

*South Carolina United Methodists' 40 Days of Shared Prayers For*

# **A Future With Hope**



*Bishop L. Jonathan Holston*

*Bishop L. Jonathan Holston invites South Carolina United Methodists to join him in 40 days of shared prayer each day from Monday, Jan. 14, through Friday, Feb. 22, leading up to the 2019 Special Session of the General Conference, scheduled for Feb. 23-26 in St. Louis, Missouri. Together each day, let us join one another in prayer, believing that God hears every word.*

## **Each Sunday, we pray:**

*“Gracious and loving God, we give thanks for your presence in our lives and the promise that you have plans for us to prosper and not be harmed. Continue your good work in our families and our lives. Help us to understand how we can make a difference – in our church, in our community, and in our world – as your instrument of hope. Amen.”*

## **Each Monday, we pray:**

*“Merciful God, help us to see the many opportunities before us to serve you by serving our neighbors. Open our hearts and our hands to both receive your grace and to offer it to everyone we meet. Amen.”*

## **Each Tuesday, we pray:**

*“Almighty God, we confess to you that we have not loved you with our whole hearts. We have often failed to be an obedient church when we have not heard the cry of the needy. Free us for joyful obedience that, where there are corridors of shame, despair and want, we might create corridors of faith, hope and love that glorify you. Amen.”*

## **Each Wednesday, we pray:**

*“Gracious God, I know that you are the potter and I am the clay. Mold me and make me into a disciple of Jesus Christ. Show me how to offer your grace and mercy in ways that transform the world. Amen.”*

## **Each Thursday, we pray:**

*“Lord, we know that when we make space in our hearts for you, Jesus redeems the broken pieces of our lives. We ask, O God, that you will be at work in us and through us to make a difference in the lives of the hurting and the hungry in our midst. Amen.”*

## **Each Friday, we pray:**

*“God, we thank you for the gift of faith that carries us through those times when we cannot yet see what you are doing in our midst. Help us to walk in your light and to be a light for others. Amen.”*

## **Each Saturday, we pray:**

*“God of Heaven and Earth, as your humble servants, we know that the needs around the world and around the corner are great. Open our eyes so that we can see how to use the gifts you have given us to serve our neighbors and be in mission in the community and beyond. And give us the strength and perseverance to get started in this holy work. Amen.”*

*“Friends, prayer is powerful,” Bishop Holston says. “When our hearts and minds are engaged in a prayerful focus, we begin to see situations from the perspective of hope. There is not magic that erases our trials or suffering, but in the midst of it all, a life of prayer shifts our perspective from a spirit of despair toward a spirit of hope. We truly trust in God’s promises. My prayer for you is that this season of focused prayer will instill in your hearts a spirit of hope.” (umcsc.org)*