



COVID-19

BERKELEY MT. ZION UPDATE



BERKELEY MT. ZION M.B.C.

REVEREND BRIAN D. HUNTER, PASTOR-TEACHER
EMPOWERING THE PEOPLE OF GOD THROUGH MINISTRY BEYOND SUNDAY MORNING

March 19, 2020

To the Berkeley Mt. Zion Family,

GOD IS STILL ON THE THRONE! The global spread of the coronavirus, or COVID-19, has become a central topic of discussion and concern for all of us. But as we learned on Wednesday, during online 90 Minute Experience, we choose faith over fear. We deliberately and intentionally decide to speak words of faith and not of fear. For you and your family, this coronavirus crisis has highlighted things we've taken for granted and forced us to rethink how we go about the common practices of our daily lives. For the church, this global pandemic has caused us to consider alternative ways to approach what have long been comforting traditions. The Lord is with us through this valley of the shadow of death. **WE WILL COME THROUGH THIS!**

SUSPENSION OF IN-PERSON CHURCH GATHERINGS ON CAMPUS

Based on the recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), remember I have made the difficult decision to **suspend all in-person church gatherings (meetings, small groups, rehearsals, services, etc.) until further notice.** The health and well-being of you and your family is our top priority. The "news" changes from hour-to-hour. But be advised, "trouble won't last always!" Now, to be clear: while we will not gather in person, we will still can gather **ONLINE** as I will post a message every Wednesday and Sunday via our website and Facebook page. Of course we prefer to be together at this time, but I am grateful for technology that allows us to continue to receive the Word of God. Even Jesus didn't live in a TGIF world: Twitter, Google, Instagram and Facebook! I want you to faithfully join me every week as I continue to share the Word of God. You won't want to miss it!

FOCUS ON OUR SENIORS

I want to ensure our seniors that we are thinking of you during this time. We do not want our seniors to feel isolated during this health crisis. **We have learned that nursing homes and senior citizen assisted living facilities are requesting that we do NOT visit our senior loved ones.** I/we will be making phone calls, in a focused effort to keep our senior saints who may not be as familiar with online technology, connected to the family. I thank God for those of you who have already reached out to many of our seniors.

WAYS TO GIVE

Whether you worship on your phone, tablet, iPad or home TV, **PLEASE REMEMBER TO SUPPORT YOUR CHURCH FINANCIALLY** during this time. We want to remain faithful to our financial

commitments and obligations. Though some things have stalled around us, we must keep our finances consistent and steady. We have always recognized that giving is as much apart of worship as the Word and our songs of praise. There are several giving options available to you during this unique season. Please choose what suits you best to support of our ministry through tithes and offerings. Your tithes and offerings can be:

1. Mailed to our Administrative Office; 1400 8th St., Berkeley, CA 94710. Please remember to include your first and last name, as well as your return address and mobile phone number, so we can allocate your donation accurately. **PLEASE DO NOT MAIL CASH**
2. You can text your giving to (510) 924-0042.
3. Via our website at www.berkeleymtzionmbc.org.
4. Also, feel free to drop your tithes and offerings envelope in the church mailbox located in front of the church on the left hand side, which will be monitored by staff daily. **PLEASE DO NOT DROP CASH IN THE MAILBOX.**

DURING THIS TIME REMEMBER:

- Don't be afraid to make adjustments;
- Make phone calls, post, text, tweet, but stay close to family and friends, virtually;
- Use wisdom in deciding what's best for you and your family;
- Be good to one another; and
- Keep us all lifted in prayer.

Always remember: there has never been a storm that did not end. This storm will end.

In His Hands,

Pastor Brian D. Hunter