**FIRST PRES PRAYER INITIATIVE**

**FEBRUARY 10, 2019**

**Opening:** Our Biblical Story (I Peter 4:8 – 11, p. 235)

**FOCUS ON CAREGIVING MINISTRIES**

Brief Overview by Staff or Leaders of Caregiving

Why do we have this ministry? Its purpose? Who’s served?

Stories from those Assembled – anyone touched by ministry?

Guided Prayer

**Deacons**: Leader: *Jean Frick (moderator)*

* That deacons be energized to serve and reminded that small acts of care and hospitality do make a difference
* For eyes open to see new ways of doing things and to match the care with the needs of the congregation
* For increased participation in caregiving ministries like nursing home worship
* For the home communion team:
  + Deacons who contact homebound members
  + Chair persons who maintain the database of those in need of home communion
  + For those who organize the visitation teams
  + Deacons and former deacons who visit with members and provide communion
  + For those who receive communion, that they may be filled and strengthened in knowing that they are still part of their church family

**Agape Team:** *Leaders: Judy Mackleer, Ellen Plank*

* Prayers for making the Agape members good ambassadors of the church
* For God’s help in communicating his comfort and love to those who are ill

**Stephen Ministers:** *Leaders: Donna Anstee, Becky Gamble, Mary Pellack*

* For the ministry to remain vital in the congregation and in the hearts of those who provide care
* For strength and wisdom for caregivers
* For renewing energy as caretakers and for a continual reminder that God is the one who empowers and sustains ministries
* For men to feel called to serve as Stephen Ministers and to request care when needed
* For God to help all those who could benefit from this ministry to seek its care, and for God to open the eyes of congregation members to those who need support

**Transitioning Members:** *Leader: Beth Congdon-Martin*

* That God will prepare the hearts of those former members contacted by phone or email so they receive this overture from FP in the spirit of love in which it is offered
* For Beth to be a non-anxious messenger and listener as she contacts members who have left for a variety of reasons

**Prayer Band**: *Leader: Margie Kellerman*

* For strength and faith as they lift up the concerns of the congregation before God
* For global mission partners who may struggle to share their concrete prayer requests, but. who are in the hearts of Prayer Band participants
* For God to inspire members to participate in this vital ministry

**Prayers for Other Aspects of the Church (immediate need)**

**Closing**

**NEXT SESSION: MARCH 10, 11:45 AM -- WORSHIP**