

# February 2020

## 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><b>1</b> <i>Exodus 13:17-22</i> Father, there are times when we cannot make sense out of where it is you appear to be leading us. There may be a clear pathway before us which appears to be simple and straightforward, yet you direct us on a rocky and circuitous route. Make us a people who trust in your will and way rather than in what our simple minds would accept as right and true.</p>
<p><b>2</b> <i>Ecclesiastes 4:9-12</i> It is not by accident that you have joined us one to another whether as man and wife, as committed congregation of believers, or as family whose shared blood binds us one to another through time. We do better together and "Two are better than one!" Remind us, Lord, to support and sustain those you have placed within our lives.</p>	<p><b>3</b> <i>Psalms 19:1-6</i> There are many voices in the world, Lord, calling me one way or the other, each claiming that they are right and true, that they have my best interest at heart. But there is only one source of truth to be trusted, one spring where pure water for my parched soul may be found. Your word in Scripture lifts my heart and protects my path from error.</p>	<p><b>4</b> <i>Isaiah 49:8-10</i> As hard as I might try to ignore the truth, I am faced with the reality that the world has always been hostile toward God and his people. I work to provide a safe place, an enclave where our people can find shelter. But Father, it is only by your hand, your provision, your providence that we find our way. Shelter your people that your name may be lifted high.</p>	<p><b>5</b> <i>Luke 10:25-37</i> "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself." Your people have struggled to live into these greatest of the commandments for over four thousand years. Through the power of your Holy Spirit within us, may we strive toward this sacred end for thousands more.</p>	<p><b>6</b> <i>Mark 1:35-39</i> As I read the stories of your life and ministry, I am repeatedly struck by your commitment to prayer. Not as a fleeting breath as you went about your day, but with a depth and intensity that increased under pressure, rather than dwindled as time, energy and emotion built. Lord, build in me the discipline to follow in the steps you have established.</p>	<p><b>7</b> <i>Psalms 89:1-4</i> Father, your promises to us do not come with an expiration date! Your word proclaimed within Scripture and carved deep within our hearts does not go stale or lose its flavor! Therefore, I will shout to the world the truth of your enduring love and structure my life as a witness to your unending faithfulness! May your name be praised into eternity!</p>	<p><b>8</b> <i>Psalms 78:1-7</i> Father, remind us always of our responsibility to teach the next generation of your ways and your hope for their lives. So often we fall into the trap of thinking that learning is a passive activity. Instead let us speak your words of truth to them daily, let us hold before them always your commandments; as it is in obedience to you, through Christ, that they will find life.</p>
<p><b>9</b> <i>1 John 4:7-12</i> Lord, the call you have placed upon us is to love God with all our heart, mind, and soul; and to love our neighbor as ourselves. This love, as defined by Scripture, is not an emotion or a feeling, it is not a sentiment or a passion, it is an action. Our love for you is made real in obedience to your word and your will, and in our support for the people you place in our path.</p>	<p><b>10</b> <i>Mark 4:35-41</i> "What a friend we have in Jesus..." but as disciples we must be aware of the full truth of our friend's identity. Jesus comes to us meek and mild, calling all who are weary and heavy laden to place their burdens at his feet. But he also is Lord and master of all creation who stills the storm with a single word. May we always offer our friend his due respect.</p>	<p><b>11</b> <i>Psalms 23:1-6</i> "The Lord is my shepherd." He makes me lie down. He leads me beside still waters and places me on the right path. So often I balk at his direction and guidance, seeking to determine my own way; rejecting God's wisdom and leadership for my own flawed desires. Forgive me, Father, for my stubbornness and pride. Let me trust in you into eternity.</p>	<p><b>12</b> <i>Joshua 4:1-9</i> Father, time and again following a significant event you instructed the Children of Israel to erect a monument or gather stones. Their purpose was to provide a mark to remember, through the ages to come, your work with the world. As you were active in their lives, you are active in ours. May we start stacking stones so we remember whose people we are.</p>	<p><b>13</b> <i>Psalms 37:3-6</i> "Take delight in the Lord..." There are many things in my life that give me joy; the first cup of coffee in the morning, the smile of my wife, a hug from a grandchild, but do I delight in the Lord? Holy God, your love for each of us is complete and your desire is that we be whole in you. Help me find joy in your word and in committing my life to obedience.</p>	<p><b>14</b> <i>Colossians 3:12-17</i> Lord, the spirit of this world can make us bitter and cold as we seek to hide behind fortresses erected to shelter us from the onslaught of life in this contemporary world. But your word calls us to be different: to be compassionate rather than aloof, meek rather than proud, and patient rather than irascible. Work in us to make these things true.</p>	<p><b>15</b> <i>Deuteronomy 31:1-8</i> When God places a call upon our lives, he also provides the strength to see it through to fruition. This does not mean the path will be without struggle, pain, or loss—to believe so would be a denial of the Church's witness through the ages. But God goes before us in whatever struggle we face, providing the means necessary for us to prevail in faithfulness.</p>
