

## A Call to Prayer

### ***Twenty-one thousand marbles....***

Over 100 pounds of marbles! You will see them in various places throughout the church in vases and jars. They will be everywhere!

We are using these marbles as a symbol. A symbol of our commitment to come together in combined prayer day after day and week after week. There is power in prayer. And there is power in a church coming together in prayer. From January 29 to Easter Sunday (April 16), our church will come together in focused prayer. On the attached card is a list of the items we as a church will lift before the throne of God!

Each week as you come to church, you will place a marble in one of the jars labeled "*prayers prayed*" for every time you prayed. So, for example, if you prayed 5 times this past week, you would place 5 marbles in the jar or vase labeled "*prayers prayed*." We will gather these marbles each week and place them in vases and jars on the altar table, so we can see the prayers of the church rising up.

We want you to see the prayers of our church coming together, adding up before the throne of God. Join us in this journey of prayer!!

Take the attached card and place it in a place where it will remind you to pray every day.



**"The prayer of a righteous person is powerful in what it can achieve."**

**- James 5:16**

**"Offer prayers and petitions in the Spirit at all time. Stay alert by hanging in there and praying for all believers."**

**- Ephesians 6:24**

**"Rejoice always. Pray continually. Give thanks in every situation because this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."**

**- 1 Thessalonians 5:16-17**

**"I ask that requests, prayers, petitions, and thanksgiving be made for all people. Pray for kings and everyone who is in authority so that we can live a quiet and peaceful life in complete godliness and dignity."**

**- 1 Timothy 2:1-2**

# Prayer Focus

## I commit to pray for:

- The United Methodist Church:
  - ⇒ Revival and faithfulness to our beliefs.
  - ⇒ For the Bishop's commission on sexuality.
- First United Methodist Church:
  - ⇒ Revival and faithfulness to our mission and calling.
  - ⇒ For our growth as we seek to start a 2nd Traditional Service.
- The healing of our Nation.
- The healing of individuals:
  - ⇒ \_\_\_\_\_
  - ⇒ \_\_\_\_\_
  - ⇒ \_\_\_\_\_
  - ⇒ \_\_\_\_\_

*Hope in the Lord! Be strong! Let your heart take courage! Hope in the Lord!*  
*Psalm 27:14*

## Going deeper....

As you pray over the next several weeks, some of you may want to go deeper by adding the spiritual discipline of fasting. Fasting is a way to humble ourselves before God. It reminds us that we are completely dependent on God for everything.

I would encourage you to fast one day a week. You can fast from food, coffee, social media, or anything for that matter. But as you fast, focus your prayers and pray specifically for healing for our nation and for individuals you may know.

Many Christians have fasted on Fridays traditionally. Using the Hebrew day, which begins in the evening, do not eat anything (or whatever you are fasting from) from after dinner Thursday until Friday evening, when you would break your fast at Friday dinner.

# A Call to Prayer

