

How Can Laity Support the Clergy?

PRAYING FOR THE CLERGY:

- Pray for your pastor(s) personally and pray for your pastor's spouse and family members.
- Pray for the missions and ministries of the local church.
- Pray for any specific concerns shared by your pastor.

SHOWING APPRECIATION TO THE CLERGY:

- Plan a pastor(s) appreciation day and have a special lunch after church.
- Write a note to remind your pastor that you are praying for her/him, the clergy family, and the missions and ministries of your church.
- Keep up with birthdays, anniversaries, and remember them with a card. Consider including the extended family, including elderly parents.
- Give the pastor a break from visitation one day. Ask to be allowed to visit shut-ins or members in nursing homes/assisted living facilities at a time when the pastor has an exceptionally busy schedule.
- Be your pastor's friend. Be loyal to the clergy. Put down gossip and build up respect and trust.
- Remember that clergy and their family are people too. Sometimes they have different ideas, traditions, and cultures, but have real human feelings just like you.
- Understand that the parsonage is the clergy family's home and respect the privacy of the family. Keep it in good condition and exemplary of the respect for one who is answering God's call.

These suggestions are adapted from the North Georgia Conference Board of Laity "Gift of Prayer" project.



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Prayers for Lay Leadership




Let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together.

—Hebrews 10:23-25

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 God, help our people and our denomination discern the call of laity in the church, both as individuals and as a group. Hebrews 10:23-25	2 God, guide the leadership teams of each church to seek out your wisdom. Isaiah 2:3	3 God, teach our laity and clergy to work together and support one another. 2 Chronicles 15:7	4 God, we pray that new lay leadership will answer your call in their lives. 1 Samuel 3:10	5 God, as nominations committees meet this fall, show them the variety of gifts of the church membership. 1 Peter 4:10	6 God, bless those who are beginning lay speaking classes. Romans 10:17
7 God, give us the courage to respond to your will for the church. Joshua 1:9	8 God, grant me the desire to sharpen my leadership skills. Psalm 37:4	9 God, we pray that our lay leaders will be good listeners to the pastor(s), the congregation and the church staff. Proverbs 18:13	10 God, we pray that "Making Disciples for Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World" guides our every decision. Matthew 28:19	11 God, guide the laity to support and participate in the connectional system. Galatians 6:2	12 God, may the laity and clergy strive together for excellence in all things. Romans 12:6	13 God, we thank you for calling laity to be ministers in places and situations outside of church settings. James 3:17-18
14 God, we pray for a spirit of reconciliation. Psalm 72:12	15 God, help laity balance time between service to the church, to family, to work and to personal spiritual fulfillment. Psalm 18:36	16 God, let the laity be leaders as the United Methodist Church wins communities for Christ. 1 Timothy 2:1	17 God, help me remember to pray every day for my pastor(s), the district superintendent and the Bishop. James 5:16	18 God, teach me to invite people to church and to be warm and welcoming to anyone who visits. Matthew 11:28	19 God, we pray that you will give every lay person in this denomination a personal ministry. 1 Corinthians 12:7	20 God, guide the clergy of the church to trust and equip laity to be leaders. Ephesians 4:4-6
21 God, help me to be creative as I find my own personal ministry and fulfill your calling in my life. James 1:17	22 God, we pray for the ability to identify, recruit and train laity interested in church leadership. 1 Corinthians 12:12	23 God, we pray for the non-clergy staff of churches, annual conferences, and agencies who serve the church. Isaiah 40:31	24 God, show our church leaders how to share their knowledge, experience, gifts, and graces with other laity. Titus 2:7	25 God, teach us new ways to create community and share our witness in the information and technology age. Psalm 81:13	26 God, give youth a voice and a place in our church leadership. Philippians 3:13	27 God, open doors to new and better ways to keep the laity of the church informed. 1 Corinthians 13:12
28 God, may our church grow, not only in numbers, but in love for you, in love for others and in good works. John 13:15	29 God, I pray for our conference lay leadership and for my church lay leader. 1 Timothy 4:12	30 God, help our denomination inspire committed, passionate lay people to bring others to Christ. Colossians 3:17				 www.ngumc.org