



Wesleyan Covenant Association

Prayer Guide

January 2024

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As we begin the year 2024, I want to challenge every disciple of Jesus to make prayer “our daily business” as described by Charles Spurgeon. I suggest that we begin by waiting in the presence of God and listen for his voice. My friend, Rev. Sue Eaton is a MidSouth GMC Provisional Elder who wrote an Advent devotional entitled, “Waiting posture.” She wrote the following.

Waiting Posture

“In her book, "When the Heart Waits", Sue Monk Kidd suggests there are several postures of waiting. The first posture occurs in the story of Jesus visiting the home of Mary and Martha (Luke 10:38-42). Mary breaks social taboos by joining the circle of men seated at the feet of Jesus. She devotes her whole mind and heart to listening to Jesus. This posture of waiting lifts up a contemplative focus on the true and good. In the midst of many small times of waiting during the day, this contemplative posture seeks awareness of the constant presence of God, awareness of the deeper hunger for God, awareness of the wonder and blessing all around.

Take time today to sit for a while in contemplative openness. Imagine yourself sitting at the feet of Jesus.”
Grace and peace,
Rev. Sue Eaton

Suggested themes of prayer for each week of January 2024

During the month of January, contemplate the following Scriptures and suggestions for “our daily business” of prayer as you meet Jesus each day and wait on him. If you choose, under the “Prayer” tap on the WCA website, send me an email to request and invitation to the WCA International Intercessory Network Third Monday Zoom Prayer session and join us in the business of prayer at 9:00 AM or 9:00 PM EDT.

January 1 – 6 “Bear fruit” Even Though it is officially now "A new calendar year of 2024," it doesn't change anything spiritually. We continue to love and serve God the Father and our neighbors as ourselves. We continue to worship the True God and Savior as always and intercede for those yet to believe. We continue to fulfill the Great Commission of **Mt. 28: 16 – 20** and Great Command of **Mt 22: 34 - 40**. Pray for someone you know who has not trusted Jesus as their Lord and Savior. If you don't know anyone, then pray that the Holy Spirit lead you to them to establish a new friendship. Jesus came to seek and save the lost. We are to bear fruit. Go.

January 7 – 13 “Pray for UMC” Becky Wilder from the Holston, TN area received a Prophetic Word that reminded us to continue to pray for those in the United Methodist Church who are simply seeking a closer relationship with Jesus and those who are feeling “stuck” because they missed the window of opportunity to disaffiliate. Pray that the Lord will make a way for them. Becky referenced **Ex. 4: 18** where Moses is telling Jethro of his call by God to go back to Egypt to see if anyone in Egypt is yet alive? Jethro said “Go. I wish you well.” We are being called to go back to the UMC to see who is crying out “Help us. Don't forsake us.” Who do you know in the UMC that you must pray for and help to find hope.

January 14 – 20 “Pray for the Central UM Conferences” As Moses said to Pharaoh, “Let my people go!” (**Ex 5: 1**) We hope that the delegates of General Conference 2024 scheduled for April 23 – May 3, 2024, at Charlotte Convention Center in Charlotte, North Carolina, will have a change of heart and mind and let the Central Conferences go. The U.M. renewal groups have launched a media campaign called, “Fair for some - Fair for all!” to challenge the delegates to do so. Pray that this commonsense theme will be accepted by General Conference 2024 and a new path of disaffiliation will be created.

January 21 – 27 “Healing love” Dr. Stephen Seamands has written an important book and study entitled “Follow the Healer” published by Seadbed.com as an online on-demand study course. He writes, “Why then does Jesus heal? Because he loves. And as the Son of God, the love that moves him to heal is also a reflection of the love of the Father, because “he can do only what he sees his Father doing” (**John 5:19**). Ultimately, then, Jesus’s healing ministry is rooted in the fellowship of the Trinity. Out of the overflow of the love of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, the triune God works to restore the brokenness of creation. Healing flows out of divine love and compassion. Certainly, healing is an expression of God’s power, but it’s more about God’s love than about God’s power.

(Isaiah 40:11; Matthew 9:36; John 11:3; 2 Corinthians 13:14)

-Have you ever thought of healing grace as an overflow of trinitarian love? How is this a much richer and more beautiful origin of healing than the common ones we know (e.g. apologetic purposes, missional purposes, etc.)?

- 1) Pray that God would give you his heart for those who are hurting in our world. Ask that divine love would determine your purpose and steady your resolve as you open yourself to healing ministry.
- 2) When you pray for people, invoke the love and tenderness of God and practice articulating healing as an act of God’s care for his people rather than simply a demonstration of his power.”

January 28 – 31 “Focus on leadership” Lift up our leaders of the WCA, GMC, Good News, UM Action, life Watch and Transforming Congregations will be filled with the Holy Spirit and the Lord would send people that are needed to do the many tasks at hand. One great task is organizing the GMC Convening Conference scheduled for September 20 – 26, 2024 in Costa Rica, Latin America. We are praying for a praise filled and hopeful Convening Conference.

**For the Awakening,
Rev. Dale Shunk, GMC Elder, Retired
Prayer is “our daily business!”**

