"...where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is Freedom."

2 Corinthians 3:17

Service Time: Sundays at 10 am

Pastor Mark's Remarks

I am so happy to say that we are resuming our Sunday worship and other weekday ministry gatherings at Freedom Church as of May $31^{\rm st}$. Student Ministry will resume on Wednesday, June $3^{\rm rd}$, and Celebrate Recovery will resume meeting on Thursday, June $4^{\rm th}$.

We are blessed to see the COVID-19 numbers remaining very stable for Baldwin County at this time. But we will continue to keep a close eye on the situation, and we will make adjustments as needed. We are committed to keeping you and your family safe throughout this pandemic. To that end, we are doing several things to protect all of the Freedom family:

- The building is being thoroughly cleaned each week.
- We will observe social distancing guidelines and will refrain from hugs and handshakes.
- In the worship room, we will utilize only every-other row, and we will keep at least three empty seats between each family unit.
- All in attendance will wear masks while inside the church building (so be sure to bring your mask). If you forget your mask, we will have extras on-hand for you.
- Services will be abbreviated.
- No offering baskets or communion plates will be passed around during worship.
- There will be no altar calls and no preschool or children's classes (for at least the month of June).
- If you have been recently symptomatic (cough, fever, etc.), or if you have been exposed to someone in the past week who has COVID-19, please stay home that Sunday.
- If you do not yet feel comfortable attending worship, or if you are in a higher risk category, we encourage you to continue to tune-in online.

I realize that people have very differing opinions about such things as wearing masks and social distancing. To that point I will say two things. First, we are seeing in numerous countries around the world that social distancing and mask-wearing are critical in defeating COVID-19. That is a simple fact. So regardless of what our neighbors are doing, we will seek to raise the bar at Freedom. Secondly, I want Philippians 2:4 to be our theme verse in battling COVID-19. Paul said, "Don't be interested only in your own life, but care about the lives of others too." We take these precautions because we want to protect the lives and welfare of those around us.

We all look forward to the day when this pandemic is over. As we each pray and do our part, we will get through this season together. I look forward to seeing you soon!

You Are Loved! Mark

- May 31: Worship Resumes (10:00)
- June 3: Student Ministry Resumes (6:00)
- June 4: Celebrate Recovery Resumes (7:00)
- June 7: 1st Day of Worship for Freedom Church Nigeria
- June 14: Communion
- June 21: Father's Day

Nigeria Church-Plant Update



The current pandemic caused a change in plans for how the new Freedom Church in Nigeria would be planted. Originally, we planned to use a week of crusade meetings at night and feeding ministries each day as a launching point for the church. COVID-19, combined with government lockdowns and the arrival of the rainy season at the end of May, made that plan impossible. But God's plans still prevail. Without any kickoff event, 21 people have already signed-up to help plant the church in a temporary rented building. They will begin having weekly worship gatherings on Sunday, June 7th! Please pray for Pastor Isaiah, Pastor Samuel, and for the new

church-planting team as they begin this new work. Our hope is that we can still do the crusade and feeding ministry in late fall or winter (when the rainy season ends).

Can a Church Grow During a Pandemic?

For the past three months, church leaders in countless churches have been trying to figure out how to see their churches simply survive this pandemic. But God's ways and plans are so far beyond ours. As an example, you, the Freedom Family, have taken advantage of this unique situation and used it reach lots of new people. Because of your invitations and words of encouragement, we now have FAR more people than ever tuning in for our worship services every week. Many of them are people who say that they would not have dared to walk into a church building. But in the midst of a pandemic, you invited them to worship online with you...and they did! So thank you for being faithful witnesses, even when you couldn't go out and socialize. Keep up the good work!

Ways to Stay Connected with Freedom

On days when you can't join us at Freedom on a Sunday morning, we encourage you to continue to tune-in live to our worship and let us hear from you on Facebook. You can also join us on one of our other two platforms: through our website (myfreedomchurch.net) or by searching for Freedom Church Baldwin County on YouTube. And if you have a smart television, it's nice to put the service on your TV screen using YouTube.



New Giving Options

We have recently added PayPal as one of your online giving options. If you visit our website (www.myfreedomchurch.net), click the Online Giving button, and you will be given the option to give through PayPal or by ACH draft from your account or by debit or credit card. You can give a tithe/offering to the general fund or designate a gift for the new church plant in Nigeria. And you can do this as a one-time gift or set up your giving on a recurring basis. Thank you for your continued generosity in this challenging season!

Celebrate Recovery

Celebrate Recovery will resume meeting on-campus at Freedom Church on Thursday, June 4th, at 7:00 pm. Initially, in an attempt to safeguard everyone, we will NOT be able to provide childcare or to have dinner together. We look forward to resuming those parts of CR as soon as circumstances allow for them. We hope that you can join us soon on Thursday evenings. (We do ask that you help us to observe the six-foot social-distancing guidelines and to protect all others in attendance by wearing a mask while inside the building.)



Musical Notes from Tony

It will be nice seeing some 'real' faces in the sanctuary again! Thank you for all the encouraging notes and comments over the past couple of months; they helped more than you can imagine!

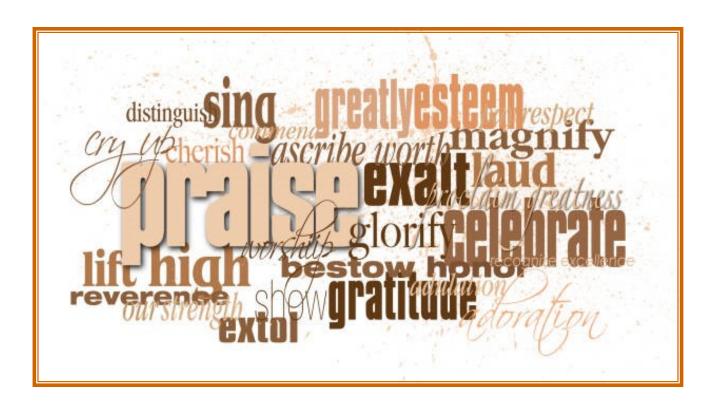
I will continue to perform 'solo' for a while as we ease back into a live service setting. Our hope is to be able to add some of our other outstanding band folks as we better figure out how to space out and keep everyone as safe from virus spread as possible. I have missed seeing and playing with our wonderful musicians, and I know you have missed seeing and hearing them, too. What a wonderful day it will be when we can see and hear someone else playing music on Sunday morning!

Last, for the time being, I would ask everyone who joins us in the church on Sunday mornings to sing along - but not at 'full blast'! We will be wearing masks to help prevent spreading anything, but we don't want to force air out any harder than our normal speaking voice. I know it sounds strange, since I normally tell you to 'sing it loud!', but that time will come later!

God loves you, and so do I!







Church-wide Bible Reading Plan

June 1-6: Ruth 1-4; 1 Samuel 1-2

June 7-13:1 Samuel 3-9June 14-20:1 Samuel 10-16June 21-27:1 Samuel 17-23June 28—July 4:1 Samuel 24-30

Freedom Staff

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Celebrate