



2224 Old Washington Road | Waldorf, MD 20601 | District Elder-Elect Chino L. Walters, Pastor

## OFFICIAL MEMORANDUM

**TO:** All members and visitors of Greater Morning Star Apostolic Church  
**FROM:** District Elder-Elect C.L. Walters, Senior Pastor  
**RE:** COVID-19 Church Reentry Initiative  
**DATE:** June 11, 2020

---

Grace and peace be unto you, my Father's children,

As many of you are aware, the Governor of the State of Maryland, Larry Hogan, lifted the stay-at-home order on May 15, 2020; this included places of worship to resume indoor events at 50 percent capacity. However, this implementation remains on a case-by-case basis, at both the county and city levels. On May 14, 2020, the Charles County Board of Commissioners voted to defer reopening Charles County, Maryland, which Greater Morning Star Apostolic Church resides in, to May 29, 2020, in support of their phase one reentry initiative.

After much prayer and consultation with our executive board, I have decided to implement a three-phase COVID-19 Church Reentry Initiative that will begin on Sunday, June 14, 2020, and conclude on Saturday, July 11, 2020. However, the proposed dates can and may be modified depending on various factors. Nonetheless, we are praying and expecting to return to "normal" soon.

Let us continue to be prayerful and steadfast as we navigate through these unprecedented times. My commitment to God and the wellbeing of His people whom I serve is paramount, and I will continue to do so with biblical faith and wisdom, not reckless abandonment.

Attached to this memorandum, you will find a comprehensive outline of what to expect in the coming weeks. May the peace of God be upon you.

In His Service,

District Elder-Elect C.L. Walters, Senior Pastor  
Greater Morning Star Apostolic Church of Waldorf, MD

Sunday School: 10:00 AM  
Sunday Worship: 11:30 AM  
Sunday Evening: 4:30 PM (4th Sundays)  
Wednesday Bible Empowerment: 7:30 PM  
Saturday Corporate Prayer: 8:30 AM



## **COVID-19 CHURCH REENTRY INITIATIVE:**

The purpose of this three-phase church reentry initiative is to safely and gradually increase the attendance capacity of our facility while monitoring the current COVID-19 conditions in Charles County, Maryland. This initiative will allow church officials to actively assess the effects of the reentry process and make any necessary modifications moving forward.

Prior to the launch of the COVID-19 Church Reentry Initiative, all members will be sent a short survey via text message or email to aid in establishing a congregational perspective on the reentry initiative.

## **REGULARLY SCHEDULED SERVICES:**

We will continue to have our regularly scheduled services, and they will be live-streamed (except for corporate prayer) until further notice. However, some modified efforts will phase out and return to normal operation by the conclusion of the reentry initiative. Below are the current regularly scheduled (modified) services:

- Adult Sunday School: 10:00 AM (live-streamed)
- Sunday Morning Worship: 11:30 AM (live-streamed)
- Wednesday Bible Empowerment: 7:30 PM – 8:30 PM (lived-streamed)
- Saturday Corporate Prayer: 8:30 AM (conference call)
- (1<sup>st</sup> Thursdays) Virtual Fellowship: 7:30 PM (Zoom conference)
- (2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Fridays) The Youth Gathering: 7:30 PM (Zoom conference)

## **PRIOR TO ATTENDING ANY SERVICES:**

If you or anyone in your household is sick or is experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, please stay home. If you or anyone in your household has tested positive or been exposed to COVID-19 within the last three weeks, please stay home.

- Consider any pre-existing conditions that you or someone in your household may have that would make them high risk for contracting or combating COVID-19 prior to deciding to attend worship service. Such conditions include, but are not limited to: asthma,

diabetes, heart disease, those 60 years of age or older, and those with a weakened immune system.

- All attendees should use good hygiene practices before attending worship services and also wash their hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds prior to entering the sanctuary.

