

Presbytery Prayer Partners

December 2024

The Presbytery of Ohio Valley encourages all our congregations to pray for each other throughout the year. Over a two-year period, a week will be designated for each of our churches and other organizations. Items listed below have been sent to us from the churches and organizations on our prayer list for the weeks shown. Sharing prayers with each other works!

Week of December 8th

Madison Presbyterian, Madison

Rev. Karen VanderPloeg

Located in historic Madison, the Madison Presbyterian Church has a renewed sense of energy and excitement about what God is doing here. We average about 90 in worship and value our traditional worship with a great choir led by a member of the Hanover College faculty. We are all about loving and encouraging each other and our community. In a new initiative, we are partnering with the schools here to provide clothing, coats, and necessities for children in need. This program builds on other partnerships we already have to feed hungry children and families, provide temporary housing for emergencies, and help transition homeless families to housing stability. Please pray for energy, intelligence, imagination and love as we continue our journey of faith and service in Madison.

Week of December 15th

Hanover College, Hanover

Rev. Catherine Knott

Hanover College is a residential liberal arts college with both graduate and undergraduate students, affiliated with the Presbyterian Church (USA). So much has happened in these last few years, as the isolation and illness associated with the pandemic can take a toll on young lives, particularly pertaining to mental health and well-being. We pray for the healing and shalom of our students, faculty, and staff, and also give thanks for the new graduate programs in physical therapy and veterinarian medicine that we have recently begun or are in the process of building. We strive to be an inclusive and caring community on our campus and ask for strength and wisdom to work through this as we pick up the pieces from these past few years of challenge.

Week of December 22nd

Specialized ministries in the Presbytery of Ohio Valley

We pray for those members of our Presbytery who have been called to ministries outside the local parish setting, including those serving in hospitals or hospice care, in institutions caring for older adults

or persons with disabilities, in campus ministries, at centers providing resources for congregations, at camp and conference centers, and offering pastoral and spiritual care to pastors and their families.

The Presbytery of Ohio Valley is fortunate to have so many such ministers in our midst, as they also offer pulpit supply and sacramental leadership in our congregations, moderate sessions without pastors, and contribute their gifts on presbytery committees and commissions. We are grateful for their energy, intelligence, imagination, and love!

Week of December 29th

For World Unity (Peace on Earth)

O God,
you love justice and you establish peace on earth.
We bring before you the disunity of today's world:
the absurd violence, and the many wars,
which are breaking the courage of the peoples of the world;
militarism and the armaments race,
which are threatening life on the planet;
human greed and injustice,
which breed hatred and strife.
Send your Spirit and renew the face of the earth;
teach us to be compassionate toward the whole human family;
strengthen the will of all those who fight for justice and for peace;
lead all nations into the path of peace,
and give us the peace which the world cannot give. Amen.

A prayer from Zaire, Book of Common Worship (WJKP, 1993) 797-798.