

Your Prayer Team reminds us that October is “Clergy Appreciation Month” What better gift can we give our ministers than the gift of prayers for them, their ministries, and their families? Many of these prayer requests come directly from our pastors.

## ***31 Days of Praying for Our Clergy--***

### ***Rev. Becky Stephens, Pastor Mike Corwin, Rev. Brad Smith***

*What better way of equipping our pastors than to lift them up in prayer. As we strengthen our pastors, our churches will also be strengthened! “When churches cease to pray for ministers, ministers will no longer be a blessing to the churches.” - Gardiner Spring (1785-1873)*

**Friday, Oct 1:** Pray that our pastors will love God with all their heart, soul, mind, and strength. Pray that God’s Spirit will work in their hearts and that they will value and follow biblical priorities.

**Saturday, Oct 2:** Pray for fresh divine anointing on our pastors’ ministry. Pray that God’s work will be powerfully evident in their personal life and the spiritual life of the congregation.

**Sunday, Oct 3:** Pray that our pastors will counsel and teach with discernment through the wise use of Scriptures and faith in God’s power to work. Pray that they will be protected from the effects of sinful or negative attitudes that they encounter as they counsel.

**Monday, Oct 4:** Ask that God bless our Visitation Pastor Brad as he seeks to aid and comfort our members who are unable to be among us in body and to protect him from the threat of falling victim to the Corona virus and other infections.

**Tuesday, Oct 5:** Pray that our pastors will cultivate strong character and uncompromising integrity. Pray that their testimony will be genuine, and that they will never do anything that they would need to hide from others.

**Wednesday, Oct 6:** Pray for their personal walk with God—that the soul and spirit will be nourished and strengthened in quiet time with God, beyond sermon preparation; and that they find time and personal fulfillment in their Sabbath time.

**Thursday, Oct 7:** Pray for spiritual unity in the church staff and among the spiritual leadership of the church. Pray that the enemy will not be allowed to create division, strife, or misunderstanding among church leaders.

**Friday, Oct 8:** Join Pastor Becky in praying for the miracle of a healthy and full life for daughter Olivia, that the doctors are led to find the answers and easy fixes to Olivia’s body, and that Pastor Becky be granted the strength, courage, and time to meet Olivia’s needs.

**Saturday, Oct 9:** Pray that our pastors will be courageous in the pulpit in proclaiming Christ and confident in their use of the Word of God. Ask God to help them speak with insight, transparency, and humility. And that they seek to please God rather than men and pursue holiness rather than the praise of men.

**Sunday, Oct 10:** Pray that God will give our pastors a clear, biblical vision of what our church can be and should be doing for His glory as the Church faces changes and new challenges ministering to and involving members in God’s work in the face of and aftermath of the pandemic., finding ways for our people to become active church members without being in the building. Pray that they will communicate that vision clearly and confidently to the church.

**Monday, Oct 11:** Ask God to protect our pastors’ marriages and keep them strong as a model of Christ’s relationship with the Church. Pray that your pastors will tenderly cherish and lead their wives, and the wives will respect and encourage her husband. Pray that for our single pastor, she finds strength and encouragement from the loved ones who are close.

**Tuesday, Oct 12:** Pray that our pastors find joy in serving Bucyrus United Methodist Church.

**Wednesday, Oct 13:** Pray that your pastors will be “Great Commission Servants”, committed to personal evangelism and equipping the saints to seek the lost. Pray that they will have a heart to develop a thriving Church that will stand the test of time.

**Thursday, Oct 14:** Join Pastor Brad and wife Cindy in prayers for a healthy new granddaughter expected in February.

**Friday, Oct 15:** Pray that your pastors will use wise time management, seeking God's perspective for their schedule, and guarding their time against unnecessary interruptions.

**Saturday, Oct 16:** Pray that God will build a hedge of protection around our pastors' families. Pray for our pastors' children—young and adult—and especially that the pressures of the ministry will not discourage or embitter them. Pray that our pastors will provide godly leadership in the family, not based on fear of what others will think, but according to scriptural truth.

**Sunday, Oct 17:** Pray that our pastors will be Christians of prayer and worship, and lead by example—teaching the congregation how to walk in a close relationship with the Father.

**Monday, Oct 18:** Pray that our pastors will make wise lifestyle choices in order to protect their health, especially in the areas of exercise, nutrition, and rest. Pray for times of relaxation and renewal to balance the stress of ministry.

**Tuesday, Oct 19:** Praise God for our pastors' leadership and pray that they will make godly decisions. Pray that they will lead with a shepherd's heart and that they will always speak the truth in love

**Wednesday, Oct 20:** Ask God to provide for the financial needs of our pastors and family. Pray that they will be wise stewards of their personal finances and resources as they face a future life in retirement.

**Thursday, Oct 21:** Pray that they will earnestly seek God's will and be committed to instant and complete obedience—ready for God to work powerfully in and through their ministry.

**Friday, Oct 22:** Pray that our pastors be a blessing to our children and youth, firmly setting their feet upon the path that God has planned for them.

**Saturday, Oct 23:** Pray for the state of the Church and the decisions to be made by our clergy and laity at the United Methodist Church's General Conference of 2022.

**Sunday, Oct 24:** Pray that our pastors' prayers for friends and families are answered

**Monday, Oct Day 25:** Pray that your pastors will be servants of faith and passionate for the love of God, not given to worry, fear, or an uptight or anxious spirit.

**Tuesday, Oct 26:** Pray that Church members are equipped to help implement church programs and projects, relieving some of the burdens from our pastors

**Wednesday, Oct 27:** Pray that our ministers will seek God for personal revival, find the perfect balance of time, energy and commitment to fulfill the variety of roles they have as Christian, pastor, mentor, spouse and parent, and friend.

**Thursday, Oct 28:** Pray that our pastors be open to options and alternatives and innovative ideas that come from Church members; and that the Church family be open to the necessary changes we find ourselves facing in these challenging times

**Friday, Oct 29:** Ask God to heal any hurts that our pastors have suffered in the ministry. Pray that they will serve the Lord with gladness, and encourage the congregation to worship God with a joyful, surrendered spirit.

**Saturday, Oct 30:** Pray that our pastors and their families find friends within and outside our Church family who offer encouragement and support, joy and laughter.

**Sunday, Oct 31:** Pray that we as Church members accept and support our pastors' leadership and counsel so that we may be strong and viable in the community and the world as an example of "God's Love in Action," members who become embers to fan the flames of a Church on fire for the Lord.