A call from Allah: “O you seeking good, it’s time to come near! & O you seeking evil, it’s time to refrain!

By Imam Khalid Shahu

Dear community members, Assalamo alaycom wa rahmatul-Allahi wa barakatuh & Ramadan Kareem to you and your beloved ones. Abu Hurairah (may Allah be pleased with him) reported that the messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) said: “On the first night of the month of Ramadan, the Shayatin are shackled, the Jinns are restrained, the gates of the Fires are shut such that no gate among them would be opened. The gates of Paradise are opened such that no gate among them would be closed, and a caller calls: ‘O seeker of the good; come near!’ and ‘O seeker of evil; stop! For there are those whom Allah frees from the Fire.’ And that is every night.” [At-Tirmidhi]. We Ask Allah the Almighty to give us in this month form the best that He gave to the Prophet (peace & blessings be upon him).

This year, the first day of fasting will be observed on Tuesday, April 13th insha Allah and Eid-ul-Fitr will occur on Thursday, May 13th. Taraweeh prayers will begin on the night of Monday, April 12th, insha Allah, at Masjid Annoor, Musalla Annoor Academy, Quran Center & Muslim Community of Maryville. Details on Ramadan programming and impacts from COVID-19 restrictions are all included in this newsletter. Please make sure to save a copy and refer to it as needed. We are truly grateful Allah for honoring us to observe Ramadan & Eid and we ask Him to honor us all for many years to come, God willing.

Night of the 29th

The Night of 29th of Ramadan this year falls on Monday, May 10th. The Mosque revives the entire night with a unique spiritual program & Khatm of Quran.

Itikaf-Seclusion

The Itikaf will begin on 2nd of May, after Maghrib & continues until May 11th after Maghrib. We encourage you to join this once-a-year transformational Spiritual journey.

Eid-ul-Fitr Prayer

Eid-ul-Fitr will fall on Thu, May 13th. Eid prayer will be performed at 8 AM. Information on where the Eid prayer will be held will be announced as soon as available.

Eid Celebration

Eid Celebration will be on the same day of Eid. Information on where and how the Eid celebration will take place will be announced as soon as available.

6 Days of Shawwal

Fasting 6 days of Shawwal is highly recommended by our prophet (SAW). You can start fasting as soon as the day after Eid & you can fast them consecutively or separately.

Ramadan Mubarak Everyone

By Maha Ayesh, MCK President

Alhamdulillah. Last year we had a Ramadan like no other. The masjid remained mostly closed as people worshiped and broke fast at home with their families, night after night. In some ways, we were able to focus on the spirit and meaning of Ramadan with fewer distractions. But we definitely missed the communal aspects of Ramadan and being isolated was difficult for many people. So, we are grateful to Allah to be returning to some level of “normalcy” this Ramadan. Things won’t be exactly the same, but we are excited to be offering Taraweeh prayers again, as well as “to go” iftar meals. And we are very excited to experience our first Ramadan with our Imam Khalid Shahu.

We are of course still mindful that the COVID-19 threat has not gone away and of the need to continue taking safety and health precautions. But you can do your part to help us get closer and closer to “normal” by getting vaccinated as soon as possible and remaining cautious.

On behalf of the MCK Shura Board, I pray that everyone in our community has a blessed Ramadan; that you grow closer to Allah through the blessings of this month; that your days are filled with barakah and ease; that your worship is plentiful and meaningful. We can’t wait to pray Taraweeh communally again, to complete the khatm of the Qur’an together; & to celebrate Eid after our month of fasting and worship, insha Allah. Please keep our community in your prayers & pray for continued relief from the pandemic.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PRAYER TIMES</th>
<th>FAJR</th>
<th>SUNRISE</th>
<th>DHUHR</th>
<th>‘ASR</th>
<th>MACHRIB</th>
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Highlighted row indicates Iqama time change for Masjid. Maghrib Iqama is five minutes after ‘Adhan.

**TARAWEEH SCHEDULE**

**SHIFT 1**
(9:35-10:30)
8 RAKAT FOLLOWED BY SHAF’ & WITR

**SHIFT 2**
(10:35-11:30)
12 RAKAT AFTER SHAF’ & WITR

Registration for Taraweeh is required at all locations and can be done through the link below. Kids ages 10 and up are allowed to join and should be in the company of their parents at all times during Isha & Taraweeh prayers.

