

217th General Assembly (2006)
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
Worship Service, June 22, 2006
Prayers of the People, led by Megan Hopkins,
co-moderator of Presbyterian Youth Council,
Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley



We have been encouraged all week at this General Assembly to listen to our young people and to become more willing to let them lead us. Last weekend, a group of roughly 300 Presbyterian youth gathered at Massanetta Springs in Virginia for the Middle School Youth Conference. We asked them what they would have their General Assembly pray for, and this is what they said.

Please pray with me.

Loving and faithful God,
We offer prayers for a world full of pain.
We pray for an end to poverty, world hunger, ethnic wars, government corruption and homelessness around the globe. We pray particularly for peace in the Middle East.

God of all people, we pray for our nation. We pray for soldiers serving in Iraq and their families, and for all people living there. We pray for the victims of the September 11th attacks, and their families. We pray for people who live in this rich nation without health insurance. And we pray again as we have so often in recent months for our neighbors along the Gulf Coast who are still suffering and for all of those working to help rebuild lives.

Amazing God, just as you are large and powerful, you are intimate and personal. We lift to you the concerns of our daily lives, and the burdens of our families, friends, and loved ones.
We pray for women who battle breast cancer, and for a cure for this mean disease.
We pray for families going through divorce, for teens coping with unwanted pregnancies, for friends who live with cerebral palsy, for the blind, for friends who have been hurt in car accidents.
In the words of one teen, we pray for "people with unknown medical problems, including my mom."
God we pray for good health for the people we love.

Faithful God, you remain steadfast, even when we falter.
We pray for our young people.
Give to all of us the courage to resist peer pressure, including the pressure not to follow Christ. Give us the courage to be who we really are, and help others to accept us just as we are.

We pray for an end to the emotional and physical abuse of children, and we pray for those who are lonely or who feel unloved.

We pray for our schools, and especially that you would stop the harmful forces of alcohol and drugs.

And God we pray with all our hearts that you would send the comfort of your Spirit to “kids who feel bad when they wake up every morning.”

We know that prayer does make a difference, but we also know that we are called to act in your name.

Guide new Christians figuring out how to follow Christ.

Guide the discussions and decisions of the General Assembly.

Give us hearts that are open to you, and the courage to reach out to minister to those around us.

And God of all creatures, we ask that you would not forget the animals. Spare them from abuse and homelessness and disease, for we know that they, too, teach us about you.

We pray this prayer as we pray all of our prayers, in the name of Jesus, who you sent as a baby to live among us and show us your love.

Amen.