

Announcements May 1, 2021

SNACKS IN RALEIGH

Our next day for snacks after services in Raleigh will be May 15. This time, instead of simply putting out small pre-packaged items, let's plan to bring our own prepared sandwiches and/or other "indoor picnic" items and enjoy more of a meal together. We'll plan to set out the tables and chairs again to make this more enjoyable for staying over and having some good fellowship time together as we enjoy our picnic "supper".

Announcement: **Graduating High School Seniors, WE NEED YOUR BIOS!**

We would like to feature all of our high school graduates in the July/August *One Accord*.

Please provide the following information for your bio (no more than 200 words), plus a quality, high-resolution photo by **June 1**.

- Graduate's name.
- Parents' or guardians' names.
- Congregation and pastor's name.
- High school accomplishments.
- Church activities/hobbies/interests.
- Plans after graduation.

Also include a phone number and email address we may use to contact you if need be. Please give your bio and photo (conforming to biblical standards of dress and hair length) **to your congregation's reporter or pastor by June 1**. Please keep all bios within a 200-word limit.

College graduates, please provide a bio—200-word maximum in a general-announcement format—plus a quality, high-resolution photo by **June 1**.

Pastors,

Please ensure you forward all graduating high school senior and college graduate bios directly to David Hicks at david.hicks@cogwa.org.

Camp Applications

We have great news for those interested in attending camp this year. The camp application system is now open! Simply go to the website (camps.cogwa.org/) and click the "Apply" button on the navigation bar at the top of the page.

This year we faced a number of challenges in opening the system for applications, including working around complications from COVID as well as a complete overhaul of our waiver documents by an outside expert attorney. The last of the waiver documentation is still not connected to the application system, but with just six weeks before our first preteen camp starts, we simply could not wait any longer.

Please go ahead and register now, and the camp directors will send you a link later for the waiver, so be sure to complete that step when you receive that email with the link. The directors will need that electronically signed document before they can actually accept anyone, but having applications will allow them to start firming up their plans for a wonderful camp season this year!

COVID restrictions are beginning to change in a number of ways, and this week the camp team will be discussing changes to our COVID protocols as well. We will be sure to notify you when those protocol changes are finalized and posted on the camp website.

Here is some additional information about Camps received yesterday that we have been asked to announce:

Camp Announcements

Alert Regarding Application Process

Several people have noticed that if they allow their browser to autofill some fields, the browser will also go back and change the name of the applicant anywhere the “First Name” field appears. Please be extra careful if you choose to allow your browser to do an autofill. Go back to page 1 and make sure the applicant name is still correct. That will save you some possible frustration with the system!

We also want to remind you to have everything ready when you start your application. Once you start an application, it must be completed and submitted in order to save the data you entered. Please also note that it can take up to a minute for the application to be saved once you click the “Submit” button. A lot of communication has to take place between the COGWA Portal and our database in order for the data to be saved in all the correct places, so please be patient and do not close your browser until the submission is complete.

Camp Safety Protocols

The camp team is dedicated to finding ways to have normal camps this year. While some might see our protocols as over-the-top in some areas, others would see them as inadequate. It has been challenging to try to establish something safe and reasonable for all our camps. But we’ve looked to what worked successfully in other camps last year and are keeping up with updates in the science.

Recently, there have been some changes on the CDC and WHO websites, as well as new scientific data posted on the National Institutes of Health website, and the camp team is relaxing some of their protocols based on those recent changes.

Specifically, we have made several changes to what will be accepted as proof of coming to camp virus-free. Options now include (1) having a PCR or rapid antigen test, (2) being fully vaccinated or (3) having documented proof of recovery from COVID well before camp. All of these items are now being accepted by airlines as proof of being free of the virus or having immunity through antibodies—either those generated by vaccines or those made by your own God-designed healthy immune system. There are some specific documentation requirements on each of these. More details are provided in the update.

Please read the update on the camp website by clicking on the COVID tab in the top navigation bar. There is a link to the news feed with the full announcement. There is also a link to the full updated document with all the details. For the safety of everyone, we want to make sure that all who apply for camp are fully aware of what will be expected of them before they come to camp. If things change again as we get into the summer, we will be sure to notify you.

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.

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.

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. NOTE – There is a \$2.00 per vehicle charge to enter the Park.

FESTIVAL ADVISORS ANNOUNCED:

Hickory – Wayne Roark assisted by Josh Beattie

Greensboro – Tom Burrow assisted by Roger Robertson

Raleigh – Josh Lambert assisted by Wesley Wood

Festival Registration

As you know, Festival registration began this past Sunday, April 25, for those wanting to transfer for the Feast of Tabernacles this year. We do realize that the first 10 minutes or so of the registration was interrupted by an overload of traffic to the server, for which we do apologize. We also understand that some who wanted to change their registrations were unable to do so online—and we are attempting to address that for those who were affected

We do appreciate your patience in our efforts to make the registration process as smooth and equitable as possible.

If you are having any continuing problems with your Festival Registration, please seek the assistance of your Festival Advisor.

NOW INTRODUCE THE CAMP VIDEO

Camp Video Introduction (please have this read before playing the video)

Clearly the pandemic of 2020 impacted all of us in an extremely broad variety of ways. Last year's video for our camps was unique—an animation film weaving together all our previous CYC Christian Living themes. With last year's camps being virtual, we weren't able to get the video and interviews we usually get from in-person camps. Therefore, we decided on a shorter animated video for this year. The Camp Team appreciates the hard work of the Media Department and hopes you enjoy this short preview introducing the 2021 Christian Living theme, "Lights in the Darkness."

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.