



Bethel United Methodist Church

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Rev. Tyson T. Parks III, Directing Pastor

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To all of you who are the redeemed of my Father:

We are finding ourselves in uncertain times in this season of the COVID-19 pandemic. We are a resilient congregation that has faced many challenges head-on and we continue to thrive. This is no different than any other obstacle we've faced as a church family together.

As James states in (James 1:2-4)NKJV

"My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trial, knowing that the trying of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing."

I am encouraging all of you as members of Bethel UMC to employ caution, as well as prudent judgment when it comes to practicing social distancing to help combat the spreading of this virus. Many of our normal meetings for this week and next week will be postponed and rescheduled for future dates as we continue to monitor this situation. We need everyone to have limited access to the building for those individuals in non-essential leadership roles. This is for everyone's safety because of potential transmission of the virus. The church office hours are from 9am to 1:30pm tentatively for right now and may change if local health agencies have other suggestions.

We must not lose heart during this time of various trials, but continue to look to Jesus for peace, comfort and strength. I assure you that communication with our leadership team is happening to avoid any confusion or misinformation. I am asking for everyone to be patient with us in those regards. I have colleagues who I am communicating with and I encourage you all to keep the old fashion phone tree ministry active. It is an effective way to stay in touch and is a time honored suitable alternative when it's compared to face to face meetings at this.

As Bishop Beard stated in his letter to his pastors and laity, we must all be a calming influence during this current time of "high anxiety". We must cast our cares on Jesus because He can handle them. May you all experience His grace and peace in these next few weeks. Remember that God is in control and we must continue to look to Him in supplying all of our needs.

Because Of Calvary,
Rev. Tyson T. Parks, III