

# A Great Homecoming

In times past, churches used to celebrate “homecoming”. Most homecomings took place in the Spring or Fall when the weather was mild. Homecomings usually commemorated the establishment of the local congregation and members past and present would gather for a day of worship and fellowship. Typically, there was a guest speaker, perhaps a formal preacher would come and present the message of the day. Worship was always followed by “dinner-on-the-grounds”, an outdoor feast filled with home cooked favorites finished off with watermelon or homemade ice cream for dessert. Yes, the homecomings of the past were wonderful, memory-making events!

Today, our congregation celebrates a different “homecoming” of sorts. After a year of separation, social distancing and quarantines, we are coming together as one church once again. It truly is a time to give thanks to our Heavenly Father for pushing back that old virus which now makes it possible for us to come together again.

Even though it is time of happiness and joy, today does not compare to the homecoming that awaits us when Jesus Christ returns. *“For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words.”* (1 Thessalonians 4:16–18)  
What a great homecoming it will be!

*Jay Launius - 2021*