

Devotion

Good Friends of Crete UMC,

I'm aware of so many concerns in our congregation right now—some of them are listed here in the Joys and Concerns section and many are held in folks' hearts. Let us remember them, whether they are known or unknown to us.

Prayer is one of the most important things that Christians can do. Karl Barth, the famous 20th century theologian, wrote "To clasp the hands in prayer is the beginning of an uprising against the disorder of the world." I cannot personally remember a time when the disorder of this world has been more front and center. But to pray is to remember and live into our inseparable relationship with the God who's hands are large enough to hold us all. To pray is to remember that this relationship is invested with and inhabited by a power that is an uprising against the world's disorder.

There are, of course, many and diverse ways to pray, but at the center of all of them is a willingness to hold out our lives to this same God, to say what is really happening to us—with our friends and family—to those whose names we will never know and whose situations we could probably never fathom. And—somewhere, with some small mustard seed of faith—to believe that our prayer makes a difference: to God, to us, and for the life of the world.

So, friends, pray. As Paul writes in his first letter to the Thessalonians Christian community: Pray without ceasing.

Yours in the journey,
Pastor Kristen