

PRAYER FOR GRADUATES & YOUTH

Reading: Psalm 127 & Romans 15

Mediate on: Romans 15:13 – May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

In Psalm 127 we are told that the young are like arrows in the hands of a warrior. The Old Testament records the story of an ancient king who was summoned by a prophet to shoot an arrow. He did so, and that arrow was called the arrow of the Lord's Victory.

Before us today, Lord, are arrows of Your Victory. These are young men and women you have formed and gifted for such a time as this.

For though these are days like the prophet Isaiah described – days of uncertainty, when thick darkness covers the people – we also know that they are days of incredible opportunity.

May each one of these men and women fly as an arrow of truth to a society often muddled about right and wrong; as an arrow of compassion to the unloved and unwanted; and as an arrow of light pointing to a day when the Lord Jesus will reign over the earth.

I pray that they would know the 'hope of their calling' and, like Timothy, stir up the gift within them. That when in the course of things, they are tempted to lose heart they would know that they are indeed arrows of God's Victory. That they are not consigned to a random existence, but—

- called to be God's mouthpiece: penetrating a distracted and weary world with the wonder of God's wisdom.
- called to be an extension of God's hand of grace: they will touch many who have never known what grace feels like.
- called to run in shoes of peace: bearing the Good News that Jesus has made a way for people to know God.

Grant them the gift of faith – a faith that will illumine every season of hardship and darkness. Grant them a love for Your Word, a heart for prayer, a song of praise and a sensitive ear to your Spirit. For they will encounter many crossroads in life; not just crossroads of career – but much more importantly crossroads of character. Times when they will have to decide whether or not to take the path that most glorifies God – even if it means being less successful or lesser known in the eyes of others.

In these days of easily discarded relationships, help each of them know what it means to be a faithful friend, husband, wife, father or mother. In these days that seem so frantic, help each of them to know God's peace which passes all understanding. In these days when they will most surely navigate through seas of change and even crisis, help them forge anchors of wisdom out of every disappointment. And then give them a heart to pass that wisdom on to their children, and their children's children.

And may they never lack in passion for God.

Grant them a spirit that pursues God above all else. For at the end of the day, we know that it is not about making our mark, but pressing on to God's mark, that prize for which Paul himself strained – the moment when the Master says, "Well done" and the 'forever' we will have of knowing God face-to-face. — Adapted from Steve Fry,

YOU'RE NOT ALONE, LET US PRAY WITH YOU & FOR YOU

- **Mrs. Sandy Wamser** has had a little health setback, but she has returned home. Let us pray: Creator God, You are the wind in my sails You guide me as I steer and find direction. You give me the strength to keep on going. You watch over me as I navigate stormy seas. You are the harbor where I stop for rest. You are my encourager when I lose hope. You are the lighthouse that keeps my path safe. You are with me always. Thank you. Amen. Please send cards and notes of love, encouragement and support for Ms. Sandy and Mr. Pat to: **Mr. Pat and Mrs. Sandy Wamser, 3742 Pleasant Valley Road, West Bend, WI 53095.**
- Sincerest and heartfelt condolences are extended to Mr. Dean and Mrs. Carol Pok, and the Pok Family, on the passing of their father and mother, **Mr. Jerry J. Pok and Mrs. Margret "Marge" Louise Pok** who God whispered their name on January 23, 2024, and February 2, 2024, and lovingly welcomed them to their eternal home. Cards and notes of sympathy and condolences can be mailed to: **Mr. Dean and Mrs. Carol Pok, 1915 Hwy 28 E., Kewaskum, WI 53040.**
- **Mrs. Elizabeth "Betty" Nelson**, well known and beloved in the community of West Bend, passed away on March 12, 2024. We continue to keep the Nelson Family in our thoughts and prayers.
- Our beloved Christian sister, **Mrs. Joy Lynn Kuhaupt**, 69, of Sussex, passed away March 7, 2024, after a brief illness at Froedtert of Milwaukee. A Celebration of Life Service will June 8, 2024, at Fifth Ave. United Methodist Church. Card and notes of condolences and support can be mailed to: **Mr. Robert Kuhaupt, Sussex Mills Apts., W240 N6345 Maple Ave., #116, Sussex, WI 53089.**
- Your continued prayers for healing and strength for **Mrs. Janice Liepert-Kempf** over the past years, has been needed and appreciated, as Ms. Janice suffered a major stroke, cancer, and cardiac surgery. **Mr. Allan Kempf** is suffering with the pain and stiffness of arthritis. Holy Spirit, thank You for being with Mr. Allan and Ms. Janice through all the ups and downs of their lives and for the many blessings God has given them for which they praise and thank God. You can send emails of prayers and support to: alankempf33@gmail.com; or cards and notes to **Mr. Allan and Mrs. Janice Liepert-Kempf, 414B. South Pleasantview Road, Plymouth, WI 53073; phone number: 920.838.1830.**
- **Mrs. Nancy Whitson** extends her grateful appreciation to you for taking the time to send cards of love and support. Cards and notes of encouragement and support can be mailed to: **Mrs. Nancy Whitson, Aria of Brookfield, 18740 West Bluemound Road, Room 103, Brookfield, WI 53045.**
- **Bro. Bob Krell**, our beloved faithful brother is doing well and appreciative of your continued prayers and supported. Let us pray: I give you my worries and concerns and I ask for your guidance. You see it all, the outer circumstances, the inner turmoil. I know that you understand my life, that sometimes my heart weighs heavy with trouble. Right now I lay all these things before you. I breathe in, safe in the knowledge that I am held by grace. I breathe out, knowing that I am held secure in your arms. And I wait on you. For you are all truth, you are overflowing love, you are a beacon of hope and a fortress of faith. Lord, I choose to be attentive to your voice. May I be alert to your Spirit's guiding as I continue this journey. Amen. Cards and notes of love and encouragement can be mailed to: **Mr. Bob and Mrs. Jean Krell, 804 Lenora Drive, West Bend, WI 53090.**
- We continue our prayer vigil for **Mr. Dennis Liepert** on his extensive journey of recovery. Lord, you know me inside and out. You know about my pain and distress; you understand the fears of my heart. At the cross you endured unabating agony. You have gone before me into the darkness and emerged in power and glory. At this time I lean on You; I draw my strength from Your endless love and live in Your limitless grace trusting in You. Amen. Cards and notes of love and support can be mailed to: **Mr. Dennis and Mrs. Tammy Liepert, 7361 Tower Drive, West Bend, WI 53090.**
- **Mr. Michael Cahoon**, son of Mr. Jim and Mrs. Sandy Cahoon, has been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer and is still on a journey of healing. His latest imaging showed no growth in the cancer. To God be the glory. Lord, I reach out to you for your guidance. Please show me which way to turn. Calm my anxious thoughts, come speak into my mind. Strengthen me as I falter and feel weary. May I feel strength rising up within my heart. Bring clarity into my visions and dreams. I trust that you are with me, no matter where I go, or what I decide to do. You journey with me always. Amen. Cards and notes filled with prayers of encouragement and support can be sent to: **Mr. Michael Cahoon, C/O: Mr. Jim and Mrs. Sandy Cahoon, 1615 Beverly Lane, WI 53090.**

