Effective this Sabbath, July 18, 2020, and until further notice, we are asking that everyone over the age of 10 (this is the age set for Texas—please check with state and local authorities for the age requirement in your area) in attendance at one of our services come with a mask, a cloth face covering or a face shield (where accepted by state or local authorities). We are asking that you wear them coming in to services, while fellowshiping prior to and after services, while exiting the room, and while singing. As long as the seating allows for a minimum of 6 feet separation, there is no need to wear them while seated during the actual service unless required by the facility or governmental authority. Where local restrictions are more restrictive, we should comply with the local or state mandates. If you have a medical condition that prevents you from wearing a mask, please consider using a plastic face shield instead (recommended by the CDC if you have such a condition). But if this is not possible because of your condition, you will not be required to wear a face covering. Please inform your pastor if this is your situation. Wearing a face covering or a face shield does not replace the need to maintain the social distance of 6 feet between you and other members who are not part of your immediate family. We should also, for the time being, refrain from hugging and shaking hands. If you are sick, we request that you stay at home and not attend services until you are well. If you have symptoms of the COVID-19 virus, then you should be tested to determine if you are infected, and if the test is positive, you should quarantine at home for at least 14 days. You should also notify your pastor as to the last time you attended services prior to the development of symptoms and subsequent positive test. We are hopeful that, as conditions improve and we get beyond this current pandemic, we will be able to meet in services without face coverings in the very near future. We will continue to monitor the situation and keep our pastors updated as things change.

**Thank You**

Thanks to all those who were able to come and help with moving the furniture for both Mrs. McCullough and several others over to the location of the garage sale to take place at the end of July. There were plenty of hands and everything went very smoothly.

We also want to thank those who maybe couldn't come but prayed for things to go well. The temperatures were suddenly cooler than forecast which helped those of us who are older to bear it so much better.

In general it was a great success and another opportunity for us to bond as Christians.

**Virtual Teen Camp**

All aboard the S.S. Virtual Teen Camp Program! We are currently accepting applications. The link to applications is available on “Learn More” page for the VTC at the camp website home page: camps.cogwa.org/. We welcome applications from any teenager who is interested in embarking on a weeklong virtual expedition (beginning on Sunday, July 26) to learn what it means to be firmly anchored in God’s Word.

Please note: Since we will be collecting personal contact information for minors, we must also have the contact information for a parent or guardian.
to obtain a release for that information.

There will be four regions to select from during the application process: West, Central, Southeast and Northeast. Each camper should apply for a first and a second option since we are limited in the size for each group. The program will feature daily Compass Checks, Christian Living classes, a Bible Q&A, online activities and, of course, opportunities for fellowship.

Since we know some of our teens have summer jobs, a link to the Compass Checks will be sent each day over social media along with a daily Bible verse and a reminder of what’s coming that evening. Christian Living classes, the Bible Q&A and fellowship opportunities via Zoom breakout rooms will be available each evening at times that are convenient based on each group’s time zone. To cap off the week, we will be webcasting an “end of camp” Sabbath service on the Sabbath of Aug. 1, starting at 12 noon Eastern (9 a.m. Pacific).

“Deck hands” needed

Just as we would if we were hosting an in-person camp, we are asking for “all hands on deck!” We are particularly in need of experienced young adult camp staff members. If you are interested in assisting with the day-to-day operations of the virtual program—working with technology, acting as a breakout room moderator, assisting with social media postings, etc., we encourage you to submit a staff application and mark your area(s) of preference. We acknowledge the contributions camp personnel have made in the experiences of our campers, and we appreciate in advance your willingness to serve.

We look forward to “sail-celebrating” good times with all of you!

VTC Application Deadline

S.S. Virtual Teen Camp is now boarding! Please apply now (if you haven’t already) at the COGWA Youth Camp page.

Applications began coming in on Sunday, July 5, and we are anxious to assign you a spot. Before we can do so we need to see how many we need to accommodate so we’ll know if we need all four groups. Therefore we will be closing the application system tomorrow, Sunday, and will notify everyone what group they are in the next day.

Parents, you don’t want your teen to miss the boat and not gain a deeper understanding of this year’s Christian Living theme as we all enjoy virtual fellowship with fellow teens during this weeklong event! All sessions will be scheduled in the evenings of the various time zones to avoid conflicting with normal work hours. Be sure to register ASAP and sign the waiver allowing us to have your teen’s contact information to keep everyone up on what’s happening each day!

Services

Remember the hymnals are put away so if you want to use a hymnal, please bring your own. We will not have snacks or offer water, tea, or coffee.

If you are not feeling well, as has always been our request, please do not come. Services will still be webcast, or you can tune in via the phone hookup.

Google Form

Each week a link to a Google form will be emailed to everyone asking you to fill in whether you plan to attend services the next Sabbath so we can better plan our seating arrangements and ushering responsibilities to stay within the state guidelines for church services.

Please be sure to watch for an email each week with the link and respond ASAP or at least by Wednesday, which is a big help to our ushers.