

Presbytery Prayer Partners

July 2026

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 July 5th

Church of the Covenant, Elizabeth

Please pray for our little church family. Pray for our church family to continue to do your work for our church family and our community. Pray also for our Presbyterian Church as a whole.

Week of July 12th

Eastminster Presbyterian, Evansville

The current Eastminster Presbyterian Church (EPC) was founded in 1999, following a merger of the former Washington Avenue Presbyterian Church and the former EPC. In recent years, we have been blessed to welcome a number of new members from the former Newburgh Presbyterian Church.

It is beautiful to see individuals from these congregations alongside new members from all kinds of backgrounds growing and becoming a welcoming, active, worshiping family together in Christ. Our mission statement is "Hearts, Hands, Heads for Christ in Service and Celebration." Located close to bustling Green River Road and the University of Evansville, we are a growing congregation of nearly 200 members and give thanks for the 30+ new members in the last 3 years.

We were so blessed and fortunate to have Reverend Ryan Bradney for the last 4 years. He brought so much joy, faith, enthusiasm, and a vibrant dedication to our mission and outreach. June 14th was his last day at Eastminster. We celebrated him and his precious time with Eastminster knowing he will be a blessing to his new congregation in Jeffersonville. He will truly be missed by all! We are starting the search for a new shepherd and we are confident that God will bring us the perfect candidate.

The strong bond continues with Camp PYOCA. By God's grace and with incredible generosity from the congregation, we were able to support 19 kids and youth sharing in a very impactful week at the camp Gemini program.

Last year, instead of our annual summer mission trip, we decided to invest in local organizations and meet needs in our community. We were able to minister to an assisted-living community. We fixed a meal for the Ronald McDonald House residents serving families with loved ones who are receiving medical care. We baked cookies with our local YWCA sharing fellowship with the resident families. In addition, we enjoyed a neighborhood outreach as we walked our local neighborhood handing out gift bags of homemade cookies listening to and praying for our neighbors. In all these outreach opportunities, we shared laughter, prayers, tears, joy, fun, and wonderful fellowship.

Eastminster is very blessed with a soul-stirring music ministry along with our Christianity and the Arts program. We have been very fortunate to have highly-talented musicians from the University of Evansville campus along with our exceptional choir and music director. These programs have continued to deepen our faith through outstanding musical offerings in our worship services and special events.

We give thanks for a very active youth group with two weekly meetings, very thoughtfully prepared Bible studies and fun activities they share, in addition to a youth Sunday school class. Three years ago, we added to our outreach and youth programs a neighborhood Pet Blessing, with a great response (some coming from Gibson County). Praise God! We have continued the Pet Blessing in 2024 and 2025, with the addition of food trucks. We hold this event in September and the students are valuable and loved participants in this event. They greet and welcome the community as well as pray blessings over the pets and their families.

We are also very thankful we share our facility with our Eastminster Quilters, the EPC Men's Prayer Breakfast group, a Philanthropic and Educational Organization (PEO), and a Men's BSF (Bible Study Fellowship) group.

We give thanks for our office and volunteer staff, our music ministry, and program staff and the faithful staff and congregational leadership along with our youth leaders, our Sunday school classes and the community-building opportunities for every generation available here at Eastminster.

We appreciate prayers for deepening our outreach with the neighborhood and community. As of June 15, 2026, we helped families and individuals more than 65 times through our Starfish and Good Samaritan programs with food, shelter, and basic needs. The need in our community for assistance seems to be growing. We are working with other churches in our area to meet these needs. Your prayers that we will be able to continue to meet the needs of our community would be greatly appreciated.

In 2025, we started a Young Adult group that meets once a week. This group is forging a bond as well as doing a deep dive into scripture. We also appreciate your prayers regarding these opportunities with young adults and families, and for active involvement as we reach out to the wider community.

Lastly, we have made an addition this year that we are including in our Sunday bulletin as well as our weekly newsletter. This new written series of reflections (called **CONNECT**) is being shared by our congregation. Individuals and families are telling their heartfelt stories of what this church means to them focusing on how Eastminster has impacted their lives, their faith, and their lives in Christ.

Week of July 19th

First Presbyterian, Evansville

Rev. MB McCandless

First Presbyterian Church (our forebears were the *first* organized congregation in Evansville!) is grateful for a long history of serving the Evansville area by supporting organizations like Tri-State Food Bank, United Caring Services, Aurora (services for unhoused folks), Patchwork Central (neighborhood services and food bank), Habitat for Humanity, and Little Lambs (housed in our building with services for families with young children) along with supporting national and international work through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. We are known for our robust music program, anchored by our Choir School (affiliated with the Royal School of Church Music in America) which includes students ages seven

through eighteen who sing weekly with the First Presbyterian Church Choir. We are also known for being a strong voice for justice in the community.

We recently entered the first year of a *Campaign for our Future* and are excited about the possibilities ahead of us as the *Future Hope* portion provides capital for beginning the renovation of our historic sanctuary and improving accessibility throughout to ensure the continuation and expansion of all that God is calling our congregation to be and do. We are a growing congregation who is getting used to regularly welcoming new members and baptizing folks of all ages. First Presbyterian Church is a fully welcoming and affirming congregation and is affiliated with More Light Presbyterians and the Covenant Network of Presbyterians. Thank you to all who pray with us and for us in this unique time in the life of the church.

Week of July 26th

First Avenue Presbyterian, Evansville

First Avenue Presbyterian Church is serving the Evansville community and engaging and encouraging others through a life-changing journey in Evansville, Indiana. Our mission is to nurture a diverse and welcoming community, committed to following fearlessly wherever God is leading us and make Disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of Evansville and the world!