



PRAYERS FOR OUR CHURCH

Dear Lord, hear the deep meditations of my heart that have dampened my soul and caused me abysmal anguish as I watch the destruction of my beloved United Methodist Church over a social issue. You have taught us through your word "*Love your neighbor as yourself.*" (Matthew 19:19) Yet, Lord we have failed to heed your word.

Forgive us Lord for failing to Love our neighbor because he or she may be different than us in any one of thousands of ways. Teach us once again how to love our neighbor no matter his or her culture, color of skin, race, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or any other thousands of differences.

Forgive us Lord for insisting that we have our own selfish way in matters of your church regardless of whether they diminish your ministries that lend a helping hand to the oppressed, sick, or poor.

Forgive us Lord for thinking we have all the answers and the one person on earth who God has imbued with knowledge of all things.

Forgive us Lord for failing to tolerate our brothers and sisters who think differently than we do.

Forgive us Lord for judging our brothers and sisters in Christ, yet never seeing the plank in our own eyes.

Forgive us Lord for failing to understand that You permit us to think differently, yet are held in community through a connection bound together in love.

For it is in the matchless name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ that we pray this prayer. **Amen**

Judge Lew Nicholls, lay member of Greenup UMC