

## PPUMC PRAYERS

God, we seek Your guidance through the Holy Spirit so that we can live out and balance Your call to join together in worship, to love our neighbors and to do no harm.

God, we acknowledge that we cannot do this on our own. You created us as part of a larger whole, the branches connected to Your vine. Our effectiveness in prayer and in the life we live is completely dependent on the connections we have to Life itself.

God, we set aside the 40 hours preceding our celebration of the arrival of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost to seek You out. In this time we ask that You meet us where we are, both physically and spiritually, that we might know your presence and that you would lead Your people in a time of uncertainty, division, confusion and loss. As part of Your body we who are the Point Pleasant United Methodist Church specifically pray Your guidance and wisdom in the following areas:

- Church Leadership: God, move among the leadership at PPUMC as they take steps to determine how to safely create a space where we can come together again to worship You. Give them knowledge and understanding to interpret the safety guidelines provided so that we will do no harm at the appointed time for us to gather in one place again.

*I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will guide you with My eye. Psalm 32:8*

*Trust in the Lord with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths. Proverbs 3:5-6*

*Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God. Philippians 4:6*

*For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind. 2 Timothy 1:7*

*If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God who gives to all liberally and without reproach. James 1:5*

- Unity: God, as a church we are a group of uniquely crafted individuals with vastly differing opinions, known and loved by You. Please help break down the divisiveness so prevalent in our culture and replace it with a sense of unity and purpose grounded in a desire to honor You in the ways we love our neighbors and one another.

*“Complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind.” Philippians 2:2*

*“And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.” Colossians 3:14*

*“Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind.” 1 Peter 3:8*

## **GENERAL PRAYERS (Adapted from Jen Pollock Michel)**

For the sick and infected: God, heal and help. Sustain bodies and spirits. Contain the spread of infection.

For frontline health care workers: God we thank you for your call on their lives and for their continued service to all. Provide protection for them and their families as they serve those in need.

For our vulnerable populations: God, protect our elderly and those suffering from chronic disease. Provide for the poor, especially the uninsured.

For our local, state, and federal governments and the scientific community: God, help them as they attempt to understand this disease. May You give them knowledge and wisdom in their guidance of our country at this time.

For the media and consumers of media: God, help the media to communicate with appropriate seriousness without causing panic. Please help consumers find information that is helpful and allows for our participation in this process without causing unnecessary fear and anxiety.

For those with mental health challenges who feel isolated, anxious, and helpless: God, provide them every necessary support.

For the homeless, unable to practice social distancing: Protect them from disease.

For Christian missionaries throughout the world, especially in areas with high rates of infection: God, provide them with words of hope, and equip them to love and serve those around them.

For workers facing layoffs, uncertain employment and financial hardship: God, keep them from panic, and inspire your church to generously support them.

For those who return to work in an uncomfortable and uncertain environment: God, grant them peace and wisdom in determining how to safely continue their employment, and keep them healthy.

For families with young children at home: God, help parents to partner together creatively for the care and flourishing of their children. For single mothers and fathers, grow their networks of support.

For parents who cannot stay home from work but must find care for their children: God, present them with creative solutions.

For college and university students: God, show them that while life in this hour is uncertain, Your love for them is unchanging.

For Christians in every neighborhood, community, and city: May Your Holy Spirit inspire us to pray, to give, to love, to serve, and to proclaim the gospel, that the name of Jesus Christ might be glorified around the world.