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May 7, 2020



Lake Union HERALD

THIS WEEK

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Lake Union schools adjust to online education; first phase of Indiana opening begins tomorrow; *Hope Awakens* testimonies; Ministering in a pandemic; Michigan furloughs employees; and more.

NEWS AROUND THE UNION



A family worships last Sabbath during the drive-in worship service in the parking lot of Harbor of Hope Church, Benton Harbor, Michigan. (photo credit: Rayno Victor photography)

Doing school online: Plenty of tech tools and a learning curve

Across the Lake Union footprint, there are 70 schools with an enrollment of 2,851 students who are taught by 275 teachers. Under normal circumstances,

logistical, pedagogical and emotional layers of shifting to distance learning, teachers, students and administrators are learning lessons in resiliency and creativity. [READ MORE](#)

First phase of Indiana reopening plans announced

On Friday, May 1, Indiana Governor Eric Holcomb announced a five-stage plan for reopening businesses and public facilities in the state of Indiana which have been shut down for the last two months due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, he stated that churches can reconvene starting May 8 and provided recommended minimal health protocols that are designed to help protect the health and safety of members.

The government's guidelines for reopening are very cautious, knowing that the virus will continue to impact our communities for some time - presumably until a vaccine is discovered. The guidelines stress the importance of continued vigilance in observing practices that protect everyone, especially those that are at-risk and most vulnerable. If the number of new COVID-19 cases rises in the next few weeks, they may slow down the implementation of the stages, even moving back to a previous stage if necessary.

As our churches prepare to return to their respective places of worship, we recognize **that each local congregation will need to decide when they will choose to reopen.** Church leadership should discuss this in a very transparent and cooperative manner and strive for consensus among the leaders. There will not be a one-size fits all policy on the timing to reconvene. **Churches are not required to open for live services until they feel it best for the health and safety of their members.**

Once churches decide to open for worship, the conference leadership team is strongly recommending that each congregation follow the health protocols provided by the governor, as well as the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines. Some guidelines (e.g. the size of social gatherings, at-risk individuals, or use of face masks) will vary depending on the stage we are in at the time. It is important for local churches to be aware of and comply with any new announcements by federal, state, county, or city leaders that will affect in-person services.

A Summary of Governor Holcomb's Recommended Minimum Health Protocols for Places of Worship (effective May 8)

- Ask all individuals who are 65 and above or who have an underlying at-risk health condition to stay at home and watch services online. (Note: This demographic is still under the stay-at home order through May 23, at which time it is recommended they venture out cautiously.)
- Ensure six feet between individuals or family units of the same households during services.
- Space and mark seating, alternating rows when possible.
- Clean between each service and disinfect high-contact surfaces regularly.
- Place hand sanitizers in high-contact locations (e.g. bathroom, entry, exit) and ask staff, members, and guests to sanitize their hands before entering the building.
- Recommend putting on a face covering before entering the building. (Note: This recommendation becomes optional starting June 14).
- Consider placing signage telling staff, members, and guests to not enter if they are symptomatic or if they have tested positive for COVID-19.
- Implement non-contact greetings.
- Avoid handing out materials.
- Keep water stations/fountains, refreshment centers, potlucks, and other self-service stations closed.
- Establish safe protocols for any communion and collection to avoid contact.
- Dismiss services in a way that supports social distancing.
- Place readily visible signage to remind everyone of best hygiene practices.

- Consider waiting to reopen the preschool and/or children areas until schools reopen (no earlier than July 4). If opening before the recommended date, do not place masks on children age two (2) or under per CDC guidelines, and limit leaders in the preschool and children's areas to those who do not have pre-existing conditions and those under age 65. (Note: Since it is difficult to ensure social distancing for young children, some churches may want to initially offer only live worship services. Later, consideration can be given to adding live adult and children Sabbath School programs.)
- Clean entire facility (e.g. shampooing carpets, sanitizing bathrooms, doorknobs, light switches, and microphones).
- Consider offering multiple service times to encourage a greater opportunity for social distancing.
- Consider having a sign-up for services to allow for an attendance and capacity plan.
- Consider suspending in-person praise teams or choirs and using previously taped performances. If in-person teams are used, use proper social distancing and limited team members.

