

Presbytery Prayer Partners

December 2022

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!

Week of December 4th

Hanover College

Rev. Catherine Knott, Chaplain

Hanover College is a residential liberal arts college with both graduate and undergraduate students, affiliated with the Presbyterian Church (USA). So much has happened in these last few years, as the isolation and illness associated with the pandemic can take a toll on young lives, particularly pertaining to mental health and well-being. We pray for the healing and shalom of our students, faculty, and staff, and also give thanks for the new graduate programs in physical therapy and veterinarian medicine that we have recently begun or are in the process of building.

We strive to be an inclusive and caring community on our campus and ask for strength and wisdom to work through this as we pick up the pieces from these past few years of challenge.

Week of December 11th

Specialized ministries in the Presbytery of Ohio Valley

We pray for those members of our Presbytery who have been called to ministries outside the local parish setting, including those serving in hospitals or hospice care, in institutions caring for older adults or persons with disabilities, in campus ministries, at centers providing resources for congregations, at camp and conference centers, and offering pastoral and spiritual care to pastors and their families.

The Presbytery of Ohio Valley is fortunate to have so many such ministers in our midst, as they also offer pulpit supply and sacramental leadership in our congregations, moderate sessions without pastors, and contribute their gifts on presbytery committees and commissions. We are grateful for their energy, intelligence, imagination, and love!

Week of December 18th

All military servicemembers

Righteous God, you rule the nations. Guard brave men and women who risk themselves in battle for their country. Give them compassion for their enemies. Keep our sons and daughters from hate that hardens. Though they must be at war, let them live for peace. Encourage them as they encourage each other, and never let hard duty separate them from loyalty to your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

“A Prayer for Those in the Military” The Book of Common Worship, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

Week of December 25th

Christmas – Peace on Earth

God of life and God of hope,
we give you thanks and praise this night
as we gather to remember the birth of Jesus
who came as a witness to grace,
who proclaimed peace
did justice
lived love
and walked humbly with you.

In his name, we pray for peace and healing
wherever your world is broken,
wherever violence and injustice reign
wherever your children are in pain.
We ask that we might follow Jesus faithfully
and so become answers to our prayers
for peace on earth,
goodwill for all people,
and wholeness and wellbeing for all creation.

Amen.

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*12/15/2008, Mark Koenig, Presbyterian Peacemaking Program, Swords Into Plowshares: A Blog
<https://presbyterian.typepad.com/peacemaking/2008/12/a-prayer-for-peace-on-christmas-eve.html>*