

# Presbytery Prayer Partners

## August 2023

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 August 6<sup>th</sup>**

#### **First Presbyterian Church, Sullivan**

**Rev. Dawn Black**

The Sullivan family is in continued need of prayers for tornado recovery. Foundations and framing are starting to be seen around the community though there are still 189 people on the list for needs from the Long Term Recovery Team. Our church is set to host First Presbyterian Church of Sturgis, Michigan who is coming to help the first week of August. We continue to serve our weekly meal at Community Kitchen which is needed now more than ever. Our membership is small, mighty, and always present in the community. There is a new energy around fellowship and creating spaces for folks to find joy amidst the storm.

### **Week of August 13<sup>th</sup>**

#### **Central Presbyterian Church, Terre Haute**

**Rev. Mike Riggins**

Central Presbyterian of Terre Haute retains its downtown presence through active mission work and connections with other entities on "Church Row": Episcopalian and Methodist congregations, and United Campus Ministries. We have embarked on an ambitious long-range planning process that involves discernment of our core mission, identifying transformative challenges we face, and establishing concrete markers to inform us of whether we are hitting our marks in one-, five- and twenty-year intervals. We have recognized that while we could continue ministering in the same ways as we "always" have and remain comfortable for years to come, settling for the status quo is not God's desire for this congregation. Please pray for our core leaders as we embark on this process.

### **Week of August 20<sup>th</sup>**

#### **Unity Presbyterian Church, Terre Haute**

**Rev. Andrew Black**

Unity Presbyterian Church is currently in the midst of an exciting time and welcomes the prayers of the Presbytery and its congregations as we work to live into the vision God is calling us to. We are currently working through a strategic planning process with the primary goal to increase membership over the next years. To that end we have been working to transform our outdoor worship space into a something

suitable for worship, weddings, concerts, and other events that will make Unity a place the congregation and community can renew and revitalize their mind, body and spirit in the midst of creation.

Guided by our Earth Care Congregation principles we are also working to revitalize the property by removing invasive plants and planting a biblically inspired garden. One of the issues we have is an original house on our property is old, becoming dangerous, and needs to be removed, this is of course costly so prayers that Unity can source the funding to take on this project without putting undue stress on the congregation's budget would be appreciated. Along with this transformation a new ministry tied to our food pantry is about to be born. We are almost ready to launch a small orchard project that will plant up to 40 fruit trees, apples and pears, on our property that will be able to provide fresh fruit for not only our food pantry but all the food pantries in the Terre Haute area in the next 3-5 years. Prayers for the successful beginnings and growth of this mission and ministry are greatly desired.

The congregation at Unity is dreaming big about what comes next and invites you to pray with them for what may come next, what God may be leading us to do in this exciting time of transition: an open air pavilion, a labyrinth, a wheelchair accessible playground, solar power for the church, among other wonderful ideas have been shared so we welcome prayers of discernment for our vision team and our session as they hear the Spirit and lead us to follow the goals of our strategic plan.

### **Week of August 27<sup>th</sup>**

#### **Emergency and Disaster Response -- Prayer in a Time of Disaster**

Holy One, you are our comfort and strength  
in times of sudden disaster, crisis, or chaos.  
Surround us now with your grace and peace  
through storm or earthquake, fire or flood.  
By your Spirit, lift up those who have fallen,  
sustain those who work to rescue or rebuild,  
and fill us with the hope of your new creation;  
through Jesus Christ, our rock and redeemer.

From [Prayers in Times of Trouble and Disaster](http://www.pcusa.org) (PCUSA.org)