FEBRUARY 2022 BRANCE R COLUMNIA C

"Prayer should not be regarded as a duty which must be performed, but rather as a privilege to be enjoyed, a rare delight that is always revealing some new beauty." — E.M. Bounds

APPLETON, WISCONSIN, USA

We are thankful that in partnership with two other churches in our neighborhood, we were able to write notes of encouragement to each staff member at our local elementary and middle school, as well as provide Christmas gifts for seven families in need who have children at these schools. We praise God that we have a good relationship with the principals at each school.

2 HYDERABAD, INDIA

God, we praise you for the recent baptism and blessing service for Claire. We thank you for your great goodness in calling us to know you and to put our trust in you. Increase her love for you and strengthen her faith.

3 CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, USA

Jesus, we thank you for all the ways you provide for us. We are grateful for the opportunity to participate with you in ministry, and we celebrate our recent meal/giveaway where 59 people were served. We ask that you continue to sustain those who were served.



4 LEMON GROVE, CALIFORNIA, USA

Join us in praying for continued neighborhood connections. We celebrated a night of chili, hot chocolate, live Christmas music, and carol sing-a-long with 150 neighbors.

5 PANDEMIC

Heavenly Father, we give thanks to you on every occasion, in every condition, and for all things. In this time of continued illness, isolation, and constant shifting of plans, we ask that you be present with us. May we experience your mercy and peace. We know that in your love, all things shall be made whole. Strengthen in us that hope which comes only from faith in your unfailing love.

LOVE AVENUE

Your Spirit fills heaven and earth and your Word reaches the ends of the world. We celebrate that our denominational family extends to each corner of the globe. We lift up our members around the world today. Connect us to you and one another. Show us how we can contribute to sharing your good news in the neighborhoods to which you have called us.

FEBRUARY 2022



7 MEDITATION MONDAY:

Although we are never separated from God, we are invited to draw closer to God on a more intimate level. Sometimes we mistakenly assume that drawing close to God has to be an extraordinary experience apart from our normal daily routine. However, Jesus said that "the kingdom of God" (the place where God reigns) is not somewhere outside of us but, rather, it is inside us. When Jesus spoke of the kingdom of God, he likened it to ordinary activities: a woman baking bread, a farmer planting seeds. It is through these less-than-remarkable everyday events that we live out the kingdom of God. Ask the Holy Spirit to help refine your ability to notice where you experience life, energy, joy, peace, wisdom, and other "fruits of the Spirit" that point us to God's loving presence in our everyday lives.

O DETROIT, O MICHIGAN, USA

Dear Lord, we pray this prayer of comfort for our community after the recent shooting at Oxford High School. We thank you that our member, Jenny, was able to serve at the vigil, where 6,000 neighbors gathered to grieve. Father, we thank you that you are our refuge and strength in times of trouble. Continue to heal and provide hope to our neighborhood.

9 CROSSWAY, PHILIPPINES

We are family amidst the pandemic. Although we are not able to gather together in person, we praise God for our ability to connect with each other virtually. We celebrated the ways God provided, strengthened, and blessed us in 2021 through our year-end Zoom party.

GCI-USA

Please join us in lifting up our pastors who are attending an orientation this weekend at the home office. May they feel supported, encouraged, and inspired as they join with Jesus in shepherding our congregations across the country.

MALAWI, AFRICA - YOUTH LEADERSHIP TRAINING RETREAT

God, we thank you for this group of young adults that gathered together for our Youth Leadership Training Retreat. We ask that you bless them with laughter, wisdom, and insight as they return to minister in their local congregations. We also ask that you prepare the leaders and members of their churches to support them as they return with a renewed energy to participate in Jesus' ministry.



GCI-INDIA

12 GRACE COMMUNION INTERNATIONAL PRAYER OF RENEWAL

Faithful God, we praise you for your work in and through our denomination. Please continue to create in us hearts that seek to know and serve you more. Fill us with your joy and uphold us while we participate in Christ's ministry to the world.

13 LOVE AVENUE PRAYER MAPPING NEIGHBORHOOD

Father, Son, and Spirit, we follow your lead and answer your call as we share your love with our neighbors. Give us the eyes to see and wisdom to respond to the needs we see around us. Fill us with compassion as we join in with the suffering of all who share our city. Grant us peace, favor, and wisdom as we invite our neighbors into deeper relationship with you.

4 MEDITATION MONDAY: GALATIANS 4:6

The nature of the Father displayed in his Son is the life energy that the Holy Spirit now originates inside of us. The Spirit stirs our soul to bear witness to the fact that we were first conceived in the bosom of our Triune God. As beloved children, we have no reason to fear that God does not love us. As our souls yearn to be intimately known, our Spirit-filled hearts call out to our dear Father who responds with gentle grace and kindness. Lord, help us recognize the intimate relationship we share with you as your beloved child. Shower us with your affection as only a safe, loving Father can. Help us proclaim with our heart, soul, and mind, "Abba, Father, you are my God."

