

Opportunities for Intercessory Prayer

St. Andrew's UMC, August 2021

Represented in the Narthex:

- For music, arts and worship ministries
- For Leadership teams – SPRC, Trustees, Finance, Nominations, and Admin Council, etc.
- For St. Andrew's lay leadership and staff
- For our sister churches and ministries in our UMC family and beyond.
- For Stewardship – our response to our membership vows of the giving of our prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness
- Members of St. Andrew's family and friends who have recently lost loved ones (columbarium is open)
- For SAUMC's partner ministries who continue to make a way out of no way -- for those struggling with food scarcity (Loaves and Fishes), creating a new life from trafficking (Dahlia Grove) homelessness (Room in the Inn), substance abuse and addiction (Alcoholics Anonymous)
- For our military serving both near and far

Represented in the Portico:

- For those we have yet to welcome with the good news
- For Montclair Elementary, students, families, staff, teachers and administration
- For the children and families of Learning Help Centers of Charlotte and Project Harmony
- For those on the medical frontlines – health care workers, nurses, doctors, facility staff, allied health professionals, researchers and their families
- For leaders in Church, Government, Business throughout our community, country and the world that they may recognize the weight and privilege of their position in furthering the kingdom and building bridges across divides
- First responders and essential workers, safety for them, gratefulness from us. For police officers, sanitation workers, truck drivers, grocery store employees, pharmacy techs, social workers, we say thank you
- For friends and family who reside in assisted living and nursing facilities who remain apart from us, their families and those who care for them

Represented on the Emerywood Hall:

- For Adult Discipleship opportunities: Covenant, Pathseekers, Misfits, & Fellowship classes, Cross-Cultural Ministries, mid-week bible studies, and small groups
- For College Students
- For table and fellowship ministries
- For Harvesters and Swinging Saints and other community partners that enrich who we are
- For those who offer a prophetic word, who seek through peaceful demonstration to shine a light on systemic injustice, seek to bring change to powers and principalities, and give voice to those without
- For members of our St. Andrew's family and friends beyond who are facing health challenges, physical, mental, social and emotional

Represented on the Archdale Hall:

- For Ministries to Children, Youth, and Families
- For our preschool – students, families, teachers, director and board
- For those whose lives have been turned upside down by the pandemic, those whose economic future is uncertain, those battling substance abuse, those who live within patterns of domestic abuse, immigrants, those in prison, those living on the street. These are our neighbors, and may we be mindful of Jesus words, “when you did it to the least of these, you did it unto me.”
- For concerns beyond our borders: Afghanistan, Haiti, the border crisis, and more, and disasters within – wildfires, hurricanes, etc.

And finally, for all the opportunities yet unseen and those people, places, situations and needs, we hold in our hearts...

Romans 8:26 says, *And the Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness. For example, we don't know what God wants us to pray for. But the Holy Spirit prays for us with groanings that cannot be expressed in words.*

Your prayers this morning may be as simple as sharing the intercessions printed here followed by,
Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Or here are some examples that can be used throughout.

The Lord's Prayer (ecumenical)

Try praying the Lord's prayer with these words that may be new to you. Pause after each phrase and listen. What might God be saying to you today?

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.
Your Kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.

Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours.

Now and forever. **Amen.**

O gracious and holy God, give us diligence to seek you, wisdom to perceive you, and patience to wait for you. Grant us O God, a mind to meditate on you, eyes to behold you, ears to listen for your Word, a heart to love you, and a life to proclaim you, through the power of the spirit of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen. *Benedict of Nurnia, 6th century*

As the sun rises, so does our prayer, loving God. With each new dawn, renew our trust in you, our delight to do justice and our gladness to be in your presence. Amen. *Larry Peacock, Upper Room Books, 2006*

Blessed God, you have called us to contribute to the needs of the saints and to extend hospitality to the stranger. Hallow us that we may be a blessing in your name. Amen. *Herb Mather, GBOD, 2002.*

May the love of the Father enfold us, the wisdom of the Son enlighten us and the fire of the Spirit kindle us; and may the blessing of the Lord God come down upon us and remain with us always. Amen.

From the Westminster Hymnal.