



Raquette Lake Chapel Sunday Blast

February 11, 2024

"Praying With a List"

"And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people." Ephesians 6:18 (NIV)

"Have you ever prayed with a prayer list?"

Have you ever belonged to a group or church in which creating and praying with prayer lists was common? Praying a prayer list in person as a group or as part of a virtual community is different from personal prayer. This week's Sunday Blast will explore how prayer lists are a special aspect of a faith community.

"Who is Alice on our prayer list?"

A personal anecdote illustrates the role and benefits of prayer lists within a faith community. In a church I used to attend where a longstanding prayer list was read during services each Sunday, a new minister's inquiry about an unfamiliar name on the prayer list, "Alice, a missionary," revealed a bigger story. The minister asked long-time members of the church: "Who is Alice, and what is her missionary work?" To everyone's surprise, no one knew Alice! After contacting some former members of the church who had moved away and who knew Alice, we learned that Alice had ceased her missionary work decades ago. The minister contacted Alice, who was delighted to hear from and be "reunited" with her old church group.



"How can we benefit from an active prayer list?"

In the story about Alice, people began to say: "Oh, *NOW* I know who Alice is and why we have prayed for her all these years. Now we can give thanks for the work that Alice has done!"

Prayer lists play a vital role in nurturing the spiritual vitality and sense of belonging in faith communities. These lists provide a way to share news, joys, and concerns. Prayer lists provide an avenue to foster inclusivity, empathy, spiritual growth, and follow-up in a faith community, proving "we are all in this together." The people and concerns on the prayer list come alive and become real and tangible. We learn that "we are not alone" as we invoke our Lord and all His servants in our community.

The Raquette Lake Chapel has an active "prayer box" in each Sunday Blast. Here is your opportunity to offer prayers of empathy, encouragement, and thanks for those people and events in your life!

May it be so! Amen! – blessings, Vance

Prayer Box: pray for healing for Joann, Bill, Manuel, Dan and Joycelyn, Maggie, Liz, Vance; all struggling couples; peace in Ukraine and the Middle East.

"For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them." (Matthew 18:20, NIV)

Lord, hear our prayers!