



BETHEL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST "AN OPEN & AFFIRMING CONGREGATION"

Rev. Karen J. Aitkens—Pastor

October 5, 2020

Greetings,

Hope all are staying safe as we continue to find our way through this pandemic. Last week shook the nation as we learned the President, first lady and now many others in the White House and possibly beyond, contracted the virus. I read a short paragraph from a letter sent out by our UCC officers that included a prayer that promotes the healing so needed during this divisive time.

UCC Officers Offer Prayers for President, Family and Staff After Coronavirus Diagnosis

Having just learned that the president, members of his family, and members of his staff have tested positive for the coronavirus, we, the elected Officers of the United Church of Christ, offer this statement and accompanying prayer.

We call on all settings of the church to lift our president and his family and staff in your time of prayer and worship, laying aside partisan impulses and political passions, as we continue to pray for individuals and communities globally that continue to fight the coronavirus.

We are in need of healing. We are held in the loving arms of an indiscriminate loving presence we know as God.

We continue to emphasize that we all take the warnings of doctors and scientists very seriously. This disease is dangerous and remains active. Remain cautious. Wear your masks. Maintain appropriate social distancing. We are entering cold and flu season, and our vigilance, our patience, and our ongoing rigor to practice safe protocols can and will save lives.

We invite you to join us in prayer:

O God of all peoples, healer of the sick and restorer of wholeness, we call upon your abiding spirit to rest upon an entire planet of your beloved children. We are languishing in grief and sickness in the presence of a virus we cannot yet control or understand.

Millions around the world are suffering and dying. Fear prevails. Confusion abounds. Grief mounts. And no response has yet been found that can cover the grief, stem the tide of a spreading virus, or hasten the healing of bodies stricken with its symptoms.

We pray for front line health workers who risk their lives giving medical care to patients suffering from COVID. We pray for families watching loved ones suffering or grieving a death that came early.

We pray for a world that is overwhelmed fighting the virus, overwhelmed with the loss of jobs and income, and overwhelmed by a hidden foe that strikes without warning.

We pray for the poor and the oppressed who often lack the necessary resources and healthcare coverage to resist or fight back against the disease.

4900 NE Parvin Road
Kansas City, MO 64117
816-453-2628
Bethelucckc@gmail.com
www.bethelucckc.com



We pray for communities of color who in America are yet again bearing a disproportionate load of this burden. We pray for chaplains and clergy who are working hard to adapt to conditions under which pastoral care and compassionate comfort must come in challenging ways.

We pray for our president, his family, and his staff, burdened already with leading through a time of fierce division and during a season of collective grief. May they all soon know the comfort of your healing touch.

For all of this and more we pray in hopes of receiving your loving, your comfort, your healing, your restorative hand. May the power of love made manifest in the abiding presence of the Holy Spirit, in the teachings of the one we call the Christ, and in the humble service of his disciples here on Earth usher in a season of hope, a time of healing, and a day of relief from all that threatens.

This, O God, is our humble prayer and we offer it in your most Holy Name.

Amen.

Faithfully,

The National Officers of the United Church of Christ

John C. Dorhauer, General Minister and President

Traci Blackmon, Associate General Minister

Karen Georgia Thompson, Associate General Minister

We know more than ever now the importance of masking, distancing and washing our hands. May we continue to be vigilant. Hold each other in prayer. Be looking for an updated directory that we will send out soon so you can stay in touch by e-mail, a card or a phone call. Presently I have three people interested in doing a Bible study. Let me know ASAP, as I would like to start the group in the next couple of weeks.

Peace and Blessings,

Pastor Karen

PRAYER LIST UPDATE – OCTOBER 5, 2020

Congratulations: Isaac & Kim Rickert welcomed new baby, Keely Allison Rickert, born on September 25th. Grandparents are Jan & Dale Rickert

Prayers: Liz Guevel; Debbie Robinett's niece, Danica Woychesin; Jamie Elder; Randy Pace's friends, Marvin Jackson & Jed Hedges; Vicki Thompson's mother, Velma Farrar, and her brother working at NKC Hospital and all health care providers; Marquita Pace; Marilyn Helmich's daughter Carolyn McNeal and daughter-in-law, Allison Pope; Cathy Leslie; Liz Guevel; Alice Inman; Vern Bohlmeier; Lauri Buck's Brother-in-law, Jim Saylor, Stan Niederhauser's mother, Nancy Niederhauser; Joe Germer; Alice Terrill, Dave Bunch; Jim Derry; Jeremy Manley; Jim Inman; Adam Niederhauser; Gerry McGuire; Doug Berka; Shanna Villarreal and the Jacobsen's, friends of the Pace's; Kathy Corn's sister, Ruthanna Rodatz (& friend Judy Lighthead; Crittenton Center staff and residents, prayers for all medical staff and first responders; Mollie Geitz; Mark & Jeanene Easley; Maggie Basch's cousin, Linda Phelps; Karen Lind-Olson, sister of Doug Berka; Pat Conrad, Shellie Willis' cousin; friend of Laurie Arbuthnot, Fred White; Lora Carey; Schindlers' sister-in-law, Susie Carpenter; Aiden Liesveld, neighbor of Bob & Lauri Buck; Jody Meyer's niece Delores Starr and great niece, Diane Shoemaker Please keep us informed of any additions or corrections to the Prayer List.

***Drive-In Parking Lot services– October 11, 2020 at 10:00 AM (Weather Permitting)**

Backback Shepherds Can Use Your Help

Suggested donations:

- 4-packs of puddings
- Microwave popcorn
- 4-packs of fruit drinks
- Canned vegetables—especially green beans, corn, and carrots (these are especially needed as Harvesters had none)
- Flour tortillas
- Canned stew or chili
- Ramen noodles
- Granola bars

For the Winnetonka Food Pantry (stocked by Backpack Shepherds)

- Mac & Cheese Cups
- Shelf Stable Milk
- Small Cereal Boxes
- Cereal Bars
- Individually Packaged Snacks

There is a tub just inside the outer doors of Bethel for donations and you may leave sacked items beside the tub. Your help in this situation is very much appreciated. Thank you, on Behalf of Backpack Shepherds Board.

“Virtual Auction” Fundraiser Benefitting Clay County Clothes Closet

October 8 at 8:00 am—October 10 at 4:00 pm

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, CCC's 6th Annual Silent Auction will be hosted “Virtually” this year. The event will start on October 8 and end on October 10 at 4:00 pm.

Winning bidders can pick up their auction items on October 10 from 4 pm—6:00 pm at St. James Lutheran Church, 1104 NE Vivian Road, Kansas City, MO 64118. Auction Winners will drive-up in their vehicles and auction items will be brought to a designated pick-up area. 50/50 Raffle Ticket Winners will receive their pay-out via Clay County Clothes Closet Check that day.

Auction Link: <https://www.silentauctionpro.com/bidonlinegrid.php?groupId=1645>

You will have the opportunity to participate in a 50/50 Raffle during this event.

You will have an opportunity to support a “Fund A Need” - Winter Coats for At-Risk Children.

Clay County Clothes Closet remains committed to serving impoverished Kansas City Northland Community families who are experiencing clothing insecurities during this challenging time and beyond! Your support of this fundraising event is greatly appreciated!