



Midweek Meeting Announcements

Date: **August 18, 2022**

CBOE's Initials: JJ

NOTE: All announcements should first be approved by the Coordinator of the Body of Elders.
Please read these announcements to the congregation.

Please take note of the following announcements:

1. **Harbor Witnessing:**

"Dear Brothers:

We would like to thank all of you for the support you have given toward the Harbor Witnessing program prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. As volunteers, you clearly recognize that "the time left is reduced" and we appreciate that you have given your time and energy toward a never to be repeated work. We would also like to commend you for maintaining a positive attitude toward the preaching work during the COVID-19 pandemic. Since each publisher's circumstances vary, no one should feel pressured to participate in any specific method of preaching. Some may not feel comfortable sharing in a particular form of the ministry, however we appreciate the support you give to your family and friends who have the circumstances.

If you would like to participate in this exciting ministry, please see your congregation secretary. You should fill out an application "S-376-E", dated "9/19", this application may be submitted electronically. Additionally, at this time, only married sisters may board cargo ships if they are accompanied by their husbands.

We have seen the Philadelphia Harbor Program flourish over the past few years. All volunteers have a unique opportunity to reach individuals who are contracted to work on these ships for months. Depending on the ports' country, many of them for legal reasons are not able to leave the ship when at port. We are allowed the opportunity to board these ships to bring the good news to them. In 2019, an average of 30,500 crew members have passed through our Philadelphia Ports. We can see why this Harbor Witnessing Program is vital in our search for those "rightly disposed for everlasting life" in today's transient world. (Acts 13:48)

Please accept an expression of our love and warm Christian greetings.

Your fellow servant,
James Jackson PA-16"

2. Resolution For Monthly Contributions to the Worldwide Work:

APPROVED

3. Adjustment to Next Week's Midweek Meeting:

Next week, there will be a ten-minute review of the July 29, 2022, announcement regarding "Attending In-Person Meetings" in place of the five-minute local needs part.

(See "Earlier Announcements" below)



Earlier Announcements

4. Announcements From the Branch Office:

July 29, 2022

1. Attending In-Person Meetings:

In reviewing the results of resuming in-person congregation meetings since April 1, 2022, it is evident that Jehovah is clearly blessing this arrangement. We thank Jehovah for the opportunity to greet our brothers and sisters face-to-face, sing songs of praise to Jehovah harmoniously, and make other appropriate expressions of Christian affection once again. (Prov. 27:17, ftn.; Rom. 12:10; Eph. 5:19) After more than two years of not being able to meet together at our Kingdom Halls, we have renewed appreciation for in-person Christian meetings that lift our spirits and strengthen our faith during these difficult times.

2. We acknowledge that because of advanced age, infirmities, or other circumstances, some may be limited in their ability to attend meetings in person. For such ones, please keep in mind the loving reminder at Hebrews 6:10: “God is not unrighteous so as to forget your work and the love you showed for his name by ministering and continuing to minister to the holy ones.”

3. On the other hand, some brothers and sisters—younger and in good health—have more favorable circumstances that may allow them to attend Christian meetings regularly at the Kingdom Hall. However, it has been observed that some have developed a tendency to attend meetings on a videoconference when, according to their circumstances, they could be physically at the Kingdom Hall. If this is our situation, we can ask ourselves the soul-searching question, ‘Can I put forth greater effort to worship Jehovah in person?’

4. We capture a sense of Jehovah’s thinking on this important matter by reviewing the following scriptures:

- Psalm 22:22: “I will declare your name to my brothers; in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.”
- 1 Corinthians 14:23: “The whole congregation comes together to one place . . .”
- 3 John 14: “I am hoping to see you soon, and we will speak face-to-face.”

5. We encourage you to consider prayerfully the aforementioned scriptures and to do research on this subject in our publications, perhaps during your next Family Worship or personal study session. Of course, each one should show balance, reasonableness, and love so that we do not unnecessarily put others at risk by attending meetings in person if we test positive for COVID-19, display cold or flu-like symptoms, or have recently been exposed to someone who tested positive

for COVID-19. Please contact the elders if you have questions in this regard.

