

SPECIAL PRAYER LIST

(To Help With Your Intercessory Prayers for Others)

Updated September 3, 2023

You are surely praying for the needs of your immediate family and circle of friends. Hopefully, you are also praying for the urgent needs of your faith family at First United Methodist Church.

Wondering *what else* to pray for? Here are some suggestions!

We are revising and posting this list every few weeks to help you remember some important needs. This is what's needed in our community, our country and the world. Spend a few moments to pray through this list each day!

- All those impacted by Hurricane Idalia, as well as other natural disasters (flooding, tornadoes, fires). Pray for rebuilding and recovery for those who have lost much, and especially for those who have lost family members.
- Families who have lost their children, teachers, parents, grandparents and other loved ones to armed shooters at schools, malls, dance studios, supermarkets, churches and special events. Prayers, please, for others who previously lost children and loved ones in similar tragedies, as these shootings bring back horrifying memories.
- The people of Ukraine whose nation continues to be bombed and invaded. Pray for peace and pray for those who have been or will be displaced or injured. Pray for the families who have already lost loved ones, along with their homes, jobs and lives they have built over the years.
- The people of Turkey and Syria who are recovering from powerful earthquakes that left so many people homeless, and without food, shelter, electricity, water or heat during a very cold winter.
- All those around the country who are sick and hospitalized with the RSV virus or Covid.
- Families in the US and in our own community who are struggling to put food on the table, buy medicine, pay the rent and have enough money to pay for gas to get to work and keep their jobs.
- Each of the families in need who received our lovingly packed bags of food in recent weeks.
- Each of the organizations that has received our altar flowers
- The people of Haiti, who are STILL recovering from an earthquake, a tropical storm, assassination of their president, violence, political unrest and hunger. The large number of gangs that have taken control of the country has made it difficult to go out in public, go shopping, or go to work anymore.
- The people of Cuba who are lacking food and medicine and are experiencing political unrest. Western Cuba felt the power of Tropical Storm Idalia. Please pray for our sister church in Biran. They pray for us every day.
- Political strife within our own country, challenging our leaders and the people of our nation.
- Our church, our Pastor, our new Bishop, our District Superintendent, and our denomination.
- Everyone on our "church family" prayer list (see list in the Eblast)
- Our healthcare workers and first responders who put their lives on the line every day for us, as they serve people in our community.

- All those struggling and overwhelmed throughout these difficult times - for courage, strength, and peace, as they maneuver through the challenges (Some are on the prayer list, and others are not.)
- Our leaders – that they will make good and Godly decisions
- Those impacted daily by racism
- Our church's homebound or living in long-term living facilities
- All the Scouts and Scout leaders of Boy Scout Troop 165
- Our MDS preschool children, parents and teachers
- Our church's children, youth, and college students
- Our military and their families
- We pray for our divided nation and that people can learn to set aside their political differences, words of hate and even violence, and love one another as people who are all made in the image of God and loved by God.
- We pray that those in our denomination that cannot agree on theology can also put aside their differences and seek unity rather than division.