

March 25, 2020

## **Psalm 121**

### *Assurance of God's Protection*

1 I lift up my eyes to the hills—  
from where will my help come?  
2 My help comes from the Lord,  
who made heaven and earth.  
3 He will not let your foot be moved;  
he who keeps you will not slumber.  
4 He who keeps Israel  
will neither slumber nor sleep.  
5 The Lord is your keeper;  
the Lord is your shade at your right hand.  
6 The sun shall not strike you by day,  
nor the moon by night.  
7 The Lord will keep you from all evil;  
he will keep your life.  
8 The Lord will keep  
your going out and your coming in  
from this time on and forevermore.

Greetings, Zion UMC!

Due to continued protective and even more restrictive measures issued by the Center for Disease Control and the state of Pennsylvania, Zion UMC will, once again, cancel worship services at the church location for the next two Sundays, March 29 and April 5. In their place, a single worship gathering will again be offered by way of Zion UMC's Facebook Live. We will stream live at 10:00 am both Sundays. Following our time of worship, this service will be saved to Facebook, as well as uploaded to our YouTube link at [zionsarver.com](https://www.zionsarver.com) for future viewing.

As the second Sunday of not meeting in-person approaches, Zion UMC wants to thank those who have actively supported the church during such an unprecedented time. I would ask that each of us please continue to be very intentional about

maintaining your tithes and offerings by mailing them to the church directly at 438 Bear Creek Rd., Sarver, PA 16055. Your faithfulness in giving is so important in order for the financial well-being of the church to be maintained. Please know your faithful commitment will keep Zion UMC in a strong position to sustain ministries throughout a very difficult time in our communities. In the name of Christ, may we be poised to be the church so that we can minister to needs as they develop. As the body of Christ, we have a great opportunity to witness to the loving nature of Christ to those around us. May who we are as God's children bring assurance and comfort to God's children around us.

Last week, I encouraged each of us to start getting creative with how we can develop new ministries that would be a blessing to one another throughout the church and community. I challenged us to think outside the box with a blue-sky mindset as we approached our current opportunities to serve. I am happy to report that since we gathered last week, we have developed a great Buddy List for those who are in need of groceries or medications. Additionally, many phone calls, texts, snap chats, Instagrams, Facebook messages, ZOOM video chat meetings, and good old-fashioned letters and greeting cards have been extended as a way to check in on one another's well-being. Zion UMC is looking to even further its proficiency at contacting members of the church along with those who are connected to ZUMC. At a time like this, genuine, heart-felt relationships are so important. I believe they are a wonderful expression of what God's love can look like in action. Please keep up the creative thinking! May we take full advantage of the great opportunity to be the church in the humblest and yet most powerful of ways!

Finally, I do want to emphasize that if you find that you are ill or are simply in need of groceries or medications, please contact Zion UMC at 724-353-1720 or email at [office@zionsarver.com](mailto:office@zionsarver.com). Also, do not hesitate to call the church with prayer requests for yourself or another in need. May we be the church through prayer and outreach to one another. May God's grace, hope, and love fill our spirits in ways that give us reason for joy!

In Christ's Service,

Pastor Rob