15 gc

As our Superintendents from around the world gather this week, please join us in praying for their time together. Grant them wisdom and direction. May their time together equip, empower, and encourage them in their ministry.

16 INTERNATIONAL MARRIAGE WEEK

God of love, we thank you for the sacrament of marriage and how it reflects your commitment to us. We pray that you fill those who have entered this covenant with the strength to honor the promise they have made to each other: to love each other as Christ loves the church. We pray for your supernatural healing and joy to permeate these relationships.

7 DERBY, KANSAS, USA

Glorious God, we rejoice in your presence with us. We celebrate the successful reader's theater as we celebrated your incarnation. Guide and empower us to continue to proclaim the good news of your love throughout the year.

18 EUGENE, OREGON, USA

Heavenly Father, we thank you that in your great love you have called us to know you and to trust you. We celebrate the recent baptism of CJ. May you continue to work in and through him.

9 GRACE COMMUNION INTERNATIONAL

Eternal Father, you draw us together as one family. Bind us together by your Spirit and give us the love and grace to seek reconciliations. May we join you as people of peace building your kingdom in this hurting world.

20 LOVE AVENUE PRAYER MAKING FRIENDS

Jesus, it is your person and presence that compels us to love. Empower us through your love to listen, care, and engage with our neighbors. Help us to see the unique ways they bear your image and to be curious in discovering how you are working in their lives.

FEBRUARY 2022



MEDITATION MONDAY:

This particular passage is usually referenced when examining the pursuit of earthly riches such as wealth or possessions, but "treasures of our heart" can also represent the areas in our lives where we devote our passions and exercise our creative energy. The word treasure literally refers to "a storehouse of treasure," or to say it another way, "a receptacle for valuables," including precious thoughts stored up in our hearts and minds. When something dominates our awareness, it is most likely something that our heart regards highly, whether we know it or not. Therefore, it becomes important to recognize what exactly it is that we value. Lord, show us the treasures of our heart and give us your perspective on those things. Help us to continually surrender our hearts willingly to you.

22 pasadena, california, usa

Father, Son, and Spirt, we celebrate the multigenerational church body you have blessed us with. Fourteen of our youth ministered to us through a nativity service that culminated with communion. May the beauty of Christ and the good news of God with us continue to be experienced by all.

つて GCI-MALAWI

Creator, we are grateful for our newly commissioned ministry leaders: Mrs. Mankhomwa, Carolyn Katengeza Itimu, and Timothy Mphamba. Thank you for the gifts you have given them. Help them as they shepherd the leaders and members in their areas. May your love and grace overflow from them as they minister.

24 GRACE COMMUNION INTERNATIONAL

Jesus, as our board gathers today, we ask that you guide the conversation and decisions made so that they will be pleasing to you. Unite us together by your Spirit and give us the strength to carry out your will.

25 RICHARDSON, TEXAS, USA

We continue our weekly Drivethru Pantry in collaboration with our Korean Baptist Church landlord, with about 50 cars coming through each Saturday. Join us in praying for our neighborhood, that we may meet both physical and spiritual needs.



PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

26 BALTIMORE, MARYLAND, USA

Please join us in praying for our congregation as we restart our connect groups for the new year. Join us in lifting up our time together, that we will grow in grace, love, and knowledge of who God is.

27 TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY

Holy God, mighty and immortal, you are beyond our knowing, yet we see your glory in the face of Jesus Christ, whose compassion illumines the world. Transform us into the likeness of the love of Christ, who renewed our humanity so that we may share in his divinity – the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit.

28 MEDITATION MONDAY: HEBREWS 7:25

Christ's ministry of prayer and supplication is an eternal mediation for us. Complete atonement for sin was accomplished through Christ's self-sacrifice on the cross for all of humanity, but his reconciling work did not end with his death. Jesus remains active, engaged, and ever-diligent as our Savior. He is able to save absolutely now throughout eternity and is the one true perfecter of our faith. We have been set free to live out of this powerfully restored relationship and can daily welcome our permanent rescue. Holy Spirit, expand our hearts and minds to recognize our continual dependence on our one and only Savior, Jesus Christ, as well as strengthen our belief in the everlasting goodness and faithfulness of our loving God.



DOES YOUR CHURCH HAVE AN EVENT, CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER REQUEST, OR PRAISE REPORT YOU WOULD LIKE INCLUDED IN NEXT MONTH'S PRAYER GUIDE OR OTHER GCI PUBLICATIONS?

Please email info@gci.org with details and photos.