

MICRO CHURCH FAQ



Ever since unveiling Northstar Pulaski's call to a micro church model two months ago, we have been inviting people to freely ask questions about this new direction, which sounds radical to anyone who has grown up in a traditional church model. We have taken the most common questions and put them in this FAQ. We hope this will help you gain more understanding about what this shift will look like for us, how the benefits can far outweigh the sacrifices, and more importantly how this will serve as a catalyst for our spiritual growth as disciples who make disciples:

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DEFINITIONS

What is a church?

The local church is a gathering of those who believe in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, who are committed to meet regularly for worship, teaching, fellowship, and prayer, and are sent on

mission to make disciples of all people. All of this is done under the authority of the head of the Church, Jesus Christ, and under the authority of Biblically qualified leadership

What Is A Micro Church?

Definitions can vary depending on the ministry, but for us, we define a micro church as -- followers of Jesus who gather regularly for worship, teaching, prayer, fellowship in community, and live on mission to make disciples of Jesus.

What Is A Disciple?

Someone who is following Jesus, being changed by Jesus, and is committed to the mission of Jesus

What Is Disciple Making?

Entering into relationships to help people trust and follow Jesus, which includes the whole process from acquaintance, to conversion, through maturation and multiplication

VISION

Why Are We Doing This?

There are multiple reasons:

1. The larger our Sunday morning worship has grown, the more difficult it has become for us to:
 - o shepherd everyone well (Hebrews 13:17)
 - o equip each other to use their gifts (Ephesians 4:11-12)
 - o maintain unity (Ephesians 4:13), and
 - o grow in spiritual maturity on an individual level (Colossians 1:9-10)
2. This will still be corporate worship, it will just seem different (but those who were with Northstar in the early days, when we only averaged 30-40 people on Sundays, will quickly recognize the similarities and benefits)
3. It will provide more opportunities for everyone to serve with an “all hands on deck” mentality
4. It will cultivate deeper relationships between everyone in the micro church
5. It is an ancient, as well as biblical, model that is still flourishing throughout the globe, and other parts of the U.S.
6. It will serve as a catalyst for multiplication and disciple making
7. It will serve as a filter to separate those who truly want to be a disciple of Jesus and those who tend to simply go through the motions

Why Not Just Watch The Livestream By Myself?

Well, technically you can. And biblically speaking, where two or more are gathered in the name of Jesus, He will be with them (Matthew 18:20). However, it simply is not the same!

There is a reason the early church consistently engaged in fellowship, the Apostles' teaching, breaking of bread, and prayers in community together. We are not meant to live in isolation. In fact, being a part of the Church is not an option for the follower of Jesus.

Won't This Split Our Church Up?

We are called to be disciples of Jesus who make disciples of Jesus. We certainly don't view this shift as a split. On the contrary, we believe this will strengthen the relationships between the people committed to Jesus and His Bride, the church.

We also believe this will put us in a position to multiply as, by God's grace and power, we make more and more disciples of Jesus.

What If It Becomes Cliquish?

The reality is we are naturally drawn to the people we know, and as much we don't want to admit it, cliques already exist. They are simply masked by the larger group of people gathered together. Therefore, the tendency to form cliques is a reality we must consistently fight against.

We need and will continue to need constant reminders this is not about me, we, or us. It is about cultivating communities where people from all walks of life can gather under the name of Jesus in authentic community.

If we are spiritually healthy, we will grow. If we grow, then multiplication must occur in order for it to stay spiritually healthy. The continued growth individually and corporately will also help fight against exclusivity in our micro churches.

What If I Don't Like The People?

If your focus is on what Jesus has done for you on the cross, then personal preferences won't really matter. Assume the best in people and extend grace.

What About My Kids?

This is the million dollar question. We are grateful our church is filled with young families who have kids of all ages running all over the place, and we love them dearly.

