



ANNOUNCEMENTS

for April 3, 2020

Parkersburg & Morgantown, WV and Athens, OH

Greetings everyone:

It has again been a very busy week. I have reorganized my office in preparation for Sabbath Services tomorrow. Those who do not have internet can use the telephone. The telephone can also be used if you have an interruption in your internet. It is possible we will lose internet connection and then you may listen to the COGWA webcast at 1 PM our time. See below for the instructions.

Sabbath Services, April 4th, Time: 10:30 AM

WEBCAST INSTRUCTIONS

Online meeting ID: jahnsy1

Join the online meeting: <https://join.freeconferencecall.com/jahnsy1>

Telephone: 725 735-9529 No code needed

The Passover Services is scheduled for 8:00 PM Tuesday evening. This is for both Morgantown and Athens-Parkersburg. The webcast source will be the same as for the Sabbath Services on April 4th. The telephone number and URL will remain the same.

This is a difficult time and things will change dramatically after this is over. God's has a plan and it is important to remember that he is in charge of history.

I plan to webcast from my office tomorrow.

Have a great Sabbath!

Bill Jahns

http://parkersburg.cogwa.org/uploads/2020-03-March_Calendar.jpg

http://parkersburg.cogwa.org/uploads/January--March_2020_Speaking_Schedule_Final.pdf

<http://parkersburg.cogwa.org/uploads/Member-Letter-Mar-5-2020.pdf>

http://parkersburg.cogwa.org/uploads/2021_Israel_Trip_Announcement.pdf

<http://parkersburg.cogwa.org/uploads/FOI-Volunteer-Application-2020.pdf>

<http://parkersburg.cogwa.org/uploads/Fact-Sheet--English-Project--Zimbabwe-2020.pdf>

<http://parkersburg.cogwa.org/uploads/Fact-Sheet--English-Project--Zambia-2020.pdf>

http://parkersburg.cogwa.org/uploads/Passover_at_Home.pdf

LOCAL ANNOUNCEMENTS 04/03/2020 Sunset: Parkersburg: 7:52 PM

CHURCH INFORMATION – Church of God, a Worldwide Association has a website where you can get the latest information.

Donations can be sent to: Church of God a Worldwide Association, P.O. Box 731480, Dallas, TX 75373-1480

Local donations can be sent to: Church of God, Parkersburg, P.O. Box 181, Davisville, WV 26142

WEB SITE – Parkersburg, Athens and Morgantown have their own website which can be accessed for the schedule, announcements and other information. The URL is: <http://parkersburg.cogwa.org/>

PRAYER REQUESTS – See the information table for the latest prayer requests.

PASSOVER GUIDELINES

Households taking the Passover: Our recommendation is that each family household partake of the Passover in their home. We do not recommend families getting together to take the Passover. The exception would be where it's necessary to assist an elderly person or a couple in need. If members choose to have others outside their family, such as a single person or a member whose spouse is not in the Church, they should be aware of the current guidelines for gatherings as recommended by the CDC, which currently limits gatherings to 10 or fewer.

Night to Be Much Observed:

Due to the contact and hygiene concerns, we advise against having large group plans for the Night to Be Much Observed. Some were planning congregational meals, and some were planning large-group restaurant meals. Given the CDC guidelines of limiting contact, we feel anyone who has such plans should make other arrangements. Our recommendation is for families to have a special evening and meal together on that occasion

SABBATH WEBCAST FROM COGWA & PHONE HOOKUP INFORMATION

Time: 1 PM April 4, 2020

Dial-in Number: 712-432-0075

Participant Code: 867195

You can access the webcast from headquarters simply by going to COGWA.TV.

No password is necessary. It will also be available on your ROKU channel.

SCHEDULE

Passover

Tuesday, April 7th

Webcast Time: 8:00 PM

1st Day of Unleavened Bread

Wednesday, April 9th

Webcast – From COGWA Time: 1 PM

7th Day of Unleavened Bread

Wednesday, April 15th

Webcast – From COGWA Time: 1 PM

COGWA UPDATE

April 2, 2020

Sabbath services—April 4, 11, 18 and 25

- Beginning April 4, we are encouraging every pastor who can to webcast to his congregations. He will inform members in his areas of time and connection details.
- As of April 2, 21 church areas are scheduled to be webcasting in the afternoon and 19 will be offering a morning webcast.
- Congregations that are hosting webcasts will have their information posted on cogwa.tv by Friday evening.
- We will also be webcasting a full Sabbath service (hymns, sermonette or split sermon, announcements, sermon) at 12 p.m. Central Daylight Time from headquarters on cogwa.tv and Roku.
- All local services will be held either before or after the webcast from headquarters, so there will be no scheduling conflict.

Passover—April 7

- Passover services should be live webcast, if possible, in each congregation and/or region by the local pastor, beginning shortly after sunset. The pastor will inform members in his areas of time and connection details.
- As a backup (in case there are problems with webcasting), each pastor will inform members how to download in advance a video of the Passover service and will also make sure everyone has written instructions for taking the Passover at home.

