

August 31, 2018

Kim and I are visiting with family this week. We will return from Wisconsin on Tuesday.

Reminder: Services for the Feast of Trumpets, September 10, will be combined for Nashville and Murfreesboro at The Fellowship United Methodist Church, 2511 New Salem Hwy, Murfreesboro, TN 37128. Services will be at 10:00 am and 2:00 pm. There are no facilities to have a potluck meal, but there will be tables set up where people can bring their lunch and eat in the meeting room. Services in Jackson will be at 10:30 am.

Services the Day of Atonement will be at our regular halls. Times: Jackson 10:30 am; Murfreesboro 10:30 am and 2:00 pm in Brentwood.

Because so many people will be on their way to the Feast of Tabernacles on the Sabbath of September 22 we will not be having regular Sabbath services in Brentwood, Murfreesboro or Jackson. We will have services in all three places on the Sabbath after the Feast on October 6.

The local September calendar is attached.

Nashville—September 8th- Italian night and Sing-a-long

After services please join us for a taste of Italy with our Italian themed potluck. Please plan to bring some of your favorite Italian dishes such as spaghetti, lasagna, breads and salads. Got a favorite Italian dessert? Bring it! If not, no worries, just bring any dessert you would like.

After dinner, please plan to stay and help us usher in the Fall Holy Day season with an evening of praising God with a "joyful noise" with our sing-a-long night! We will be singing-a-long to a mix of Hymns, favorite choir and special music pieces. If you have song request, please email Tina Cason at danielsmomtc@aol.com.

If you can contribute ice to either activity, please let Tina know and as always Sweet and Unsweetened Tea will be needed.

General Feast of Tabernacles Announcements

We are now less than one month away from the Feast of Tabernacles. If you have not registered, please do so this week as this helps with planning. To register go to feast.ucg.org.

Also, we realize some people will not be able to attend personally. However, we have a program called "Celebrating the Feast at Home." Besides watching daily live services, about 30 minutes before services each day, a live webcast will begin from Panama City Beach, Florida. There will be greetings and live interaction with brethren observing the Feast there. Then, after a brief intermission, live church services will start. This will add a dimension of personal interaction to those staying at home.

Plus, there will be links to recorded sermons and spiritual articles written especially to help you have a wonderful Feast of Tabernacles. And for those of you with children, you can find activity books and festival lessons at www.ucg.org/members/news/2018-feast-of-tabernacles-youth-lesson-plans.

Feast Baskets for Nashville Shut-ins

If you are going to donate to the Feast Baskets please do so sooner than later. We need to get everything together and get them done in the next couple of weeks. You can give it to me at church or mail it to me at

Ray & Lori Breedlove
1700 Thompson Court
Nolensville, TN 37135

Make checks to me or Ray. If you want a receipt for the donation you will have to send it to UCG Nashville and let them give me the money. This takes time so please go ahead and do that if you want a receipt for tax purposes. Thanks to everyone for your generosity, it truly does brighten their Feast!

Thanks, Lori

From Ministerial and Member Services...

Sabbath Services before the Feast - September 22

This year, the weekly Sabbath falls the day before the Feast begins. Many members and ministers will have already left for the Feast of Tabernacles before the weekly Sabbath. As a result, many congregations are canceling services before the Feast on September 22nd.

We have provided a map that indicates which congregations have confirmed that they will hold services that day (indicated by a solid green star) and those who have indicated that services will be cancelled (indicated by an outline red star). We hope this map will help you to make your travel plans to this year's Feast. Most congregations holding services will be meeting at their regular times, but it is best to contact the pastor as early as possible to make sure.

Feel free to print the map to leave on your information table or bulletin board at services. The PDF map can be found here: https://www.ucg.org/system/storage/serve/1043701/united-church-of-god_sabbath-service-locations-september-22-2018.pdf

A copy of this map is attached to this email.

For those who are unable to attend a local service on that Sabbath, there will be a webcast available originating from Panama City Beach at 2 p.m. Central time. Connection details will be available at a later date.

eNews from Ministerial and Member Services

Issue 340

August 30, 2018

Personal From the President...

Dear fellow servants of God,

The 20th class of Ambassador Bible College started its academic year with a welcome picnic hosted by local alumni this past Sunday, August 26. The student body, consisting of 32 students from across the U.S., Australia and Ukraine, gathered for a lunch and a number of fun get-acquainted games.

An interesting observation about this class is that 11 of the students are siblings of ABC graduates, and a few more are cousins. This is a testament to the endorsement and value that graduates have placed on their ABC experience. We are hopeful, too, that we will welcome students from India and Malawi for the second semester. Most of the students are in the 18-24 age range. Many students had already been in contact with one another via different social media groups.



ABC Class of 2019 attends Orientation

On Monday, August 27, the students gathered in the ABC classroom for Orientation. The resident faculty explained policies and procedures, while encouraging students to make the most of this special opportunity. I emphasized that preparation for future service to God and His Church is an important part of the ABC mission.

