

Prayer and the Connections Team -Barb Sharkey

Faith used to have a very long prayer list that was read out loud on Sundays. It could take five minutes or more to read all the names. Some people worried it was too long, and wasn't a good representation of the congregation to visitors, as if we had an unusually high number of ill people. In reality, the list included church members but also extended families, friends, neighbors, and co-workers.

Personally, I have found a prayer list is never too long when someone you love is on it. Something about hearing their name read aloud is a comfort, although of course silent prayers will be equally heard by God...even just our quiet, roughly formed thoughts.

I don't claim to know how prayer works. I know that imagining myself being held in God's hands like a hammock has gotten me through many surgeries, and so I pray for that reassurance for others. I think when we pray together, it encourages and comforts people whether they are there in person or just know they are being prayed for, and it opens our connection to them and each other.

I volunteered to head up the praying portion of the Connections Team. At the end of our Friday Zoom Coffee Hours, we pray for those about whom there are on-going concerns, plus any new prayer requests gleaned from Sunday worship, Bible Study, or Ruth Circle.

I have felt the prayers of others many times during my 40 years at Faith, and they have helped me to achieve a state of calm, confidence, and to rouse some courage in difficult circumstances.

Whether you would like to attend Friday Coffee Fellowship or not, please let me know if you would like to be on the email notification list when prayer needs arise during the week. I usually send out an email on Thursdays as a reminder about our Friday zoom, and include any new prayer requests or updates. If there is an emergency need for prayer requested by the person or family at any time, I will send out an email as soon as I receive that information.

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