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## UPCOMING EVENTS AND NEWS

**FOLLOWING HOLY SPIRIT IN DECIDING IF A PROPHETIC WORD IS FOR THE CHURCH** — Monday, Feb 19, 6:00-to-8:30 pm

*Join us in the office building for this free mini-workshop by Black Hills School of Supernatural Ministry on partnering with Holy Spirit. This month we will focus on knowing if a prophetic word is to be shared with the church and if so, how to do so effectively.*

**HARP + BOWL (WORSHIP AND PRAYER)** — Tuesday, February 20, 6:30-to-7:30 pm

*Join us in the Office Building every other Tuesday night as we mix prophetic praise and worship with the prayers of the saints.*

**ENGAGEMENT PARTY** — Saturday, February 24, 1:00-to-3:00 pm

*Join us at the Gilchrist residence (2946 Tower Ct., Rapid City) as we celebrate the engagement of Pastor Shawn Shoup to his beloved Kimberly. Charcuterie and dessert will be served. You can RSVP on the Facebook event page.*

**26TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION** — Sunday, March 3

*No one throws a party like Destiny! We love to celebrate the goodness of God, and this year will be no exception. Party hats, blowers, and a whole morning of celebration!*

*Our special guest is Pastor Justin Manzey. Justin has been in ministry for 33 years. He and his wife Kim have two adult children. Justin has traveled throughout the world speaking on leadership and church development, focusing on getting churches and leaders healthy. He is the Founder/President of Latitude Ministries and has worked with churches and church networks locally and globally in over 38 countries.*

*Pastor Justin has a master's degree in Church Leadership. He also has his Doctorate in Philosophy of Theological Ecclesiology. He is an author of 8 books on leadership and church culture, along with several devotional books. Pastor Justin and Kim currently are senior pastors at Family Worship Center in Watertown SD*

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## An Important Note From Our Church Council

At the end of 2023, we invited our denomination's financial team to come and audit our facilities and finances. We, the church Council, found the visit and review very insightful and helpful. Foursquare gave us a list of some organizational shifts we need to make. Some will be required for us to comply more fully with IRS and Foursquare regulations. And others are recommendations.

Please cover our team in prayer as we work through implementing these changes, in phases, throughout this year and the next. The Council manages many prayerful decisions concerning our facilities and finances every month, and we need the wisdom of Christ.

One of the shifts we need to make immediately is the collection of funds for individuals and/or specific ministries. Per instruction from our financial review:

*According to IRS Publication 526 on rules governing the tax deductibility of charitable gifts, contributions earmarked to individuals are expressly not tax deductible. Allowing donations to pass through the church without control of those funds resting at the church violates this regulation and potentially jeopardizes the tax-exempt status of the Foursquare denomination.*

*The church must not receive funds designated for an individual [or a specific ministry]. The church must receive funds from either the general fund or a fund set up by the Church Council. Funds may be disbursed out of these donor-restricted funds at the direction of the church Council and not a donor.*

**WHAT THIS MEANS: Effective immediately, Destiny can no longer accept checks written or directed to a specific person or ministry.** I.e., a check written to "Destiny Foursquare Church" with the request/memo for it to go towards "Pastor Suzy." Another example would be a check written to "Destiny" with a memo to have it go towards a specific ministry, such as "Via Love International."

As an alternative, you will see and hear Destiny collecting offerings, such as on our Missional Giving Sundays, towards our MISSIONAL FUND. We will share about *Via Love International*, as an example, and then collect money towards the MISSIONAL FUND. The Council can then decide to fund *Via Love* from that offering. According to the IRS, the Council, not the donor, must direct the funds. As another example, Destiny can share about a family in need and then ask for giving towards our established BENEVOLENCE FUND. The Council can then decide to give the totality of that offering to said family.

Lastly, suppose you want to continue to support Judah and Candace's church plant, for example. In that case, you must give to their ministry directly, not through Destiny. If you want to bless someone in our congregation, you must do it directly and not process it through the church.

Another change we are making **at the end of February** is **discontinuing the use of PayPal and Tithely as digital giving options.** It was recommended that we narrow down our focus to one option. Per the financial review, *"Using more than one system is cumbersome and more arduous for the bookkeeper to reconcile. We recommend the church consolidate its electronic giving options to one merchant provider to simplify the process."*

Giving digitally at [www.mydestiny.family/give](http://www.mydestiny.family/give), via text messaging, and through the Church Center app will continue to be available options as they are all processed through the same secure organization that we use to manage donations.

Thank you for your understanding and grace as we navigate change.

**THE DESTINY COUNCIL**