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Dear People of Mount Olive,

A new day has dawned, and once again we are faced with new guidelines regarding our life together. We now know that we will not be able to meet together for worship, study, fellowship, or service anytime soon. The Center for Disease Control has recommended that gatherings of 50 or more be discontinued for at least 8 weeks, and so in order to err on the side of caution, we will no longer be holding group gatherings of any size at Mount Olive, including all those things previously left up to your discretion: Women's Circles, Sunday School, Book Groups, and Fellowship Events. If you have any questions about what is still happening at the church, please call the church office (288-1580).

Meanwhile, the church staff has met and we are thinking hard about what we can do to offer spiritual guidance, support, and encouragement in the days ahead. We are considering things like weekly prayer/devotional guides, online Sunday School, electronic Bible studies, and live-streamed worship services. We are also working on creating ways to help members to care for each other and to meet needs that our ministry partners may have as they deal with this difficult season. Watch for upcoming announcements this week which will outline our plans going forward. Finally, if you have any immediate needs that the church staff needs to be aware of, please give us a call.

I am reminded of the words to Queen Esther during a difficult period for the people of Israel: "Who knows? Perhaps you have been raised up for just such a time as this." (Esther 4:14) I believe that, as the people of God, we have been raised up for just such a time as this. God has given us abundant resources spiritually and in every way to be the voices that bring wisdom, comfort, and peace to all around us. I commend you to this calling. God is within you to enable you to do this.

The words of Jesus echo in our ears: "And remember, I am with you always, to the close of the age."

Blessings and Peace,

Pastor Glenn Monson