



Prayers for the month of October

October 2- World Communion Sunday

As we gather Sunday after Sunday it is easy to forget that our worship of God expands beyond the walls of our congregations. This Sunday we are reminded that Christians the world over proclaim the name of Jesus. As Jesus prayed in the Gospel of John, pray this week for the unity of the wider Christian Community.

October 9- Global Mission Offering

The Mission of God in Jesus Christ sends us out to take part in that mission both locally and globally. Pray that time, energy, gifts, and support for God's mission might both be given and received; that our shared mission might be mutually encouraging.

<http://www.brethren.org/offerings/gmo/globalmission.html>

October 16

At the end of this week the Mission and Ministry Board will gather to guide the ministries of the Church of the Brethren. Take time this week to pray for the strategic plan that will be used as the frame for our work as a church. Pray the preamble prayer in the plan throughout the week as a way of partnering with the ministries of the whole denomination.

<http://www.brethren.org/mmb/documents/2011-2019-strategic-plan.pdf>

October 23

As the farmers gather the fruit of their work, offer thanks for the gift of food and the hands that labor to produce it. As a reminder of these gifts keep track of how many time you open the refrigerator this week. Ask God to reveal how you might share this great gift with those near and far.

<http://www.brethren.org/gfcf/>

October 30- Reformation Sunday

This week some communities will recall the dawn of the Reformation and others will pause to remember their great cloud of witnesses on All Saints Day. Both of these celebrations call to mind the many faithful persons of the past. Give thanks for the many witnesses, both the saints known and unknown, who have shared the life giving story of Jesus Christ with countless generations. Find time to name the saints of your story and share them with a prayer partner or your congregation.



Prayers for the Month of November

November 6- Junior High Sunday

It is often said that the youth of our communities are the church of tomorrow. Yet, our practices of Baby Dedication and Baptism tell us that our young people are a part of the church today. This Sunday our times of worship around the denomination will be in the hands of our Junior High youth. As you pray this week lift up these young persons, praying for their daily and hectic lives and that you maybe their companion in the life of your congregation. Pray that that their vision for what church can be may infuse your community.

Resources Available at <http://www.brethren.org/yya/resources.html>

November 13- Stewardship Sunday

When Stuart Murray Williams, author of *The Naked Anabaptist*, spoke with members of the Church of the Brethren a year ago he championed the practice of Jubilee as authentic stewardship. Rather than giving a percentage of our income, why not give from our abundance. This week prayerfully covenant with a small group to live on a percentage of your weekly food budget and offer the surplus to the ministries of the church.

November 20- Thanksgiving Week

In each of the gospel stories in which Jesus fed a multitude it is said that he lifted the simple food and gave thanks. Many read this today and hear the echoes of the last supper before his death when he also took some bread and a cup and gave thanks. These acts of thanksgiving to God, of Eucharist, are central elements of the Church. This week as we take time with family, prayerfully ask what it looks like to give thanks beyond just Thursday in November.

November 27- First Sunday of Advent

As the calendar year closes, the church year is just beginning. This week we begin the soul work of preparing for the coming of Christ, both in the first century and at his anticipated return. As you decorate the house and meeting house, take time to hear the words of John the Baptist: "Prepare the way of the Lord." Pray that this season of waiting and hope might offer the opportunities for your community of faith to reveal Christ to those around you.



Prayers for the month of December

December 4- Second Sunday of Advent

The coming of Christ makes plain that God's reach towards humanity is a self-giving action of reconciliation. Incarnation is the sign that the broken are made whole, conflict is turned to peace, and rebellion made into love. Take time to confess the times when you have been a hurdle toward this reconciling love of God. How might your gifts, talents and resources be a part of God's ever unfolding work of reconciliation?

December 11- Third Sunday of Advent

Anticipation builds at this time of year, not just for the kids awaiting presents but for the adults anxious about the details of the holidays. How do you pray in the midst of anticipation and anxiety? What do you most need to pray for or let go of in these days when the last thing on our minds is the Prince of Peace?

December 18- Fourth Sunday of Advent

As a season of preparation Advent reminds us that we are still living into the "Not Yet Kingdom of God." Mary's Song in Luke 1:46-55 presents us with the vision of this beautiful reign. Pray this week that our own faults and sins might not be hurdles to living into this vision. May our lives be the signs of this Kingdom yet to come.

December 25

On Christmas day we light the Christ Candle as a sign of the coming of the Light into the darkness. This happens not just in our congregations, but in the world as well. Christmas is celebrated as the daylight becomes longer and longer, by nearly a minute more each day. This week look for your times of sunset and covenant to pray at that time giving thanks for the increasing light of Christ.