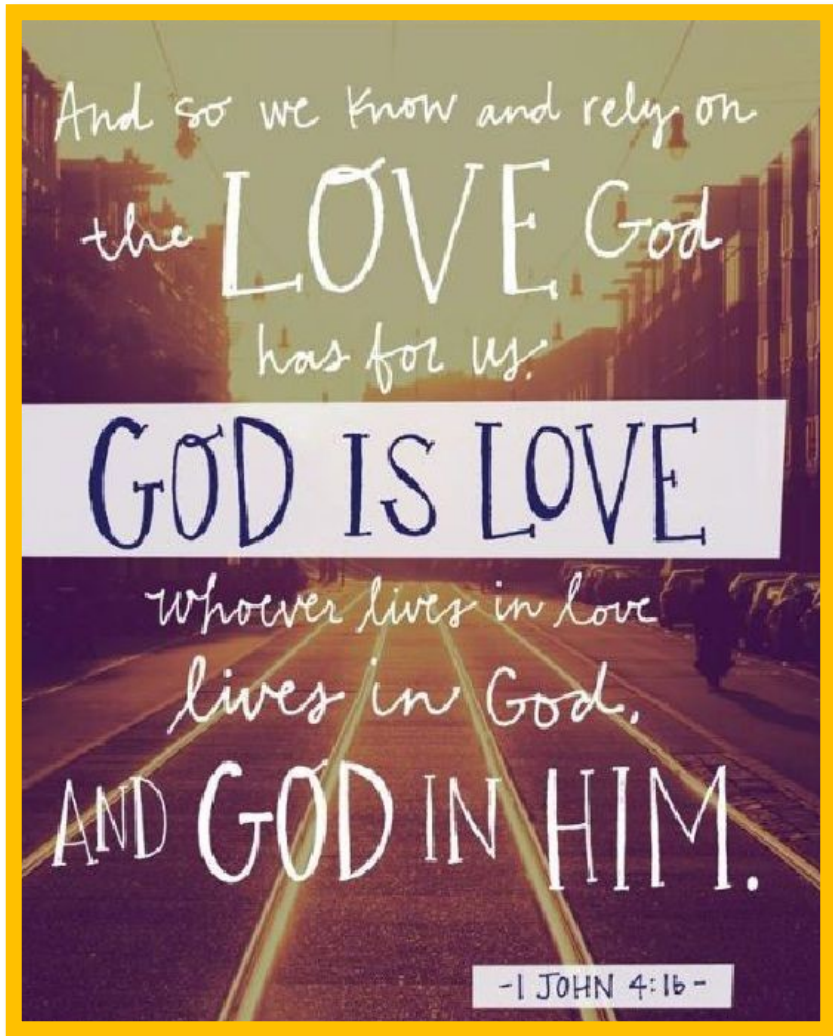


Churches of Christ Upcoming Events 2020

(Please see the yellow book for additional information and out of the area churches events)

ALL EVENTS HAVE BEEN CANCELLED for the year 2020



Beltway Church of Christ

6000 Davis Blvd

Camp Springs, MD 20746

301.423.2320/423.4666 fax

The Messenger

Sunday, December 20, 2020

Welcome Visitors

We are honored that you have chosen to worship with us today.

Please stop by our visitor table in the foyer.

Markus Martin,
Minister
704.641.9246

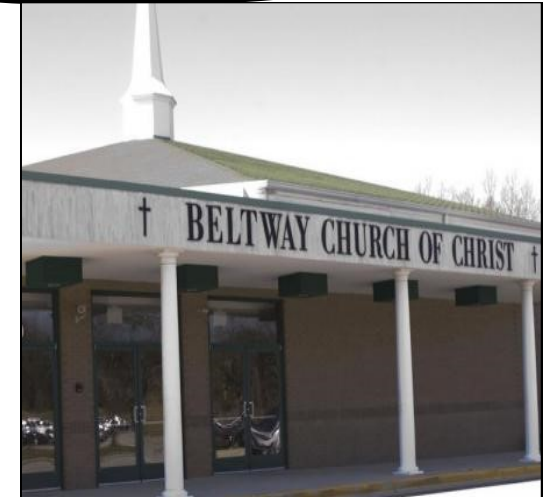
Nigel McPherson,
Associate Minister
202.674.6952

Zone leaders
Charles Mattocks,
Zone 1 (A-G)
240.723.1799

Edward Jefferies,
(interim)
Zone 2 (H-L)
240.676.4998

Anthony Person
Zone 3 (M-R)
202.487.4187

Zone 4 (S-Z)
(info forthcoming)



“BUILDING UP A SPIRITUAL HOUSE”
“CHOOSE PRECIOUS”
1 PETER 2:5

May Christians Observe Holidays?

by Wayne Jackson

Is it wrong for Christians to celebrate some of the holidays popular in our society – like giving gifts at Christmas time, allowing children to go trick-or-treating at Halloween, or hunting eggs at Easter?

In considering this issue, several things should be kept in view.

A practice may have originated under certain circumstances but, eventually, have lost that significance – either in whole or at least significantly. There is Bible precedent for dealing with this principle.

