

DESTINY NOW – (Re-Opening of our Worship Gatherings Plan - "PHASE ONE.)"

We wanted to provide more clarity on how we, as a church, are navigating the delicate issue of re-opening. First, like we have said before, we can't "re-open" because the Church was never closed. Yes, our ability to gather together on Sunday changed from live to virtual, but NOT the mission of being a redemptive community for ALL 7 days of the week. Loving our neighbor, displaying humility, serving others, and speaking up for those without a voice doesn't require a building, it requires us to be intentional and available! Secondly, we suspended our public gatherings before ordered to do so because we believed it was the best way to love our neighbors, honor local and state leadership, and help our community deal with this crisis. All that we have done and hope to do in the future is act in accordance to the mission and vision that God has given to Destiny Now and, more importantly, what God is leading us to do.

We have been prayerfully considering many factors concerning the re-opening of our facilities, such as the safety of individuals in our church family who are considered to be high-risk, our ability to provide safe and effective ministry to families with children, our ability to adequately maintain social distancing measures, and much more.

These are complicated logistical and health issues for a church family of our size and demographic. We've been working on a re-gathering plan that will be intentional and incremental in its scope and time frame. **This plan will be called "Phase One" and will be implemented on August 9th.** Here are some details as to what it would look like.

The initial PHASE ONE Plan has three service options to choose from. The service times will be 8am, 10am and 12 Noon. **We will continue to Stream Live Online at the 10AM time slot!**

We will Promote WISDOM

- This PLAN is designed to be an OPTION for those that feel comfortable enough to attend church IN PERSON but for those who would prefer to continue worshiping with us ONLINE we will continue to IMPROVE and EXPAND our ONLINE WORSHIP EXPERIENCE and make it EVEN BETTER!
- We STRONGLY advise all congregants that are not comfortable meeting in person or at higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19 to use wisdom (including people of all ages with certain underlying medical conditions) to continue to take advantage of our remote participation in services via www.destinynowlive.org and/or www.facebook.com/destinynow. It has been a WONDERFUL experience and WILL CONTINUE to IMPROVE!

We will Promote PEACE OF MIND

1. As each congregant enters the facility, on Sunday mornings, we will conduct a mandatory temperature check so that everyone can have the peace of mind and enjoy the fullness of the fellowship experience.
2. Each congregant will be expected, upon entering the facility to sanitize their hands thoroughly.

3. Each congregant will then be given a card with several questions that must be answered. These questions are designed to help us responsibly consider the wisdom of in person participation that week.
4. Each congregant will then be directed to the check-in station and move on to enjoy the fullness of the Worship Experience.

We will Promote healthy hygiene practices and responsibility for one another

- **We will implement the mandatory use of cloth face coverings among staff and congregants.** Face coverings are most essential when social distancing is difficult but we feel for safety purposes we will have a mandatory policy to begin with. Cloth face coverings should not be placed on children younger than 2 years old, anyone who has trouble breathing or is unconscious, and anyone who is incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the cloth face covering without assistance. Cloth face coverings are meant to protect other people in case the wearer is unknowingly infected but does not have symptoms.
- We will install a “safety Shield” between the Preaching/Worship ministers and the congregants that will be a clear 8’ x 8’ barrier.
- We encourage all staff and congregants to maintain good hand hygiene, washing hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds upon entrance of the facilities.
- We have adequate supplies to support healthy hygiene behaviors, including soap, hand sanitizer with at least 60 percent alcohol (for those who can safely use hand sanitizer), tissues, and no-touch trash cans located at various stations throughout the facility.
- We encourage all staff and congregants to cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or use the inside of their elbow. Used tissues should be thrown in the trash and hands washed.
- Whenever soap and water are not readily available, hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol can be used.
- We have posted signs on how to stop the spread of COVID-19 and how to promote everyday protective measures, such as washing hands, covering coughs and sneezes, and properly wearing a face covering on the premises.

We will Intensify cleaning, disinfection, and ventilation

- We will Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces at least daily and shared objects in between uses.
- We have developed a schedule of increased, routine cleaning and disinfection.
- We will avoid use of items that are not easily cleaned, sanitized, or disinfected.
- We are taking measures to ensure safe and correct application of disinfectants and to keep them away from children.
- Once we offer multiple services, we will schedule services in a way as to allow time for cleaning and disinfecting high-touch surfaces between services.
- We can safely accommodate no more than 38 people in the Church facility at one time. Therefore, we will begin to implement a ROTATING SUNDAY program OR expand the 11:00AM service to 2 services and have an additional service starting at 1:00 PM. Congregants will choose a service through the website on a weekly basis. (These options

are contingent on the number of congregants that would plan to participate in the worship service in person)

We will Promote social distancing

- **We will take steps to limit the size of gatherings** in accordance with the guidance and directives of state and local authorities and subject to the protections of the First Amendment and any other applicable federal law.
- We will promote social distancing at services and other gatherings, ensuring that clergy, staff, volunteers and attendees at the services follow social distancing, as circumstances and faith traditions allow, to lessen their risk.
- Provide physical guides, such as tape on floors or walkways, signs and marked seating to ensure that staff and congregants stay at least 6 feet apart.

We are taking steps to minimize community sharing of worship materials

- **We will modify the methods used to receive financial contributions. We will have stationary collection baskets for those who wish to give in this way but will strongly urge the use of electronic methods of collection such as TEXT TO GIVE and/or PayPal.**
- We LOVE each other but ask that physical contact (e.g., shaking hands, hugging, or kissing) be limited among members out of respect for each other's personal health convictions.

Nursery/Childcare/Youth Service

- **We will begin this “PHASE ONE” process with a special children’s ministry block during each service. All children will have to be present with their parents during service.**

The details mentioned above pertain ONLY to our Sunday gatherings. Also, our different ministries (children, students, small groups such as Sunday School, etc.) are re-imagining what re-gathering will look like for their environments as well. We will continue to update you as we implement additional in person ministry opportunities!

This plan moves us forward safely and intentionally. What we do beyond this “PHASE ONE” plan will depend on numerous factors such as guidance from the medical community & community leaders, unforeseen variables, etc. As always, every decision we make will be covered in prayer as we try to be faithful to God and His direction.

There continues to be a wide array of diverse opinions on this issue, and the enemy will try to use it to divide us. Our prayer is that through this experience, we maintain the unity and peace in the Holy Spirit. We will have to work together and learn together to understand how to re-gather. It will not be easy, but if we walk through these uncharted waters together with humility, we believe we will come out the other side stronger and more in love with God and each other!!!

We ask two things of you to help us facilitate this plan of action!

1. We would love to get your input on this “PHASE ONE” plan so we ask that you take advantage of this opportunity and share your thoughts with us!
2. **PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU PLAN TO RETURN TO LIVE WORSHIP SERVICES RIGHT AWAY SO THAT WE CAN PLAN ACCORDINGLY! YOU HAVE THREE SERVICE OPTIONS TO SIGN UP FOR AND WE ASK THAT YOU DO THIS RIGHT AWAY SO THAT WE CAN PLAN ACCORDINGLY!**

***If you do not have access to the internet you can call our care line at (910) 594-4669 and we will get you and your family scheduled! Thank you for helping us make this a beautiful experience!**