The "*Back on Track Indiana Plan*" from Governor Holcomb outlines a full reopen date of July 4. Hopefully, we will realize this goal with few delays in the interim.

While these guidelines and recommendations will enable us to reopen our churches, we hope that these steps will be a blessing to all who participate in church life once again.

Much uncertainty remains regarding the COVID-19 crisis. We must continue to pray for God's blessings to rest upon the Indiana Conference. May we rely on our God who is *"our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble"* (Ps 46:1). Jesus, prior to ascending to heaven, promised: *"All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth...and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."* How grateful I am that Jesus is in control and He will get us through these difficult times. Let us continue to rely upon His providence, protection, and provision. One day soon Jesus is coming, and we will be with Him in heaven. All our current challenges will fade into history as we experience love and joy through the ceaseless ages of eternity.

Hope Awakens in Michigan

In a time of global pandemic and desperation, Hope Awakens has brought truth and hope to thousands looking for answers from God's word. The entire world has been at a stop, and an opportunity arose that we as Adventists have never had before. Evangelism that would have preceded the General Conference Session solely Indiana has now expanded all across North America. A completely online streaming experience has brought new innovation for future efforts in public evangelism, which has been demonstrated again and again to still be one of the most effective means of reaching the lost when properly blended with personal work.

Statistics:

North America

- More than 70,000 people across North America registered for the series
- More than 600 churches across NA are participating

Michigan

- More than 9,000 people in Michigan registered for the series
- 82 churches in Michigan are participating

Despite a coordinated cyber attack on the first two nights of the series, God has worked miracle after miracle. The HA website was originally prepared to host 100,000 guests if needed. The cyber attack brought 300,000 fake visitors to the site every second exactly 5 minutes before the meeting started. The team quickly moved to alternative viewing options, which allowed people to

One of the most exciting pieces of HA is the involvement of lay people. Members are calling, texting, and emailing visitors who are watching. They are getting positive responses from most. "Virtual Visitation" has proven to be a very effective means of reaching people during the pandemic. One member texted 15 people and got 5 positive responses within 5 minutes. More positive messages followed. Most all of the visitors are looking forward to an in person visit once the pandemic has passed as well as the opportunity to attend a local church.

Testimonies continue to pour in as people are experiencing a new joy and changes in their lives as they watch the series.

Two Testimonies:

"A former Adventist, who had been out of the church for many years, had started coming back to God. She was recently in hospital, and a distant relative contacted her local SDA church requesting someone to go pray for her, which they did. Miraculously she was healed, and is now watching HA online from home! She loves it and cannot wait to go back to church when things re-open."

"Another HA viewer's daughter held a woman in her arms while she died from suicide after her husband had killed their two children and himself. She has not been able to reach her or fly to her as she lives in Germany. Her one joy and comfort is watching Hope Awakens. The local church is reaching out to the woman."

When we are doing God's work and proclaiming our message, people will respond. It creates a wonderful opportunity for us to minister to people as they have real life struggles and pain. We are able to draw close to them and point them to the living Christ who can heal their hearts.

The public proclamation of the Three Angels' Messages is still alive and well in 2020, despite the devil's attempts to stop it. People are more hungry for God's word than they have been in a long time. *God is using new methods to move His message publicly, but He still uses men and women personally to labor with precious souls and point them to the Savior.* Revival is taking place all across North America as churches are praying, studying, and witnessing. God is working miracles in modern times, preparing the world for Jesus soon return!

-Source: *Wes Peppers, Michigan Conference, Associate Ministerial Director/ Evangelism Coordinator*

Ministering during a pandemic

Join Lake Union ministers for a LIVE conversation about planning for ministry in a post pandemic world. Are evangelistic meetings over? Will churches go back to normal? Hear their vision, concerns and plans. We want you to attend this LIVE experience and share your journey with colleagues from the Lake Union for the Mid-West context. Presented in partnership with the North American Division Evangelism Institute.