<p><b>16</b> <i>Psalms 33:1-5</i> Father, in a world filled with confusing voices and contradictory instructions, your word stands before us still and true. Guide us to listen carefully to the commandments you have placed before us as your people, that we may be steadfast and faithful in all things. You, Lord, have poured your wisdom out before us. May we drink deeply from your cup.</p>	<p><b>17</b> <i>Luke 2:25-35</i> Lord, hidden in the excitement and the blessing of your birth is a word of sober reminder that your message will not be received with joy by all, but will instead be actively opposed. When we, as your disciples, encounter resistance, may we always respond with a spirit of grace and love. In this we embody the "Good News" we have been given.</p>	<p><b>18</b> <i>2 Corinthians 9:8-15</i> From the beginning, the people gathered by your name have been marked by generosity toward others in all things. Abraham, the father of Israel, was blessed by you not for his own benefit, but in order that he might be a blessing to others. Lord, make us quick to follow in this pattern of sharing with the world the goodness we have received from you.</p>	<p><b>19</b> <i>1 Corinthians 3:6-11</i> What do any of us possess that we have not first been given? Even the ability to work, to think, to create, is first dependent upon you pouring into us the innate ability to do so. Lord, may this understanding build within us a profound sense of gratitude and humility and make us quick to share the bounty which we have received.</p>	<p><b>20</b> <i>Nehemiah 9:10-17</i> So often within Scripture we listen as the stories of your great acts of deliverance among your children are recounted anew. That history is as compelling as it is dramatic, and should cement within our Spirit the truth that you alone are capable of both making promises and keeping them. But Lord, we are stiff-necked and forgetful people. Forgive us this sin.</p>	<p><b>21</b> <i>Psalms 103:1-8</i> You, Lord, are merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. By the power of your Holy Spirit working within us may our response never be dismissive of this gift. May we never presume to take advantage of the mercy you have shown. May we instead pour ourselves wholeheartedly into the life we have been given.</p>	<p><b>22</b> <i>1 Corinthians 2:1-10</i> Lord, we get confused at the true nature of your Gospel. Using the techniques of the world, we seek to communicate in the language and the patterns of worldly wisdom, rather than relying upon the power of your Holy Spirit to "convict and convince" those who would hear of your truth. May less of us and more of you be our pattern in all things.</p>
<p><b>23</b> <i>Matthew 6:25-34</i> You call us to be wise in all things, Lord, and to be transformed through the renewing of our minds to see the world through your eyes and respond as faithful disciples. But proper attention crosses the line when we allow ourselves to transition from wisdom to worry. Help us discern how we should prepare, but let us cast any sense of worry upon you.</p>	<p><b>24</b> <i>Luke 22:24-30</i> Father, we pour our energy and passions into often misguided pursuits. Much like the dispute among the disciples, we struggle for greatness with no real understanding as to what it is we seek. Open our eyes to what is valuable and what is cheap, what is gold and what is dross. May our lives be devoted to chasing after what is precious in your sight.</p>	<p><b>25</b> <i>Titus 3:1-7</i> Our life as disciples is one of autobiographical re-description: "I once was, but through Christ I now am..." I once was foolish, disobedient, led astray, and a slave to various passions and pleasures. But through Christ I have been made whole, and am being, day-by-day, made fit for an eternity spent in the presence of the Father, Son and Spirit!</p>	<p><b>26</b> <i>Psalms 34:17-22</i> When life crashes in upon me, Lord, you are near. When circumstances threaten to overwhelm me, you hear my voice call from the deep. When all around me is darkness and the way forward disappears in the shadows, your voice is a lamp upon my feet and a light on my path. Thank you for never being further than my prayers can reach.</p>	<p><b>27</b> <i>1 John 5:13-15</i> There are seasons in our lives when doubt creeps in from the darkness and threatens the peace which you have placed in our hearts. Lord, let us hear well the words of the Apostles and the Prophets, the Psalmists and the authors of the Gospels, so that we may know in our heart of hearts that we have eternal life through your son, Jesus Christ.</p>	<p><b>28</b> <i>Proverbs 3:1-10</i> The precious gift of your word to us in Scripture is filled with injunctions for us to remember your teaching, remember your commandments, and build our lives around the obedience to all you have poured into us. Let us always place our trust in you rather than in our own understanding. You alone, Lord, are the Way, the Truth, and the Life!</p>	<p><b>29</b> <i>1 Thessalonians 5:12-18</i> Father, you have not left us alone to find our way home to you. You have instead surrounded us with Fathers and Mothers, Sisters and Brothers; you have given us the Church. Together let us admonish and encourage, help and show forbearance toward one another, and always pray without ceasing as we live out our lives in you.</p>