Consider the practice of eating meat that had been sacrificed to idols previously – a very lively issue in the first century. Here is the background: A meat sacrifice would be made to an idol. After a certain portion was consumed in sacrificial flames (or by the priests), the balance would be sold as common food in the market. The controversy, therefore, arose: is this meat contaminated simply because it had some connection with an idol? (next page)

(continued)

Paul's answer is no (see I Corinthians 8:1-13). If one has "knowledge" — i.e., that an idol is "nothing" — and his conscience is not offended, he may eat of that meat. It is not contaminated merely by its former association.

Yet, there is this caution: if one is in an environment wherein some "weak" (i.e., without mature knowledge) brother is liable to be damaged, then it would be best to refrain in that instance, lest the weak brother's conscience be wounded.

It would be wrong to partake religiously of a practice that compromises one's fidelity to the truth. The apostle deals with such a matter in I Corinthians 10. If in a service where sacrifices were being offered to "demons" the Christian were to partake, i.e., have "communion" (koinonia — participation, fellowship), with those involved in the illicit worship, such clearly would be sinful (10:20-21).

To practice Christmas, Halloween, or Easter religiously would be unwarranted. To do so merely as a cultural custom would be a matter of personal judgment.

In Romans 14, Paul argues the general proposition that there will be different levels of knowledge among brethren and that, to a certain extent, these must be accommodated for the sake of Christian unity. For example, some, out of conviction, choose not to eat meats; others see nothing wrong with such a practice.

The apostle instructs that neither individual is to "set at naught" the other. No man is to create a law in areas of expediency and then demand that all others submit. If an overt act of transgression is not the issue, peace must prevail.

Most folks who are rather sensitive about these cultural practices are not consistent entirely in their own conduct. Consider, for example, the celebration of birthdays. In ancient Egypt, the birthdays of the Pharaohs were considered as "holy" days, with no work being done (McClintock and Strong 1969, 817). Moreover, as John Lightfoot noted: "The Jewish schools esteem the keeping of birthdays a part of idolatrous worship" (1979, 217).

Does this mean that if a man in this era gives his wife a birthday present or if we have a birthday party for a child we have compromised our faith? Surely no one will so allege.

What about the man who takes his wife out for dinner and gives her flowers on Valentine's Day? Has he yielded to the Romish dogma regarding "Saint Valentine?" When we place flowers on the graves of our loved ones, is this the same as the Hindu practice of putting food on the graves of one's ancestors? Does having a wedding ceremony in a church building imply that we endorse the Catholic notion that marriage is a "church sacrament?" Surely these queries must be answered negatively. Practices can change with time and mean different things to different people. We must not compromise the truth, but neither are we permitted to make spiritual laws for others.

NOTES..... website: www.beltwaycoc.org **email:** info@beltwaycoc.org

Assisted listening devices ..Assisted listening devices are available during service. Please bring your earbuds from your phone, ipod or tape recorder. Earbuds can be provided; if necessary.

God Loves a Cheerful Giver —In order to introduce the importance of giving to our youth, we are asking that **ALL YOUTH** come prepared every Sunday to donate a can good during worship service.

FACEBOOK—"Beltway Church of Christ at Camp Springs MD" We encourage ever member to like our new page, and to "check-in" on Sunday mornings at the new page.

To ensure that funds are available to meet the church's financial obligations, members are requested to leave their offerings prior to travel. **Please put cash contributions in brown envelope. CONTRIBUTION** via PayPal... if you are having trouble getting a check or money order for your contribution, there are other alternatives. You can submit your contribution via PayPal (send the money to lay_by@beltwaycoc.org) or through your bank's Bill Pay option. Please contact Henry Abel or Theodore Jordan if you have any questions."

Auditorium ...

Please no food or drinks (water only) in the auditorium. Please remove your trash when you leave and return song books, fans, and bibles to their proper place.

Building Fund Corner

"... offered willingly. And gave for the service of the house of God..."
(I Chronicles 29:6-7)

Please remember to give weekly towards the Building Fund.

plan
pray
give
build

Ladies Weekly Devotion and Prayer Fellowship

- Every Tuesday **12:00pm –12:30pm (ZOOM)**
- First and Third Tuesday—Devotion and Prayer
- Second and Fourth Tuesday—Prayer
- Join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8211549199pwd=eWVEV1I3eVNncUd2a2dDY25rdVp0QT09>
- **Meeting ID:** 8211549199 **Password:** 079566
- Call in 301-715 8592 —meeting ID and Password

Managing Stress Around the Holidays

Chronic stress in particular **increases risk for major depression**, but even acute or short-term stress can be problematic. For some, the holidays bring on the "holiday blues." Feelings of sadness, loneliness, and anger can intensify when contrasted with the joy expected of the holiday season.

So how to cope with the holiday blues?

Acknowledge your moods; it's okay if you don't feel like celebrating.

Spend time with people who care about you. If finances are a stressor or a concern, set a realistic budget and stick to it.

Maintain healthy habits: eat right, exercise, and make time for yourself.

Volunteer your time to help others. Spending time with those in need can help you feel less isolated.

