

Church of God, awa-East Texas & Ruston

Announcements • September 16, 2023

Ken Treybig, Pastor

Phone: 903-714-3684

Web sites: <http://cogwa.org>, <http://easttexas.cogwa.org> Friday Sunset: 7:26 p.m. (ET), 7:16 p.m. (R)

Feast of Trumpets Services

East Texas – 10:30 a.m.

Song Leader – Bryan Diaz

Pianist – Melissa Fulgham

Sermonette – John Flynn

Sermon – Ken Treybig

Ruston – 10:30 a.m.

Song Leader – Steve Barnette

Pianist – Johna Barnette

Sermonette – Video

Sermon – Scott Hammer

East Texas – 2:30 p.m.

Song Leader – Ken Treybig

Pianist – Melissa Fulgham

Sermonette – James Richards

Sermon – John Trotter

Ruston – 2:00 p.m.

Song Leader – John Ivey

Pianist – Johna Barnette

Sermonette – Chris Teague

Sermon – Video

General Announcements

Baptism

We are very happy to announce the baptism of Russell and Alex Ditto. They were baptized in Lake Hawkins Tuesday evening. Welcome to the spiritual family!

Holy Day Offerings for Those Attending Outside the U.S. or Unable to Attend

We often receive questions about holy day offerings from members who are either 1) unable to attend the holy days or 2) traveling outside the U.S. for the Feast of Tabernacles. In order to submit your holy day offerings and obtain a tax deduction for

your U.S. federal income tax return, you will need to do one of the following:

1. Give your offering online at cogwa.org/donate/. This is our preferred method, plus it allows you to make your offering on the holy day.

2. Give another family member or friend your offering so that it can be collected at a local congregation or U.S. Feast site.

3. Mail your offering to the donation address in Dallas: COGWA, P.O. Box 731480, Dallas, TX 75373-1480.

This year we have over 1,250 members registered to attend the Feast of Tabernacles outside the U.S. This number (almost 25 percent of our U.S. attendance) makes it important to make a recommendation to members who will be attending an international site. We ask that they consider giving the major portion of their offering in the U.S. and not at the international site itself.

We realize, however, that many would also want to bring an offering with them to the Feast (Deuteronomy 16:16), so we encourage members attending an international Feast site to also give a portion of their offering at the site they will be attending. (Of course, these are only recommendations. Members will need to make their own choice as to how and where to give their offering.)

As you consider what amount to give at the international Feast site you're visiting, please keep in mind that the headquarters office in McKinney, Texas, sends a regular subsidy to most international areas to fund the spreading of the gospel message, the work of the Church and the expenses of the Feast of Tabernacles. In addition, there are some international areas where no subsidy is received, but where we do have employees, primarily ministerial, who are paid directly from the office in McKinney.

Title of the Tithe

Years ago, the Church of God established a custom of asking members to voluntarily contribute a tenth of their Festival tithe—referred to as a “tithe of the tithe”—to the Church to cover the many expenses incurred in providing so much of what we enjoy at the Feast. These expenses include hall rent, office supplies, audio and video equipment, decorations, activities, etc. Since all of us benefit from these items, it seems appropriate that we all contribute a portion of the Festival tithe we have saved to meet those expenses. If you are unable to contribute a full tenth of your Festival tithe but would still like to help, all such contributions are appreciated.

If you send a contribution to help meet these Feast expenses, please label it “tithe of the tithe.”

Elders – Here to serve you

Ken Treybig, Pastor – (903) 714-3684

Mike Machin – (386) 931-1879

John Trotter – (903) 636-4515

Scott Hammer – (903) 738-5367

Melton McNeely – (903) 769-6849

so we will know your intent. You may include those funds with regular tithes and offerings if you wish—just clearly indicate how much you wish to designate for this purpose.

Again, we thank you for your generosity in helping to make the Feast special for all of us.

Holy Day Offerings

This year we plan to once again collect offerings locally at services on the Feast of Trumpets (Sep. 16) and Day of Atonement (Sep. 25). You should have received blue holy day offering envelopes with the mailing that had your voucher for the new book that will be given to each household at the Feast.

The option to give one's holy day offering online is also available to anyone who would prefer that method.

As always, the Church deeply appreciates the holy day offerings given by the members and ministry.

Winter Camp

From Larry Solomon:

We know everyone is mainly focused on the fall feasts as we begin by celebrating the Feast of Trumpets. We at COGWA Youth Camps are also excited to let you know that we are moving forward with plans to hold teen Winter Camp over the winter break as in past years. You'll find more information and can apply at camps.cogwa.org with specifics about some of the uniqueness of Winter Camp on its page on the website,

<https://camps.cogwa.org/camps/winter-camp/>.

The staff application deadline is Nov. 1, and the camper deadline is Nov. 15. As in the past, please do not purchase any nonrefundable airline tickets until

you are notified to go ahead and do so.

We look forward to seeing you at Winter Camp!

Volleyball Practices

Our first volleyball practice for teens and adults will be on Sept. 17, 9-11 a.m. at the Big Sandy Middle School gym. Please check the Google calendar for those other dates and remember our first regional weekend event is in Austin Nov. 4-5.

Feast Children's Choir

This year our children's choirs at the Feast will be singing a piece composed by Church member Emily Smith titled "God's Word Is a Map." Many of our preteens have already learned this song at summer camp!

The music is posted on the Feast website, but due to copyright issues, it is password-protected. To get to the page and download rehearsal tracks and lyrics sheets, click here "[Children's Choir](#)" and enter the password "**FOTmusic2023**" when asked. Please note that the password is case-sensitive, so be sure to type it exactly as given here (without the quotation marks). Once you have logged into the children's choir music page, right-click on each of the files and choose "*Save link as ...*" or "*Save target as ...*" to download the MP3 rehearsal tracks and the PDFs of the music.

We have permission from the composer to post these files and allow members who will attend the Feast with us to download and use them. However, we do ***not*** have permission to forward them to friends or repost them elsewhere. We ask that you share the password only with others planning to attend one of our COGWA Feast sites. Your help in respecting the copyright and

royalty rights of the composers is greatly appreciated.

We encourage all children in this age range to participate. Once at the Feast of Tabernacles, listen for announcements regarding when and where the children should meet in order to participate.

Branson Update— New Facility

Good news! We have a new home for the Feast in Branson. While the Yakov Smirnoff Theatre will be closed for repair through the end of the year, God has given us a new facility, the **Branson Hillside Theatre** (formerly the Welk Theatre).

The Hillside Theatre is a beautiful 2,200-seat theater with a large lobby and plenty of space for all our needs. We will have exclusive use of the theater for the time we are there. It has a restaurant that is open for breakfast and will be open for lunch on the two holy days. The theater is conveniently located 2 miles from much of our housing. The address is 1985 State Hwy. 165 in Branson.

God has truly blessed us with another home after the storm damage to the Yakov Theatre. Thanks to everyone for your prayers for God's blessing in finding another location for the Feast. We look forward to seeing you all in Branson!