During the afternoon, the new students took a tour of the home office, including the new video studio, enjoyed a dessert social with the home office staff, and then met with choir director Ken Shoemaker to begin the process of forming this year's choir.

The ABC experience is special in not only the many classes covering the entirety of the Bible, but that the students themselves have consciously and thoughtfully taken a year out of their lives to intensely study the Word of God. Their intent is not only to understand and better articulate their beliefs, but also to transform their lives to become more like Jesus Christ. The development of character is an essential part of education--as important as acquiring biblical knowledge.

I asked the students to take particular note of 2 Timothy 3:16-17: "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be

complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work." The New Living Translation puts this even more clearly: "All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work."

Podcasts

We make and continually strive to improve our audio podcasts, which now number 91. This past week, I recorded two with Dr. Steven Britt that discussed his current article in *Beyond Today* magazine entitled "Sound Science and the Bible, Do They Conflict?" A link to the first of these two podcasts is provided later in this eNews. While some podcasts are interviews with our ministers and church members, we want to develop a format that has broader appeal to the public where we discuss issues of religion, philosophy, ethics and science. These would be discussions of current material in our periodicals as well as outside material.

McNeelys in the Baltics

Darris and Debbie McNeely returned from an 11-day Baltic Sea anniversary cruise visiting Nordic capitals in Denmark, Sweden, Finland, Estonia and St. Petersburg in Russia. This part of the world is served by our senior pastor Johnnie Lambert. We produce literature in the Russian and Estonian languages and mail much of it from our office in Tartu, Estonia. We will once again be holding the Feast of Tabernacles on the island of Saaremaa, off the Estonian coast.

Feast Intro Video

The video for the Feast of Tabernacles opening service is in final stages of production. It features interview comments from our brethren about the Feast. It includes welcoming remarks in which I make reference to my sermon entitled "We Are Pilgrims." Dr. Donald Ward and I will be giving split sermons on the Sabbath during the Feast when we webcast services to all Feast sites.

We Are Pilgrims

The Bible describes those who live a faithful life as PILGRIMS on the earth. Note the words of the Apostle Paul as he describes the course of those obedient to God: "These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth" (Hebrews 11:13).

The primary dictionary definition of a *pilgrim* is "a person who journeys to a sacred place for religious reasons."

I cannot help but note the similarity to the celebration of the Feast of Tabernacles with this imagery. Paul then continues the thought: "For those who say such things declare plainly that they seek a homeland. And truly if they had called to mind that country from which they had come out, they would have had opportunity to return. But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them" (Hebrews 11:14-16).

In short, life is a journey leading to a homeland of perpetuity with God. The Feast of Tabernacles is a celebration depicting the Kingdom of God, which will be our permanent home.

The importance of seeking this permanence is further typified by how the Feast was to be observed: "You shall dwell in booths for seven days. All who are native Israelites shall dwell in booths, that your generations may know that I made the children of Israel dwell in booths when I brought them out of the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God" (Leviticus 23:42-43).

Not only is this life described as makeshift, it is designed to be a journey: "You shall truly tithe all the increase of your grain that the field produces year by year. And you shall eat before the Lord your God, in the place where He chooses to make His name abide, the tithe of your grain and your new wine and your oil, of the firstborn of your herds and your flocks, that you may learn to fear the Lord your God always. But if the journey is too long for you, so that you are not able to carry the tithe, or if the place where the Lord your God chooses to put His name is too far from you, when the Lord your God has blessed you, then you shall exchange it for money, take the money in your hand, and go to the place which the Lord your God chooses" (Deuteronomy 14:22-25).

This imagery was intended to teach profound lessons about how God is working with each of us. We are on a trip now, living in temporary accommodations, rejoicing, and learning eternal values.

The Feast of Tabernacles is a pilgrimage where we live in temporary accommodations. That is a significant difference from the other festivals, which we keep locally.

Our life is a journey that begins with coming out of the world and going somewhere. We pass through the milestones of commitment, baptism and occasional hardship. This is a trip in which we count the cost and calculate whether we have the desire and resources to finish. This pilgrimage ends with the joy of entry into the Kingdom of God.

King David meditated in the Psalms in several places pondering on the "measure of his days" and asking God to allow him "to know my end" (Psalm 39:4). David asked God, as we also should, to "teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom" (Psalm 90:12).

The days are counting down quickly towards the Feast of Trumpets and the Feast of Tabernacles where we will come to more profoundly understand these eternal lessons.

In Christ's service,



Victor Kubik

Inside United Podcast



In discussing his *Beyond Today* article, "Sound Science and the Bible: Do They Conflict?", Steven Britt and Victor Kubik talk about the detrimental assumptions made by prominent scientists that lead the world away from understanding the truth: <https://www.ucg.org/members/united-news/inside-united/inside-united-podcast-090-steven-britt-sound-science-and-the-bible>

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