

**Pray.**

**Pray now,**

**Pray for the Others.**

*Love one another. The command echoes through Scripture and awakens us to life. Jesus intended for the world to verify the truth of his message by observing us in our love for one another and all God sends into our lives. (John 13:35, 17:22:23)*

In this season, there are momentous preparations being made for our United Methodist community to part, possibly to multiply in new ways. How we do that matters. **Because praying is an expression of loving that is accessible to all, we, your Conference Leadership Team, call all who can sense the resonance of our voices to, "Pray with us!"** Pray for the wellbeing and faithfulness of those who think differently, whose path seems to diverge from your own. Pray for the ones with whom you are aligned, and for the ones who strive to lead in this poignantly sad and possibly exciting time. The world is watching how we treat one another.

*"let all who are faithful offer prayer to you" (Psalm 32:6)*

Gracious and merciful God,

We come into your presence in a time of anxiety, fear, and doubt; we know that when we are anxious and fearful people, we are unable to live fully into the persons you desire us to be. And so we reach out to you with prayerful hearts.

We know that in this place of prayer, when we are open and responsive to your presence, you can use this time and space to bridge the desires of our hearts with your deep desires, for each of us individually and for us as a community of people seeking to live faithfully into your Kingdom. As we find ourselves in this season of repentance and renewal, we ask that you do indeed 'sustain in us a willing spirit' that we might be reconciled to you, to each other, and to the world.

And in this season of uncertainty in the Church, we ask that you grant us your peace and grace and mercy that we might use those gifts to offer your healing and wholeness to a broken world. We lift our voices to you in the name of Jesus, the Christ. Amen.

*This week's prayer is provided by the Rev. Nancy Dibelius.*