

Friday, March 1st

What's happening: Delegate Travel, Communication in Annual Conferences

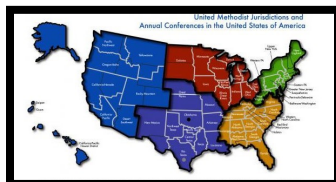


Scripture: *"Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take. Proverbs 3:5-6*

Prayer Focus: Those hurting and processing outcome, For those feeling anxious about their economic futures (especially clergy, staff, and families)

Saturday, March 2nd

What's Happening: Communication in Annual Conferences, Districts, Churches



Scripture: *"So we don't look at the troubles we can see now; rather, we fix our gaze on things that cannot be seen. For the things we see now will soon be gone, but the things we cannot see will last forever." 2 Corinthians 4:18*

Prayer Focus: For churches, pastors, and members adapting to "New Normal"

Sunday, March 3rd

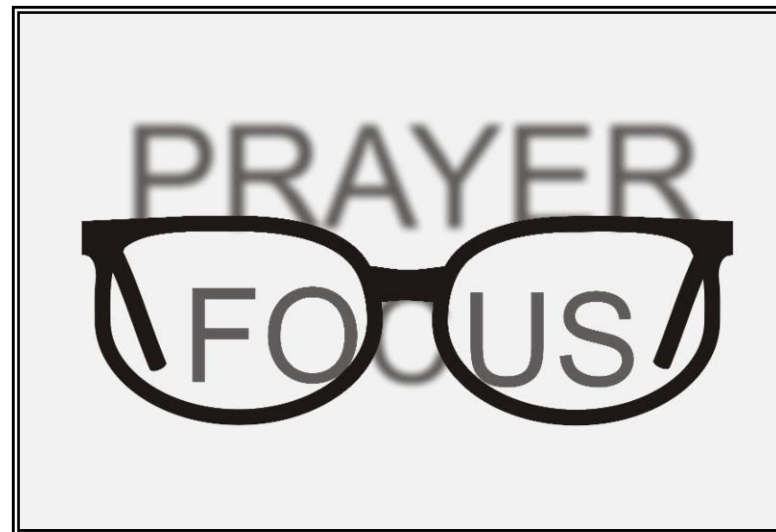
What's Happening: Churches hear updates in worship.



Scripture: *"May the grace of the Lord Jesus be with God's holy people." Revelation 22:21*

Prayer Focus: Local Congregations to love one another and Make Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World

Written by: Beth Ann Cook & Samuel L Padgett



PRAYING OUR WAY FORWARD

for

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Sunday, February 17th, 2019
Through
Sunday March 3rd, 2019

*"Do to others whatever you would like them to do to you.
This is the essence of all that is taught in the law and the prophets."
~ Matthew 7:12 NLT*

I began praying this verse after the disastrous last night of the Tampa General Conference in 2012. Tampa laid bare our deep dysfunction. Today I'm calling you to pray and fast while focusing on this verse. Bill Bright once said, "Fasting, as it relates to prayer, is the spiritual atomic bomb that the Lord has given us against the enemy."

It is important for us to understand that the enemy in this context is NOT a group of other people. It is the evil one, Satan. The enemy of our souls wants United Methodists to devour one another as has sadly happened in several other denominations. The last thing the enemy wants is for us to live out Jesus' words.

I don't think we need a political strategy to address a spiritual problem. I'm calling you to do something far more important and far more strategic. Go boldly to the throne room of Heaven with this problem. Fast and Pray like Esther then take it to the King of Kings. Organize prayer in your local churches, small groups, Sunday School classes and communities. Ask friends in other denominations to pray this verse for us. Move God's heart and trust him to move the delegates' hearts. I know, it is counter intuitive. It is not how the world works. In the world political strategies rule. But this is how God's kingdom is structured. It is Biblical.

We need to fall on our faces in prayer!

Because we are praying God's word we will know we are praying God's will. Ask the Lord to convict the 864 delegates by whatever means necessary that devouring one other is not helpful. Ask God to help delegates walk away from political strategies and embrace a sermon on the mount lifestyle. Ask them to have dreams, visions, ah-ha moments while reading their Bibles, a still small voice that they hear or even a full blow angelic visitation

Don't pray selfishly about your church building or how GC 2019 may impact you. Instead pray for the glory of God's name, for our witness to a lost world, and God's will. I believe the Holy Spirit can convict and move hearts. Storm the heavens for the next days my friends. This is my source of hope.

Blessings and peace,

Beth Ann Cook

Tuesday, February 26th

What's Happening: Final day--should be moving to final votes in plenary.

Scripture: *"Don't be afraid, for I am with you.
Don't be discouraged, for I am your God.
I will strengthen you and help you.
I will hold you up with my victorious right hand."* Isaiah 41:10



Prayer Focus: News Media, God's will to be done, for those who are hurt, disappointed by outcome. For safety, peace, no violence or self-harm by advocates, for those who feel like they need to leave the UMC because of outcome.

