

December 2020

Prayers

St. Mark's United Methodist

Give thanks for all who returned their 2021 Commitment cards, pledging support for the operation of, and all the work and ministries of, St. Mark's United Methodist Church.

Give thanks for the Advent devotion booklet, "An Advent Vision: Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love," written by Pastor Evy – as many of us read and pray with it each day.

Give thanks and ask God's blessings for all those who are participating in various adult Advent studies, using the book, "Incarnation," by Rev. Adam Hamilton.

Pray for Pastors Sharon, Stuart, Evy and Kim as they continue to provide ministry, leadership and care for our congregation, and as some aspects of the COVID-19 shutdown are tightened again. Pray for their good health, safety and well-being in all situations. May they feel God's presence and know His love for them each day.

Pray that we, and all members of our community continue to care for ourselves, our family members, friends and each other by wearing masks, staying socially distanced and washing our hands any time we are out and about. Ask God's help that we continue to stay home as much as possible.

Ask God's blessings, new strength and energy for all doctors, nurses and hospital workers caring for increasing numbers of COVID patients. Pray for their individual health and safety and for needed medicines and treatments to be available as needed.

Give thanks for the new COVID vaccines that are being tested, and pray for wise decisions from health and government officials in the acceptance and distribution of the vaccines in the United States and around the world.

Pray God's blessings for the St. Mark's in-person outdoor worship services continuing at 10 a.m. on Sunday mornings in December. Ask God's presence and love to be with the pastors and staff, and all those facilitating and attending these services. NOTE: These are small-group size, and everyone needs to register online each week to attend.

Ask God's blessing for continuing the prerecorded Sunday worship services, as many in the congregation and other visitors and friends participate in online worship each week.

Give thanks for the congregation's ongoing donation of non-perishable food items for the Interfaith Community Services food bank. NOTE: Collection of items is in the north parking lot -- Magee Road side, on Tuesday and Saturday mornings from 10-11 a.m.

Pray for good attendance at the harp concert from 3-5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 13 in the St. Mark's Meditation Gardens.

Ask God's blessings for the online St. Mark's Musical Christmas Celebration beginning at 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 20. NOTE: Online connections will be via the church website, YouTube and Facebook.

Pray for good attendance and God's blessings for all of the St. Mark's Christmas Eve services that will be held online this year (via the church website, YouTube and Facebook) at 11 a.m., 4 p.m. and 8 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 24. Pray also for a successful livestream of the 8 p.m. service with good attendance in the south parking lot.

Pray God's blessings and love to surround Pastor Evy as she retires from her ministry at/with St. Mark's at the end of December. Give thanks for her dedication, leadership and ability to show God's love and care to all of us through the years.