

SABBATH ANNOUNCEMENT BULLETIN

United Church of God, *an International Association*
North Canton & Youngstown, OH; Pittsburgh, PA; Wheeling, WV Congregations

SABBATH, September 16, 2017

Services this Sabbath (9/16)

North Canton – 2:00 p.m.
Youngstown – 1:00 p.m.
Pittsburgh – 10:00 a.m.
Wheeling – 2:30 p.m.

Services next Sabbath (9/23)

North Canton – 2:00 p.m.
Youngstown – 1:00 p.m.
Pittsburgh – 2:30 p.m.
Wheeling – 10:00 a.m.

Any last minute time or location changes will be verbally announced.

PASTOR'S UPDATE

Greetings brethren,

God's fall holydays will be upon us this coming Thursday, beginning with the Feast of Trumpets commemorating the second coming of Christ and the resurrection of the saints! What a day it foreshadows: when this present, evil world is changed to God's wonderful world tomorrow!

Then comes the Day of Atonement marking the end of Satan's reign of terror and God's justice done. The big event of God's plan then arrives with the Feast of Tabernacles anticipating the millennial rule of Christ and the risen saints over the rebuilding populations of all the nations. In conjunction with the meaning of the Last Great Day, all will be called to God's truth. It is the era of the great spiritual harvest—and a time of spiritual celebration for the true Church of God!

Nearly all of us will be travelling to one of our designated Feast sites to attend church services every day during the Feast. We'll hear sermons about all aspects of the happy future of the world tomorrow—and how we can diligently prepare for it in our spiritual lives now.

It's a feast of abundance because we have kept God's commanded second or festival tithe (Deut. 14:22-27) so we can appear before God with our brethren to learn and rejoice.

REMEMBER that a few of our brethren due to poor health, great age or some unanticipated circumstances will not be able to be with us at the Feast sites. A personal, thoughtful Feast gift to help them also rejoice is well in order (read Nehemiah 8, especially verse 10). And there are some of our elderly or others who are at the Feast with very limited funds who would greatly benefit from a little extra. Check with your festival advisor to find those with whom you can share God's abundance. God's Feast is a Feast of rejoicing together!

Keep the true faith and spread it,



Randy Stiver, pastor

Pastor's contact information: PO Box 1474, Massillon, OH 44648. Home phone: 330-809-0566, cell phone: 740-739-7248. **Email addresses:** randy_stiver@ucg.org or rpstiver@gmail.com (both come to the same location). For emails regarding scheduling (church events, visits or counseling), please copy my wife Linda ldstiver@gmail.com. Announcements should be sent to my email and copied to our daughter Amanda at anstiver@gmail.com as she helps process them each week.

1. Church Circuit Calendar

Sep. 16	Sabbath	North Canton at 2:00; Youngstown at 1:00; Pittsburgh at 10:00; Wheeling at 2:30
Sep. 21	Trumpets	North Canton /Youngstown /Cleveland at 10:00 & 2:00; Pittsburgh/Wheeling at 10:30 & 2:30 at Chartiers Community Center
Sep. 23	Sabbath	North Canton at 2:00; Youngstown at 11:00; Pittsburgh at 2:30; Wheeling at 10:00 at Wheeling Park
Sep. 30	Atonement on Sabbath	North Canton /Youngstown at 1:00; Pittsburgh at 2:30 at Pittsburgh Northern Tier Regional Library; Wheeling at 2:30
Oct. 4	Feast of Tabernacles	The Feast runs from sundown on Friday the 3rd through sundown of the 11 th . The 4 th is an annual Sabbath or holyday.
Oct. 7	Sabbath	No local church service during the Feast of Tabernacles
Oct. 12	Last Great Day	Beginning at sundown on the 11 th , this is the final annual holyday on God's calendar. The Feast ends at sundown this day.
Oct. 14	Sabbath	North Canton/Youngstown at 1:00 p.m.; Pittsburgh at 2:30; Wheeling – no service

2. The NEXT Bible Study Webcast – FRIDAY NIGHT, OCTOBER 27 @ 7:30

The webcast link: <https://www.ucg.org/congregations/north-canton-oh/webcast>. Email Bible questions to: questions@ucgnorthcanton.org. Bible Studies are on the Friday evenings before the second and fourth Sabbaths of each month. If you don't have webcast access, please check with our sound staff to request a DVD of the Bible Study.

