

March 17, 2020

To the Union Grove Church Family,

As recently stated by our North American Overseer, "the implications of the coronavirus are staggering," "the magnitude of the coronavirus is enormous," and "it is beyond the ability of our government and those in the medical profession too alleviate the crisis..." These are statements we thought we would never hear in America. America is closed for business, and we are in a panic. But we, as the body of Christ, must not panic. We need to unite together and join forces through the power of the Holy Spirit to accomplish the duties to which Jesus called us. While America may be closed and while we are not able to meet as a corporate body for worship and study, the CHURCH IS NOT CLOSED. The doors may not open for a few weeks, but the CHURCH MUST MARCH ON.

This evening March 17<sup>th</sup>, the Corporate Board of the Union Grove Church met to discuss our options over the next few weeks for worship and Bible study. President Trump, the Coronavirus Task Force and the CDC have recommended that no more than 10 gather in any one place. We feel it best to comply and to consider our brothers and sisters who are older and those who have compromised immune systems. While many of us might recover; some might not. And, frankly, even the life of one is just too precious.

Therefore, there will be no services or activities at the Union Grove Church of God of Prophecy until April 5<sup>th</sup>. The Board will meet again on April 1<sup>st</sup> to review this decision to open again April 5<sup>th</sup>. Based upon any future recommendations or restrictions, that date will have to be flexible. So please look prayerfully forward to meeting with us again in person April 5<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM for Sunday School and 10:45 AM for worship.

In the meantime, we will be offering many ways for you to connect with us. For Wednesday night Bible study, we will begin a livestream at **6:00 PM** each Wednesday. Farin Wilbanks will be leading our Bible study and round table discussion. On Sundays at **10:00 AM**, Billy West will be teaching the Adult/Senior Bible Study through livestream, and the Union Grove Worship Team and Pastor Ryan will be streaming our worship service and message live at **10:45 AM**. John & Erica Young will be looking into options for connecting with our Youth over social media during this time, and I will be working with Michelle Clouse to get some fun Bible lessons into the hands of our parents. In addition, the ministry team, deacons and small group leaders will be reaching out to you over the next few weeks just to check in on you. Please let one of them or one of the Pastors know if you have any needs. We are here to work together to support and love on one another.

# Here are the ways to connect:

### **Via Internet:**

- Facebook Live www.facebook.com/MyUnionGrove or on Pastor Ryan's page
- YouTube Simply Search for MyUnionGrove at www.youtube.com
- Twitter Search for MyUnionGrove
- And our Website at www.MyUnionGrove.com

We go live to all five locations about 5 minutes prior to the scheduled start times below.

#### No Internet? No Problem

You can use a cell phone or land line phone to call in to our live services. Simply use the information below:

Phone Number: (872) 240-3212

Access Code: 956-101-205

## **Operations:**

The church at Union Grove is unique and unlike many of our churches. Our facilities are large, and our ministry programs are numerous; therefore, even with continuing the operations of the local church remotely, we still have costs. Please continue your efforts to support the local church in weekly tithes and offerings. This is OUR CHURCH, and we want it to be here in excellent condition when we all return. With that said, please continue your faithful support. If for whatever reason, you have not begun to tithe or give, please consider faithful giving which helps YOUR local church family continue to minister.

### **Ways to Give:**

#### Online:

Website: www.MyUnionGrove.com/Give

App: Download the Tithe.ly App

Android: https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=ly.tithe.tithely

Apple: https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/tithe-ly/id694740700?mt=8

### Offline:

Contact Sister Freda or Pastor Ryan for pickup or meet at Church. You can also mail checks to: Union Grove COGOP, 468 Road 1650, Mooreville, MS 38857.

WE THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU GIVE TO KEEP OUR CHURCH OPEN!

## And Finally! Right?

## **Maintenance & Clean Up:**

Since our workday will need to be canceled, there are several things that will need to be accomplished in our spare time. I was asked to submit a list of those outstanding items that need to be accomplished. Those of you who want to assist in helping can contact Pastor Ryan or simply take the steps needed to accomplish the tasks listed below.

- Fence on outside ball court needs to be cut apart and removed.
- Tree limbs need to be picked up and burned or removed.
- Old flowers need to be removed from cemetery gravestones.
- Grass killer needs to be sprayed around the church, parking lot and along ditch lines.
- Grass killer needs to be sprayed on cemetery drive and gravel road needs graded.
- Grass killer needs to be sprayed around cemetery fence.
- Walking track needs light repairs to gravel areas, graded and cleaned.
- New bricks need to be installed in the pavilion, sand needs to be spread, and treated with grass killer.
- Hedges need to be trimmed up and pine straw spread around flower beds.
- Gym needs to be cleaned up and mopped.
- Refrigerator and freezers need to be cleaned out/up.
- Ice maker bin needs to be cleaned.

These are some of the tasks that need to be accomplished as we head into Spring. There may be other things that need to be accomplished. You can contact Pastor Ryan or Carlton Green for additional items.

Thank you so much for being a part of the church at Union Grove. We are an amazing family of believers, we have united together and overcome many obstacles. We have grown together in love, and now it's time to commit together to the cause of Christ. Therefore, if there is a need and you think our church family can meet it, then let's work together and see it through. The things we are currently facing are only temporary, but the things we do for Christ will last forever. I encourage you to take time to read your Bible, turn the TV off, put the phone down and spend some quality time with your family. Love on them and see what we've been missing. I love each and every one you, I am praying daily for you, and I cannot wait for us to be together again.

Serving Together,

Pastor Ryan Napalo