

Announcements April 10, 2021

PENTECOST PLANS

Pentecost will be on Sunday, May 16th. Services in Raleigh will once again be held at the Hilton Raleigh North Hills, 3415 Wake Forest Rd., Raleigh, NC 27609.

[Hilton Raleigh North Hills](#)

Note – we will most likely be in the meeting rooms that are located through the main lobby to the left of the elevators, then turn right down the long hall. Services will begin at 10:30am. There is only one service on Pentecost this year.

Hickory and Greensboro are planning to return to combined services once again. The location of services will be at the Village Inn Event Center located at 6205 Ramada Dr, Clemmons, NC, 27012. This is just off Interstate 40 Exit 184 and located directly behind the Super 8 motel. Services will be held at 2:30pm.

[Village Inn Hotel and Event Center , Clemmons, NC](#)

After services in Clemmons, we will be having a picnic dinner at beautiful Tanglewood Park Shelter # 3. This is a very nice shelter located next to the pond with the fountain. It is handicap accessible and there are air conditioned restrooms adjacent to the shelter. There is a map to the shelter available on the announcement page of our local website, or there are a few copies available on the information table for those without internet access. The idea is to simply bring your own picnic dinner and enjoy a meal together after services. Please plan to stay over and enjoy this special time of fellowship with your extended church family.

[Tanglewood Park, Clemmons Rd, Clemmons, NC](#)

[Tanglewood Park Shelter Map](#)

ANNOUNCEMENT

FOT satellite sites:

As we have done in the past, COGWA will be sponsoring three satellite Festival sites this year: Woodbury, Minnesota, Cincinnati, Ohio/Northern Kentucky; and Fort Myers, Florida. These are *restricted attendance* sites and are designed for members in those areas who find it difficult to travel to their regular assigned Feast site due to age, illness or finances. These satellite Festival sites are for those affected in those areas, along with any family members who choose or need to join them. Those who qualify to attend one of these three satellite sites can register beginning Sunday, April 11.

If there is still space available at any of these sites on April 25, they will be available for transfer by members registering on that date.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Festival registration opens on Sunday, April 11, at 10 a.m. Eastern time:

This year the Church is having two different dates when registration will begin.

On Sunday, April 11, registration will be open for *only* those members that plan to attend their *assigned Feast site* or those members that qualify to attend one of the three satellite sites (Fort Myers, Florida; Cincinnati, Ohio/Northern Kentucky; and Woodbury, Minnesota).

On Sunday, April 25, registration will be open for those that plan to *transfer to a different site* (either U.S. or international).

We also ask that those NOT attending, please register as well by selecting “*NOT ATTENDING*” as their site choice. This gives us more accurate figures for planning.

Our desire is to have all of the members who are planning to attend their assigned Feast site register IN ADVANCE of April 25, when all transfer registrations will begin.

Beginning at 10 a.m. Eastern time on Sunday, April 11, members can begin accessing the feast.cogwa.org web page (or go directly to portal.cogwa.org/acct if they already know where they want to attend) for Feast registration. After accessing the COGWA Feast web page, simply click on the “REGISTRATION” tab and begin the process.

All registrants will receive an email verification immediately after completing the registration. Those desiring to volunteer to assist with special music or other areas of service at the Feast will receive a link for such with their email verification.

Members without Internet access should ask their local Festival adviser for assistance.

FESTIVAL ADVISORS ANNOUNCED:

Hickory – Wayne Roark assisted by Josh Beattie

Greensboro – Tom Burrow assisted by Roger Robertson

Raleigh – Josh Lambert

PLANS FOR RELAXING COVID RESTRICTIONS

Announcement from Mr. Franks:

After almost a year of living under COVID-19 restrictions, new cases of the virus and infection rates have begun to dramatically decrease over the past three months in many areas throughout the country. As a result, we believe it's time to begin relaxing those protocols where and when we can safely do so. It is also appropriate for the Church to have a unified, measured plan for returning to a "normal" setting for our Sabbath services and other gatherings as a church.

From the beginning of this pandemic, we desired to conduct Sabbath services in person in a safe environment, and the face covering and social distancing requirements came from that intent. We have deeply appreciated the cooperation of so many brethren through this period of time. Now, with input from the ministry and others, we have developed a process whereby pastors and congregations can move to safely relax COVID-19 restrictions as conditions improve in their areas through the spring and summer.

On Thursday, April 8, the Church administration held a teleconference with all of the U.S. pastors to review this process and seek their input. In church areas where local government orders continue to require face coverings and other mitigation protocols, current restrictions will need to continue for now. However, in areas that no longer mandate these requirements and that show a steady decline (or a plateau) of both new cases and infection rates, pastors are asked to meet and consult with their local leadership to address the question and possible timing of relaxing current restrictions for their local Sabbath services. This process calls for the pastor to submit his plan with confirmation that his area meets the criteria to Ministerial Services for final approval. The final decision will rely heavily on the input of the pastor and congregational leaders.

In congregations where a decision is made to relax protocols, the pastor will announce the change a week in advance. Since we fully realize that the effects of the virus will not simply be gone on one particular day, we encourage all of us to continue exercising care in our contact with one another at services and to realize that many members may still feel the need to wear a face covering and to social distance (getting no closer than 6 feet for no more than 15 minutes).

Since this situation is still fluid, we must be prepared for potential changes, based on conditions. Please note that if things change, for better or for worse, adjustments to this process will be made accordingly.

We should be reminded that the apostle Paul admonished Church members about judging one another in Romans chapter 14. Of all people on earth, we, as God's people, should reflect such an attitude of doing what we can to avoid being a stumbling block to any of our brethren.

Therefore, it is incumbent upon all of us to respect, love and be patient with each other during this time of transition as we recover from this trying time for the world, our nation and the Church. We continue to deeply appreciate the patience and cooperation so many members have shown during this unique time in our history!

In addition to this announcement, a special letter from COGWA President Jim Franks will be distributed next week to further explain the process for relaxing COVID-19 restrictions

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>

ACCESSING OUR LOCAL MEMBERS WEBSITE

The website is:

<http://greensboro.cogwa.org/>

Then you will see a small place in the upper right hand corner of the page to enter in a user name and password:

Please contact Mr. Ron Kelley for user name and password.