

# Presbytery Prayer Partners

## December 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 December 3<sup>rd</sup>**

#### **Agencies of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)**

##### **PRESBYTERIAN MISSION AGENCY**

Presbyterian Mission is the national ministry arm of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and the largest of the PC(USA)'s General Assembly agencies. We joyfully partner with congregations, mid councils, worshiping communities, mission networks and many other groups to nurture and support Christ's disciples wherever the Holy Spirit leads and the General Assembly directs us. Presbyterian Mission's goal is to inspire, equip and connect the church in three main areas: evangelism and discipleship, servant leader formation, and justice and reconciliation.

##### **THE PRESBYTERIAN FOUNDATION**

The Presbyterian Foundation gathers, stewards and distributes funds for mission. We work hard to strengthen congregations and related mission and ministry efforts by developing gifts and managing funds on their behalf.

##### **THE PRESBYTERIAN INVESTMENT AND LOAN PROGRAM**

The Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program, Inc. (ILP) is a nonprofit corporation of PC(USA) created to provide low-cost loans to congregations, governing bodies and related entities of PC(USA). We provide loans for construction or purchase of buildings, renovations, and the refinance of existing debt.

##### **PRESBYTERIAN PUBLISHING CORPORATION**

For nearly 200 years the purpose of the Presbyterian Publishing Corporation has been to enlighten, educate, and challenge our readers. Through our main imprint, Westminster John Knox Press, we publish books for three main audiences: academics, clergy, and general readers. Our several lines of curriculum in Growing Faith Resources provide sustenance for those in church study groups. And our newest imprint, Flyaway Books, helps children understand the Bible and the world around them. We publish approximately 50 new books and other resources each year and manage a backlist of more than 2,500 titles that are sold throughout the world.

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## THE BOARD OF PENSIONS

The Board of Pensions serves teaching elders and other employees, and the congregations and other PC(USA)-affiliated institutions that employ them, as it lives into the direction that General Assembly has given it. It provides pension, healthcare, and death and disability benefits; financial assistance; and educational programs to support a ministry of wholeness, which promotes spiritual, health, financial, and vocational well-being. At its core is the belief that the well-being of church servants contributes significantly to the vitality of the Church.

## OFFICE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The Office of the General Assembly supports the work of the Stated Clerk. The Clerk's duties include interpreting assembly actions, representing the church on various denominational and ecumenical councils, witnessing on behalf of the church to social justice issues, and making statements as directed by an assembly. The office supports Mid Councils as they support congregations and has oversight of the Presbyterian Historical Society.

## **Week of December 10<sup>th</sup>**

### **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 17<sup>th</sup>**

### **Military Service Members**

Righteous God, you rule the nations. Guard brave men and women who risk themselves in battle for their country. Give them compassion for enemies who also fight for patriotic causes. Keep our sons and daughters from hate that hardens, or from scorekeeping with human lives. Though they must be at war, let them live for peace, as eager for agreement as for victory. Encourage them as they encourage on another, and never let hard duty separate them from loyalty to your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

*"For Those in the Military" The Book of Common Worship, pg 818, #65*

## **Week of December 24<sup>th</sup>**

### **Christmas Eve – Peace on Earth**

Eternal God,  
In your perfect realm no sword is drawn  
But the sword of righteousness,  
And there is no strength but the strength of love.  
So mightily spread abroad your Spirit,  
that all peoples may be gathered  
under the banner of the Prince of Peace,  
as your children;  
to you be dominion and glory,  
now and forever.

Amen.

*“For Peace” The Book of Common Worship, pg 795, #2*

## **Week of December 31<sup>st</sup>**

### **Candidates and Inquirers**

In the Presbytery of Ohio Valley: Jerusha Van Camp is a member at First Presbyterian Church in Evansville, where she also works as the Parish Visitor. She is continuing to grow her ministry skills as a Pastoral Intern.

Please pray for Jerusha and all Candidates and Inquirers in their 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.