

**basket**  
**of**  
**prayers + concerns + joys**

**Prayers for the Presbytery of Milwaukee community**

**Colleen Hennesy, wife of Rev. Terry Hennesy**

Colleen is home from the hospital, recovering from surgery due to a fall that injured her right arm and shoulder. Please pray that there is diminishing pain, and that the healing process goes well.

**Rev. Ian Stirrat**

Please continue to pray for Ian who recently underwent back surgery and is recovering at home. He's going to see his surgeon in Madison on Sept. 12 due to his continuing pain. Ian continues to be optimistic about attending his 50<sup>th</sup> reunion at McCormick Seminary this October.

**Cathy Manthei and "Shared Journeys"**

Please pray for this charter school of West Allis - West Milwaukee School District that serves school age parents. Some of the students are homeless, and many are in need of special tutoring to bring them up to speed. Pray for their dedicated teachers as they work to help raise the low expectations of their students, in hopes that they will see the importance of education.

**Prayers for Natural Disasters**

**Western US wildfires**

We lift in prayer the continuing massive wildfires burning approximately 2 million acres across the western states. Thousands of people have been evacuated, homes and buildings destroyed, and extremely hazardous air quality has prompted health warning of emergency conditions. Please pray for all those who have been affected by these fires, for the 26,000 brave firefighters battling the blazes, and for the need of additional resources. Because there are so many wildfires in urban and rural areas burning at once, more firefighters are desperately needed.

**Hurricanes Irma and Harvey**

The impact from hurricanes and tropical storms, most recently the wrath from Irma, have brought heartbreaking devastation and displacement from the power of wind and water. Please keep all those in prayer who have and are now experiencing the destructive force of fierce winds, torrential rain, and surging waters - for those flooded with discouragement from torn apart homes, submerged property, and stalled livelihoods - for those without power in need of the bare essentials of food and water - for those who need to evacuate to safer ground - for those who will

salvage, restore, rebuild, or relocate and those who have no place to go - for those who have lost loved ones and for those in sorrow who suffer the loss of life as it use to be. And we hold in prayer all the search and rescue and emergency responders amidst the expanding sea of destruction who have joined together, risking their lives for the wellbeing of those in need.

### **Earthquakes in Mexico**

We pray for all those in Mexico who experienced the recent devastating earthquake that jolted the earth and claimed at least 90 lives. Amidst the continuing aftershocks of seismic activity and those of sorrow and grief, may God's comfort embrace and steady those who mourn the loss of loved ones.

As we remember all those who face the aftermath of hurricanes and all those recovering from all natural disasters, may we be faithful in prayer, generous in spirit, and supportive in giving. In words offered by the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, may our acts of "open-hearted giving" bless "those who walk the hard road to recovery, letting them know that others walk beside them and that God brings hope amid the chaos created by disasters."

### **Other World Concerns**

There are many concerns, but offer the following for this week.

We remember in pray the horrific situation in Myanmar where Rohingya Muslims are being slaughtered in their villages. These atrocities - the annihilation, the ethnic cleansing of a whole group of people - continue with governmental approval. The government calls the murder of these civilians "a military clearance operation" and "unfinished business." Many are escaping to Bangladesh, with futures uncertain.

*Lord, in Your mercy, keep us praying and make us willing to speak out and move out with integrity of action for the wellbeing of all Your people, including the vulnerable, the widow, the orphan, the alien, the tired, the poor, the humble masses yearning to be free, and the lonely and forgotten. May it be so.*