Ramadan Iftars will be provided based on improvement of pandemic conditions and community sponsorship of Iftars. We will keep you posted on when and how an iftar will be provided.

**Want to Sponsor Iftar Meal(s)?**
$10 per meal

**Want to Sponsor a Suhur Meal in the last 10 days of Ramadan?**
$7 per meal

To sponsor Iftar or Suhur:
View Availability: bit.ly/mckramadan
Contact: 865-888-0466
admin@muslimknoxville.org

Lady Aisha (May Allah be pleased with her) said that “the Prophet (peace be upon him) used to spend the last ten days of Ramadan in I’tikaf until he died, then his wives continued to do I’tikaf after he died.” [Bukhari & Muslim].

At the MCK, we believe that the Sunna of I’tikaf is a very unique and needed spiritual experience, especially in a time that humanity is destructed by materialistic and worldly lifestyles. The I’tikaf this year will begin on May 2nd, after Maghrib & will continue until May 11th, after Maghrib. We encourage you to join this once-a-year transformational spiritual journey.

- Young adults (15+) and grown-ups are welcome to spend the last 10 days of Ramadan in the Masjid. Note, that due to Covid situation, registration is required, and it will be based on first come first serve. The number of Mu’takeen will be determined as we get closer to the I’tikaf time and based on the assessment of COVID situation by then insha Allah

- You **MUST REGISTER ONLINE OR IN-PERSON WITH IMAM.**

**ANNOOR ACADEMY**
Saturday, April 24th @ Annoor Academy Gym & Online

**MASJID ANNOOR**
Saturday, May 1st @ Masjid Annoor & Online

**TAYSEER SEMINARY**
Saturday, May 8th (Night of 27th) @ Annoor Academy & Online
Ramadan Quran Khatm

Ibn Abbas (may Allah be pleased with him) reported that a man asked the Messenger of Allah (peace be upon him): Which of the acts is the most virtuous? He replied: “AL-HAAL-UL-MURTAHIL” The man inquired: O Messenger of Allah! What is “AL-HAAL-UL-MURTAHIL?” He replied: “It is that particular reader of the Quran who starts reading from the beginning to the end and after finishing, he restarts form the beginning.” [At-Tirmidhi]

Let all of us compete in making as many Khatamatas we can during this noble month!
Let each one of us make at least one Khatmah!
Let Quran be your best companion this Ramadan!
Let us all come together on the night of:
27th of Ramadan @ Annoor Academy Musalla
29th of Ramadan @ Masjid Annoor Downtown
to make duaa for as many KHATAMAT OF QURAN as we can
Fasting Reflections

Fasting With Faith and Purpose
By Ustadha Zaynab Ansari

The Muslim Ummah is on the cusp of observing the second Ramadan to occur during the COVID-19 pandemic. While there will probably be a limited reopening of our masjids and other worship spaces, the reality is that most of us will not be able to return so quickly to a normal Ramadan. In fact, Ramadan 2019 seems like a lifetime ago!

Observing our second COVID Ramadan presents two unique opportunities for reflection. First, we should hasten to express our deep gratitude and joy at being afforded another chance to observe Ramadan with our family, friends, and community, even though it may not be in the exact form we wish.

Second, this Ramadan should cause us to reflect on the sober reality that so many lives were lost this year because of failures on a governmental, societal, and individual level to implement strict public health policies and change behaviors. Fasting another Ramadan allows us to think more deeply about the need to change behaviors—and not just for the 29 or 30 days that Ramadan will last, but for as long as Allah Most High allows us to live.

As people of faith, we understand there is a larger purpose behind rituals. There is a connection between outer actions and inner states. Allah Most High reveals in the Qur’an, “O you who believe! Fasting is prescribed for you, even as it was prescribed for those before you, that you may ward off (evil).” (Sunan Ibn Majah, Book of Fasting, Book 7, Hadith 53)

The Prophet ﷺ is reminding us of the true purpose of fasting: it is to produce in the human being a constant state of taqwa, of God-consciousness, of having the ability to connect between the sensations of hunger, fatigue, and thirst, and the inner need of the heart for purification.