3. Local Prayer Requests: *new or updated

- **Joe Gabriel** – Joe's neuropathy has improved somewhat, and he and Bess are looking forward to keeping the Feast in Cincinnati. They thank you all for your continued prayers.
- **Hurricanes & forest fires** – the reports of how our brethren have fared in the hurricanes in Texas and Florida have come in. Most fared amazingly well, and those few whose homes were damaged or destroyed are already being helped to rebuild. The forest fires in Oregon and Montana have just received a good dousing of heavy rain. All the brethren are safe and well. Special thanks go to you from Terry and Barbara Dundon for your prayers!
- **Dale Harman** – (North Canton church) Dale writes: "After a blood test and meeting with my Oncologist Monday my blood cancer % has returned from zero a few months ago to 39% today. I am exploring new options for treatment of Leukemia with my doctor – not happy with any at this time – may continue with previous chemotherapy instead, or none at all. Your prayers as my brothers and sisters will be appreciated as they have been in the past." Dale will not be able to travel for the Feast this year.

As always, brethren, we strive together through our prayers for God's people and His work in this age (Romans 13:30).

4. FEAST REGISTRATION & UPDATE

The Feast of Tabernacles is less than a month away. If you have not registered, please do so right away. And if you have changed plans, please update your registration. We currently have three Feast sites that are closed to further registration: Victoria, Phoenix, and Lake Junaluska. However, by canceling from those sites if you are not attending, it can open up space for others.

To register for the first time, go to the Feast Website: www.ucg.org/members/feast or feast.ucg.org and click "Choose a festival location to register." Click on the Feast site you would like to register for. Then click the green register button.

To change your registration, log into the UCG.org account that you used to register your household.

- Click your name in the upper right corner
- Then My Registrations.

- Click View to review your existing registration or change sites or click Edit to change the information in the registration form.

5. UCG Feast of Tabernacles for Cincinnati (from Vince Szymkowiak, Feast coordinator)

Feast time is fast approaching! 300 people have registered to attend in Cincinnati.

- **HOLIDAY MEALS:** As in past years, a Buffet Dinner will be held after services on the First Holy Day, October 5, at 5:00. The cost per meal is \$22.00 for adults, children 5-10, \$14.00, and children under 5 are free. Please send your checks to: Debbie Kuhns at Box 115, Paris, Ohio 44669, and make them payable to United Church of God. There will also be a luncheon on the Last Great Day, Oct. 12 at the cost of \$22.00 for adults and etc. You may pay for these meals in advance if you wish. Please specify which of the meals you are paying for.
- **NEWS FLASH!** The **SENIOR CITIZENS' LUNCHEON** at the Cincinnati Feast Site will be on Monday, Oct. 9. The cost of the entire meal has been donated by a generous, anonymous donor "that you may eat in the presence of the LORD your God and rejoice" (Deut. 14:26). If you have already sent payment for this luncheon to Debbie Kuhns, please contact her by phone or mail (PO 155, Paris, OH 44669 for your reimbursement.

6. FEAST OF TRUMPETS LUNCHEON (North Canton & Youngstown) – SIGN UP TODAY!

We are most appreciative to announce that an anonymous donor has provided the funds to cover the cost of the Feast of Trumpets luncheon between morning and afternoon services at the Holiday Inn Akron-North at Fairmont on Thursday September 21 for the congregations attending the holyday there.

However, it is critical that we have an accurate total head count for the meal. A sign-up list is on the information table in each congregation that will be attending Trumpets at that location. The luncheon, the menu includes: *Tossed mixed green salad, Vegetable medley, Garlic mashed potatoes, Chicken Marsala and Sliced turkey with giblet gravy.*

If you would like to enjoy for this special Feast of Trumpets luncheon, please **put your name on the signup list this Sabbath!**

To enhance our fellowship time before and between services, please bring light refreshments for the hospitality table (snacks, fruits, veggies, pastries, etc.) Desserts to bring for the dessert table for after the luncheon include pies, cakes, cookies, and the like.

7. Dinner-dance social in November

The Portsmouth, Ohio congregation invites all who are interested to come to their annual, dinner-and-dance social on the evening of November 4th. Details are on the information table.

