

Prayer Focus for GA
By Lynn Viale, COLA vice moderator

Prayer focus for February
Love Kindness

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, **kindness**, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Gal 5:22-23

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, **kindness**, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. Col 3:12-14

A prayer for kindness:

Our loving God we want to live out the fruits of the spirit. Now is a good time to practice on one another as we approach the excitement of General Assembly. Show us ways – at our Presbytery meetings, in our congregations, with our neighbors, and with the stranger on the street – to offer your kindness to all those with whom we come in contact, and to clothe ourselves with love.

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Our theme for the 218th General Assembly

- Do justice
- Love kindness
- Walk humbly with your God. Micah 6:8

Our Responsibility as hosts for the 218th General Assembly

- Practice hospitality. Romans 12:13

For the next six months, we will have a monthly prayer focus for the upcoming General Assembly (June 21-28, 2008). We will focus on **justice, kindness, humility and hospitality**.

Our hope is that in our worship services, session and deacon meetings, Presbytery meetings and our private prayer times, we will remember to “pray without ceasing” for General Assembly, that it will be Spirit-breathed, Christ-centered, and God-led.

Let’s envision a General Assembly where we

- Work together for **justice** in an unjust world
- Listen to one another with **kindness** and respect
- Speak of our issues with **humility** and grace
- Practice the radical **hospitality** to one another that Christ has freely offered to each of us

Prayer focus for January:
Justice

This is what the Lord Almighty says: “Administer true justice; show mercy and compassion to one another. Do not oppress the widow or the fatherless, the alien or the poor. In your hearts do not think evil of each other.” Zechariah 7:9-10

When justice is done, it brings joy to the righteous. Proverbs 21:15

But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!
Amos 5:24

A Prayer for Justice

Loving God, you hold us in your hands for we are all made in your image.

Help us to celebrate our differences.

Help us to use our diversity to share with each other the richness of our many cultures, languages and backgrounds.

Help us to dissolve the barriers of race and work for a just society in which none are despised and discriminated against on the basis of false divisions of race and in which each is valued for their true humanity.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, who saw beyond all human divisions and reached out to the good within each person.

This prayer is found on the PCUSA website from the brochure of Ideas for Action to End Racism published by the Diakonia Council of Churches