

March 18th, 2020

A Statement from Auburn Area Clergy

For the last decade, many of the Auburn area pastors have gathered together monthly to pray for one another and the body of Christ. During this time, we have grown together as brothers in Christ, becoming a community as we cared for one another. It is this very thing, community, that is at the heart of the challenge we presently face. It may feel as though our communities are being taken from us, but the powers and principalities of this world could never do that to us.

For a time, the body of Christ may have to function in new, different, and maybe even in some better, ways. What will be unchanged is our shared identity and community as the body of Christ and our commitment to living life together both in our collective churches and the community of the Sierra foothills. As we work and pray through these uncertain times, let us not forget:

- **As the Body of Christ we are to be a people of faith and not fear!** - Matthew 14
- **As the Body of Christ we place our faith in a Savior who promised to protect and provide for us-** Matthew 6
- **As the Body of Christ we are called to confidently and radically love our neighbors as ourselves.** - Matthew 23

Yes, our ability to worship and pray as we have become accustomed will have to adapt. But worship and prayer will not cease. We encourage everyone to listen to your congregational leaders, follow their guidance, and love selflessly. Love those God has placed in your life right now! Jesus is NOT absent in this, it's our task to see Him and worship Him all the more.

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Rob Baker

Auburn First Assembly of God

Eric Van Patten

Elevation Church

Craig Kelley

Gold Country Church

Phil Sparling

Auburn Grace Community Church

Andrew West

Crossroads - Grass Valley

Sam Koopmans

Crossroads - Auburn

John Sheehan

Saint Teresa's Catholic Church

Dan Spacek

1st Congregational Church

Lou Costantini

Sierra Reach Ministry

Phil Costantini

Sierra Reach Ministry

Paul Bagai

Auburn Presbyterian

Stuart Frasier

First Baptist Auburn

Bryan Hehr

Sierra Grace Fellowship

Todd Cleek

Sierra Grace Fellowship

Scott Richert

Compass Church

Mike Ernst

Cornerstone Community Church

Josh Winans

Redemption Church

Lts. Jesse & Aline Posner

Salvation Army