

Church of God, awa-East Texas & Ruston

Announcements • September 12, 2020

Ken Treybig, Pastor

Phone: 903-714-3684

Web sites: <http://cogwa.org>, <http://easttexas.cogwa.org> Friday Sunset: 7:32 p.m. (ET), 7:23 p.m. (R)

East Texas: 24345 County Rd 3107, Gladewater – 2:30 p.m.

Song Leader – John Flynn

Pianist – MP3s

Sermonette – James Ellis

Sermon – Steve McNeely

Ruston: Country Inn & Suites, Ruston– 1 p.m.

Song Leader – Johnny Callender

Pianist – Johna Barnette

Sermonette – Chris Teague

Sermon – Ken Treybig

General Announcements

Excused Absence Forms

If you need a form for work or school, please sign the list on the Information Table (one name per line please). We will have them available for you next Sabbath.

Feast of Trumpets

Feast of Trumpets will be next Saturday, Sept. 19. We will have one service at our normal times and locations.

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.

Thank You from HQ

We want to thank the brethren for their patience as we continue to plan for the Feast of Tabernacles 2020. It is our desire to have a most enjoyable and inspiring Feast for all of God's people. Now that we have fully processed the results of the recent member survey, which asked brethren to confirm the site they would be attending, we are able to update brethren on the few U.S. sites that are able to take transfers. The site in Cincinnati, Ohio/Northern Kentucky is no longer a satellite site, but will be a regular Feast site with live speakers every day (and a larger capacity of 250). In addition to this site being available, we still have limited space available in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, and Kerrville, Texas. Those wishing to change their Festival registration can do so by going online to the COGWA portal and selecting one of these alternate sites.

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, Lancaster and possibly one or two others) will likely require that in-person attendance be *alternated every other day*. We're working to

make sure that even for those attending these sites, the worst-case scenario would be having 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 will mean all attendees will have at least five occasions during the Feast when they will be able to attend in-person services. At all of our remaining sites, we plan to offer in-person services *every day* during the Feast.

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 ta-

Elders – Here to serve you

Ken Treybig, Pastor – (903) 714-3684

Melton McNeely – (903) 769-3394

Scott Hammer – (903) 738-5367

John Trotter – (903) 636-4515

ble 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.

Feast of Tabernacles Planning

We plan to have a document with guidelines to give to our members a few weeks prior to the Feast of Tabernacles, however, we felt the following information would be helpful for brethren to know in advance.

- No U.S. members traveling overseas: Due to travel restrictions in most countries, we have asked 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 they are 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:* All of our U.S. Feast sites will provide live webcast services throughout the Feast. This will allow those who are unable to attend services on any day to access the service via the Internet.
- *Laptop/tablet access for members at the Feast sites:* It is important that all of our members have a laptop or tablet they can use to access the webcast from their hotel or condo during the Feast. We would like to encourage our pastors and Festival advisers to ensure, as best they can, that all members have access to a device for viewing services during the Feast on the days when they will not be attending in person. It should be noted that each webcast will also be available on Roku, as well as directly through the new smartphone app that we will have available to the membership in advance of the Feast.

Cancellation of Volleyball

We are disappointed to announce that we need to cancel

the regional volleyball weekends in Austin and Houston for this year. Because of the Covid-19 pandemic, there are a number of factors that would make it difficult and impractical to hold the weekends in the same way that we have in years past. At this point, we are still hoping to be able to hold our regional basketball weekends, and will make those decisions in the months ahead as we evaluate how the Covid-19 pandemic might affect those weekends in January and February.