

THE COMPASS

Family Devotional for March 2024

Bidding Prayer

Our March 2024 Compass Family Devotional is inspired by our consideration of a bidding prayer. As Pastor Rob shares his witness each Sunday: “The power of God is real and the power of prayer is real. Hallelujah! (or “Amen” during Lent) Yet we do not pretend to understand or to control God’s power. And yet, when we take the time to reflect on all that God had done for us that we cannot do for ourselves, so many of us come to the inevitable conclusion that the power of God is real and the power of God is real. Hallelujah!” We hope the bidding prayer we share in this devotional will help you and your family to have an experience with the power of God this Lenten season that the miracle of the Resurrection is all about.

Activity - What is a Bidding Prayer?

Traditionally, a bidding prayer is an act of intercession on behalf of yourself, other people, places, and things, covering a wide variety of concerns such as the church, the state, and public and private necessities. A bidding, or intercessory, prayer is a conversation with God where we bid, or ask, for the things we want for ourselves and others. This form of prayer traditionally followed the sermon in the early church. A bidding prayer is a way for the worship leader to organize and focus the prayers of the church. The worship leader bid a particular intention of prayer, and the congregation joined in silent prayer for a short time until the worship leader summed up the congregation's prayers with a collect. Another bidding would follow, until the bidding prayer was concluded. In this way the worship leader would walk the congregation through a list of intentional prayers that included both a time in silence for the people to pray themselves, and then a collect to summarize the intentions before moving on to the next bidding, which is a set of intentions or focus. The bidding prayer is the oldest form of intercessory prayer, a gift

from the ancient church we can benefit from using in our personal devotions with ourselves and our families today. You too can use a bidding prayer format to organize and focus your family’s prayers. Below you will find a contemporary bidding prayer, a litany of bidding, silence, and collects. It is our hope that you will embrace this bidding prayer once a week, say at a family dinner, to help everyone focus on our prayer lives and our connection to God. In this way we believe we will best prepare ourselves for the miracle of the resurrection on Easter Sunday.



Prayers - May these prayers help you to focus on your faith in this Lenten season.

A Bidding Prayer (*Based in placed on Service of Word and Sacrament I and II, The Hymnal of the United Church of Christ. Also quotes the prayer over the bread from the Didache. The Didache is an early handbook of an anonymous Christian community, likely written before some of the Christian Testament books were written. It spells out a way of life for Jesus-followers.*)

Tender and Compassionate God, you ask us to pray for all people. Here we offer our prayers for our world in need, trusting in your great love.

Let us pray for the church: [*Silence – as much silence as you need to offer your prayers silently.*]

Gracious God, we pray for the church of Jesus Christ around the world. As the broken bread, though once scattered as grain on the hillsides became one loaf, so may your church be one in Spirit throughout the earth, and one in witness to your saving love; through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

Let us pray for the leaders of the church: [*Silence*]

Gracious God, lead our leaders. Grant them your wisdom, that by their acts they may encourage the faithful and witness to the world and its people; through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

Let us pray for those who rule: [*Silence*]

Eternal One, Ruler of the Universe, we pray for those who govern every land, and for the people committed to their charge. Look with grace upon the President of the United States, and the legislators who guide our lives. Turn the hearts of leaders and peoples to you that governments may seek the good of humanity and of all who suffer; through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

Let us pray for the homeless, the hungry, and victims of disaster: [*Silence*]

God, you suffer with those who suffer. We pray to you for those who are denied what they need to live and those whose dreams have been shattered by war and disaster. We pray especially for _____ (*name recent victims of a natural disaster*). Reach out and bring healing through the hands of your faithful people; through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

Let us pray for the sick and the grieving: [*Silence*]

Holy comforter, healing Spirit, grant your peace to those who are sick and those who grieve, and especially _____ (*name people who are in need of healing*). Radiate through their lives with the light of your presence, that renewed health and strength may be theirs; through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

Let us pray for our family and friends: [*Silence*]

God in whom every family in heaven and on earth receives its name, we commend to your unfailing care all who are dear to us, that they may know you as a friend in joy and sorrow, through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

Let us pray for our enemies: [*Silence*]

We pray to you, God, for those whose actions offend us most and for those whom we have learned to fear and despise. Through your great love, make tender all hearts hardened by hatred and suspicion, and work your justice among us; through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

Let us pray for ourselves: [*Silence*]

God of hope and new life, help us to see the joy and abundant life you intend for us. Grant us your peace: peace which is not the absence of trouble, but the awareness of your guiding presence in all that we do; through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

Sunday Scriptures

Look for our March Scripture Puzzler. We used the New Revised Standard Version (updated edition) to create the crossword. Read the texts for this month and find the answers to the puzzler.