WHEN: May 7, 2020 at 8:00 PM EDT

WHERE: The North American Division Evangelism Institute Facebook Page. Like the page and reply to the event to be alerted for the LIVE broadcast. <https://www.facebook.com/events/1016295048767275/>

Michigan furloughs employees

"Several weeks ago, a special executive committee was called into session to discuss its employment commitments. The delicate balance between financial stewardship and the advancement of mission becomes challenging to navigate during times of economic crisis. The Seventh-day Adventist Church is not a business or corporation. It is a household of faith and the body of Christ. After careful consideration, the decision was made to furlough or layoff 35 employees of Michigan's 600+ workforce at the end of April. It remains the

Andrews University announces details of virtual graduation celebration

In the News

WMMT-TV News [reports](#): Paw Paw Seventh-Day Adventist Church held a mobile food pantry event in partnership with Feeding America on Thursday to help those in need.

Boxes of food filled with dairy, produce, baked goods, and more were given away to individuals curbside as well as free bibles.

Michael Taylor, the senior pastor at Paw Paw Seventh- Day Adventist Church, said over 100 vehicles filled the parking lot before the event started at 11 a.m.

"We were expecting maybe about 200 people to show up and this so far has blown our expectations out of the water," he said. "It's amazing to see how many families we are able to help and to bless."

ADDITIONAL NEWS & INFORMATION

GENERAL CONFERENCE

As the world's attention is focused elsewhere, religious freedom abuses continue

The release of the 20th annual report on international religious freedom by a US watchdog agency highlights troubling trends say, Adventist advocates. Even as the global Covid-19 pandemic dominates news headlines, a major report on religious freedom released this week in Washington, D.C. provided a sobering reminder that religious persecution and restrictions continue unabated in many parts of the world. The annual report, which tracks both positive and negative trends in religious freedom, was issued April 30 by the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF), an independent watchdog agency that helps inform US foreign policy. [READ MORE](#)

Adventist Development and Relief Agency steps up U.S. and global COVID-19 operations to aid affected communities and frontline health workers

ADRA launches more than 37 projects worldwide to respond to the pandemic and help communities recover. The Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) is serving more than 2.4 million households around the world where lives have been disrupted by the coronavirus pandemic. ADRA has launched COVID-19 response projects in 37 countries to support frontline workers, low-income families, the elderly, and people facing layoffs as a result of the crisis. [READ MORE](#)

Seventh-day Adventist Church announces new 2021 Missionary Book of the Year

Evangelist Mark Finley pens Hope for Troubled Times in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. One piece of business discussed annually at Spring Meeting is the Missionary Book of the Year. Especially now, when the world is in such turmoil, this special resource gives the 22 million members, pastors

NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION NEWS

Northeastern Conference Adventist Community Services Operates Food Distribution During Covid-19

COVID-19 has affected the number of volunteers, hours of operation, food distribution hours, and other programs at most Adventist Community Services (ACS) locations in North America. This is the reality at the Northeastern Conference (NEC) ACS Center. The food distribution style was changed from “clients choice” to grab-to-go grocery bags (pre-packed bags), and on just one day, April 29, 2020, the NECACS center served 375 families. [READ MORE](#)

Messages of Hope Shared during COVID-19

Ron felt impressed to hand the woman at the gas pump a GLOW tract. He did and the woman recommitted her life to Jesus, and she joined the Adventist church. But how can we share the message of hope during these uncertain times? What can we do when we are all staying at home and personal contacts with others aren't as available or encouraged while we navigate through the COVID-19 pandemic? [READ MORE](#)

Adult Bible Study Guide Co-Authors Conduct Virtual Sabbath School on It Is Written TV

