

God, help...

Us to gather the resources needed to do
Your work in the world in the year ahead.

Me to find the strength and energy to make it
through another work week.

Me and my spouse to have the patience and wisdom
to raise our baby to be the best person she can be.

Me to speak out and stand up for justice.

Us to think and act for the benefit of our local
and global community, not only for our ourselves.

Us as we grieve nearly 3 million people who have died from
COVID-19 worldwide, including nearly 600,000 people in the United States.

I miss seeing people for relaxed conversation.

Our congregation to be able to continue to support the
ministries and missions of United Parish.

The pandemic still rages in so many places, and COVID-19 vaccines are not equally
accessible in every nation and community where people desperately need them.

Us as we grapple with the pandemic
of racism in our country.

Us grieve the things we need to let go of in order to be
able to live abundantly now and in the future.

Us to remember the service and sacrifices made by so many this year
(our healthcare workers, essential workers, public officials, relief workers...).

Us to live into your call to love one another.

It is so hard to make progress on big social
problems like equity and racism.

Us to be good stewards of the building and support the programming that serves our
United Parish community and our neighbors in need of a place to meet, dance, eat, sing and learn.



God, thanks...

For all the ways that technology has helped
us stay connected through the pandemic.

For leading my family to United Parish and the
loving community we have found here.

For your spiritual sustenance that has helped the United Parish community to survive
and thrive through the challenges of the pandemic, learning new ways to be church.

For vaccinations and hope.

For our beautiful church community.

For every person who sits in the rainbow Adirondack chairs, talking, building
friendships, eating lunch, resting from their commute, enjoying the sun.

For kids back in school.

For the laughter and imagination of children.

For all the blessings You have bestowed on us, especially for my
health and the health of my family and friends.

For allowing us to be the church
in your vast Creation.

For creative talents shared.

For the appreciation, gratitude, and thoughtful gifts from
United Parish members and the church council. [submitted by a United Parish staff member]

For my loving family.

For not letting us get away with ignoring injustice.

That we have struggled and harnessed technology that will serve us even after the time of separation.
Help us find the right balance for its use going forward as we pray, study, sing and do the work of the church together.

For health and well-being.

For work that allows me to use my creativity and talents.

For the United Parish choir (and soloists!)- the beautiful music they share
with us and the loving community they share with each other.

For learning opportunities and a
community that is willing to teach.

For the community of the 20s & 30s group,
and all the affinity groups and teams of United Parish.



God, wow!...

Won't it be great to pass the peace again!
Let us never take it for granted!

You have blessed us in so many amazing ways.

I'm amazed at how resilient people are; despite how bad the pandemic is, people have come together in new and surprising ways.

You have created another glorious day
to love and to serve You.

Virtual worship services inspire and sustain us.

I'm in awe of the scientists who created the vaccine so quickly, and the governments and people who have helped roll it out to get as many people vaccinated as possible.

United Parish folks are so smart and caring.

Can you believe the music!

How we appreciate the beauty of the light pouring through our multicolored windows,
illuminating your people as they worship and sing Your praises together.

The beauty of your creation is a
daily reminder of your power and love.

For daily acts of kindness and compassion.

You keep creating every day, and you invite us into your ongoing act of creation!
By your love and grace, O God, you transform us into redeemed creatures!

Your people continue to do great work in the
world despite how hard things can be sometimes.

Change happens and I'm still here,
and we're still here, and YOU are still here!