8. Ladies Event – Now scheduled for Sunday, OCT. 29, after the Feast of Tabernacles.

SABBATH FOCUS

FIRST, WORLD PIECES... THEN, WORLD PEACE

A commentary by Randy Stiver

Shakespeare could have said it... "Where there is no vision, the people perish; but he that keepeth the law, happy is he" ... but King Solomon and the King James Bible translators beat him to it (Proverbs 29:18, KJV).

In actual fact, God said it. The king of Israel just wrote it down. And it explains the title. Our world is going to pieces!

It's only a matter of time before the world economy collapses. The disestablishmentarianism of what everybody calls "the Left" will spill from vehemence into widespread violence. The tragic implications of the current

Sexual Revolution will degrade the family from any semblance of created functionality and thus thoroughly destabilize society.

Then, denuded of any real, moral steadiness, the bellicose posturing of world leaders will spill into world war—the worst we will have ever seen, thanks to modern technology. And remember, man has never invented a weapon that he refused to use. “The people” will literally perish by the billions. It will be sad, very sad.

Two reasons why the world is going to pieces

“No vision” specifically means “no prophetic vision,” as in direct insight from God. That’s why He called His servants, “prophets” in the Old Testament.

God created mankind and watched them choose the Devil’s way over His’s way from the Garden of Eden forward. Through His prophets and later apostles, God repeatedly spelled out mankind’s self-willed, destructive future. From creation throughout history, including the final generation of this age, man has largely rejected and is rejecting the truth and resorting to deadly lies. So God knows, and through His prophets has warned, exactly how perverse and destructive human nature can – and *will* be.

This perversity stems from our modern, ground-swell rejection that God even exists! After many decades of educators who took the unproven theory of evolution seriously, the atheistic movement has gone viral. Today the universities of the world militantly and arrogantly proclaim and enforce atheism on society.

Did they learn nothing from the horrendously destructive and deadly atheistic, Marxist-socialist revolutions beginning a century ago (1917) in communist Russia? Apparently not!

The other reason for a world going to pieces: virulent antinomianism! In plain English, that’s the world’s second, great curse: hatred for and rejection of God’s law.

From all indications, the primary insult to unbridled, human nature is to be told what God commands man to do. Likewise, the second is to feel the pangs of guilt from breaking that law. Many times the guilty have killed the messenger to soothe their own guilt. And they have done so in vain—the guilt remains.

Logic lesson: a world without divine, physical law cannot exist. Likewise, a world without the divine, moral/spiritual law will self-destruct—that is, come to pieces. Non-compliance with the perfect law of love (see Romans 13:10) leads to plummeting moral and spiritual ethics. No effectual, standards will lead to wars and rumors of wars at the family, institutional, national and international levels (read the words of Christ in Matthew 24:4-8). It is those wars that will finally break the world in pieces.

Then what about world peace?

The “gospel” (old Anglo-Saxon for “good news”) of the Kingdom of God that Jesus brought and sent His Apostles to preach to the world is that all things will change for the better. Those who repent of their sins (violations of God’s law) will find spiritual peace. Then with Christ’s dramatic intervention at His imminent, second coming He will *establish* peace upon all the nations (read the rest of Matthew 24).

Christ will bring a dramatic end to mankind’s massive world war. But why in the first place must there be a World War 3?

The answer is as simple as the predictability of demonically-driven, human nature. “Disaster will come upon disaster, and rumor will be upon rumor. Then they will seek a vision from a prophet; but the law will perish from the priest, and counsel from the elders” (Ezekiel 7:26).

The collapse of ancient Israel (720 B.C.) and Judah (586 B.C.) was precipitated by their persistent rebellion to

God's law. When they finally realized that their nations were falling to pieces, they sought the prophets' guidance—too late. Their civil and religious leadership had evaporated into the false values of the paganism of their day. Our modern leadership is collapsing under the impact of the twin and ironic, false values of atheism and religious paganism today.

God declared an annual holyday to commemorate the end of the false and beginning of the true. Since Christ's second coming is to be announced by the sound of a supernatural trumpet (see Matthew 24:30-31), that holyday is labelled the "Feast of Trumpets" (Leviticus 23:23-24). To observe that festival is to eagerly anticipate the coming of Jesus Christ and the beginning of the salvation of mankind.

Terrible trouble is always hard to endure. But this world's certain disaster will soon be replaced by peace among all nations for a vast millennial era of Jesus Christ ruling the world as King of kings and Lord of lords. The world that had gone to pieces He will put back together to enjoy true, world peace, ultimately forever! ***SF***