Wednesday, February 27th

What's happening: Delegates begin journey home. Bishops, Groups, and Staff meeting to evaluate and consider next steps.

Scripture: *"And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns."* Philippians 1:6

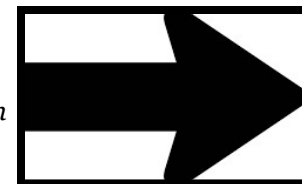


Prayer Focus: God's will as we move forward, News Media, Communication

Thursday, February 28th

What's happening: Delegate travel--especially for those with long journeys outside USA, International Delegates visiting mission partners

Scripture: *"I pray that God, the source of hope, will fill you completely with joy and peace because you trust in him."* Romans 15:13a



Prayer Focus: Future of Church, Annual Conferences

Saturday, February 23th

What's Happening: Praying our Way Forward

Scripture: *"Search for the Lord and for his strength; continually seek him." 1 Chronicles 16:11*

Prayer Focus: God's will to be done, Spirit of charity toward those we disagree with most.



Sunday, February 24th

What's Happening: Opening Worship, Presentations by Committees and Commissions, Prioritization of Plans/Petitions, Election of Officers to Preside in Legislative Group, Debate may also begin

Scripture: *"Whenever the cloud lifted from over the sacred tent, the people of Israel would break camp and follow it. And wherever the cloud settled, the people of Israel would set up camp." Numbers 9:17*

Prayer Focus: Good Faith by all participating, against any impasse or breakdown of system, For UMC to actually settle this issue once and for all.



Monday, February 25th

What's Happening: Debate/Amendments in Legislative Group

Scripture: *"We can make our plans, but the Lord determines our steps." Proverbs 16:9*

Prayer Focus: Delegates to have peace, stamina, know and do God's will. For all who are anxious, hurting, or discouraged.



Today is an important day. Today is the day that we begin a fifteen day campaign to beseech the throne of God for our beloved church. I have said it before and I will say it again, there is little that is more important than spending time in prayer. From our side of Heaven prayer can feel like a bunch of words that we throw to the ceiling and hope that maybe God will reach down and grab them and hopefully decide to do something positive with them. But, from the eyes of Heaven prayer is the most powerful thing that a child of God can do.

So, we are hoping that you will join us in praying for our church. Each day this guide will give you some of the events of the day for the Called General Conference and the activities of Renewal and Reformed Coalition, please spend some time in prayer over the days events. Then there will be a scripture passage, an image, and particular prayer focus, this is the primary area of prayer focus for the day. We hope that you can set aside a few minutes each day to join us in approaching the throne. Also, you may consider implementing a regiment of fasting over these three weeks. The combination of Prayer and Fasting is a powerful one when seeking the throne of God. Regardless of how you are planning to join us, we are grateful that you have chosen to join us in praying for our beloved church.

Your Brother In Christ,

Samuel L Padgett <><



Sunday, February 17th

What's happening: International Delegates begin arriving in St. Louis.

Scripture: *"We can make our plans, but the Lord determines our steps."*
Proverbs 16:9

Focus: Traveling preparations, Logistics, General Secretary of the General Conference Gary Graves and his staff



Monday, February 18th

What's Happening: Delegate travel, Preparations, Logistics

Scripture: *"The Lord directs the steps of the godly. He delights in every detail of their lives."*
Psalm 37:23



Prayer Focus: Traveling preparations, Translators, and Staff of General Boards and Agencies,

Tuesday, February 19th

What's Happening: Delegate Travel, Preparations

Scripture: *"Do not be afraid or discouraged, for the Lord will personally go ahead of you. He will be with you; he will neither fail you nor abandon you."* Deuteronomy 31:8



Prayer Focus: Bishops and spouses, Caucus Groups and Volunteers, Removal of Anxiety from all worried about outcome

Wednesday, February 20th

What's Happening: Delegate Travel, Africa Initiative

Scripture: *"We can make our plans, but the Lord determines our steps."*
Proverbs 16:9



Prayer Focus: Wisdom for all delegates to understand the plans, petitions, and implications

Thursday, February 21st

What's happening: Delegate Travel, Africa Initiative

Scripture: *"Well then, what shall I do? I will pray in the spirit, and I will also pray in words I understand. I will sing in the spirit, and I will also sing in words I understand."*
1 Corinthians 14:15



Prayer Focus: Worship teams, Audio/Visual Teams and Workers at venue, Volunteers from Local Annual Conferences

Friday, February 22nd

What's happening: Final Delegates arrive (especially USA), Registration, Caucus Meetings

Scripture: *"I have called you by name; you are mine."*
Isaiah 43:1b



Prayer Focus: Committee on Presiding Officers, Presiding Delegates, The people who are in the Pool to be Elected as Chair, Vice Chair, or Secretary of the Legislative Group