



"The key to this home, this heart of God, is prayer... If the key is prayer, the door is Jesus Christ. How good of God to provide us a way into his heart.

He knows that we are stiff-necked and hard-hearted, so he has provided a means of entrance. Jesus, the Christ, lived a perfect life, died in our place, and rose victorious over all the dark powers so that we might live through him.

This is wonderfully good news. No longer do we have to stand outside, barred from nearness to God by our rebellion. We may now enter through the door of God's grace and mercy in Jesus Christ."

Richard J. Foster. Prayer: Find the Heart's True Home. 1992. Pages 2-3.

PERSONAL PRAYER FOCUS:

"And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true." And he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end.

To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment. The one who conquers will have this heritage, and I will be his God and he will be my son." Revelation 21:5-7

"We are in a new year, a time when many make plans to end a bad habit or beginning a new good habit...with varying rates of success.
But God does something infinitely better for us. He is making all things news, meaning we do not need to. And he gives water, living water, to all that are thirsty without payment." (cf. John 7:37ff) "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation." 2 Cor 5:17-18

We are new creation – and this is from God.

This is not dependent upon our ability to keep or unkeep a habit. This is God's grace towards us – so let us take our prayer key to Jesus and enter the heart of God.

PRAYERS FOR OUR FAITH COMMUNITY:

We pray for Henry Epp and Udo Woelke, who are recovering strength at Shaver Hospital

We pray for Joshua Dau, who is starting college in January.

We give thanks for 85 Years of worship in the German language at NUMC. We pray for those deeply connected to this service.

We pray for Renate as she joins Randy in retirement. We pray refreshment and the beginning a new adventure with God.

We pray for the re-start of RBK on January 7. For the volunteers and children.

We give thanks for the many volunteers who made the Christmas season special. Our musicians, decorators, coffee and cookie makers, ushers, and welcome centre hosts.

We give thanks to the Visitation Team helpers who made it possible to visit all our seniors during the Advent Season.

We pray for a new Church Board Chair.

We pray for a few more A/V volunteers and we give thanks for our A/V crew.

PRAYERS FOR THE WORLD:

We pray for our MCEC sister churches: Bethany, Grace, St. Catharines, Westivew, Vineland and 1st Mennonite.

We pray for our sister congregation, Dire Gefersa Miserete Kristos Church in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

We prayer for the joint Westview & NUMC Chili lunch meal planned for Jan 14 at Westview & the chili lunch prep planned at NUMC on Jan 13.

We pray for the Syriac Church who have begun to use our Sanctuary (Dec 24, 31) for worship.