- We give thanks and praise that **Mr. Ben Barth**, husband of Ms. Heather Wolf, granddaughter of Mr. Roger and Mrs. Mary Rogge. recipient of a new heart and new lungs. Let us pray: Do not look forward to what may happen tomorrow; the same everlasting God who cares for you today will take care of you tomorrow and every day. Either God will shield you from suffering, or God will give you unfailing strength to bear it. Be at peace, then. Put aside all anxious thoughts and imaginations and say continually: “The Lord is my strength and my shield. My heart has trusted in God and I am helped. God is not only with me but in me, and I in God. Correspondence can be mailed to: **Mr. Ben and Mrs. Heather Barth, 223 South 11th Ave., West Bend, WI 53095.**
- We remain in prayer and support for **Mrs. Ann Cording**. Thank you, Lord, for being there for me and allowing me to cry out to you in my times of need. It is amazing to me that the Lord of the Universe would take time to listen to me and to care about what I say. God, things are happening around me right now that I do not understand. Some of these things make me feel weak, helpless, and afraid. Even in this, I know that you are Lord. I know the situation is in Your hands, and I trust You. I beseech you for strength and wisdom that I would be able to endure this situation and handle it in a way that would bring glory to Your name. In Jesus' name. Amen. Cards and notes of love and care can be mailed to: **Mrs. Ann Cording, 1416 S. Silverbrook Drive, West Bend WI 53095.**
- **Mr. Chuck Rogge** is still on a journey of healing. He is grateful for the cards and notes of support. Please continue to flood the mailbox with love and support to: **Mr. Chuck and Mrs. Sue Rogge, 5011 Hwy. P, West Bend, WI 53095.**

*We celebrate and give thanks as FAUMC enters its 176th year of service,
Commitment, and Methodism in West Bend, Wisconsin.*

“Honoring Our Past, Celebrating Our Present, Anticipating Our Future”

We gather this day, to acknowledge a threshold moment—
a thin place between what’s been and what’s to be—
between what’s been studied, learned, and accomplished,
and even more, what’s there is to still study and learn and do.

It is so very good to mark growth in celebration,
and then so very good as well, to celebrate having further to grow—
to note a mile-marker on the longer way
and to take joy both in the distance traveled and the distance yet ahead.

Bless this liminal time and space and those who stand in thresholds
looking back and looking ahead.

May it be with a sense of both gratitude and anticipation.
May it be with an awareness of how we grow our life long with our whole person—
our minds, bodies, spirits, and emotions.

And may it be with a profound sense
of what it means to place our way,
where we’ve been and where we’re going,

within the way of Jesus. Amen.

Your humble Pastor-servant leaders,

Pastor Clarissa & Bro. Martin