Feast of Unleavened Bread—April 9

- First holyday services from headquarters at 12 p.m. Central Daylight Time on cogwa.tv and Roku.
- In regions where, because of the time difference, it is not feasible to log on to the webcast from headquarters, pastors will plan how to provide local services and will notify members in those areas.

Feast of Unleavened Bread—April 15

- Last holy day services (one service only) from headquarters at 12 p.m. Central Daylight Time on cogwa.tv and [Roku](https://www.roku.com).
- If pastors desire to webcast a second service locally that is certainly permissible, as long as it does not conflict with the time of the headquarters service. We believe that under these unusual circumstances having one service is not inappropriate on the last holy day of Unleavened Bread.

Connecting to the headquarters webcast

You can access the webcast simply by going to cogwa.tv. No password is necessary. It will also be available on your [Roku](https://www.roku.com) channel. We will also be providing simultaneous translations in Spanish and in French. These will also be available on cogwa.tv.

Sabbath services in May

The President just this week issued a stay-at-home order through the month of April, and we have certainly learned in the last few weeks that everything is quite unpredictable in this situation. But we will soon be making contingency plans for May and will be prepared for continuing as we are or making applicable changes. We will keep you informed.

Holy day offerings

For U.S. members: Instructions regarding the holy day offering are available [here](#).

For members outside the U.S.: Each region is responsible for determining how to best collect the offering, and pastors will communicate that to the members.

Rights to privacy

The church's longstanding policy is that pastors don't share prayer requests about any member's health situation unless the member who is ill gives specific permission and makes such a request. Federal law (HIPAA) also prohibits this for a number of people in various professions. We urge all members to be mindful of that guideline as well. Even though we are well-meaning, we should respect everyone's right to privacy and their right to be the first to disclose their personal health information at the time and manner of their choosing. This is especially applicable during this time of uncertainty with COVID-19. If there is a situation where some confusion or uncertainty exists on the part of the member and/or pastor, the pastor is encouraged to contact Ministerial Services for advice.

Office update

The office is temporarily closed and employees are working from home, with the exception that we are allowed to have people on-site to prepare for and conduct video or teleconference services. We continue to monitor local regulations and will abide by the governmental directives to do our part in stopping the spread of the virus.

Announcements from COGWA

Sabbath service webcast—March 28: Tomorrow all U.S. (and some international) COGWA congregations will be together for our third remote Sabbath services. These services will be webcast live on cogwa.tv from the Church office in McKinney, Texas, and will begin at 12 noon, Central Daylight Time. For those calling in, the dial-in number is **605-472-5473**, and the participant code is **130095**.

Dress for viewing remote Sabbath Services: With webcast Sabbath services the past two weeks, and likely for the next month or so, some of our members have asked questions about how they should dress for their in-home viewing of Sabbath services. It is not our teaching that they must “dress up” in Sabbath dress for the service in their home. Circumstances vary, and we should leave that to members as a personal decision. Of course, it is good if an individual (or a family) chooses to do so. But members have dressed in varied types of clothing for services at church campouts and other unique outings over the years. Thus, it is the Church’s position that whether to don Sabbath dress for viewing an in-home service is a personal decision, not a Church teaching. We are not asking that you make an announcement to this effect, but sharing this with the ministry in case members ask about such.

Holy day offering FAQs: We have received a few questions regarding the holy day offerings for the Feast of Unleavened Bread. The following questions and answers come from COGWA treasurer Britton Taylor:

Q: On the holy days, will there be an offertory message provided?

A: Yes, an offertory message or announcement will be given during the church service from the Church office.

Q: Will the members be expected to go to the church donation website during the time the offering is being “collected”? Or perhaps just at some time on the holy day, not specifically during the “offering”? Or should the offering be made a day or two prior to the holy day?

A: We want to leave it up to the individual members as to the timing of their HDO. We have no specific guidelines or recommendation. (This would be similar to how those who travel to an international Feast site might send in their HDO donation *before* they leave the country or *after* they return.)

Here are some options, but none is required:

- Those who donate online (by eCheck or by credit card) can choose to push “send” during the offertory if they would like. But this is not necessary.
- Those who are mailing in their offering may want to mail their offering on the specific holy day. But this is not necessary.
- Those who donate by bill pay can choose in advance the day that they want the check to be mailed.
- The HDO may be sent in advance of the holy day.

Q: If mailing an HDO, would you prefer the blue envelope inside another envelope, or would you rather we just put on the check that it is an HDO? If sending online, all one needs to do is designate it as an HDO.

A: Since the checks will be received by our bank, we wouldn’t want the blue envelopes included. However, it is important that the “memo” line of your check include the following information: holy day, your congregation, and how many individuals are represented in your offering (for example, FDUB, Dallas, 3 people).

WEBCASTING SCHEDULE

Local Pastor Webcasts: • Sabbath, April 4. • Passover, evening of April 7. • Sabbath, April 11. • Sabbaths following the Days of Unleavened Bread.

The Church office will conduct live webcast services for the entire Church on the following days: • Sabbath, March 21. • Sabbath, March 28. • First holy day of Unleavened Bread, April 9. • Last holy day of Unleavened Bread, April 15.
