

August 2018

DAILY PRAYER CALENDAR

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The August 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 August 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 August.



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>1 <i>Romans 11:33-12:2</i> Father, morning-by-morning we have a choice to make. Will we allow ourselves to be shaped in the image of the world or will we submit our hearts and minds to the work of the Holy Spirit so we may be remade in your image? Grant us the courage to be ever obedient to you, trusting your work to be accomplished within us.</p>	<p>2 <i>Psalms 145:1-12</i> Heavenly Father, my limited mind struggles to consider your full breadth and depth. You have sent your Son in Jesus that we might see and hear you clearly, yet at the same moment all creation—all that is, and was, and ever will be—is sustained through your will. May the meditations of my heart eternally bow before your glory and might.</p>	<p>3 <i>1 Kings 17:1-9</i> As a people, Lord, we tend toward worry and despair. Will there be enough? Will the resources at our disposal sustain us for the journey? Your word reminds us that in you the supplies we need for us to live into our calling as your children will be provided—not to abundance, not to excess—but you always provide the means necessary.</p>	<p>4 <i>Isaiah 11:1-10</i> Father, there are times when we lose sight of the scope and sweep of your plan for creation. We become mired in our circumstances and our eyes look forward to the challenges at our feet rather than the truth of your salvation. Remind us once again that our future is secure in your hands. Your will and your word will be accomplished in full!</p>
<p>5 <i>Mark 4:35-41</i> Lord Jesus, we are fearful of the storm and the wind-swept wave crashing upon us, but we are also unsure as to how we are to react to one whose voice even the wind and the waves obey. Remind me that you call me by name as you draw me to your side and build a God-shaped discernment within me so my fears will be properly ordered.</p>	<p>6 <i>Romans 8:28-39</i> Father, as I read Paul's passage in Romans 8, my eye is often drawn to my love for you as being the controlling feature. I recognize my love and my obedience to you is flawed and thin. My affection is prone to wander. But Lord, as I read further, I am reminded that it is your love, not mine, that prevails. Praise God for his mercy!</p>	<p>7 <i>Psalms 25:4-10</i> Thank you, Father, for your willingness to make yourself known to us. You are not distant and removed, you are not unmoved and unconcerned as to our lives. Your hope is that we will hear your voice and respond in faith and obedience. By your grace may every barrier between us be removed and may we live fully into your presence.</p>	<p>8 <i>1 Peter 5:6-10</i> Lord, I dream of a world free from struggle and pain but Scripture reminds me of the reality of my situation. Life can, and will be, filled with challenges of all sorts. When I find myself teetering and fearful, remind me to fix my faith on you alone as you are able to "...restore, support, strengthen, and establish" my life in you.</p>	<p>9 <i>Proverbs 16:1-9</i> Like my reflection in a mirror, I recognize myself in your word that "All one's ways may be pure in one's own eyes but the LORD weighs the spirit." I often work to convince myself of the rectitude of my ways without reference to you or your word in Scripture. Forgive me this sin and hold my thoughts ever captive to your will.</p>	<p>10 <i>Psalms 91:1-10</i> Father, there is comfort in knowing the entire span of my existence is bounded in you. You precede and you follow each breath, each thought, each action within the life I have been given. How wonderful is your love and care for us! May I always be mindful of your presence and live in conscious awareness of your love.</p>	<p>11 <i>Matthew 14:13-21</i> Lord Jesus, your work among us often runs counter to our expectations and our experience. You constantly challenge what we "know" to be true and expand our understanding of what it means to live within the Kingdom of God. May my reluctance to believe be transformed by the witness of your ongoing acts of grace.</p>
<p>12 <i>Philippians 2:3-11</i> My life, Lord, is often marked by a lack of willingness to let go, while your constant witness is to humility and readiness to be emptied. Is it possible that I can grow to be more like you? I ask you to continue the work you have begun within me and bring me to a completed state, that my life may reflect and glorify you in all things.</p>	<p>13 <i>James 5:13-16</i> Father, so often we reduce our discipleship to a relationship solely between you and us as individuals. The larger truth is that you have placed us in relationship to one another; with purpose you have situated us together so we can help one another grow in faithfulness. Lord make me quick to share my life—good and bad—with my brothers and sisters.</p>	<p>14 <i>2 Corinthians 9:10-15</i> Lord, do I live my life out of an attitude of scarcity or an attitude of abundance? There are moments when your Spirit prompts me to be lavish in the sharing of my time, my energy, or my finances, but another voice screams "there is not enough!" Calm my heart, quiet that opposing voice, and remind me that all I have is yours.</p>	<p>15 <i>1 Chronicles 16:8-13</i> Throughout Scripture there are moments when the story of your work among us is retold and remembered, times when the only response to that history could be thanksgiving among your people. Lord, may we be quick to point to all that you have accomplished in and through your people, that we might have hope for the future!