

Dear Albany Church

It pains me to send this information out and have to tell you we will not be meeting for worship for the next two Sundays and perhaps longer. In fact, for the next two weeks we will not meet any groups at the church as a way of supporting what the President and the Texas Governor are asking us to do. Social distance ourselves from each other until the risk of many getting the coronavirus at one time has lessened and the risk of passing it on to those very vulnerable has lessened.

Our governor, Gregg Abbott has asked us to not meet in groups of 10 or more and to practice social distancing. Scripture guides us in how we should react to our government leaders or authority. (See 1 Peter 2:13-15 & Romans 13:1-5)

With that thought, we will do our best and be pro-active in our efforts. But, that does not mean we will take our eyes off Jesus or the need to hear God's word, study it and pray.

Please refer also to the Albany Methodist Church Website to stay informed of the latest information and changes: albanyunitedmethodistchurch.com.

I will be sending out materials by email, or delivering them were needed, to help us stay focused and continue to be a church family. Please stay open minded and willing to do whatever we need, to get us through this time. Please be thinking about others by calling to check on them, especially our elderly. Some may need groceries delivered to them or just someone to encourage them.

Please keep in mind the situation raises many questions, like how do we get tithes and offerings to pay church bills? Will we be able to get everyone to come back to church when we start back? Should we just keep meeting anyway? So, please pray for your pastor and the church council as we make decisions prayerfully and faithfully.

In regards to tithes and offerings, please consider sending those by mail or dropping them by the church. Obviously, bills and obligations still have to be met.

One thing I do want to make clear, is the church building is **not closed** for business. We just can't meet in groups. The doors are open for me to meet with anyone that needs to talk, pray or needs help. One thing we can almost guarantee is that the church pantry will continue to be needed and I encourage us to keep it stocked as best we can.

I will be sending out information to the church on what we need to focus on spiritually for Sunday. I will send out scriptures, prayers and thoughts either Saturday night or early Sunday morning. Please set time apart on Sunday

morning as a sacred time for worship, praise, prayer and the Word. The material I will send out will be with intentions of helping you do that.

This morning in my prayer time, I felt the Holy Spirit speaking two words, "Press In." These words were not new to me, but a confirmation of sorts as I have been hearing those two words for some time now. We have time now to do just that. For now, let's not panic, stop focusing on the negative, and spend some extended time reading God's Word and talking to Jesus. I will be writing more about this in the material I send you for Sunday.

James 4:10 (NKJV)

¹⁰ Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.

May we humble ourselves before God, that He may lift us up and out of this!

Let It Be So,

Pastor Tim Trimble