

“Give Me That Old Time Religion”



Appalachian Gospel Hosting Church

We are excited that you are considering hosting Appalachian Gospel. This is a ministry of Riverside Presbyterian Church in Cocoa Beach, Florida. Appalachian Gospel is non-denominational and is available to all Christian churches.

Appalachian Gospel is a re-enactment of a 1950's church service that occurred in the Shady Grove Church in the mountains of East Tennessee. It truly is “that old time religion”.

The church service consists of the Song Leader and Pianist leading your congregation in a hymn sing of many of our favorite old hymns. At times our small Choir will sing, fiddle, and banjo pick some of our favorite gospel songs (today known as Bluegrass Gospel). Since this isn't a preaching Sunday, one of Shady Grove's deacons will fill the preacher's time by telling stories of Jesus from the gospels. Gospel Storytellers are very rare today. Most people have never heard one.

The service lasts about 1 hour and 40 minutes and requires a minimum of 9 re-enactors, 4 support folks, and we bring them all with us. We only do the service on Sunday afternoons around 3:30 PM and sometimes on Sunday evenings. Since this is a church service, we only do the service in your Sanctuary. We cannot do the Appalachian Gospel as a replacement for your Sunday morning service. We cannot shorten the service. But thanks for asking.

We hope that you will see Appalachian Gospel as an outreach to the community, especially the older folks and “Baby Boomers”. Please invite the community and other nearby churches. We hope that you will provide a “dinner on the grounds” (even if it is only cookies and punch or an ice cream social) so that folks can enjoy fellowship after the Appalachian Gospel service. The dinner on the grounds is an opportunity for you to fund raise – food, bake sale, crafts, etc. We hope that you will allow HomeSpun (our choir re-enactors) to sell their CDs and tapes at the dinner on the grounds.

Financial Arrangement:

1. We will take a free will offering during the Appalachian Gospel service. You deposit the offering.
2. We ask that you donate at least 80% of the offering to Riverside Presbyterian Church. Your check can be mailed to Riverside Presbyterian Church, P.O. Box 320176, Cocoa Beach, FL 32932-0176 (www.riversidepres.org).

3. Please consider adding an additional donation to the Appalachian Gospel ministry.
4. FYI: Our costs, to be paid out of your donation to us, are \$715 for the first 100 folks attending and \$65 for each 100 folks after that. Costs are based on the number of programs/hymnbooks printed, Public Relation services for announcements to newspapers/magazines/radio, travel costs and the talent fees.
5. Glorifying God is what is important – not the money.

Printed Materials Supplied By Host Church:

1. Posters (We will prepare the poster for you to download from website.)
2. Flyers and other advertising materials (We may be able to prepare them for you to download from website.)

Property Supplied By Us

1. Printed programs and hymnbooks
2. 6 green safety vests for parking lot ushers
3. 6 traffic flags to direct traffic in parking lots
4. 10 seed buckets to take free will offering
5. 1 stool for the Gospel storyteller
6. Yard signs to direct traffic and event goers

Property Supplied By Host Church:

1. 1 microphone/stand needed for banjo
2. 1 microphone/stand needed for fiddle
3. Be able to pick up 1 microphone provided by HomeSpun and provide a stand (This microphone requires a 48 volt phantom power capability in your board. If you don't have this capability, HomeSpun will require 3 microphones/stands.)
4. 1 microphone/stand for Song Leader
5. 1 microphone for Deacon
6. 1 small lectern with microphone
7. 1 power outlet for bass amp
8. 1 piano (non-electronic)
9. 1 piano bench
10. 1 Preacher chair for Deacon
11. 2 Non-Preacher chairs for Song Leader and Pianist
12. 4 music stands
13. Be able to turn off house lights leaving only stage lights (optional)

Volunteers Supplied By Host Church:

1. Producer – someone who will handle all matters relating to the upcoming service which includes getting the volunteers, coordinating the volunteers, printing the posters, advertising and marketing. The Producer makes certain that the air-

- conditioners are turned on in the Sanctuary at least 3 hours before the service. The Producer ensures that all bathrooms are clean and ready for the guests. The Producer will instruct the Sanctuary ushers to give everyone a program and a hymnbook. The Producer makes certain that the sound technicians arrive for sound checks at least 1.5 hours before the service. The Producer inspects the work of the Property Masters. The Producer tallies the number of folks attending the service.
2. Two sound technicians to run your sound and lighting systems. The technicians must arrive at least 1.5 hours before the service and do sound checks with the service leaders. Our sound needs are of concert quality and require the talents of a knowledgeable and skilled technician. The Appalachian Gospel Technical Manager is very knowledgeable of the service. It is hopeful that if our Technical Manager asks your sound people to increase or decrease volumes during the service, they will.
 3. Enough ushers to handle seating, parking lot directing and offering. Sanctuary ushers should be male since in the 1950s, ushers were only male. No coats and ties. One of the Sanctuary ushers will do the offertory prayer.
 4. Property Masters – someone who will remove (hide or cover up) all things to clear an area for the stage, set up the stage for the service, and will put all things back the way they were afterwards. It is important that the stage be cleared of all church items since the Deacon will attempt to lead everyone's imagination to the feel of a 1950s small mountain church. Any distraction left on the stage will make that difficult.
 5. Folks to prepare the dinner on the grounds after the service.

Should you invite us to your church, we hope that you will treat us as guests. We hope we will not be considered by your congregation as hired performers. Appalachian Gospel is a ministry. It is a very old church service – not really a concert.

My email address is mason@riversidepres.org and my phone number is 321-735-6565. The pastor of Riverside Presbyterian Church is Rev. Dr. Dan Robinson and can be reached at 321-783-6085 or dan@riversidepres.org.

The purpose of Appalachian Gospel is to glorify God and enjoy His presence. We are trying to preserve “that old time religion!”

Together In Christ,
Mason Gibson, “*Deacon*”
Elder of Outreach, Missions and Evangelism
Riverside Presbyterian Church (www.RiversidePres.org)
Cocoa Beach, Florida
www.AppalachianGospel.com