

UNION

Baptist Church
IN THE VILLAGE OF HARLEM

Organized in 1898 by Dr. George H. Sims, Sr.



Reverend Brian D. Scott, ThM, Pastor • Deacon Charles Cook, Chairman, Deacons' Ministry • Trustee Pamela C. Wright, Chairperson, Trustees' Ministry

Dear friend, I pray that you may enjoy good health and that all may go well with you, even as your soul is getting along well. (III John 1:2)

Greetings Fellow Laborers In Christ,

I greet you with the joy of the Lord, our very present help in trouble. I am writing to remind you foremost that we are a people of faith, "For God has not given us the spirit of fear, but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind." We must not fear, we must trust. It is not enough to just believe in God, we must believe God. This means we must trust His word. Yet, trust does not absolve us of duty. We will continue to pray to God and partner with God until the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic is past.

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation by prayer and petition with thanksgiving, present your requests to God." (Philippians 4:7)

Practicing these will give us peace during this pandemic. We will not panic, we will pray, bind together in Christian love, and trust the same God who has kept Union for nearly 122 years.

How will we partner with God to meet the needs around us and protect the community of faith?

Union Baptist Church will heed the advisements of our state and city officials so that everyone is protected from COVID-19. Guidelines governing public gatherings are changing everyday. As I write this letter the CDC is discouraging groups from meeting in numbers that exceed 50. However, there are some services that we as a church have to accommodate such as, funerals and offering meals to the needy, which is more of a priority with schools being closed. Our feeding program may need to expand based on the needs of our community during this time. As Pastor and people we are committed to being the center where the Lord's people may come and find bread. This can only be possible with your prayers and support.

Action steps we must take:

- Members with compromised respiratory issues are urged to stay home to eliminate risk of contraction.
 1. Worship online via live-streaming.

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2. Use online giving or text-to-give.
 3. Reach out to your family deacon who can assist you with the suggestions above.
- If you are sick, stay home and follow the directions above to stay connected to your family of faith.
 - Because I love our seniors and the affects of the virus are more severe for this population when/if you come out wherever you go practice "social distancing." (This is hard for me, but I too must discipline myself!)
 1. Keep a 6 foot distance between you and others.
 2. No touching, hugging, or kissing.
 3. Refrain from usual greetings and expressions of affection.
 - Wash your hands frequently.

Actions steps the Church must take:

- We are still the church no matter where we are. If we are unable to gather at the physical location stream the services online. Worship and word will continue to go forth and be offered virtually at Union Baptist Church.
- Contingency plans for communication are underway in the event that worship on- site is no longer an option.
- All ministry meetings and church fellowship outings are suspended on the UBC campus.
- Stay connected to your family deacon and use the church website to stay abreast of any changes.
- Deacon Veronica Jackson will continue to give "reliable" updates on how we can protect ourselves, the most current data on cases in our state, and best practices.
- Your support is more important now than ever. We must continue to honor the Lord with our tithes and offerings. The Lord's work must be supported by the Lord's people. Needs are great and growing around us. Three people met me in the vestibule of the church Sunday evening within 30 minutes looking for food and other resources. Please use online giving, the text to give, or contact your deacon to make sure the Lord's church and work does not suffer.

Finally, I have covered each of you in believing prayer and I am confident that He will keep what has been committed to His hand.

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Now may the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, equip you with everything fully for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to him be glory forever and every. Amen. Hebrews 13:20-21

Yours in much affection.

Proud to be your Pastor,

Rev. Brian D. Scott, ThM