

# Email and VOICE Announcement

## Pocket Prayer Shawl Ministry – looking for interest in making these!

### What is a pocket prayer shawl?

As the name suggests, this is a miniature version of a prayer shawl that is small enough to fit inside of a pocket. As with all prayer shawls, the person who makes these beautiful keepsakes infuses each stitch with a prayer or loving intention to provide love and goodwill to the person who will receive this handmade item. Pocket prayer shawls, also called prayer squares or prayer cloths are small enough to be tucked into your pocket, a purse, a book mark or in a backpack. They can also be carried into surgery, taken on vacation or put in plain sight where you can see it every day.

### Who needs a pocket prayer shawl?

Who might receive a pocket prayer shawl? Anyone who needs the comfort of a handmade item! You can give a pocket shawl to a specific person you know who has had a recent loss or who is going through an illness. At First Presbyterian Church in Willmar, we have had beautifully made pocket prayer shawls in baskets in the narthex and at the back of the sanctuary for anyone to take for themselves or for someone else that they feel a need for comfort. Each pocket prayer shawl has a note attached to it so that those who are seeking extra support can feel comfort simply by touching the material and reading the note knowing that God is by your side whatever you may be going through. We all need a little bit of comfort sometimes; we aren't always comfortable asking for that but can often more easily accept the love of a handmade item. Taking a pocket prayer shawl from one of the baskets is a way to ask for help and immediately receive it.

### Who can make pocket prayer shawls?

You can! We would love to have as many of these on hand at church as we can. The church can provide you with the yarn, ribbon and pocket prayer shawl cards to make these handmade gems. Nancy Chamberlain has included the pattern for these handmade keepsakes for people who would like to be a part of this wonderful ministry. Nancy is also available for any questions as you begin your crafting of these wonderful keepsakes! Contact Deb Grunwald or the church office for materials. Deb's cell# (320) 905-8104 or email [dgrun4@gmail.com](mailto:dgrun4@gmail.com)



# Pocket Prayer Shawl Instructions

By Nancy Chamberlain

The pocket prayer shawls can be crocheted or knitted. This is a very easy pattern ☺ and uses the knit stitch only. You will need the following items to get started:

- Yarn – any color!
- The church can provide you with yarn & ribbon to be used for the pocket prayer shawls. Just call the church office and some will be set aside for you to pick up during business hours or on a Sunday before or after worship.
- Each pocket prayer shawl takes approximately 13 yards including the tassels
- Scissors
- #6 knitting needles (If you're knitting)
- Xx crochet hook (if you are crocheting)
- Ruler
- Crochet hook (to pull the tassels thru)
- Ribbon (12" for each pocket prayer shawl)
- Plastic yarn needle
- FPC Pocket Prayer Shawl card (these can be picked up at church during business hours or before/after worship on Sundays)

## **Knitting/Crocheting instructions:**

- Don't know how to do a "knit stitch" in knitting? Watch this beginner instruction on YouTube: <https://youtu.be/Egp4NRhIMDg>
- Would you rather crochet? Use these crochet knit stitch instructions instead: <https://youtu.be/d72mEw4GMmM>
- Cast on 12 stitches
- Knit 32 rows
- Cast off

## **Tassel instructions:**

- Cut 20 – 6" pieces of yarn
- Using the crochet hook, take two pieces of yarn and attach to the pocket prayer shawl
- 5 – 2 pieces of yarn make the tassels
- Finish cut the tassels to approximately 2 inches each

## **Card Instructions:**

- Call the church office to have cards printed off for you (320-235-1263)
- Cards will be pre-printed and holes punched for attaching to the pocket prayer shawls
- Attach the FPC Pocket Prayer Shawl card using a 12 inch piece of ribbon (any color)
- Tie in a bow

You're done! You can drop off completed pocket prayer shawls at the church office during business hours or on Sundays before or after worship.

Thank you for being a part of this great ministry!