

For This Week's Prayer List

- **Flooding in Tennessee & Tropical storm effects in the north eastern U.S.** – be with people as they recover.
- **Fires in western states.** This fire season continues. Fires are far from under control & people are still at risk.
- **Water Shortages** – Many places in the western states continue to face serious water shortages. For many in the rest of the world, this is a daily issue.
- **The people of Afghanistan – especially the women & girls** as they face life under extreme Islamic fundamentalism & the continuing terrors of violence.
- **The number of COVID cases is climbing fast in the U.S. & elsewhere.** Especially remember children too young to be vaccinated who rely on the adults around them to keep them safe. Children are more vulnerable as they go back to school. Remember people with no access to medical care or vaccines. Remember health care workers who are again being overwhelmed in many places.
- **Nigeria, Haiti & other countries where kidnapping for ransom** is a daily threat.
- **Nigeria** – The threat of violence continues. Now, they are also facing the demolition of some church buildings by security forces even though the congregations have valid permits to build the structures. Church members protesting the demolitions have been shot at by security forces. There have been injuries & a death among church members.
- **South Sudan** – a church leader was murdered in May. Athanasus Unganga & other church leaders were held for questioning for nearly a month. They are not suspects & no charges have been filed. Unganga, a U.S. citizen, was freed, but still has not had his passport returned so he cannot return home to his family. One of his colleagues is still being held in prison without any charges.
- **Europe, Asia, & Northern Africa** – people are dealing with massive wildfires in which lives have been lost in Spain, Greece, Turkey, Cyprus & Algeria. The fires in Siberia are now the largest in the world – larger than all the rest of the world's fires combined. Some are not being fought at all because there are not enough resources to fight them.
- **Haiti** – as they recover from the earthquake and tropical storm earlier this month.
- **Flooding in Europe, Asia, & Africa – Germany, Belgium, the Netherlands, Switzerland, China, & India.** People are struggling to recover.
- **Refugees** – There are 26.4 million refugees in the world; 48 million internally displaced people (forced from their homes but still in their home country) & 4.1 million people are seeking asylum because their safety is at risk. 82.4 million people have been forcibly displaced in the world. Their struggles are even more difficult because of COVID.



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When we pray for the people in need in our world, we are praying for peace. Peace is not just the absence of war, it is Shalom – living in harmony with each other and with God's creation. Shalom means health, safety, tranquility, wholeness, and rest – the welfare and prosperity of all. Praying for the needs of others is an important first step in loving people as God calls us to. Next steps include using our time, talents, and resources to help others when disaster strikes, offering comfort in times of need, and working for change when the suffering of others comes from discrimination, persecution, exploitation, or abuse. When shalom does not exist for everyone, no one is fully at peace!

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