

PRESBYTERY PRAYER PARTNERS

January 2014

The Presbytery of Ohio Valley encourages all our congregations to pray for each other throughout the year. Over a two-year period, a week will be designated for each of our churches and other organizations. Items listed below have been sent to us from the churches and organizations on our prayer list for the weeks shown. Sharing prayers with each other works!

Note: The person who prepares your worship bulletins and/or church newsletters may request this information in a Word document from bbsnyder22@gmail.com. It is also available on the POV website.

Week of January 5 POV Candidates and Inquirers

Sarah VanderZee McKenney (Bloomington First) is a candidate for ministry and is actively seeking a call.

James C Blankenbeker (Brownstown) is an inquirer for ministry and is completing his Standard Ordination Exams.

Jaeseok Park (Bloomington Korean) is a candidate for ministry and has been doing Clinical Pastoral Education at Bloomington Hospital.

Tamara Recob (Newburgh) is an inquirer and a student at Louisville Seminary.

Aida Haddad (Bloomington United) is an inquirer and a student at Princeton Seminary.

Please pray for them in their studies, in their upcoming ordination exams, their process for preparation for ministry, their health, wellbeing and wholeness. May the Lord protect and bless them as we bless them on their journey and hold them and lift them up in our prayers.

Week of January 12 First, Bedford (NC)

First Presbyterian Church of Bedford has 123 members, but we usually average around 50 or so in worship. We have a strong music program both with our chancel choir and our handbell choir. But probably our biggest influence in the community is our Christopher Care Bear mission. We have several wonderful ladies in our congregation who spend hours sewing, knitting, and crocheting teddy bears with hats to be presented to children being admitted to hospitals and in other crisis situations. They also knit lap robes for patients in nursing homes. After a visit from Elmarie and Scott Parker, missionaries to the Middle East, our ladies have sent many teddy bears and hats to Syria. This is a wonderful program that needs continuing financial support.

We also offer a free pancake breakfast to anyone in the community on the fourth Saturday of each month. This project was started by the men in our congregation and has continued to flourish.

Our congregation is the oldest in Lawrence County and in a few years will be celebrating its 200th anniversary. We are on the corner of 15th and L streets two blocks from the courthouse square in Bedford. The main portion of our building is well over 100 years old so there are always maintenance problems.

Prayers are especially needed now as our Pastor, Mark McDaniel ended his service here on December 29. Pastor Mark had been with our church for 10 years and felt God had called him

to new service. We are beginning the process of looking for an interim and ultimately, a new pastor. Please pray for God to show us new opportunities for service during this time. Thank you for your prayers. This is a time of change for our congregation and we certainly need God's guidance.

Week of January 19

First, Bloomfield (NC)

Rev. Murray Thompson

First Presbyterian Church of Bloomfield is a traditional and winsome community of faith. We have about seventy-five members – young families, retired folks, and pretty much everything in between. We take very seriously the theological depth, beauty, and gravitas of Christianity's tradition. And yet we believe that this great tradition should make us loving, relational, and very devoted to the mission of Jesus Christ in the community and world around us.

We are engaged both in local and international missions. Locally, we have joined with eleven other churches to provide Soup on Saturdays, a hot, nourishing meal for those who are experiencing economic burdens or loneliness. Our pastor and elders provide a worship service and communion once a month to the Glenburn Adult Residential Facility in Linton. We are also involved in the Greene County Literacy Coalition and the Family Life Center, which has the goal of providing support to enhance families' emotional, social, mental, spiritual and physical balance in their lives.

Internationally, our own Bethany Scott and her husband Nathan began Full Life Development in Thailand, an endeavor which has been so successful that the Thai team they trained has been able to take over the work in Thailand. Bethany and Scott have returned to the US and are still in constant contact with the staff in Thailand.

We would appreciate your prayers for our continued ministries both locally and in Thailand.

Week of January 26

First, Bloomington NC)

Rev. Andy Kort

Rev. Rachel Pedersen

First Presbyterian Church is the oldest church in Bloomington and continues to have a strong presence in the downtown community. We host a weekly breakfast on Saturdays for our homeless brothers and sisters and participate in the Interfaith Winter Shelter, a low barrier shelter for the homeless community. We help various local agencies, especially those helping with issues of hunger. We also open our building to many support groups and share our space with the Korean Presbyterian Church. We also support UKirk at Indiana University, a Presbyterian ministry for IU students. Further from home, we continue our mission work in West Virginia and Nicaragua.

This past year we have baptized 5 infants and 2 adults. We welcomed over 20 new members. Thanks to a grant, we improved our technology allowing us to install a hearing loop in the sanctuary, projectors in our classrooms, wifi internet access, and LED lights in our fellowship hall. The LED lights also help us to be good stewards of the environment as they use much less electricity. After a long absence, we are thrilled to have a Board of Deacons again and they are doing great work in ministries of compassion. As we continue to celebrate Christ and serve community, we welcome your prayers.