March 3 – The Ten Commandments – Exodus 20: 1-17

March 10 – Unity of the Body of Christ – Ephesians 4: 1-16 (***This is Pilgrim's 45th Anniversary worship celebration.***)

March 24 – Palm Sunday – Mark 11: 1-11

March 28 – Maundy Thursday - John 13:1–17, 31b–35
(*Service at 7:00PM at Pilgrim w/ Church of Peace attending*)

March 29 – Good Friday – John 18:1 – 19:42 (*Service at 7:00PM at Church of Peace w/Pilgrim attending*)

March 31 – Resurrection Sunday – Mark 16: 1-8

Our Lent/Holy Week Schedule of Events

3rd Sunday in Lent – March 3 – 9 AM worship w/communion at Pilgrim UCC

Wednesday Night **Lenten Series** – March 6 – Church of Peace, Fond du Lac – 7 PM Worship

4th Sunday in Lent – March 10 – 9 AM worship/45th PUC Ann Celebration with Paul Thelen Jazz Ensemble

Wednesday Night **Lenten Series** – March 13 – Pilgrim UCC Fond du Lac - 7 PM Worship

5th Sunday in Lent – March 17 – 9 AM worship at Pilgrim UCC

Wednesday Night **Lenten Series** – March 20 – Union Cong UCC, Waupun – 7 PM Worship

6th Sunday in Lent – March 24 – Palm Sunday 9 AM worship at Pilgrim UCC

Maundy Thursday – March 28 – 7 PM worship at Pilgrim UCC (shared service w/COPUCC)

Good Friday – March 29 – 7 PM worship at Church of Peace UCC (shared service w/COPUCC)

Easter Sunday – March 31 – 9 AM worship at Pilgrim UCC



Join us for a 4-church 5-week Lenten Series: God's Amazing Grace - Wednesdays at 7:00PM (3 weeks left):

- ✓ March 6 - **Host: Church of Peace UCC, Fond du Lac, WI** – Rev. Jacob Nault from Union Congregational UCC preaching - The Blind Man (John 9:24) 158 S. Military Rd, Fond du Lac, WI 54935
- ✓ March 13 - **Host: Pilgrim UCC, Fond du Lac, WI** – Rev. Ruth Hansen from Salem UCC preaching - Paul (1 Timothy 1:15) 535 Stow St, Fond du Lac, WI 54935
- ✓ March 20 - **Host: Union Congregational UCC Waupun, WI** - All clergy participate - The Prodigal Son (Luke 15:32) 125 Beaver Dam Street, Waupun, WI 53963

Did You Know?

Did you know that on Sunday March 10, 2024 at our 9:00AM worship we will celebrate the 45th anniversary of the union of St. Mark's United Church of Christ and Plymouth United Church of Christ that created what we know of today as Pilgrim United Church of Christ? We will have Paul Thelen's Jazz Combo joining us to provide the music for the service, and we will have a small reception in the sanctuary afterwards. Join us as we give thanks for the saints who prepared the way for the church we are today, celebrate the body of Christ we have become, and look boldly into the future and who God is calling us to become.

THE BIG QUESTION: 2 questions this week. First question: How many settled pastors, (not including interims), has Pilgrim UCC had since its founding in 1979? Second question: What are the names of the settled pastors for Pilgrim UCC? The first three people under the age of 15 to come to Pastor Rob with the answers to these two questions will win a special prize.

CONTACT:

For questions about the youth group activities or the 2024 mission trip to Knoxville TN, please contact **Rachel Wicichowski** for more information at ra.burns@hotmail.com or 1-920-238-5919.

For questions about our Sunday school or Family Fun Nights, please contact **Karen Goodacre** for more information at karen.goodacre@pilgrimuccfdl.org or leave a message at PUCC at 1-920-921-0415.

For questions about confirmation, The Compass Family Devotional, or any other reason, please contact **Rev. Rob Van Ess** at rvaness.pilgrim@gmail.com or 1-920-273-9794.

YOUTH GROUP EVENTS

Make and Bake Your Own Pizza and Game Night – TBA.

MISSION TRIP TO KNOXVILLE, TN - JULY 21-27, 2024

Steven and Rachel Wicichowski, and Deb Wamser are chaperones. All youth 6th grade and older eligible to attend this life-changing spiritual journey. We are signing up youth now.

- **The youth group will soon be selling candy bars as a fund raiser for their mission trip this summer.**
- **Get ready for our annual Mother's Day Pie Auction to raise funds for our mission trip, Sunday May 12th, immediately after worship.**

FAMILY FUN NIGHT ACTIVITES - Select Fridays from 5:30PM-7:00PM

March 15 – Movie Night - *Elemental*

April 19 – All Ages Game Night

May 17 – Outdoor Yard/Camp Games

SUNDAY SCHOOL DATES

*Sunday School runs September 17, 2023 – May 12, 2024 after worship (10:15 AM – 11:15 AM)



2024 YOUTH MINISTRIES AT PILGRIM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

SUNDAY SCHOOL – We have a wonderful program for children offered after worship on Sunday mornings! Each class focuses on a Bible story, a lesson, or a way of living faith. We use art, music, prayer, and group activities to share stories that connect us with our God and our understanding of community.

CONFIRMATION – A small group that meets for approximately nine months of confirmation preparation during which young people participate in church activities and reflect on questions of faith and life, both alone and together with their peers.

MISSION TRIPS – Our mission trips provide opportunities for students to explore their faith, experience God, and extend service to others. This is a transformational experience by which our youth get to know themselves by getting out of their comfort zones while being the hands and feet of Jesus. Last year we went to Cleveland, OH and next year the youth will go to Knoxville, TN.