Avoid drinking alcohol to ward off negative feelings. Alcohol often will make depression worse. Stay active. Exercise and maintain a healthy diet.

Try to appreciate the good things you have now instead of focusing on the past.

Meetings.... No scheduled meeting

Beltway Church is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting

Topic: BCOC Prayer Call and Mid-Week Bible Study

Time: This is a recurring meeting Meet anytime

Join Zoom Meeting (copy or click here) Please mute yourself to minimize background noise

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88277780555>

Call in from a phone (Please mute yourself to minimize background noise) (*6 mute or press mute on cell phones)

(open 10 mins before 10am/close exactly 10am)

Phone Number: **1-301-715-8592** Meeting ID: **882 7778 0555**

One tap mobile

+13017158592,,88277780555# US (Germantown)

+19294362866,,88277780555# US (New York)

Dial by your location

+1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)

+1 929 436 2866 US (New York)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

Meeting ID: 882 7778 0555 Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kbJ3rIKt78>

SUNDAY WORSHIP

Facebook: Beltway Church of Christ at Camp Springs MD,

Streaming church website www.beltwaycoc.org

ZOOM phone calls only 301 715 8592 meeting ID 882 7778 0555

(please mute your phone to minimize the background noise)

Announcements for the Bulletin and Sunday morning

Members,

- To ensure that all announcements are in the bulletin and announced on Sunday mornings, please take the following steps:
- **Deadline:** submit by Thursday each week
- **Time:** 12:00 noon
- **Where:** Please send all announcements to the church's email – info@beltwaycoc.org



Prayer List

Sick and Shut-In

Grady Bradford

Velina Christian

Jerriel Ford

Elaine Floyd

Sherman Hicks

Patsy Maxwell

Helen Mitchell

Bettie Sobers

Janice Tillery

Lillie Vernon

Willa Williams

Schedule of Services

Sunday

Sunday School 9:00 A.M.

Worship 10:00 A.M.

Worship 6:00 P.M.

Wednesday

Bible Study 7:00P.M.

Plan of Salvation

Hear the Gospel—Romans 10:17

Believe in Christ—Mark 16:16

Repent of Sins—Acts 2:38

Confess Faith—Matthew 10:32-33

Be Baptized—1 Peter 3:21

Sunday, December 20, 2020

Called to Serve

Sunday Morning

Opening

Scripture and Prayer Don Allen

Song Leader Don Moore

Prayer Ted Jordan

Sermon Markus Martin

Lord's Table and Contribution

Podium Ted Jordan

Table

Benediction Ted Jordan

Announcements

Greeters

Temperature check Doris McCray

Communion dispersement Willie Mae Flenbaugh

Ushers Nigel McPherson
Michael Titre

Nurse Bernice Jordan

Sunday school on zoom at 2pm

Sunday Evening
Questions and Answers session

Time: 6pm

JOIN US ON ZOOM

It Cannot Be Hidden
I John 4:16

Introduction

- A. I recently read a statement that was made by someone some years ago that I generally agree with, "There are two things a man cannot hide; that he is **intoxicated**, and that he is **in love**."
- B. But at a deeper level, I believe the statement implies a greater truth, i.e., men are able to veil for a time what is in their hearts, but in time the heart must reveal what cannot be hidden.
- C. If "There are two things a man cannot hide" is true, more so "There are at least three things that God cannot hide," and I want to share them with you.

Sermon

I. It Cannot Be Hidden That God Loves His Son

II. It Cannot Be Hidden That God Loves Every Sinner

III. It Cannot Be Hidden That God Loves Those Seek Salvation

Conclusion

- 1. If you have never experienced God's love, it's because...
- 2. And if we know the love of God, we...

Date	
Dec. 20th	"When we get to heaven, will we be able to sin as the angels that were cast out?"

**Zoom meeting invitation -
Sunday School Bible weekly 2pm**

Saints,

We will have our first class for our children on this coming Sunday, at 2:00 PM. We will review 3 lessons. Please have your children attend. All teachers are asked to support the call. Our Theme requires the children to wear their masks.

If you have any questions regarding Zoom please contact Sis. Alicia on 240-416-6974.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8211549199?pwd=eWVEVlI3eVNncUd2a2dDY25rdVpoQTog>

Meeting ID: 821 154 9199

Password: 079566

One tap mobile

+13017158592,,8211549199#,,1#,079566# US (Germantown)

Dial by your location +1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)

Meeting ID: 821 154 9199 Password: 079566

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8211549199?pwd=eWVEVlI3eVNncUd2a2dDY25rdVpoQTog>

"YES"....Youth Empowered Servants

We have a "YES"....Youth Empowered Servants for our youth in 2019 and beyond that attend Beltway to assist our Homebound members and strengthen our youth's foundation at Beltway. This will include a youth empowerment forum with our youth coordinators. The Program will take place twice a month on the respective Saturdays. We are asking parents and youth (ages 8 years old to 18 years old) to sign-up and volunteer your time to this program. This program is to build our youth's faith in the Lord. If you have questions or concerns, please contact Bro. Markus. Thank you!