The It Is Written TV program features John Bradshaw, speaker/director of It Is Written, along with the co-authors of the current Adult Sabbath School Bible Study, “How to Interpret Scripture,” Michael Hasel, professor of Near Eastern Studies and Archaeology at Southern Adventist University, and Frank Hasel, associate director of the Biblical Research Institute. [READ MORE](#)

ADVENTIST REVIEW

God's Perfect Timing in Cuba

Confronted with an early return, missionaries say they witnessed God act faster. Two Quiet Hour Ministries (QHM) mission teams were making their way to serve in Cuba just as scattered reports of COVID-19 were beginning to pop up around the United States. They did not know what was coming in the days ahead, but God knew, and He had a plan! [READ MORE](#)

EVENTS AND RESOURCES



We want to hear from you! Take the *Lake Union Herald* Reader Survey.

By answering [these questions](#), you're helping us gain a clearer understanding of what you expect to see in these pages, which will help us produce a magazine that is a true reflection of interests and concerns to our Lake Union members.

Submit your answers by June 30 for a chance to win a \$50 Amazon gift card. Watch for survey results in the a future issue of the *Herald*.

The Church and the Coronavirus

Sabbath at 5 PM EST
@lakeunionherald

YouTube Live
Facebook LIVE

“The Church and the Coronavirus” program, May 9, at 5 p.m. EDT, with: Toson Antwan Knight and Drs. Loren, Lowell and Ann Hamel.

Tune in via the *Lake Union Herald* Facebook page or YouTube channel.

A time to Share Hope
Share a book with family, friends, neighbors

- 1 **SELECT** a Gift Book
- 2 **WRITE** a personal note
- 3 **BUY** the Gift Book
- 4 **We'll SHIP** the book & note for you!

www.glowonline.org/GIFT

How can you share hope and a spiritual encouragement with a loved one, coworker, or a friend during this pandemic?

Mail them a sharing book with a personal note! And if you can't do it, GLOW can do it for you!

www.glowonline.org/GIFT

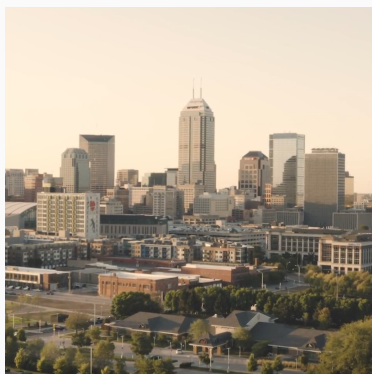
With many church buildings closed because of COVID-19, children aren't able to pick up copies of their favorite Sabbath magazines. **Pacific Press Publishing Association has decided to make its weekly children's publications — *Our Little Friend*, *Primary Treasure*, and *Guide* — available in PDF format on each magazine's own website for free.** The weekly magazines will continue to appear for as long as the coronavirus threat keeps church buildings closed.



100 DAYS OF PRAYER

From **March 27 – July 4, 2020** join Seventh-day Adventists all around the world in calling on Jesus in our urgent need!

- To submit a prayer request regarding the needs of your local church or conference, [click here](#).
- Material for translators now available [here](#).
- Sign up for Daily Prayer Focus [here](#).



ONE YEAR IN MISSION PLUS is an initiative in the Lake Union and an expansion of the [C.A.M.P.U.S.](#) Missionary Training Program.

If you know of committed Seventh-day Adventist young people with a desire to take the 2020-2021 year off from school to make a difference in the lives others, please contact: www.campushope.com/oyim



Featured speakers include:

Michael Pflieger, The Faith Community of Saint Sabina

Carlton Byrd, Breath of Life

Barbara Williams-Skinner, Skinner Leadership Institute

Larry Johnson, Brotherhood Against Drugs

Andrea Trusty-King, 16th Street Church

Robert Ericksen, author, *Theologians Under Hitler*

More info at cjcouncil.org



Adventist Medical Professionals

Clinician Well-being Conference and Family Retreat

"Restoring Faith in Medicine"

October 2 and 3

Registration coming soon!

www.amp.lakeunion.org

For additional information, email:

heather.hoffman2@amitahealth.org



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

The 31st annual convention of the Society of Adventist Communicators takes place

October 15-17, 2020, at the Hilton Chicago Oak Brook Hills Resort & Conference Center in Oak Brook, Illinois.

www.adventistcommunicators.org



The Cruise With a Mission Alaska trip this September is canceled.