Perhaps the best reminder of this connection is the warning that issues forth in the Prophetic tradition wherein the Prophet Muhammad, Allah bless him and give him peace, said, “There are people who fast and get nothing from their fast except hunger, and there are those who pray and get nothing from their prayer but a sleepless night.” (Sunan Ibn Majah, Book of Fasting, Book 7, Hadith 33)

The Prophet ﷺ is reminding us that there is so much more to fasting than the outward abstention from indulgences, and that a person can be outwardly fasting while not having experienced any of the inner transformations necessary to produce the taqwa of which the verse in Surat al-Baqarah speaks. And while going without food, drink, and much sleep is certainly a part of the Ramadan experience, we have not achieved the full purpose of fasting if we ignore its inner dimensions.

And what are the inner dimensions of fasting? They are beautifully summarized by Imam Al-Ghazali as a special type of fasting that transcends the outer avoidance of food, drink, and pleasures. In this mode of fasting, the worshiper trains his or her limbs to avoid anything displeasing to God. In other words, the eye, the tongue, the ear, the hands, the feet, the private parts, and the stomach are all restrained from the doubtful, the reprehensible, and the unlawful. And the heart is emptied of all that distracts it from the remembrance of Allah. When a person fasts on this level, he or she has come close to achieving the true purpose of fasting, approaching an angelic level of character.

Imam Al-Ghazali writes, “Whenever man falls prey to lust, he sinks to the lowest of the low and joins the animal herd. Whenever, he curbs his desires, he ascends to the highest of the high and attains the angelic level. The angels are near the presence of God, Great and Glorious is He, so those who follow their example and model themselves on their character will likewise draw near to God, Great and Glorious is He.” (Imam Al-Ghazali, Inner Dimensions of Islamic Worship (Leicestershire, UK: The Islamic Foundation, 1983), 81

We ask Allah who is Exalted to grant us through our experience of Ramadan a full spiritual cleansing and reformation of character and conduct wherein bad habits are replaced with good, tempers are calmed, adab (Islamic etiquette) is learned, and we end the month equipped with the spiritual tools to transform our lives for the better in the following years.

May Allah grant us all an accepted Ramadan and many more Ramadans to come!

Seeking Allah’s Mercy in Ramadan
By Dr. Michael Dann

Last year, our first Ramadan in the midst of the pandemic took us by surprise. With the shock of COVID-19 and lockdowns fresh upon us, masjids were closed, ifṭārs and tarawīh took place at home, and no one had any idea what the coming weeks and months would bring. This year, we greet Ramadan along with the prospect of a gradual and partial return to normalcy. In this context, how do we best take advantage of Ramadan?

The following are three brief pieces of advice that, inshā’Allah, will help us make the most of the blessed month.

1. Renewing our Relationship with the Qur’ān: The Prophet described the Qur’ān as a book that “does not become worn out through extensive repetition and whose wonders never cease” (Tirmidhi). The more we give of ourselves to the Qur’ān, the more it will yield its treasures to us. The sunna of the Prophet was to review the Qur’ān with Jibril every Ramadan and the righteous among every generation have followed this sunna in completing numerous readings of the Qur’ān during the blessed month. Let us commit to prioritizing the Qur’ān through daily recitation, memorization, reflection, and study throughout the month.

2. The Month of Du’ā: The Qur’ānic verses on fasting are immediately followed by one of the most powerful verses on prayer and the human-divine relationship in the Qur’ān: “And when My servants ask you about Me, indeed, I am near. I answer the call of the one who calls upon Me whenever he calls. So let them, then, respond to My call and have faith in Me, in order that they might be guided” (2:186). Let us respond to Allah’s call by calling upon him from the depths of our heart and humbly entreatng His Mercy and Forgiveness throughout the month.

