

February 2019

DAILY PRAYER CALENDAR

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The February prayers have been written by Rev. Randy Shrauner, Executive Minister.

The Upper Room, a daily devotional guide for United Methodists, provides a devotional reading for each of the days of February that goes with each of the Scripture readings and prayers on this month's prayer calendar. The devotional for each day will enrich your quiet time with the Lord in the month of February.



CHURCH OF THE
SERVANT

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p><i>PRAYER WILL CHANGE YOUR LIFE...</i></p> <p><i>PRAY ANYTIME, ANYWHERE!</i></p>						<p>1 <i>Proverbs 3:5-6</i> Lord, it is so easy to get wrapped up in our own wisdom and the common understanding of the world around us. The world is corrosively persuasive as it presents its view of right and wrong, of what is true and what is false. Anchor my mind, Lord, in your eternal word. Bind my hearts, soul, and hands to your truth and keep me safe in your knowledge.</p>
<p>3 <i>Matthew 5:13-16</i> Father, you have created us for a purpose. Through the sacrifice of your Son and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit each of us have been baptized into a ministry of calling and service. Grant us the courage to not shy away from this work. Do not allow us to be dissolved and diluted into the world—hiding your light which shines within us. We are yours today and forever.</p>	<p>4 <i>1 John 4:7-12</i> O God, the world—and too often the people called by your name—have rejected your definition of love to use instead the dictionary of culture. The love you have for us, and the love we are called to have for one another, is based upon your eternal truth and a willingness to bind ourselves to your definition of reality. Help us love as you have first loved us.</p>	<p>5 <i>Luke 2:36-38</i> Lord, in a culture that prizes youth and its beauty above all else, we thank you for prophets like Anna. A widow advanced in years, her voice could have been ignored and passed over. But her life of worship, fasting, and prayer attuned her spirit to your work in the world, placing her at the center of the Good News of Jesus Christ. May we hear the Anna's among us today.</p>	<p>6 <i>John 1:35-42</i> Jesus, we often think that it is we that recognize you, that our hearts seek you out, that our rational minds sift and sort to ultimately choose you. But Lord, your word in Scripture reminds us that we did not choose you, but it was you that chose us, and "appointed us to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last." May this truth make us eternally humble in our service of you.</p>	<p>7 <i>Psalms 96:1-9</i> "For all the gods of the people are idols..." Lord, when I examine my life, I recognized I have elevated some aspects of my existence to a place that should be occupied by you, and you alone. Forgive me this sin of idolatry. Grant me the wisdom and the courage to repent as I purge my heart of all which separated me from you. Build in me an undivided heart bent to you alone.</p>	<p>8 <i>John 1:1-18</i> "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God..." Holy God, from the first pages of Scripture in Genesis, you have worked to bring calm from chaos, light from darkness, and life abundant from the void. In your Son, Jesus Christ, that work is made complete! Through him we are made fit to live with you in eternity.</p>	<p>9 <i>Ephesians 2:1-10</i> "I once was, but now through Christ I am..." Each of us has experienced a transformation through the grace of God in Jesus Christ. Each of us has been set on a new path as a result of his work in our lives. So, may we forever be about the good works for which we have been created and may we never return to the darkness from which God has delivered us.</p>
<p>10 <i>Isaiah 40:28-31</i> We do know, and we have heard, of the majesty and power of the creator God! You, Lord, have fashioned us in your divine image and sustain us through the very breath that fills our lungs. You have placed upon us a divine mandate to be your people in the world. You will never tire or fail in your support, and it is by your strength we flourish! Praise be to God!</p>	<p>11 <i>1 Corinthians 13:11-13</i> "Love is patient. Love is kind. Love is never boastful, or arrogant, or rude." But, Father, love also always tells the truth; even when I do not wish to hear. Lord, surround me with a Church that loves me enough to tell me the truth about myself. Give them the courage and wisdom to care deeply and to risk challenging me when I am wrong as they call me to repentance when I stray.</p>	<p>12 <i>Matthew 6:19-21</i> Where does my wealth lie, O Lord? By whose standards—those of the world, or those of God—am I accumulating wealth? It is easy to become distracted by a shiny bauble or the latest fad and become distracted from what has true value and eternal worth. Morning-by-morning, Lord, reset my heart to see the world through your eyes, that I might chase after you alone.</p>	<p>13 <i>Luke 16:10-15</i> "It is what you do in the darkness that puts you in the light." Search my heart, Lord, for those places where compromise is the rule. Open my spirit for examination before you to find those fortresses of will and sinful behavior I work so hard to hide. I want to be whole and undivided, whether hidden in the darkness or revealed in the light. Do your work within me, I pray.