

First United Methodist Church, Lakeland

PARK – N – PRAY GUIDE

Hello Families:

This guide will take you around to places in the community where students, teachers, administrators, and support staff will be learning and working as the 2020–2021 school year begins.

As you pray each prayer, leave a space for each person in your group to pray for individuals in that category, silently or out loud.

Remember that these prayers are a guide. You don't have to follow them if you feel lead to pray other/more things.

We hope that you will enjoy this time of prayer and reflection. If you choose to, we would love to see you and your family joining in prayer together. You may share with us by tagging us in your posts on your social pages. Use the hashtag [#LKLDPARKNPRAY](#)

AT THE SCHOOL

If your child(ren) is enrolled at a public, private, or charter school(s), drive there. It doesn't matter if they will be starting their year in-person or online.

When you arrive, if possible, get out as a family, place a hand on the building (if you the building isn't accessible, the fence will do just fine), and pray these prayers.

Teachers and Administrators:

We pray for the Teachers and Administrators of this school. Lord, the challenges they face this year are not ones they would have imagined when they chose to take up their profession. We pray that, when they feel scared or anxious, they would also feel your presence around them. May your Holy Spirit bring them peace and comfort when there is stress, and may it bring them discernment, patience, and wisdom when there are choices to be made. We pray that you would help them to guide and encourage the students under their care, as well as their peers and coworkers. Most of all, Lord, we pray that they will be reminded every day that they are not only educators, but they are your cherished and beloved children. (Leave space for individual prayers) Lord, hear our prayers.

Students:

We pray for each and every one of the young people that will walk through the doors of this school over the coming days, weeks, and months. Help them to be good learners, good listeners, and good friends to those they are with each day. Calm their hearts where there is fear, and give them courage where there is doubt. There are many things that will pull their attention and distract them in this new environment, but we know that you will be with them. Lord, help your precious children to focus, engage, and be present in the classroom as they continue to learn and grow into the beloved individuals you are shaping them to be. (Leave space for individual prayers) Lord, hear our prayers.

Support Staff:

We pray for the bus drivers, custodians, cafeteria staff, counselors, nurses, and office staff of this school. As they work to ensure that teachers can focus on teaching and students can focus on learning, we pray that you will give them the support that they need to stay strong. Walk with these, your treasured children, as they deal with the stress they will surely encounter, and guide them to your understanding and peace. We ask that you would help them to speak and act with your discernment and love as they encounter students and coworkers alike. Above all, help them remember how much they are loved and valued by their creator. (Leave space for individual prayers) Lord, hear our prayers.

AT THE POLK COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

Drive to the SBPC Admin Building (1915 S Floral Ave, Bartow, FL 33830) and offer up this prayer

We pray for the administrators that are leading the district in these uncertain times. We thank you for placing the call to serve our teachers and schools on their lives. Lord, give them your wisdom and discernment as they strive to create safe and nurturing environments where our teachers can educate and our young people can learn and grow. Bless their interactions with parents, teachers, and the community at large, helping them be messengers of peace, understanding, and hope. Remind them each morning that they are a divine creation, loved by their creator, and let that reminder drive them to lead our district with love and compassion. (Leave space for individual prayers) Lord, hear our prayers.

IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

Head back to your house and walk the streets of your neighborhood.

Pray for the parents in your neighborhood, as well as the students that will be learning there over the coming months

Students:

We pray for the young people who will be learning online or homeschooling. Whether this is just the beginning of another year of learning at home or a new way of doing school altogether, we pray your blessings on each and every one of them. Help them, Lord, to be motivated and focused on the tasks before them. Guide them to your peace through whatever struggles they face with technology, distraction, or stress. We pray that, even though they cannot be present with their friends at the moment, they will feel connection and support surrounding them. Be with these beloved children of yours as they begin the journey of learning in their homes and with their families. (Leave space for individual prayers) Lord, hear our prayers.

Parents:

We pray for the parents in our neighborhood. We know some have chosen to send their students back to in-person schooling. They are entrusting their children to the school's teachers, administrators, and support staff, which can be a struggle to do in normal times, let alone in times like this. We pray that they would feel your Holy Spirit wrapped around them, bringing them peace and assurance in the face of anxiety and worry. We also pray for those parents whose children will be learning from home. We ask that you would give them an extra measure of your grace and love as they begin the school year. Help them to discern solutions, provide encouragement, and give guidance in ways that reflect the love you have for them. Above all, remind those who will be playing the parts of parent, educator, and counselor for their kids, while also trying to be good partners, employees, and neighbors, that they have one identity that is more important than any other: Your beloved creation. (Leave space for individual prayers) Lord, hear our prayers.

