

Hold the following congregations and ministries in prayer:

Week of February 2

National Convocation and the gifts of Black Disciples

Week of February 9

FCC Mt. Sterling, IL; New Bedford CC, IL; FCC Walnut, IL; Creekside Community Church, Traverse City, MI

Week of February 16

80 years of Week of Compassion

Week of February 23

Davis Memorial CC, Taylorville, IL; Central CC, Havana, IL; Woodgrove Brethren Christian Parish, Hastings, MI

Pray for:

- Search Committee for Regional Minister and President - Sandy Harvey (Chair), Ben McCloughan (Vice-Chair), Karon Alexander (Secretary), Marla McElroy, Vicky Kirby, Allie Lundblad, Grant Wade
You can contact the Regional Search Committee at rmsearch@cciwdisciples.org
- Committee Drafting the provisional documents for the Emerging Region

Dates to Remember

February is Black History Month

February 4 is World Cancer Day

February 14 is Valentine's Day

February 20 is World Day of Social Justice

February 29 is Ash Wednesday

Regional Events

February 11 - Spirituality: Connecting to the Divine In and Around Us, *a Clergy Ethics Training, Centennial CC, Bloomington, IL*

February - Disciples Women's Monthly Book Club - *James* by Percival Everett, *Zoom*

Praying through Music

Included is a playlist to serve as a music companion for this month's prayer guide. The selections reflect key themes for February: Black History Month, World Day of Social Justice, Valentine's Day, and the beginning of Lent.

This playlist blends traditional and contemporary music. It features haunting renditions of spirituals and protest songs that confront the horrors of slavery and lynching, alongside modern anthems inspired by the Civil Rights Movement and Black Lives Matter. Some songs celebrate Black identity, while others highlight love—both in personal relationships and within a broader, communal context.

As the playlist concludes, the focus shifts to reflection, hope, and transformation, offering a fitting transition as we enter the season of Lent.

Playlist on YouTube Music

No More Auction Block for Me by Odetta
Strange Fruit by Billie Holiday
Freedom Highway by the Staple Singers
We Shall Overcome by Mahalia Jackson
I Am Free by SAULT
I Can't Breathe by H.E.R.
Glory by Common & John Legend
To Be Young, Gifted and Black by Nina Simone

Say It Loud - I'm Black and I'm Proud (Parts 1 & 2) by James Brown
Fight for Love by SAULT
Sea of Love by Phil Phillips & the Twilights
I Found You by Alabama Shakes
One Love by Bob Marley & the Wailers
Worship by Jon Batiste
Set Your Spirit Free by SAULT
Rise Up - Andra Day

A Prayer for February

We praise you, God, as the sun shines just a bit longer each passing day. May you give us strength to continue holding on to the promise of springing new life no matter the shadows cast. We give thanks for the achievements and celebrate the heritage of Black people in the United States and all over the world. May we be inspired by their stories. We repent of the sin of denying the humanity and divinity of our Black siblings. May we find the courage to not only cease but also reverse the pain we have caused. Remind us that justice is possible, not as an abstract ideal, but as an attainable reality that may be embodied here and now. Let us see that the differences amongst people are of our own doing and never from your divine nature. May we be empowered to find healing, unafraid of scaling walls and tearing roofs to uncover cures for what ails our bodies and souls. Fill us with your love—a kind of love that not even cards and jars can contain. Your gifts of wonder and innovation will faithfully guide us through uncertainty. Satisfy us as we feast. Strengthen us as we fast. Guide us as we wander.

Hope: A Litany Claiming that Another World is Possible and On Its Way

by Zhailon Levingston

ONE: We are made in the likeness of Eternal Creativity.

ALL: Another world is possible and on its way.

ONE: Its insistence moves us into being and imagines for us worlds beyond our hopelessness.

ALL: Another world is possible and on its way.

ONE: We are made to collaborate with those around us to build deeper connections and sustainability around new ways of doing life together.

ALL: Another world is possible and on its way.

ONE: We are making space in our world for doubt and uncertainty by calling out fear and isolationism.

ALL: Another world is possible and on its way.

ONE: This is the truth about us. It always has been and always will be.

ALL: A new world is both here and arriving. We wait for it, usher it, greet it as a hopeful people. Amen.

from Rally: Communal Prayers for Lovers of Jesus and Justice