate items for the baskets, we are asking that you get those items to the Clarks on either September 5 (Mena or Van Buren) or September 12 (Bentonville or Van Buren). Or, even a Sabbath prior to that. Please bring only non-perishable items. The baskets will be put together with as few people touching the items as possible and then brought and distributed on the Feast of Trumpets. We will be putting together 28 baskets – 15 are for individuals and 13 are for couples.

Fall Holy Days:

→Local Services:

Feast of Trumpets: Sabbath of September 19th will be the Holy Day of Trumpets. Because of size restrictions, we need to meet in two locations. Bentonville will meet at the regular church hall beginning at 10:00 am. Van Buren and Mena will meet together at the Van Buren hall beginning at 2:30 pm. We will not have snacks or food in the buildings.

Day of Atonement: Monday September 28th is the Day of Atonement. As we have traditionally done, all three congregations will meet in your regular meetings halls for a single service beginning at 11:00 am.

Feast of Tabernacles: The Feast this year begins at sunset on Friday October 2nd, and ends with the conclusion of the Last Great Day at sunset on Sabbath October 10th. During that time we will have no local services. Regular services will begin in all three congregations on Sabbath of October 17th.

→**In-person attendance at U.S. Feast sites:** We plan to offer in-person services *every day* during the Feast at most U.S. Feast sites. However, a *few* sites (Orange Beach, Myrtle Beach and possibly one or two others) will likely require that in-person attendance be *alternated every other day*. For these sites, the worst-case scenario for all members would be attending one in-person service on both the first holy day and the Last Great Day and then, for the remaining six days, alternating between attending in person and viewing the webcast from one's accommodations. This means all attendees will have at least five occasions during the Feast when they will be able to attend in-person services. And at all of our remaining sites, we plan to offer in-person services *every day* during the Feast.

→**Fall holy day offerings:** The COVID-19 pandemic has affected just about every aspect of our lives, including how the Church has collected and processed the annual holy day offerings. We prefer, of course, to collect a congregational offering as we have always done in past years, but unfortunately, this is an unusual time.

For safety reasons, and because of regulations imposed at several of our Festival locations, it is our plan to handle the holy day offerings for fall festivals (Feast of Trumpets, Atonement, the Feast of Tabernacles and Last Great Day) as we did those for the first three holy days this year—except that we will also have a box on the information table on the holy days for members who wish to give their offering at services.

We will have an offertory message as usual, but we will not physically collect the holy day offering as we have in prior years. We ask that you give your offering by one of the following options:

- Donate online (by eCheck or by credit card) at members.cogwa.org/donate/.
- Donate through the mail to: COGWA, P.O. Box 731480, Dallas, TX 75373-1480
- Donate online by your bank's bill pay.
- Donate by placing your offering in the donation box that will be provided at the information table prior to and after services on the holy days. Please use your blue envelope with your name and address on the outside.

We appreciate your understanding and cooperation during these unusual and difficult times.

→**No U.S. members traveling overseas:** Due to travel restrictions in most countries, we are asking all of our U.S. members to cancel any plans for attendance at an international site, and confirm their intentions to attend within the United States. Most airlines and accommodations will offer vouchers or full refunds in the event they booked their travel and hotels already.

Attending church services: Due to the COVID-19 protocols, we are reminding the brethren that all of our meeting halls will be set up for social distancing in seating. Depending on the site one is attending, this might require alternating in-person attendance at the hall and viewing the live webcast service from their accommodations on days when they won't be able to attend in person.

→**Webcasting at all sites:** As we have shared with the members in the recent past, all of our U.S. Feast sites will provide live webcast services throughout the Feast. This will enable those who are unable to attend services on any day to access the service via the Internet on the COGWA webcast.

→**Laptop/tablet access for members at the Feast sites:** It is important that all of our members have a laptop or tablet or smartphone they can use to access the webcasts from their hotel or condo during the Feast. If you will not have access to one during the Feast, please let Mr. Clark or your Feast Advisor (Dennis Fultz and Bill Gossett) know and we will try to make sure there is someone you could get together with to webcast if needed at your Feast site.

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!

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