



GREATER COMMUNITY TEMPLE COGIC

BISHOP BRANDON B. PORTER, SENIOR PASTOR

What Are We Going To Do??

In light of the crises within America and the World, the Coronavirus pandemic has pushed many in a state of panic and indecision. Even the church is in a catch 22 as to what to do regarding their worship services, funerals, weddings, and the safety of their Parishioners. It is not an easy decision no matter your choice. By some you will be hated if you do and by others, hated if you don't! To be or not to be is no longer the Question, but now the Answer!

At GCT we are Streaming Live, but we are also offering Social Distance Worship, only for those who are healthy and feel Personally Driven to attend during the Live Stream. The times are Sundays at 9:30 am at our East location 5151 Winchester Rd and 12:30 pm at our North Memphis location 924 N. Dunlap ...*Greater Community Temple...*

Social Distancing is spreading out in the auditorium... to avoid contact... Since the attendance will be smaller this can easily be done!! Trust me, we are not treating this matter lightly. We as others are very concerned about the well-being of all. Therefore, there are some services we have discontinued for now like Sunday nights and Wednesday noonday, and we are shortening our Sunday services to 90 minutes and making sure we sanitize the facilities before and after.

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, we are also asking our elderly and others with health challenges, to take extra precautions and stay at home if need be. However, my thoughts are if we completely shut down now, when will it ever be safe to reopen? Initially, they said schools would be out for 2 weeks, now they are saying for the rest of the school year!

This week on a conference call about COVID-19, Mayor Strickland said he was suggesting to the churches as they too have to do the same as local restaurants and other businesses. Advising to modify their services by closing their dining areas and do takeout or to-go orders. Also, the Mayor said he could not enforce closing worship for churches, because of the First Amendment. We told him that if some small churches were closed for 3 months they could never reopen. So, the Pastors asked him to oversee a deferred action from financial institutions for church mortgages, Utilities and payrolls for 3 months without penalties and interest!!

Undoubtedly some places have to stay open, for Food, Healthcare assistance, and churches need to be open for Spiritual guidance. Remember people are still dying and being hospitalized, from related and non-related issues. Churches have MINISTRIES to help families through these crises. I believe as in the days of old the Church has to remain a Sanctuary for people to run to!

We are Not Defiant, but we are Determined not to give up. We won't Panic, but we will continue to Pray, we will not walk in Fear but in Faith!

Yes, God still has the whole World in His Hands!

Prayerfully and humbly submitted,

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