

Glory to God in the highest and on earth PEACE.



Church Prayer Journal

Invite your whole congregation to create greetings of peace and hope for military personnel on active duty. Each time your congregation gathers for worship throughout the rest of the Advent and Christmas Seasons invite those present to add to their greetings. One prayer or image will inspire another, and the result will be a beautiful gift of faith and hope for those serving in harm's way.

Prayer journals received at the UCC Church House in Cleveland by January 15 will be shipped to UCC military chaplains serving in Iraq. Send your church's prayer journal to 100,000 for Peace, United Church of Christ, 700 Prospect Ave., Cleveland, OH 44115-1100.

You will need:

A beautiful book with blank or lined pages.

(Many bookstores have a variety of lovely choices in their "journal" sections; people who are into "scrapbooking" may be called upon to create something unique to the congregation).

Color Pens, pencils, markers to encourage drawing as well as writing.

Time set aside before or after the service, or even a period of reflection during the service.

Invite members of the congregation gathered for worship to choose a page

On which to **write a prayer,**
draw a picture,
offer a line of Scripture.

Invite them to add to the page, or begin a new page, each week.

Prayers do not have to be long: Some model prayers from online postings:

God bless you and keep you safe.

-- Margaret Keene

God's blessings of strength and hope

be with you as we all pray for you and for peace in our world!

-- Janet Hay

Holy God of the Universe, please protect our military personnel from all harm.

Guide them in their heat-of-the-moment, life-and-death decision making.

By your Spirit, draw them to yourself, that they may live and act as your people. -- D. Mercer

I pray that each one of you comes home safely to your families and communities

and that the people of Iraq also find peace. In the name of the Prince of Peace.

-- S. DeWitt

O God of all the nations, teach and empower us to live more peaceably as one global family, resolving our conflicts through non-violent means.

May your Spirit work powerfully and creatively

through all who are called to serve in the military, that they might bring forth

glimpses of beauty, reconciliation, and understanding through their service.

May they know the full support of our prayers, even as we sometimes dare to offer prophetic critique of defense decisions and policies.

We pray in the name of the One who is ever leading us in the ways of love,

Jesus our risen Christ.

-- Kevin Cassidy-Maloney