



# BERKELEY MT. ZION M.B.C.

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

March 6, 2020

To the Berkeley Mt. Zion Family and Berkeley Community

People have asked about the response of the Church to the Coronavirus epidemic capturing the world's attention. So, knowing that preparation is always wise, I would like to offer these guidelines.

First, I would like to point out that common health etiquette is always appropriate. By covering your mouth when you cough and regularly washing your hands with soap and water, you not only protect yourself, but others as well. This is especially important for our staff and volunteers that work with seniors and children.

If you believe you may have an illness that is contagious, one of the most important things you can do to safeguard the health of others is to stay home. We understand that you consider Sunday church to be one of the most important aspects of your life; however, if you have symptoms of coughing, sneezing, fever, nausea, achiness, or any flu-like symptoms, we would prayerfully ask that you stay home and go to the doctor if needed.

Based on current information and official guidance, there is no need to cancel Sunday services or any other church activities. We will, however, refrain from asking congregants to shake hands, high-five, or hug your neighbor. Instead, we will simply say hello (or do an elbow bump!). We will aggressively monitor the situation as it develops, and we will take whatever measures necessary at the appropriate time.

I would encourage us to pray for the speedy recovery of all who have been impacted by the Coronavirus. Also, pray for our healthcare workers and all of those on the front lines of this unexpected battle. They are tasked with a serious responsibility, one that is very close to the heart of Jesus.

There has never been a storm that did not end—and this too shall pass. I am confident in this, that all of us, members of the body of Christ, will care for one another. It is what we do.

In Health,

Pastor Brian D. Hunter