#### **PRECAUTIONS AND SOCIAL DISTANCING PROCEDURES AND GUIDELINES:**

- All attendees entering the sanctuary (except those under 2 years of age) will be required to wear a face-covering upon entry, also to be worn during service. Limited masks and gloves will be available for your convenience.
- Members leading in worship are not required to wear masks while rendering services, such as: leading praise and worship, giving announcements, praying, reading scripture, preaching, etc.
- Hand sanitizer use is required when entering the building. We will have multiple hand sanitizer stations available for your convenience.
- Our ushers will seat all attendees to a designated seating area in the sanctuary during all services.
- Avoid personal contact as much as possible during all services.
- There will not be an offering processional. Attendees should prepare, as much as possible, to give electronically via our website, PayPal, or CashApp. If you are unable to give electronically, you can give your offering to the financial secretary in the back office.
- Bathroom use will be monitored by an usher to prohibit gathering at the bathroom door, as well as to ensure the bathroom has been wiped down after each use.

#### **AFTER ATTENDING ANY SERVICE:**

- Please limit all unnecessary lingering and exit the sanctuary as expeditiously as possible at the conclusion of services. Should you desire to meet with the pastor, please visit the church website ([www.gmswaldorf.org](http://www.gmswaldorf.org)) to schedule an appointment.
- Please take all personal belonging with you. Anything left behind will be discarded for sanitary purposes.
- Please discard all issued masks and gloves in the designated trash can at the front door.

- In the unlikely event that a congregant or some individual(s) that attended one of our church services does test positive for COVID-19, a public notification will be made via our website and all social media pages, including corresponding dates, and attempted contact will be made to all attendees who were present during that time.

**LIMITATION OF LIABILITY:** COVID-19 is highly contagious and is known to spread mainly from person-to-person contact. By attending the Greater Morning Star Apostolic Church of Waldorf, you agree to abide by the procedures established by the church to protect attendees and staff. You voluntarily assume the risk that you and/or your family may be exposed to or infected by COVID-19, either at the church, in the church worship service, Sunday School, or any other church service or gathering. You agree to assume all the risks of attendance and participation for you and your family, and you waive any liability against the church and any other parties.

#### **PHASE I: 6/14/20 – 6/27/20:**

All scheduled services for the week will operate under limited building capacity following the below operational procedures and guidelines:

- **6/14/20 – 6/20/20: Members with last names between (A – L), including essential personnel,** are permitted for reentry to the building for the entire week, at a capacity of 35 persons; visitors are welcomed.
- **6/21/20 – 6/27/20: Members with last names between (M – Z), including essential personnel,** are permitted for reentry to the building for the entire week, at a capacity of 35 persons; visitors are welcomed.

*\*(NOTE) This includes Sunday morning worship and Bible Empowerment ONLY.*

#### **PHASE II: 6/28/20 – 7/4/20:**

All scheduled services for the week will operate under limited building capacity following the below operational procedures and guidelines:

- **All Members and visitors, including essential personnel,** are permitted for reentry to the building for the entire week, at a capacity of 35 persons.
- All members and visitors are welcome to **onsite** Saturday Corporate Prayer. Prayer time is restricted to 8:30 AM – 9:00 AM.

*\*(NOTE) This includes Sunday morning worship, Bible Empowerment, and Saturday Corporate Prayer ONLY.*

**PHASE III: 7/5/20 – 7/11/20:**

All scheduled services for the week will operate under limited building capacity following the below operational procedures and guidelines:

- **All Members and visitors, including essential personnel,** are permitted for reentry to the building for the entire week, at a capacity of 35 persons.
- All members and visitors are welcome to **onsite** Adult Sunday School from 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM.
- All members and visitors are welcome to **onsite** Saturday Corporate Prayer. Prayer time is restricted to 8:30 AM – 9:00 AM.

***\*(NOTE) This includes Sunday morning worship, Adult Sunday school, Bible Empowerment, and Saturday Corporate Prayer ONLY.***