

Announcements March 6, 2021

SNACKS IN RALEIGH MARCH 20

Please join us again for snacks and after service fellowship in the lower area on March 20th. This will be a good way to use some of your leavened products such as cookies, crackers. Remember to just prepackage in snack or sandwich bags - there will be some bags available as well.

PASSOVER PREPARATION

Ministerial Services has also requested that we determine prior to the Passover the names of those members planning to take the Passover in person. Actually it is important that we are made aware of your intentions if you plan to take the Passover at home as well. As you know, I will have to make a determination in every location the number of people taking the Passover in person, the number of people taking the Passover at home, and the number of people who may need to take the Second Passover. This is very important information that I will need no later than Monday after the Passover on Friday night.

I believe the best way to coordinate this information is for you to contact the Elder who will be conducting the Passover Service in your area. They are as follows:

Raleigh – Steve Villaescusa

Greensboro – Tom Burrow (Tom will be assisting me)

Hickory – David Baker

So if you would please begin now to notify these Elders of your current Passover intentions, that would be very much appreciated.

Please look for additional information and announcements to come. Below are the revised Passover guidelines....

This updated version of the Passover service guidelines for 2021 includes adjustments to our previous requirement for using gloves for the breaking of the bread and distributing the bread and wine. The latest CDC guidelines do not suggest using gloves for serving food. However, they are recommended for cleaning, etc. As is mentioned in the 2021 Passover service guidelines document, the use of gloves for serving the bread and wine is optional. Local orders may require it; however, we wanted to be clear on what we are requiring.

Also, we recommend sharing the Passover service guidelines with the membership. This will inform them of our planning for in-person services this year.

COGWA Guidelines

2021 Passover Service

(Updated 3/3/2021)

It is our sincere hope that most of our brethren will be able to attend in-person services for the Passover of 2021. As such, as we prepare to conduct the Passover service, it is important that we take reasonable precautions to protect the health of those who will be participating in this year's in-person service. While these protocols do not reflect what we would normally do, we have established them because of our desire to conduct in-person Passover services this year. With this in mind, the following are guidelines, unique to this year, for the in-person Passover service for 2021.

Preparation

A member displaying any of the following symptoms should remain at home and not attend the in-person Passover service:

Fever Dry cough Headache

Shortness of breath Chills Muscle pain

Sore throat Loss of taste or smell Flu-like symptoms

As we have done for Sabbath services, the seating in the hall should be arranged so that social distancing between family groups can be maintained during the service. Seating for the foot-washing ceremony should also be set up to enable social distancing.

Everyone should wear face coverings as we have been doing for Sabbath services. Where allowed, after being seated, members may remove face coverings during the service except during the foot-washing ceremony and the closing hymn. Members should also be aware that we cannot social distance while washing feet. If that is a concern for some, they may need to consider taking the Passover at home.

It is recommended that sanitizing stations be available at the entrance to the hall and also strategically placed throughout the hall.

Foot washing

- Face masks/coverings are required.
- Congregations that supply individual foot-washing basins for each member should be sure the basins are cleaned and prefilled (where possible) before the Passover service by as few individuals as possible to minimize points of contact.
- In congregations where members bring their own foot-washing basins, these should not be shared or handled by anyone other than that person. Use as few individuals as possible for filling the larger tubs and for filling individual basins. Members can empty their individual basins into an empty large tub after completing the foot-washing service.
- Tables with a good supply of hand sanitizer/wipes should be available so that members can sanitize hands before and after the foot washing.
- Water should not be shared.

Distributing the unleavened bread

- Prior to the service, one person (minister or member) should prepare the unleavened bread for the Passover service by placing it on the tray or trays (as needed), and then place it on the table and cover it.
- The minister/officiant should be sure to wash/sanitize his hands following the foot washing and before breaking the bread. He need not wear disposable latex gloves unless required by the local health department or local authorities.
- A bottle of hand sanitizer should be available on the table for the minister/officiant to use prior to breaking the bread and passing out the wine.
- As many trays as needed should be prepared (depending on the size of the congregation), but only one individual should handle each tray for distribution. Servers should wear masks, but need not wear disposable latex gloves unless required by the local health department or local authorities.
- With members socially distanced, each server should take the tray to each person or couple rather than passing the tray up and down the aisles.

Distributing the wine

- Prior to the service, one person should pour the wine.
- A bottle of hand sanitizer should be available on the table for the minister/officiant to use prior to breaking the bread and passing out the wine.
- Only one person should hold each tray for distributing the wine. Servers should wear masks, but need not wear disposable latex gloves unless required by the local health department or local authorities.
- Only disposable cups should be used for the wine.
- With members socially distanced, each server should take a tray to each person or couple rather than passing the tray up and down the aisles.
- The server should then go back to collect the empty cups in the tray in the same manner.

PREPARING FOR NTBMO

Hopefully you have started your preparations for Night To Be Much Observed.

The date/time is sunset on Saturday, March 27th. If you are still looking for a place to be with someone, this would be a good time to go ahead and let Mr. Kelley or one of the Elders know you are hoping to be invited somewhere. We will try to help you find a location.

PASSOVER AND UNLEAVENED BREAD LOCATIONS AND TIMES:

RALEIGH:

Passover – March 26; 7:45pm – Regular Church Hall

First DUB - March 28; 2:00pm - Hilton Raleigh North Hills, 3415 Wake Forest Rd., Raleigh, NC 27609.

Last DUB – April 3; 1:30pm – Regular Church Hall

GREENSBORO:

Passover – March 26: 7:45pm – Regular Church Hall

First DUB – March 28: 3:00pm – Regular Church Hall

Last DUB – April 3; 3:00pm – Regular Church Hall

Hickory:

Passover – March 26: 7:45pm – Regular Church Hall

First DUB – March 28: 2:00pm – Regular Church Hall

Last DUB – April 3; 10:30am – Regular Church Hall

CHARLOTTE: canceled – members to come to Hickory.

NOTE: The Sabbath of March 27, services will be at regular times and regular locations.

RALEIGH PHONE HOOKUP:

Raleigh Phone Hookup – If you ever have to miss Sabbath services you can call in to a central number and connect to the live phone hookup via FreeConferencing.com. At 1:30 pm you need to dial the conference number and then enter the participant access code, and that should connect you.

The dial-in number is: **(712) 770-5363** The participant access code is: **539955#**

If you have any questions please contact Julius AungMin.

RALEIGH ZOOM VIDEO CONNECTION

Meeting ID: **862 858 5810**

Passcode: **cogwanc** (all lower case)

Link to join is below:

[Join our Cloud HD Video Meeting](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8628585810#success)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8628585810#success>