FAMILY FUN NIGHTS – Intergenerational activities for the entire family. The entire church family is invited to come together for card or board games, a chili cook off, movie night, Christmas caroling, etc. Time to relax as a family and get to know each other better.

YOUTH GROUP – Our youth gatherings are designed as a "respite" from a socially pressured world for teens, and an opportunity to participate in the justice and fellowship ministries of the church. We strive to help our youth experience Pilgrim United Church of Christ as a supportive, trust-worthy, and loving community – a place that is safe and enjoyable to explore and respond to the spiritual side of being human, by building relationships and creating community.

THE COMPASS – A monthly family devotional to grow your faith and draw you closer to God. Each devotional has a theme and activity for the family to come together while learning more about our faith.

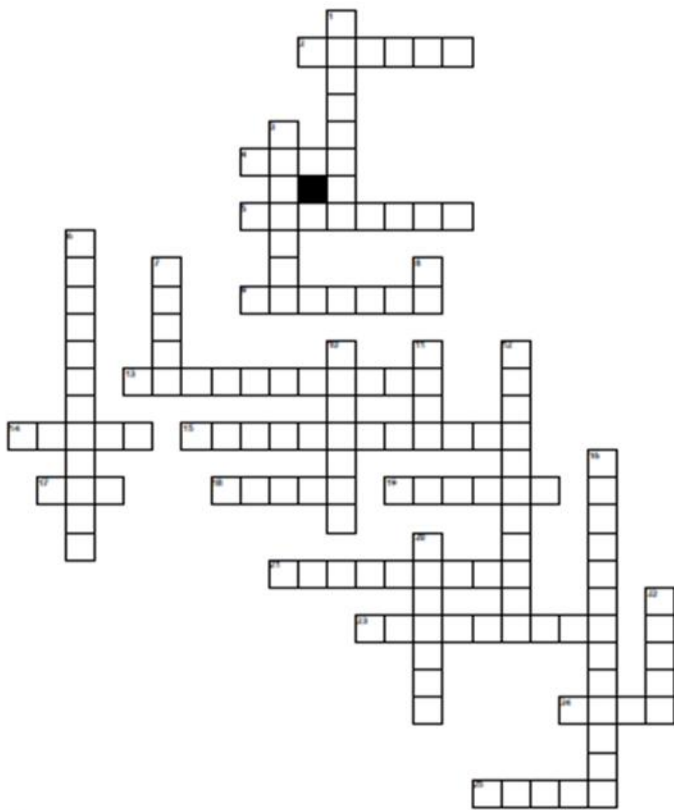
Name: _____ Date: _____

March 2024 Puzzler

Across

2. When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James and _____ brought spices, so that they might go and anoint Jesus (Mk 16:1).
4. What does Jesus ride into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday (Mk 11:2)?
5. Pilate has a sign put on the cross that said "Jesus of _____, the King of the Jews (Jn 19:19)."
9. Where did the young man dressed in a white robe tell the women they would find Jesus (Mk 16:7)?
13. Jesus calls us to speak _____ (Eph 4:15).
14. Who denies Jesus while standing outside the gate, before they stand around a charcoal fire warming themselves (Jn 18:17-18)?
15. On Easter Sunday we celebrate the _____ of Jesus.

17. How many commandments did God give Moses on Mt. Sinai?
18. On their way to the tomb of Jesus the women said to one another, "Who will roll away the _____ for us from the entrance to the tomb (Mk 16:3)?"
19. Who was the secret disciple of Jesus who helped to bury him (Jn 19:38)? _____ of Arimathea.
21. Who had first come to Jesus by night, who now brings a mixture of myrrh and aloes, to prepare Jesus' body for burial (Jn 19:39)?
23. In the Gospel of John Jesus carries the cross _____ to the place where he is crucified (Jn 19:17).
24. The soldiers gambled for the right to take Jesus' tunic by casting _____ (Jn. 19:24).
25. Who was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, the high priest, whom the police took Jesus to first after his arrest (Jn 18:13)?



Down

1. What is the Hebrew name for the judge's bench Pilate sits on (Jn 19:13)?
3. When Jesus enters Jerusalem, many people were shouting: "_____! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord (Mk 11:9)!"
6. One commandment says: "You shall not bear _____ against your neighbor (Ex 20:16).
7. One commandment says: "_____ your father and mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you (Ex 20:12).
8. God said to Moses: "You shall have no other gods before _____ (Ex 20:3).

10. When the women entered the tomb and saw Jesus was not there, but a young man dressed in a white robe was, they were _____ (Mk 16:5).
11. In the gospel of John, chapter 13 Jesus washed the disciples _____.
12. The list of Christ's gifts for us include: "some would be apostles, some prophets, some _____, some pastors and teachers, (Eph 4:11).
16. After Pilate has Jesus flogged the soldiers put a _____ on his head (Jn 19:1-2).
20. Where did Jesus go after he enters Jerusalem on Palm Sunday (Mk 11:11)?
22. Who betrays Jesus in the garden (Jn 18)?