

# Breakthrough Prayer Part 1

Presented by Pastor Scott Walters on 05/31/20

At Crossroads United Methodist Church

Waunakee, WI

In early February, 6 of us from Crossroads UMC attended a gathering called the Breakthrough Prayer Initiative, with Sue Nilson Kibbey from the West Ohio Conference leading.

Many of you have received a note from the church, along with a prayer card from the church that we invite you to use, so that as a church we may have a common prayer and common focus as a church family that gather's in God's name.

If you haven't received this card let us know at

[hello@crossroadswaunakee.org](mailto:hello@crossroadswaunakee.org) and we can send a card by email or the regular mail to you.

Sue recounts an event from church history from 1722 about a German noble, Ludwig von Zinzendorf was asked to allow some settlers to begin a religious community that would be called, 'Herrnhut.'

Disagreements arouse in the community. In 1727 felt called to launch a prayer vigil for encourage their spiritual growth – then extended to a week, another week, a month, a year, to 100 years of unbroken prayer.

In short time, 2 missionaries sent out to the West Indies; then hundreds, including to be in ministry in the British colonies in North America and a London engulfed in the misery of the Industrial Revolution.

One night, one unhappy Anglican priest by the name of John Wesley was invited to come to an evenings devotions to which he went without enthusiasm.

That event was the beginnings of the Methodist movement

Sue's point in relating this account was not a lesson in church history.

It was about the power of prayer.

Breakthrough Prayer at Crossroads is pretty simple:

It's NOT a prayer class; NOT a prayer committee; meeting, or a sermon series.

It's when God's people join together in an intentional prayer asked God to breakthrough in new ways–

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to breakthrough in our personal life;  
in the lives of those in our church family;  
in the life of our church family;  
to breakthrough what might hold us back to God can  
use us in new ways.

I have never thought of myself as a great “prayer warrior” but there is something important that I have discovered about prayer.

Prayer isn't about convincing God to do something that we feel should be done. Prayer isn't about arm-twisting God or cajoling God into doing something.

Rather, prayer is about our opening hearts to God. We can be honest to God about everything on our hearts and minds. Prayer is about placing ourselves in a position where we might be changed or where God might use us for God's purposes.

The Crossroads Breakthrough prayer uses a beautiful verse from

Jeremiah that Chris found seemed tailor-made for the situation: “Stand at the crossroads, and look, and ask for the ancient paths, where the good way lies; and walk in it, and find rest for your souls.”

We are asking members of Crossroads Church at either 6:16 AM or 6:16 PM to take time out from what you're doing to offer the following prayer:

“Amazing and Loving God, we stand at the crossroads of your hopes and the lives of your people. Breakthrough Crossroads UMC and our community that we may “walk in a good way,” to bring your Kingdom closer to reality on earth. Amen.

In asking you to participate in this prayer, once a day, at either 6:16, I am NOT asking you to give up the other prayer times and styles and devotional life you offer.

There is not a certain form of prayer is correct. Prayer is as varied as are God's people. In any of the churches that I've served, there would only be a small number in each congregation that would feel comfortable to pray out loud, publicly, in a group.

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Some pray silently. Some offer prayer under their breath. Some offer prayers that they or others have written down. It is my conviction that God “hears” our prayers, even when those prayers are our mental prayers. After all, God is God.

But on this card is a prayer that we can offer to God as a community of purpose of making us open to the surprising ways of God. (We even have a prayer card for younger persons as well that we'll be sending out.)

My prayer today is that you might consider being part of this. If you miss a 6:16 don't give up. Another 6:16 will come in another 12 and 24 hours. We are not expecting perfection.

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