3. Seeking Allah’s Mercy: Allah’s Mercy envelops His creation. It is never closer than in Ramadan, and within Ramadan it is never closer than in laylat al-qadr. Among His servants, His Mercy is close to those who are merciful. Let the pandemic and its trials serve as a reminder of the fleeting nature of our earthly existence: “to Allah we belong and to Him we are returning” (2:156). Our return to Allah will be beautiful to the extent that it is enveloped in His Mercy, and we do not know if we will be granted another Ramadan in which to seek it. So let us seek Allah’s Mercy in the blessed nights and days of the month, in our devotion and worship, and in the mercy that He placed within the community of His servants.
Zakat Al-Fitr
Zakat Al-Fitr this year is $11 per every person in the family (child or adult, male or female). MCK starts collecting Zakat Al-Fitr by the middle of Ramadan. For your convenience, a special drop box is designated for it. If you have any questions about Zakat Al-Fitr rulings in Islam, email the Imam at: imam@muslimknoxville.org
To benefit from zakat Al-Fitr, you need to fill out the application form as early as the middle of Ramadan and place it in the designated box or email it to brother Sharif at: social@muslimknoxville.org

Zakat Al-Mal
Zakat Al-Mal is 2.5% of your annual savings. For your convenience, a special box is available for your Zakat. If you have any questions about Zakat, please email the Imam at: imam@muslimknoxville.org
To benefit from zakat, you need to fill out the application form as early as the the middle of Ramadan and place it in the designated box or visit muslimknoxville.org/zakat

Fidyah
$9 Per Missed Day
If you miss one or more days of Ramadan, due to illness, traveling, menstruation for women, you have 2 ways to make it up:
1. To make up the fasting of that day as soon as you have a chance.
2. If for health issues you can not make it up, then you MUST feed a poor ($9 meal) for every day you missed or if you can’t identify a poor – pay to the mosque where you usually pray, a Fidyah of $9 for every day you missed, and the mosque will use that money to feed poor people, as the need for it rises.

Ramadan Dua List

Dua on seeing the New Moon (Hilaah)

"Allahumma innaka `afuwun kareemun tuhibbul `afwa fa’fu `annee."
"O Allah, You are the best forgiver. You love forgiveness, so forgive me."

Dua for breaking the fast

"Allahumma laka sumtu wa bika aamantu wa`alayka tawakkaltu wa`alaa rizqika aftartu"
"O Allah! I fasted for You and I believe in You and I put my trust in You and I break my fast with Your sustenance."

Authentic Dua for breaking Fast (iftar):

Before you put food into your mouth you should say “Bismillah” & only after eating dates and taking water you can say this Dua.

"Dahhaba al-zama' wa abtalat al'-urooq wa thabata al-ajr in sha Allah
The thirst has gone and the veins are moistened, and reward is confirmed, if Allah wills."

(Reference: Sunan Abu Dawud, Vol. 2, Number 2350)
## MASJID ANNOOR AFTER RAMADAN
### REGULAR/SUMMER

### programs

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<th>Youth</th>
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| Weekly | - Mon: Tafseer Halaqah  
- Tues: New Muslim Class  
- Wed: Fiqh Da’wa  
- Fri: Maqasid of Shari’a  
- Sat: Tajweed Class | - Sunday Halaqah  
- Mon: Tajweed & Reading  
- Tues: Youth Talk @ Downtown Masjid  
- Wed: Sisters Basketball  
- Thu: Brothers Basketball |  | - Tues New Muslim Halaqah | - Living Healthy Panel with community Doctors <br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br>
Are You Aware of these Community Services?

Pearls

To learn more about this program, you may contact sister Nada Ahmed at (865) 246-9840 OR pearlsofknox@gmail.com. You may also follow us on Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat & Twitter.

Shafa Medical Clinic

Shifa Medical Clinic offers free health services every Saturday, 10 am-1pm & accepts patients 16 years and older only. To schedule an appointment, call (865) 851-9979.

Annoor Kitchen

To learn more about this program, contact Brother Yusuf Gordon (865) 443-5848 OR sister Amira Hamed at: annoorkitchenknox@gmail.com OR (865) 287-4708.

Seeds of Abraham

To learn more about this program, feel free to visit our page at: seedsofabrahamknoxville.wordpress.com. You can also contact sister Amira Hamed or Reverend Katina Sharp at: seedsofabrahamknoxville@gmail.com OR (865) 287-4708.

Martha's Tent

To learn more about this program, you may contact sister Fatima Awad at (865) 386-3483 or Sister Yasmeen Hamed (865) 283-1633. You may also follow us on Facebook and Instagram.

Barakah Boxes

To learn more about this program, you may email the program coordinator, sister Christina Lell at: barakahboxes@gmail.com. You may also follow us on Facebook as Barakah Boxes & Instagram @barakahboxes.

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Visit our new website at: www.muslimknoxville.org