

[Revised 2021.04.02]

A LITANY FOR KENTUCKY UNITED METHODIST CHILDREN'S HOMES

Leader: As we pray for the whole people of God according to their needs, we pray especially for the persons and the ministries of the Kentucky United Methodist Children's Homes.

All People: We come to You, God our Father in heaven, to offer our prayers. In Your love and mercy hear our prayers, O Lord.

Leader: You gave to Your people a vision of a home where abused and neglected children are sheltered and loved.

All People: You have given Your favor, Lord, to this home for 150 years, a testimony to five generations of Your loving kindness.

Leader: Through two world wars, the Great depression, two pandemics, civil conflicts and social change, You have been faithful.

All People: With Your thousands upon thousands of children made healthy and whole, we praise You for countless blessings upon Kentucky United Methodist Children's Homes.

Leader: As You have instructed us in Your Holy Word, we pray for all those in positions of authority, our Governor, Senators and representatives, that You would give them right judgment and compassion to protect and provide for children who suffer from abuse, neglect, and abandonment.

All People: Grant them wisdom, give them courage to advocate for the youth in state's care.

Leader: We pray for those women and men whom You are calling and whom You have equipped to serve endangered youth, especially those whom You are sending to join us in serving these girls and boys.

Men: May they hear Your call, O Lord. May they answer, "Here am I, send me."

Leader: Bring to our treatment teams wise administrators, nurses, therapists, counselors and healthcare workers who know You and love You, Lord.

Women: May they commit to serving our youth in residential care and those we serve in our communities.

Leader: We pray for our sisters and brothers, members together in the Body of Christ's Church, that they may be eager to learn of our shared ministries through The Kentucky United Methodist Children's Homes.

Men: That together we may pray daily for the healing of our youth.

Women: That together we may hear the stories of girls and boys and listen with our hearts.

Leader: We thank You, Lord our Provider, for Your continuing and ever faithful provision for all things necessary to do this ministry:

Men: For staff who serve Your children with selfless love and professional skills,

Women: For Your chaplains who devote themselves to the spiritual nurture of our youth,

Men: For volunteers and mentors who help guide our youth to master the challenges of life,

Women: For our Quilters whose labors of love literally surround every youth in a warm embrace of comfort and security,

Men: For our corporate partners who extend our influence in ever expanding networks into the broader community,

Women: For our donors whose generosity resources every part of our work,

All People: We thank You, Lord, and praise Your Holy Name!

Leader: Inspire us, O God our Father, with the example of those who embraced Your vision of a home for destitute women and children .

All People: May we who celebrate the rich legacy of their work give ourselves to advance this mission of healing and hope. Grant to us, Lord, a renewed vision of a bright future for the youth we serve. May our children's children unto the fifth generation remember our legacy and find us faithful.

Leader: Into Your hands, our Father in heaven, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All People: Make it so, Lord. Amen.

A PRAYER OF BLESSING

O God, our Father in Heaven,

From the creation of the world You have willed that all children should live in the bond of family love. We thank You for the home in which we live, for the love that unites us, brother to sister, parent to child.

We remember, Lord, Your children who are homeless; whose family has been ravaged by the terrors of addiction, the cruelty of abuse, the betrayal of abandonment. Move us from a place of astonishment and pity to Your merciful heart, which sets free the oppressed and speaks good news to the poor.

In Your wisdom and compassion, You impressed upon the hearts of your people to begin a ministry of healing for widows and orphans. You gave them a vision of a home where destitute children are sheltered and loved as family. For 150 years You have guided this home through times of war and peace, pestilence and health, poverty and plenty, change and stability.

We praise You for this testimony of Your gracious provision. We thank You, Lord, for opening the doors of this home to ever growing numbers of children. Your thousands upon thousands of children praise You for their healing at Kentucky United Methodist Children's Homes.

We praise You, Lord, that You have entrusted to us a home for these children. May we, by Your grace, kindle an unquenchable flame of hope in the hearts of the girls and boys You are entrusting to the shelter of our home.

With a childlike confidence in Your promises, Father in heaven, we offer our thanks and praise, through Your Son and our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen