

Dear New Direction Family,

As we're sure you are aware, there have not been any confirmed cases for COVID-19 (coronavirus) in San Bernardino County. However, NDC takes the health and welfare of our church family seriously.

We are making some adjustments to elements of our Sunday services, but **are not** canceling worship services. We are monitoring reports from the Department of Public Health and will continue to follow their recommendations for our area. Know that we are making the necessary adjustments and precautions to our services.

The approach we are taking is not driven by fear, but by our care and commitment to the safety and wellbeing of our church, neighbors and city. As Christians, our hope is in our Lord and therefore we can in faith steward our bodies wisely, serve one another, and love our neighbors.

Therefore, our approach is in three areas: **Safety, Care and Mission.**

SAFETY

Sunday Service Adjustments

- We remind everyone to strictly follow recommended guidelines for illness. Adults and children should not attend if they have any symptoms or fever within the previous 48 hours.
- If anyone has traveled to a region affected or has contact with potentially affected people, stay away from crowds for two weeks.
- During the greeting, please greet your friends and neighbors, but refrain from shaking hands. A friendly wave will do.
- All food handlers should wear gloves when they serve.
- Our operations crew will frequently disinfect surfaces such as doorknobs on Sundays.
- Children's hands will be washed as they enter classrooms.
- Staff and volunteer teams will wash their hands frequently and stay home if they are sick.
- If you are ill and can't attend but would like to give your tithes and offering, Remember, you can also give online using the Givelify App.
- Although our attendance size does not exceed the 250 person bench mark set by the governor, we can reduce the number of people in our 10:30 AM worship service if some of our membership will shift to the 8 AM worship service. Reducing crowd size will increase safety.

What You Can Do to Protect Yourself and Your Church Family

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the best ways to stop the spread of coronavirus include:

- Wash hands for 20 seconds and use hand sanitizer frequently.
- Cover coughs and sneezes with tissues and throw it away immediately.
- Stay home if you are feeling ill or traveled to infected areas.
- Stay 3-6 feet away from infected persons.



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CARE

We're sharing some ideas to encourage you to be informed in order to care for each other.

- Don't panic but prepare. Stay informed and thoughtfully consider how you might wisely prepare for this new health reality.
- Check in on friends, neighbors, co-workers and others. Offer care, encouragement and supplies to anyone shut in or affected.
- Remember to talk about your worries and concerns, but do not be overwhelmed or driven by them. God loves his children even in the midst of suffering.
- Pray each day with our around the clock prayer team every 3 hours beginning at 6AM. Join me (Bishop) daily at 6:00 AM for Bible reading, prayer and our ministerial staff at 6:20 AM for "Word for Today". (515) 604-9000 ID# 144491
- Reject anxiety even as there is growing concern and heightened awareness around the way this particular virus can spread.
- Proactively learn about what the risks are and are not at this point.
- Practice smart hygiene and help prevent the spread of germs for the sake of the wider community and public health.

MISSION

- Consider how this illness might impact you, your family, and your community, including those without access to health care or with weakened immune systems or respiratory problems.
- In addition, many of the poorest in our communities will be affected by economic hardship if businesses shut down or they cannot travel to work.
- As your neighbors express fear or confusion, this can be an opportunity to offer help and encouragement in the Lord. Some verses to refer to include: Isaiah 40:31, 53:1-6, Joshua 1:9, Matthew 6:25-34, Acts 10:38, Romans 8:38-39, Philipians 4:6-7, Psalm 34:4 and the well-known Psalm 23.

It is also wise to continue to listen to medical professionals and accurately adjust behavior to match the risk and reality of our public health so that we do not race ahead or contribute to panic, fear, or stockpiling, all of which damage public health in the long run.

RESOURCES

Link for [facts about COVID-19 from the CDC](#)

In His Service,
Bishop Raymond E Watts



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