

From the desk of Pastor Rachel

Perhaps you've heard this saying: *"The family that prays together stays together..."*

Well that goes double for our faith-family in the church. And this is why, starting next month, the people of RC-UMC will be focusing our attention on the spiritual practice of prayer.

To help us with this, everyone is invited to join us in reading a very special book called, ***"Draw the Circle,"*** by Mark Batterson. This book teaches us about how prayer can bring amazing, miraculous, and unexpected blessings into our lives, as it guides readers into a 40-day prayer challenge.

Beginning on September 8th, the whole congregation at RC-UMC will be encouraged to read this book, which is full of true stories of how prayer has made a real difference in the lives of everyday people like you and me. As we read, we will be taking part together in 40 days of prayer for ourselves, our loved ones, our church, and our world.

The church will be purchasing a limited number of copies of the book to give away (free will donations are welcome to help cover the cost) and between Sunday 9/8 and Sunday 10/20 we will be challenged to support one another in taking our individual and collective prayer lives to the next level. We all need the Holy Spirit's energy and wisdom more than ever, and this is the time to lean in and ask for God to show us the way.

We are currently creating a special prayer room on the lower level of the church building and will be meeting weekly for group prayer and reflection during our 40 day challenge. Please stay tuned for more details about how you can participate with us in this part of our spiritual adventure.

If you happen to be the curious, one-step-ahead type, please know that you don't have to wait for September to begin reading. ***"Draw the Circle"*** is a bestseller and you can purchase it at almost any bookseller, including Amazon, Barnes and Noble, and Christian Book. It is also available for e-readers and in audio-book format, so we have many choices for how to participate.

And of course, you don't have to wait for the 40-day challenge to start praying for the people of RC-UMC. We are opening our hearts and minds to the Spirit in new ways, and we welcome everyone's prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness. We are looking forward to hearing your stories about how God has answered your prayers with comfort, healing, and surprising gifts and blessings.

In prayerful gratitude to all as we enjoy the rich blessings of the summer season,

Pastor Rachel