</p>	<p>16 <i>Ephesians 2:19-22</i> So often we think of Christ's body, the Church, as a voluntary gathering of individuals, a place where our association with and to one another is determined at our discretion. Forgive us, Father, for this understanding. Through baptism we have been made one in Jesus, and it is together in Him that we find hope, purpose, and life eternal.</p>	<p>17 <i>1 Thessalonians 2:9-13</i> Thank you Lord, for the men and women you have placed in my life who have pointed me toward you. Their witness continues to open my eyes and make possible a life of faith and discipleship. Now it is my turn to return the favor. Open my eyes to the possibilities I have to share the good news of Jesus Christ and make me willing to speak!</p>	<p>18 <i>Luke 22:22-28</i> Father, I pour so many of the resources you have directed my way down, what prove to be, unproductive drains. I fill my mind with unwarranted worries and concerns and chase after situations I am powerless to change. Forgive me this lack of trust. May I learn to rest such fears in your capable hands and know you desire the best for me.</p>
<p>19 <i>Ephesians 3:1-12</i> Lord Jesus, with the rising of the morning sun remind us—each of us—of the call that has been placed on our lives through the benefit of our baptism. We are ministers of the Gospel to the world. We have a responsibility to share with those around us in word and in deed the truth we have been given. May we be bold in this sacred task.</p>	<p>20 <i>Psalms 16:1-11</i> "I keep the LORD always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved." Father, I have set my heart upon you alone. My faith does not rest in my ability to be ever steadfast, but in the unchanging nature of your character. Hold me as one of your own. Name me as a child of yours, and my heart will be filled with joy!</p>	<p>21 <i>1 Corinthians 1:4-9</i> Lord, your work in me is not yet complete but I trust in you to make me whole. Grant me the strength to endure the trials of the day. Hold me close to your heart even during those moments when I falter and my faith wavers and wanes. You are faithful to your word! The promises you have established will be fulfilled! In this may your glory be proclaimed!</p>	<p>22 <i>Luke 10:25-37</i> Father, when I am tempted to ask the question, "Who is my neighbor?" remind me of John Wesley's words that our neighbor is "...every child of man, everyone that breathes the vital air, all that have souls to be saved." May my prejudices and presuppositions never cause me to shrink from caring well for the people you bring into my life.</p>	<p>23 <i>Philippians 4:8-9</i> There are so many voices in the world clamoring for both my attention and affection. But Lord, few of them pass the test of being true or honorable or just. Protect my soul from anything that would turn my head or divert my attention from you. Keep us in the habit of abiding in those things we have learned and received from you!</p>	<p>24 <i>Luke 1:67-79</i> Father, we are the inheritors of a great history. You, Lord, are the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. You, Lord, are the God of the Judges and the Kings, the Prophets and the people of Israel. And through the blood of your Son, Jesus Christ, we have been grafted into that sacred story. By your grace may we be proved worthy of this blessing.</p>	<p>25 <i>Mark 1:16-20</i> Lord, how many of us are willing to drop what we are doing at a moment's notice and respond to your call? The task may be momentary or it may change the entire course of our lives; it might seem inconsequential or it might place us on an entirely new path. But the question remains, "Am I willing?" Move me, Jesus, to always say yes to you.</p>
<p>26 <i>Matthew 18:1-5</i> Father, from the opening pages of Genesis we, as your creation, have fought to reject your will to go instead on a path of our own choosing. The consequences of our choices are apparent around us: death and destruction are our marks. Through the work of Christ, place in us new hearts that we might humble ourselves before you in praise.</p>	<p>27 <i>2 Kings 6:8-17</i> There is more going on around us than meets the eye. Our capacity to perceive your ongoing work in the world is limited, but by faith we recognize your fingerprints everywhere. Peel back the curtain, Lord, that we may gain even a glimpse of creation in its full majesty, that we might offer the praise you alone deserve!</p>	<p>28 <i>1 John 4:7-12</i> Father, we often confuse the world's concept of "love" with your command to "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your mind, and all your soul." This love is not a mere emotion. It is, as Eugene Peterson writes, "A long obedience in the same direction." Make us faithful in our covenant love for you.</p>	<p>29 <i>Luke 6:43-49</i> Lord, I ask you to take a full assessment of my life and reveal to me the full truth of who I am. Do not allow me to deceive myself or believe something to be accurate when in reality it is not. You are gracious in mercy and love. Remove from me any darkness, any sin, any lack of righteousness that separates me from you. Thank you for this kindness.</p>	<p>30 <i>Philippians 4:10-13</i> Precious God, I am swept to and fro in the winds of circumstance. Moment-by-moment I crash about from joy to despair, from hunger to satiety. Speak to my heart and grant me the assurance to know that whether the times are of abundance or of lack, you are with me. You are my full portion and in you I find peace.</p>	<p>31 <i>Mark 5:25-34</i> In you, Lord, I find healing. In you the disease of sin and the broken relationship between my spirit and you as my God and Creator are mended. Words are insufficient to express the gratitude I hold for you and this act of mercy. Instead, may my life in its entirety give testimony to your glory. You are my God and I am a child born again in you.</p>	