Our vision is for our kids to worship in community and with their families each week. This radical sounding idea may take time and patience for you to fully understand, but our prayer is that you give the Lord a chance to pleasantly surprise you.

We agree with the following quote from a house church leader in San Francisco: "It is so important for us to be comfortable with the messiness. We are going to view kids as a burden only if we are clinging to our gatherings being professional and well done." - *We Are Church*

One of our deep desires is for these micro churches to become a place where our families can flourish. A place where single parents can lean in on each other and other adults for help, and a place where parents and kids alike can worship freely and grow in their relationship with the Lord.

With this being said, we are always learning new ways to intentionally engage our kids, teach and show them the gospel of Jesus Christ, and raise them up to know and love Jesus. This includes reading them stories, asking them questions, and allowing them to participate as much as possible through the entire experience.

LOGISTICS

What Is The Rhythm?

On the first Sunday of every month, we will be together for an “all family worship” gathering to worship together that focuses on sharing stories, worshipping in song and prayer, and other creative elements.

On the 2nd, 3rd, 4th, & 5th Sundays, smaller gatherings of people (between 10-30 adults) will meet in homes throughout our community to worship together. The message will be streamed online via our website, Facebook, YouTube, phone and TV apps*.

Following the streamed part of the worship, you’ll have a chance to debrief the message together.

Each site will have dedicated hosts and leaders to help you get acquainted and feel welcomed from the moment you step inside.

How Do I Set Up The Livestream?

We have two resources that will help you figure out how to stream from your house.

1. We have a church TV app so if you have smart TV, you can search for our app and stream straight through the TV. You can also stream on your TV through our YouTube or FaceBook page.
2. We also have a dedicated ‘tech’ team to help you with the tools and training you will need to get set up each Sunday.

How Do They Grow?

Each micro church will launch with 2 hosts and 2 leaders. This serves several purposes:

1. It immediately alleviates pressure on one family to ‘always’ host and/or ‘always’ lead
2. It is immediately set up for future leadership as it grows or there is another need to step in when other leaders need to miss
3. It follows our leadership philosophy as a church, which is to give the ministry away (ie make disciples)

Micro churches will range in size from 10-30 adults (adults meaning people in worship...2nd grade and up). Once an MC gets to 80% capacity, 20 adults consistently, and/or they have been meeting for a year, they will need to ‘multiply’ into at least one more micro church.

What about social distancing and masks?

In Romans 14:18-21, Paul encourages believers to avoid anything that would cause someone else to stumble and to, “...pursue what makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding.”

Therefore, during this current season, we are asking everyone to wear masks in their micro churches. Our hospitality team will be providing each micro church site with disposable masks (for those who do not have one), hand sanitizer.

Hosts are encouraged to sanitize well used areas at the site before and after weekly worship.

What about giving?

There are still three ways to continue giving financially to Northstar:

1. You can mail in a check or have your bank mail a check via online bill pay
2. You can pay online via our phone app via Subsplash giving
3. Each micro church site will have lockboxes to physically collect offerings each week

What about the Lord's Supper?

Each week micro churches will participate in the Lord's Supper. This special time together will be facilitated within each micro church environment.

CONNECTION IN A MICRO CHURCH

Where Do I Go? How Do I Find A Micro Church?

If you are not sure how or where to get connected into a micro church, you can download the app (click on the 'connect' tab, click on the 'micro church' button, and then click the 'connect with one of our micro churches' button). We will follow up with you shortly to help you and your family get connected.

If you're not sure where else to go, you're always welcome to come to our office (233 Broad St Dublin). That is where our livestream will be, and so it will also serve as a micro church.

What Do I Need To Host?

All you need is a desire to host, internet speed fast enough for the livestream, and a space large enough for at least 6-8 people.

If you have a desire to host, please fill out the MC host interest form located on our app

How Do I Get Connected In A Micro Church?

There is an online form available on our app and website you can fill out to help get you connected into one of our MCs. You can also email us at office@northstarpulaski.org for more information.