

February 2021

Prayers

St. Mark's United Methodist

Ask God's blessings of the congregation's ongoing donations of non-perishable food items for the Interfaith Community Services Food Bank. Give thanks that this action assists some of the 200,000 people in Southern Arizona who suffer from food insecurity.

Pray God's blessings for the continuing 2021 worship theme and sermon series titled, "Love is" The current emphasis is to learn how we are "Grounded in Love," followed by "A Journey to Philippi" for Lent, which begins Ash Wednesday, Feb. 17.

Pray God's blessings as Susan Putt retires as the St. Mark's Music Ministries Coordinator. Pray God's blessings for Susan and her husband, Harold, as they enjoy her retirement together.

Pray God's blessings as we prepare our hearts and open our minds to receive a new understanding of God's great love for all people during Lent.

Give thanks and ask God's blessings for a Lenten devotional that will be made available to us. Pray for all who register and participate in one of the all-church Lenten studies using the study book titled, "Can You Drink the Cup?" by Henri Nouwen. Various classes are scheduled on different days and times during Lent. Pray for all the Lenten study leaders, as well.

Ask God's blessings and new strength and energy for all doctors, nurses and health care workers as they care for increasing numbers of COVID-19 patients. Pray for their individual health and safety and that necessary hospital beds, medicines and treatments will be available as needed.

Give thanks for the COVID-19 vaccines. Pray they are safe and effective. Ask God's guidance and help as the vaccines are produced, delivered and made available to people. Pray God's help for people coping with various online registration processes, transportation issues and other delays and difficulties.

Pray for pastors Sharon, Stuart and Kim as they continue to provide ministry, leadership and care for our congregation as the COVID-19 shutdown continues. Pray for their individual health and safety 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 everyone around us, by wearing masks, staying socially distanced and washing our hands frequently when we are out and about. Ask God's help to direct our thoughts and actions for us to continue to stay home as much as possible.

Ask God's continued blessings for our pre-recorded Sunday worship services. Give thanks that many in the congregation, other visitors and friends participate in online worship each week. Ask God's blessings for the effort of our pastors, staff, musicians, tech volunteers and Worship Committee members who accomplish this each week.

Pray God's love and healing power will surround all those with COVID-19 and other illness or health conditions. Pray for St. Mark's members and friends who have had recent surgery or are waiting for surgeries/treatments to be scheduled, as well as those who are recovering at home or in care facilities.

The Desert Southwest Conference encourages us to pray for other churches within our district each month. It is encouraging to know other churches are praying for and with each other. For February, we are asked to pray for South District churches Huachuca UMC in Huachuca City; UMC of Green Valley in Green Valley; Patagonia Community UMC in Patagonia; and First UMC in Safford.