</p>	<p>14 <i>Mark 2:1-12</i> How far would I go, Lord, to bring a friend in need to your side? What would I risk to introduce someone to your grace and healing mercy? Would I rub against the grain of my community and culture? Would I imperil my standing as a citizen and jeopardize the approval of my peers? Holy God, make me fearless before the forces of the world to proclaim you to all.</p>	<p>15 <i>Ephesians 4:7-16</i> Lord Jesus, you call us to not only turn to you in repentance leading to salvation, but to grow and mature as disciples—resistant to the winds which toss the world to and fro around us. Build us into a people capable of recognizing your truth in all situations and capable of speaking the truth in love to one another that your body, the church, remains ever faithful.</p>	<p>16 <i>John 14:15-21</i> Holy God, your greatest commandment calls us to "Love the Lord your God, with all your heart, all your mind, and all your soul." The world often argues as to what it means to love you in this way. Thank you for your word in Scripture, which makes the truth clear. "They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me..."</p>
<p>17 <i>1 Thessalonians 2:1-12</i> What is our witness as your Church in the world? When our neighbors look at us, what do they see? We confess that we have not always been consistent—proclaiming one message yet living another. We confess we have not always been loving—adding to the burdens of the people rather than providing relief. By your grace, Lord, may we do better today and tomorrow.</p>	<p>18 <i>Psalms 46:1-5</i> When my world is rocked with change, remind me where my refuge is to be found. When my strength is sapped and fear fills my heart, remind me where strength that endures is to be found. No matter the circumstances, you, Lord, sit upon your throne and will not be moved. When my heart shakes within me, remind me always of this truth.</p>	<p>19 <i>Romans 12:9-11</i> Does my life bear upon it the marks of a disciple? Do I hate what is evil and hold fast to what you have called good? Do I love my brothers and sisters with true affection and demonstrate honor in all my relationships? Am I patient in suffering and always and everywhere do I persevere in prayer? Lord, I turn my life to you. Build me into the person you call me to be.</p>	<p>20 <i>Revelations 21:1-7</i> From the opening pages of your Word in Scripture to the closing chapters, your hope for all creation has been the same. You have built us, Lord, for fellowship with you. Through the ages we have resisted that calling to go instead our own way, and the results have been disastrous. Praise be to you, O God, that your work will ultimately be made complete!</p>	<p>21 <i>Philippians 4:4-7</i> So often, Father, I am guilty of reversing your word. I worry about everything but fail to lift my concerns to you in prayer and supplication with thanksgiving! Forgive me this sin and move me to be quick to turn to you no matter the situation—no matter the circumstance. We, as your people, have not been left alone to fend for ourselves. Your peace is ours!</p>	<p>22 <i>Matthew 25:31-40</i> It is a sloppy view of grace that believes our actions in this life do not matter. Through Christ we have been set free and enabled to do the good works for which we have been created. Move me Lord to day-by-day feed the hungry, care for the sick, provide for the widow, the orphan, the weak and the defenseless. This is righteousness as enacted by your people.</p>	<p>23 <i>James 5:7-12</i> How long, O Lord, must we wait? The world around us cries out in suffering and pain. Injustice is often the rule and peace is a distant concept. Grant me patience to stand. Steady my heart as I wait. Build within me endurance for the duration because in your time all will be made whole, every tear will be dried, and every wound will be healed.</p>
<p>24 <i>John 11:30-45</i> "Unbind him, and let him go." Lord Jesus, this is your hope for each and for all of us. We find ourselves bound by chains often of our own making; chains which threaten to drag us to our death, buried in a tomb with the stone sealed tight. Open our hearts to your message of salvation that we may be set free to walk in the light of your eternal kingdom.</p>	<p>25 <i>Galatians 3:26-29</i> Through baptism we have been grafted into a new family—where once we were a people without a name, now we are children of the most high king! Holy God, give us each the courage and fortitude necessary to live into that precious inheritance. May we bring only honor to the name that has been bestowed upon us. Glory be to God!</p>	<p>26 <i>2 Corinthians 4:16-18</i> We walk, Lord, by faith and not by sight. What we hold to be true cannot be perceived by the eyes and the ears we have been given, but only through the Holy Spirit, which you have placed within us. Make us a people who look beyond the horizon to what is yet to come. May we be a people willing to cast aside the temporary and cling ferociously to the eternal!</p>	<p>27 <i>Matthew 23:1-12</i> The rules and the roles of your Kingdom are opposite those of the world. You, Lord Jesus, exchanged the honor of heaven for the disgrace of the cross; the throne room of glory for the degradation of a tomb. Help us to walk in the footsteps you have established rather than in the pursuit of earthly glory. Your path is right and true. May it be ours as well.</p>	<p>28 <i>Judges 7:4-15</i> How often Lord, do we perceive the outcome of the daily battles we wage to be dependent upon our strength and resources rather than upon your divine provision. Open my eyes to the truth and make my first response to be to always wait upon you. You are my shield and deliverer. You are my fortress and protection. Hold my feet upon your path in eternity.</p>		