

Humbercrest United Church

Prayer Shawl Ministry

We are delighted that you want to join the Prayer Shawl Ministry, a ministry of compassion and healing. Anyone can join! You may want to attend our monthly meetings or you may want to work at home. Our shawls will all be given away by members of the congregation to anyone they feel is in need of comfort and of prayer, for joyous or difficult reasons.

Prayer Shawl Pattern

The Prayer shawl is roughly 24" x 60". Uses 600 Gm Chunky yarn with 6mm needles. Last 1/3 is for fringe (if desired).

Simple Pattern – Knit

Use large needles. Cast on 81 stitches (or any multiple of 3). Knit3, purl 3 to end. On the next row work the same stitch to what you see. Knit into knits, purl into purls (so you are not ribbing). If you work 81 stitches, you will always start with K3.

XXX OOO XXX OOO XXX
OOO XXX OOO XXX OOO

Simple Pattern – Crochet

Use N or 10mm hook. Chain 75. Double crochet in 3rd chain from hook. Double crochet in each chain across. Chain 2a at end of row. Turn. Work in dc and chain 2 at each turn.

You may choose any yarn and any stitch and any furnished size – these are just suggestions. There is a free pattern on-line at www.lionbrand.com/patterns.khs_prayerShawl.html

Prayer Shawl Guidelines

- use only new yarn.
- use any pattern that does not have a right and a wrong side.
- on completion sign the HUC card, attach it to the shawl and give it to an usher on Sunday for dedication. You may bring the basket to the Narthex for the usher's convenience.
- The yarn is funded by the Pastoral Fund to Fern.
- All knitters purchase their own yarn. Some ask to be reimbursed and some do not.
- Anyone may take a dedicated shawl by signing and dating the booklet provided, but the recipient is anonymous.
- When a person in the congregation is not well, and this is known to many, if a person is inclined to give a shawl to that person, please ask the proposed recipient if he/she has already received a shawl. This way we prevent duplications.

Prayers We Use

When we gather to knit together, we always light a candle and share in this prayer before starting. You may enjoy using it at home. We also provide a prayer to our crafters for their use when they work at home. It is below as well. But any prayer will do!

Opening Prayer – (in the group)

Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life"

Gracious and loving God, as we light our candle we remember Your light which shines into darkness, you Son whose life, death and resurrection gives us hope, Your spirit which permeates every corner of our lives.

Be present here as we knit these shawls and enjoy each other's company.

We remember all those for whom we knit these shawls;
those who are lonely and need to know they are loved,
those who are ill and yearn for healing of body, mind and spirit,
those who face challenging decisions and search for guidance,
those who are grieving and welcome comforting words and actions,
those who are celebrating newness of life
and rejoice in the warmth and richness surrounding them.
Again, bind us together in one community of love,
founded on the faith that Your love and grace are everlasting. Amen.

(West Avon Congregational Church, written by Cynthia D. Yee, c.2008)

Opening Prayer – (Alone)

In the name of God, the Creator, the giver of life;
In the name of Jesus, the Saviour, the healer, the lifter of pain;
In the name of the Spirit, the comforter, the consoler, the sustainer of life.

I knit this shawl as:

a mantle of caring,
a mantle of wholeness,
a mantle of healing,
a mantle to empower you,
a mantle of protection,
a mantle of strength,
a mantle of patience.

May this shawl warm you and comfort you when you are weak and weary.
I ask this in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

(See www.shawlministry.com by Janet Bristow and Victoria Galo for more information)