6. If we are attending via videoconference (or by some other means), we should still view the meeting as part of our worship and sacred service. Remembering this should affect how we dress and act during a meeting, an assembly, or a convention. We need to ask ourselves: 'Even if it is not possible for me to be physically at the Kingdom Hall, do I still show the same respect for the program? Are there ways that I can improve in this area?'

7. Strong faith and endurance are required to face deteriorating world conditions. So, we take this opportunity to warmly commend you dear brothers and sisters for your faithfulness, love, and heartfelt desire to praise our glorious God, Jehovah. We love you very much!—3 John 4.

5. August 2022 Announcements and Reminders

1. **Worldwide Campaign in September 2022:**

During September 2022, we will make a concerted effort earth wide to offer Bible studies to as many people as possible using the Enjoy Life Forever! brochure. We should offer Bible studies while engaging in various forms of our ministry. Publishers who wish to auxiliary pioneer in September may choose a 30-hour requirement.

2. **Public Witnessing Posters:** New public witnessing posters have been produced to advertise our free Bible course. The posters advertise an in-person Bible course and a Bible course by videoconference. Posters have also been produced for sign languages.

3. **Circuit Assembly Programs for the 2023 Service Year:** Printed copies of circuit assembly programs for the 2023 service year will not be provided by the branch office. However, electronic copies are available on jw.org and in JW Library.

4. **2023 Memorial:** On Tuesday, April 4, 2023, we will observe the Lord's Evening Meal. (Luke 22:19) No midweek meeting will be scheduled that week. Additionally, please note that the 2024 Memorial observance will be held on Sunday, March 24, 2024. The 2025 Memorial observance will be held on Saturday, April 12, 2025.

5. **2023 Special Public Talk:** To generate enthusiasm for the Memorial, the 2023 special public talk will be presented the week before the Memorial, during the week of March 27, 2023.

Congregations that have an assembly or the visit of the circuit overseer the week of March 27 will usually have the special talk one week earlier.

6. **Resolved Monthly Donation to the Worldwide Work:** For the upcoming service year, the congregation will be presented with a single resolution to donate a monthly amount to the worldwide work. The branch office uses worldwide work funds to support various activities that benefit congregations. Such activities include renovating and constructing Kingdom Halls and Assembly Halls; caring for incidents at theocratic facilities, including those involving natural disaster, fire, theft, or vandalism; and providing technology and related services.

7. **Wisdom From the Gospels:** There are many open-minded people who have not had the opportunity to become familiar with the Bible. Therefore, we are pleased to inform you that a new

brochure entitled Wisdom From the Gospels will soon be available in various languages. This eight-page, text-only brochure contains the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew chapters 5-7). It is primarily for use in language fields with non-Christian populations, but it can be used in other fields as well. The brochure will be made available in print, digital, and audio formats.

8. 2023 Regional Conventions: As recently posted on jw.org, we are pleased to announce that the Governing Body has decided that, Jehovah willing, we will resume in-person regional conventions in 2023. Branches will now begin selecting venues. The dates will be announced in January 2023 or shortly thereafter. We pray for Jehovah's rich blessing to be with all those involved in the planning.

6. August 9, 2022, Announcement

1. Resuming In-Person House-to-House Ministry:

We are delighted to share the following news with you. On August 3, 2022, the Governing Body informed all Branch Committees that they may resume the in-person house-to-house ministry beginning September 1. After considering the local situation in our branch territory, we are pleased to provide the following direction that will be of assistance to you as you carry out your personal ministry.

2. All should use good judgment when deciding whether to wear a mask when witnessing in person. When you approach people in the ministry, we know you will continue to show due respect and consideration for their feelings and circumstances. This would include maintaining a discreet distance. This is in harmony with Jesus' words found at Matthew 7:12: "All things, therefore, that you want men to do to you, you also must do to them."

3. Mask-Wearing at Congregation Meetings: For the time being, we strongly encourage all to continue to wear a mask at congregation meetings.
