

UPDATE: MAY 6, 2020

Dear Shiloh Members:

Since our last statement on March 26 regarding the corona-virus, there have been numerous changes. Hard to believe it's been 39 days that we have been in this "hunker-down, stay-at-home" state. As always, I want to continue to communicate with you as our church leaders are committed to doing whatever we must to provide a safe environment for you and your family.

On Friday April 24 Governor Dunleavy announced the reopening of the state and Mayor Berkowitz announced the reopening of the city of Anchorage as of Monday April 27. While I will not go into details of what all this means, there are some pertinent information we as a church need to know. As a part of the reopening, we have been given the options of allowing no more than twenty people to gather. Just as it was hard to decide the closure of our facility and the cancellation or postponement of ministry programs; it is just as hard in deciding the reopening.

With God continually as our guide and with the safety, health and well-being of every member of Shiloh, I and the staff leadership team have decided to **continue the closure of the facility** and the continued cancellation and/or postponement of programs **until May 31, 2020**. We will continue to effectively do ministry as we have for the last six weeks online. Again, we believe that this decision is ultimately out of our desire to protect the members of our church who are most vulnerable and be good steward of our personnel resources.

With that being said, Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church is making the following decisions until **May 31, 2020**:

1. The church offices will be **open Tuesday-Saturday with flex hours for staff. Please call before you stop by.**
  2. The **building will remain closed to members and the public.** You may come to the building for ministry related purposes only. Signage will be posted on the doors that will give you directions.
- The doors will be locked so you will need to call for access
  - You must wear a mask when entering the facility
  - You must stay at least 6ft away from other persons who are not immediate family
  - You must not linger in the facility. Take care of what you are there for and exit.
1. All **Sunday** service [Worship and Sunday School] will be online the month of May. Only personnel needed to conduct worship will be allowed to enter on Sunday
  1. All **Wednesday Bible Studies** [Seniors @11am and 7pm evenings] will be online.
  2. All **ministry program gatherings** are **still canceled** to include, choir rehearsal, Girls Ministry, Financial Freedom Workshop, Health & Wellness Expo, Ministers, Diaconate, etc. Many of these gathering have already transitioned to online.

3. Food Bank is still operational. **Clothes Closet will remain closed until further notice.**

1. Shiloh Drive-Thru every Saturday 12:00-2:00pm will continue until further notice

o Drop off donations, tithe and offerings, pick up communion cups, etc.

1. Governor Dunleavy and Mayor Berkowitz, along with national professionals has also recommended that people at high risk of severe illness should stay at home to decrease the chance of infection. When we gather for meetings and services in the days ahead, please keep this mind. People at high risk include:

o Those over 65 years of age and who have serious underlying medical conditions

o Those with underlying health conditions including heart disease, lung disease, or diabetes

o Those with compromised or weak immune systems

I want to again thank you for your continued financial support of your church. For those that have not yet connected through giving, please consider using one of these options for giving:

1. [Online Giving Option](#)

2. Drop off at the church during office hours [see #1 above]

3. Drop off during Shiloh Drive Thru [see #4 above]

4. Mail your tithes/offerings to the church office

Please take time **every day in the weeks ahead** to read the following scriptures and commit to a dedicated time of prayer together to seek the Lord in unity about these matters:

1. Ask God, in His mercy, to stop this pandemic and save lives—not only in our communities but around the world, particularly in places that are unequipped medically to deal with the virus. (Isaiah 59:1-2; Romans 11:36).

2. Pray for our government leaders— local, state, federal, and international—to have the wisdom to direct us in the best courses of action for prevention and care (Romans 13:1-4).

3. Scripture says—teach us to number our days carefully so that we may develop wisdom in our hearts. Pray that the Lord will give us wisdom during this season as the foundations of what we know are shaken, that others would realize how fragile life is and how real eternity is, and they would see their need to turn to God (Psalm 90:12; James 1:5).

4. Ask God to protect us as we “reopen’ and resume things in our lives (Proverbs 2:11; 2 Thessalonians 3:3)

Finally and I believe worth repeating from March 26. I am not discouraged; and I encourage you the same. God allows things to take place in our lives for His sovereign purpose, but we must not let our uncertainties keep us from being faithful to the gospel in our lives even when His sovereign will disrupts our customs. In the days the come, a few things will happen:

1. I will be connecting with you via video frequently

2. Membership Care Team will be in full force to respond to the emergency needs of all members, especially our seniors. Please contact your Parish leader if you need assistance. If you are not sure who your Parish Leader is, please call the main office.

o **Parish Care and Support:** The Parish will **contact** the members **two times a week** just to check in.

- **Home Deliveries:** Parish will make home deliveries to families that are unable to leave for **health and medical reasons only**. Members that need home deliveries will be responsible for calling their Parish Leader.
- **Care Center:** If members are looking for resources and referrals, a member from our Care Center will connect with you via email or phone. Members that need resources and referrals will be responsible for calling their Parish Leader.

Do what you must for your best interest, health-wise, as we seek to be a good and Godly light in our community by honoring God and the recommendations of our leaders.

I Remain In Christ's Service,

Your Pastor,

Rev. Undra Parker