

**An Invitation
from Yellowstone Presbytery's Leadership Cabinet to Join Us
October 16, 2017 for**

A Day of Prayer and Fasting...

For the World, the Nation, Montana, our Communities, and all the
Churches, Ministries, Leaders and Pastors of Yellowstone Presbytery

As a group...On your own...On our prayer conf. call 12 – 12:45 p.m. Below

**“To clasp hands in prayer is a beginning of an uprising against the
disorder of the world.”** – Karl Barth

These are challenging times to live and lead for Christ and to pastor. World tensions between nations; violence and the Las Vegas shooting; Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, Maria; the effects of the drought in Eastern Montana and the fires across the state and region; divisions; the racial hatred that boiled over in Charlottesville and other places; and in our own presbytery for us to hear and respond to God's call to each of us and our churches to be equipped and sent out to join in Christ's mission, and eight churches now searching and praying for pastors.

Psalm 121

***“I lift my eyes to the hills - where does my help come from?
My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and Earth...”***

If you can join us in observance of this day for prayer and fasting, we would suggest the following...

Why Prayer with Fasting?

Christ often coupled fasting and prayer to *intensify* His spiritual life and power, Mark 9:14-30; Mt. 4: Lk 4.

Jesus *assumed* His followers would fast after His death and resurrection, Matthew 6:16-18.

Fasting confirms our dependence on God as our source of sustenance beyond food.

Fasting heightens in us a watchful, waiting state, 2 Chronicles 20.

Fasting signals our *urgency* to God and to us, 2 Chronicles 20.

Fasting teaches us to suffer with Christ, strengthening us for adversity. It is a form of denying ourselves, taking up our cross and following Jesus, Luke 9:23-24.

Ways to observe the Day... Fasting:

There are many... Most common fasts are from food, taking only water and/or juice, clear liquids. Lengths of fasts vary, but we are suggesting eating dinner on Sunday, October 15, then fasting from food through breakfast and lunch on Monday, October 16, and then breaking fast with thanks and dinner that evening. ***But, please don't be legalistic.*** If you can only miss one meal to fast and pray, that is ok. If you need to choose a different day to fast and pray, please do so. If you have a medical condition that precludes fasting from food, then perhaps fast instead from alcohol or a normal activity, such as watching TV, or Facebook/media, or in some other way as God may lead you.

Ways to observe the Day... Praying:

Some may be able to spend an hour or two in prayer, depending on our personalities and available time. Most may only have a few minutes once or twice during the day. If time permits, you might pray through the attached pattern for prayer, or simply follow your heart, speak to God about the concerns God brings to your mind. There is great power and God's promised presence when we gather with others i.e. in the congregation or clergy cluster (two meet on Monday, October 16). Or pray alone. Join together during lunch via **conf call noon -12:45** Call 888-387-8686, then 4065867706# to join our presbytery wide virtual prayer gathering, use speaker phone

A Pattern for our Prayer:

Opening Readings:

Psalms 24:1-2: The earth is the Lord's and everything in it, the world and all who live in it. For He has founded it upon the seas and established it upon the waters...."

Psalms 93: 1-2: "The Lord reigns, he is robed in majesty; the Lord is robed in majesty and armed with strength, indeed the world is established, firm and secure. Your throne was established long ago, you are from all eternity..."

The Lord's Prayer, Matthew 6:9-15, "Our Father in heaven...."

We suggest pausing for *specific* prayers of *repentance* and *forgiveness* as Christ modeled and commands us. Mt 18:21-35; Lk 23:34.

Loving and Holy God, you have invited me/us to pray to you... And so I/we do, asking you to form my/our prayer and move my/our hearts to pray in a way and for things that are on *your* mind and heart....

[Pause to listen each time to the Holy Spirit's guidance and provide opportunity for other's silent and spoken prayers]

I/we pray for the world, your world, the world you love and have made... (Pray for the needs and situations that God brings to mind)...

I/we pray for our Nation and its Leaders ...

For communities and people whose lives are in shambles because of hurricane, drought, fire, violence, poverty or injustice....

For our people divided by racism and injustice...

For my family...

For my friends....

I/we pray for our State and Community...

For its needs and opportunities...**for** its leaders... **for** those in need...

I/we pray for our Church...

For our pastor who seeks You, leads us to You and to follow You out in mission...

For the elders and deacons, each of us, who serve You and this body...

For our sense of mission WITH You, oh God, that we are...

Loved & Blessed... Called, Gifted & Equipped...Sent into our world...

I pray for the Churches of the presbytery seeking pastors....

For the sessions and search committees...

For You to move in the heart and mind of your pastor whom you are calling...

For lay leaders & all to rise, gifted by the Holy Spirit, to lead with the love of God...

I pray for the Leadership of the Presbytery...

For the Leadership Cabinet (Susi Ennis, Moderator, Jack Bell, Presbytery Moderator)...

For the Pastoral Ministry Team helping pastors & churches (Dave Thompson, mod.)

For Stated Clerk, Debbie Blackburn, and the committee searching for her successor...

For the new Stated Clerk to be called...

For the Camping & Youth Ministry Team, and all who serve and share their gifts...

For Administrative Assistant Susan Seibert and Treasurer Sheryl Hallin...

For Co-General Presbyters, George and Kathy Goodrich...

I pray for the concerns of my own life... to be willing to BE an answer to my prayers.

In Jesus' Name I/we pray and lay all my/our concerns before You, O God. Thank you that you hear, are faithful, answering in ways that you know to be best. Amen.