Nonetheless, there is a better alternative! Cruise with a Mission is going back to the Caribbean for December 13-20, 2020. Find more information at cye.org/cwm.



What's inside this month's *Herald*

Lake Union HERALD

MAY 2020

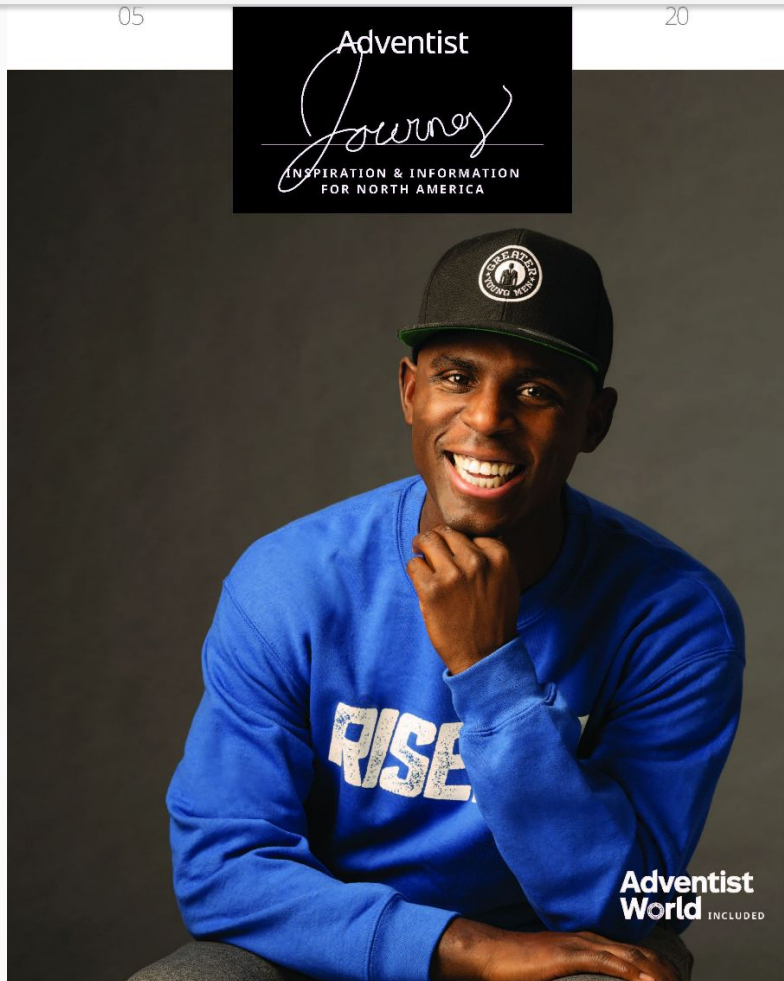


HOW THEN SHALL WE LIVE



Featured Video





Taurus Montgomery is the lead pastor of the Harbor of Hope Seventh-day Adventist Church in Benton Harbor, Michigan. This is a "daughter" church of Pioneer Memorial Church on the campus of Andrews University in Berrien Springs. He is a graduate of Oakwood University and Andrews University. Before Montgomery gave his life to Christ, he was caught up in a lifestyle of drugs, alcohol, and crime. He says, "my house burning down saved the day." Montgomery is featured on the cover of the May 2020 Adventist Journey. [WATCH VIDEO](#)

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We're open to your feedback. If you really like something we're doing on here — or really don't — or have ideas that can help shape our newsletter, let us know. We're all ears. . . Email us your thoughts at herald@lakeunion.org.

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