

“Behold, I will do a new thing, now it shall spring forth; shall you not know it?”
(Isaiah 43:19)

Dear Church Family,

As we step into the month of May, we sense the Lord leading us forward, not just in activity, but in alignment. God is always at work, and there are moments when He gently shifts things to bring us into something deeper, stronger, and more connected to His purpose.

We want to begin by saying thank you to everyone who has stepped forward in faith through the missions Faith Promise. Your generosity is part of what allows us to reach beyond our walls and be part of what God is doing around the world. If you haven't had a chance to participate yet, there is still time. You can pick up a pledge card in the foyer, fill it out, and place it in the offering basket. Every step of faith matters, and together we are investing in something eternal.

This Sunday, May 3, we look forward to a special time together as all congregations gather for our unified service and communion at 11:00 AM. These moments are always meaningful as we come together as one body in the presence of the Lord. Coffee fellowship will follow, giving us time to connect and enjoy one another.

On Sunday, May 10, we celebrate Mother's Day. We will have our 9:30 AM Spanish bilingual service with English translation, followed by our 11:00 AM English bilingual service with Arabic translation (available on screens and headphones only). We look forward to honoring all the mothers in our church family, and a gift will be given to each mom present. Please note that there will be no coffee fellowship that day as we give space for families to celebrate together.

Beginning Sunday, May 17, we will move into our new Sunday timing. The Spanish bilingual service with English translation will begin at 9:00 AM. At 10:45 AM, we will begin Arabic worship and communion. Communion has been a longstanding part of the Arabic service culture at Maranatha, carried over through the years as part of its life and rhythm. This time will be open across our church family at Maranatha for those who would like to partake as we gather and prepare our hearts together.

At 11:00 AM, our English bilingual service with Arabic translation (available on screens and headphones only) will begin, where we gather in one place, sharing the same presence, the same message, and moving together as one body. As we gather at 11:00 AM, we step into a continuation of what has already begun, joining in the flow of worship already taking place. After the service, we will gather for one hour of coffee and fellowship together.

Our unified service, which takes place on the first Sunday of each month at 11:00 AM, will continue as a special time when all congregations come together, followed by a coffee fellowship after the service.

We are also making intentional adjustments to our Tuesday night Mega Ministry to strengthen each area of the church. The youth are now meeting on the 3rd floor of the 9731 building. The Spanish Bible study has moved to Room 1 East.

At the same time, as we move into this new Sunday structure, we are taking a purposeful step to continue strengthening the Arabic ministry during the week. The Arabic gathering will now take place in the sanctuary, with a focused time of worship, prayer, preaching, and Bible study. This provides a fuller opportunity to grow and be strengthened together in the Word and in the presence of the Lord. All other groups will continue meeting in their regular locations.

Our Better Together Women's Ministry is also looking forward to a special time together. The outing to the Chicago Botanic Garden has been rescheduled to Saturday, May 23. It's shaping up to be a wonderful and refreshing day, so be sure to sign up in the foyer if you'd like to attend.

The youth will be hosting a Bake Sale fundraiser on Sunday, May 31st, following the services. All proceeds will go towards helping the youth attend summer camp. We need donations of baked goods, either homemade or store-bought. Please sign up in the foyer if you're able to contribute. If you have a dessert to donate, kindly bring it to the church foyer before the service you plan to attend on that Sunday. Thank you for your support!

As we move forward, let's stay open to what the Lord is doing. These are not just changes in schedule, they are steps of alignment. And as we walk together in unity and faith, we trust that God will continue to lead us into all that He has prepared.

With love,
Rev. Nader Kawar
Senior Pastor

P.S. Please see the attached May calendar for an overview of this month's events.