

Prayer Quilts
Simi Valley United Methodist Women



What is a prayer quilt?

So often when we hear that someone is either ill or experiencing difficulties, we offer our thoughts and prayers to that person. A prayer quilt is a way to combine the gift of a quilt with the gift of prayer for someone in need.

Why quilts?

For generations, patchwork quilts have been a visible act of love. Pieced together from bits and pieces of material, they represent the handiwork and devotion of the quilter – and a deep and comforting connection with the person they are presented to. But a prayer quilt is even more special. It is not the pattern, color or workmanship that makes a prayer quilt so special, but the fact that prayer is symbolically tied into each one.

How does a quilt become a symbolic symbol of prayer?

A quilt is a layer of 3 materials: the pieced top, the middle layer of batting, and a piece of fabric as backing. In a prayer quilt, the layers are anchored or tied together by pieces of thread or floss. The congregation is invited to the quilt tying session. As each knot is tied, a prayer is offered on behalf of the person in need - the quilt becomes a visible sign of that prayer.

Who should receive a prayer quilt?

A prayer quilt can be given to anyone of any age in special need of prayer. They may be going through a challenging time with an illness such as cancer, they may be facing surgery, they may be grieving over the loss of a child or spouse or they may be having a personal crisis or facing a difficult family situation.

Are there “rules” about giving a prayer quilt?

You must ASK the person before you give the gift of a prayer quilt. Out of respect for that person, you should never *surprise* someone with a prayer quilt. Once they express they are willing to receive a prayer quilt, ask what they would like prayers for. Ask what information about their situation may be shared with the congregation. Prayer quilts are not appropriate for birthdays, weddings, baptisms, or other celebrations, but are appropriate for someone, anyone, who is experiencing physical, emotional, spiritual or some other life crisis and can benefit from being “covered in prayer”.

How do I request a prayer quilt?

- ✓ Ask the proposed recipient if he/she wants a prayer quilt.
- ✓ If that person doesn't know about prayer quilts, explain the prayer quilt ministry.
- ✓ If the person agrees to receive a prayer quilt, ask what prayers he/she wants offered, e.g. prayers for healing, patience, strength, guidance, etc.
- ✓ Fill out the prayer request form and return to Barbara Brown or the church office.
- ✓ Once the quilt is completed and has been tied with prayers, you will be notified when the quilt is ready for you to pick up and deliver to the recipient.

Questions?

Call Barbara Brown, call the church office at 526-6231 or send an e-mail to the church at svumc@pacbell.net (please enter “Prayer Quilt” in the Subject Line).