

UCC April Prayer Focus

Each month through 2024, the Prayer Commission is inviting the church to participate in prayer focused around a particular theme. Each month will have a prayer written by a member of our church community. Each prayer is accompanied by a piece of art also created by a member of our church community. Our hope is that these prayers and accompanying art will help to bring us, through both lament and joy, before the Father on behalf of others around us. As we pray, may we be moved in our hearts and in our actions to love our neighbors and walk in justice.

April's prayer focus is the National Child Abuse Prevention Month. This month's prayer is written by Sarah Bowman. This month's art is created through photography by Sam Bowman. It depicts the heartbreaking reality of child abuse through the abandonment of a teddy bear, a universally recognized symbol of childhood.



Prayer

Dear Jesus,

Thank you for our children. It takes a community to raise them up, and in a very real sense we all bear responsibility for their wellbeing. When you walked among us, you told your followers who thought you were too busy for the young to let the children come to you. You told us to be like children to enter your Kingdom. And yet we live in a world where these vulnerable souls are regularly abused and betrayed.

We are your hands and feet in this world. Help us to protect the joy and innocence of the children around us. May we model a willingness to consistently seek repaired relationships in conflict to protect future generations. Fill us with your compassion for and joy at the companionship of children. Help us to protect them.

Amen