Dear Mt. Zion Family,

This current pandemic of Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) is causing an extreme amount of fear and uncertainty. Therefore, I wanted to inform you of the proactive steps Mt. Zion will be taking.

1. **Currently, we will continue Sunday morning worship services as scheduled** (1st Sunday 10am, 2nd-5th Sunday 8 am and 1045am) and our **Wednesday Bible Study**. (12pm and 6 pm) The Governor has asked that no more than 250 people gather together. We average 90-100 attendees at our first service and 200-210 at our second service.
   a. Each Sunday our Health Ministry will give an update about the pandemic.
   b. We will eliminate the fellowship portion during worship and there will be no joining of hands for the closing prayer.
   c. Please greet others without touching; a smile, wave or hello will be appropriate. I know this will be difficult because touching each other is a form of us “Loving Our Family.”
   d. We will serve Communion as normal; however, if you are unable to come to worship the Deacons will bring communion to you. Please call the church office to schedule a time.
   e. All of our services (worship and bible study) will now be live on our Facebook page and later posted on our Youtube channel. (MTZ Life)
   f. We will not pass the offering tray during service. Everyone will walk to give. I am asking if you are able to, please give electronically: **GivePlus** App on your cellular devices, our website: mtzlfie.com or our Facebook page [https://www.facebook.com/Mt-Zion-Baptist-Church-159023410072](https://www.facebook.com/Mt-Zion-Baptist-Church-159023410072). You also have the ability to mail your offerings and gifts to the church.

2. **Meetings:**
   a. We are asking everyone to please use technology to conduct your meetings, but if necessary you are able to meet in person. You can use the Mt. Zion Morning Motivation conference call number: 516-604-9350 access code: 879286. Please coordinate with the church office for scheduling. Or you can use any other form of multi-person communication.

3. **Please stay home:**
   a. If you are experiencing any cold symptoms. (fever, runny nose, coughing)
   b. If you have traveled to a **Level 2 or 3 country** please wait 14 days before returning to any Mt. Zion activity.
   c. If you are uncomfortable with being around more than 25 people. You can worship with us online.
Let us know immediately if you test positive for the virus and have been to church activities.

4. Facility
   a. The church cleaning staff is currently ensuring we are consistently disinfecting the church, especially after gatherings.
   b. Hand sanitizer will be available in the church. Please use it before entering the church.

5. Meals:
   a. If we offer meals, the kitchen staff will now serve food rather than allowing self-serve.
   b. We will continue to follow the food preparation and handling traditions we already practice and add extra emphasis on cleaning surfaces and washing hands.

Many hospitals, senior living, and nursing homes are limiting or not allowing visitors. For our members that are in these locations, I am asking that we call them and continue to lift them in our prayers. I am asking all members 60 and above to use extreme caution with your interaction with others. This disease is affecting our seniors the most.

The thing I am requesting the most is prayer. Philippians 4:6 “Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;”

Finally, this situation is changing rapidly. Please remain flexible and adaptable to any given task that is presented to us. We are not taking this lightly. The church leadership is listening and adhering to the requirements issued by the CDC, City, and County health departments, State and Federal demands for attempting to limit the spread of this virus. I know many are fearful about what’s going on and it is totally understandable. However, we will face this crisis with courage, faith, and trust in God.

Rev. Dr. Marcus Allen, Pastor
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