



Knox Presbyterian Church

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*"Christ caring for People
through People"*

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Prayer is simply defined as 'talking with God.' Some prayer conversations may focus on:

- A – adoration
- C – confession
- T – thanksgiving
- S – supplication (asking God to meet our needs)
- I – intercession (Prayer for others)**

Greetings,

We are one family. I want the best for my family members. We have been given the privilege of talking to God our loving Father directly and personally through faith in his Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Naturally as I talk with God I'm going to bring up the names and needs of my family members.

All of this is a natural part of the love we have for one another. But our intercessions should not stop at this. Jesus went so...oo much farther. He even prayed for those who we might call His enemies. The most poignant example must be His prayer while hanging on the cross at Calvary. Looking down at those who were mocking Him having nailed Him there in the first place, He prays, "Father forgive them, for they don't know what they're doing." Are there some in your life at whom you are angry, frustrated or in some other ways upset? The emotions you feel towards them will eat you alive if you allow them to continue to fester. Healing is possible for you and for them. And it begins with prayer. As shut-ins we have time to dwell on our own thoughts and the old memories and these can bring up both good and bad experiences. As a gift to our own well-being dare I suggest we need to clear away the negatives that creep in, and take time for prayer for those who were involved. By doing so we can bring blessing to them and the peace of having forgiveness to ourselves. "Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who have sinned against us." When I pray the Lord's Prayer the familiar musical setting of its words often come to mind. And I am reminded that when we sing the prayer there is only one line that is repeated in the music. Know what it is? "As we forgive our debtors" (in the older version). This is the part that Jesus also chooses to speak more about after He teaches the words of the prayer itself. (Matthew 6:12 and following) "In prayer there is a connection between what God does and what you do. You can't get forgiveness from God, for instance, without also forgiving others. If you refuse to do your part, you cut yourself off from God's part." (Peterson's The Message) Notice that it is not that God is unwilling to forgive if we don't, ... it is we ourselves that are blocking what He stands ready to give. As we intercede for others in prayer we too are blessed. May you know his blessing this week as we pray for one another.

In love,

(Rev.) John McGurrin

