



Listening, Praying & Discerning

We are coming together as a congregation to listen for how God is calling and leading First United Church, Waterloo. We spend time in prayer to intentionally come near to God and to loosen our attachment to what we want to see happen. When this occurs, we develop the muscle required to listen for God's call for the congregation. Prayer is like going to the gym for our souls: While we may sense God's direction during our time of prayer, it is just as (or more) likely that the answers to the questions we are posing will come while we are not in prayer.

Overarching questions First United Church is asking:

- God – how are you calling us to deepen our relationship with you – and with one another?
- What are you calling us to release and/or embrace?
- How are you calling us as a church? To what actions are you calling us? What is our witness in this community?

Week 6 – Prayer for Wisdom

“If any of you is lacking in wisdom, ask God, who gives to all generously and ungrudgingly, and it will be given you.” James 1:5

Wisdom can often feel far away. How do we find the way forward – especially when we are in unknown territory? When the church (or any of us individually) seeks renewal, we typically look for wisdom to guide the way. The problem is that renewal depends on the openness to be transformed and to be changed – something that is very difficult to do until transformation and change are thrust upon us (and even then, it can be difficult.) During this pandemic, we have been forced to change – how we do church, how we celebrate the Easter season, how we relate to one another... For some of us, embracing this change will have been easy. For others, it will have been difficult, for multiple reasons. And for many of us, we will have experienced this change like a series of waves – sometimes easy and sometimes tough. During times of transformation and change, we are invited to lean on God for wisdom, assured that God gives both generously and ungrudgingly.

This week try to spend anywhere from 2 – 20 minutes per day in intentional silence, as we have outlined in the prayer overview. Outside of this time, consider the following questions:

1. How have you experienced the changes brought on by the pandemic? How have you leaned on God during this time? What wisdom is emerging for you personally during this time of change?
2. As you reflect on the overarching First United questions above, and the “What we think we know” document, and as you lean on God, what do you hear God saying – what wisdom is emerging for First United?

For a prayer app, please see: <https://www.contemplativeoutreach.org/centering-prayer-mobile-app>



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