

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY



Levy United Methodist Church
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North Little Rock, AR 72118
501-753-6041

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The Prayer Shawl Ministry at Levy United Methodist Church is one of many ways we tend to the varied needs of our congregation and community. Our shawls are begun, worked and finished with prayer. Each shawl brings to the recipient the warmth, love and concern that, through prayer, have been absorbed into every stitch. Both women and men knit or crochet the shawls at home or at a monthly gathering at church.

Prayer shawls are made to give to people who hurt — those who are grieving, lonely, homebound or in physical need — within our church and beyond. Anyone may give a prayer shawl. Just call the church office (501-834-9492) to request a shawl or to learn more about joining this worthy project.

HISTORY OF THE MINISTRY

After learning how a prayer shawl had impacted the lives of many people in other churches we began this outreach ministry.

You can become part of this ministry by making shawls, or by requesting a shawl for a friend or loved one who is in need.

For more information, contact Veta Smith 501-758-0550 (E-Mail: veta@aristotle.net)

DELIVERED WITH LOVE

Each finished shawl is blessed by the members and pastors present at the monthly gathering. The shawl then receives a label indicating that it has come from our church. An added card carries this special message:

“This prayer shawl was made especially for you with love and prayers. It is a gift of the Levy United Methodist Church. At the last meeting of our ministry, we gathered in a circle to bless this shawl. May you discover comfort and solace as you wear it. May it encircle you with God’s love and peace, now and always.”

MAKING A PRAYER SHAWL

The shawls do not have to be alike. There is no “right” way to create these gifts of love and caring. You may use any pattern you choose, but to get you started, here are two simple patterns, one knitted and one crocheted.

You will need two or three skeins of LION BRAND HOMESPUN YARN, available at Wal-Mart, Hancock’s and Michael’s Craft Stores. This brand of yarn is suggested because of its soft texture and colors. The number of skeins depends on the size of the shawl you wish to make.

KNITTED PRAYER SHAWLS

Use size 13 needles. These needles provide a loose weave and make the project go fast.

Begin by casting on 57 stitches.

Pattern:

Knit 3, purl 3, to the end of the row, ending with knit 3.

Turn and repeat the above row.

Each row will begin with knit 3.

Before you begin your last skein, Set aside the yarn you will need for fringe for both ends of the shawl (approximately 18 yards for 3" fringe; 24 yards for 4" fringe.) Then knit until you finish the yarn.

ATTACHING FRINGE:

Cut at least 108 pieces of yarn, each either 6" or 8" long, as you choose. Hold two pieces together and fold in half, creating four ends. Pull through the bottom edge of the shawl and knot.

CROCHETED PRAYER SHAWLS

Use a 10mm (Size P) hook. Chain 44 loosely. SC in the 4th chain from the hook, then in each subsequent chain (total of 41 SC). *Chain 3 (to count as one DC); turn. Skip one SC, DC in each SC across row (41 DC). Chain 2 (to count as one SC); turn. Skip one DC, SC in each DC across row (41 SC). Repeat from *. Before you begin your last skein, set aside enough yarn for the fringe (approximately 14 yards for 3" fringe; 19 yards for 4" fringe). Crochet until all yarn is used, ending with a row of SC.

ATTACHING FRINGE: Cut at least 82 pieces of yarn, either 6" or 8" long. Attach one piece to each chain of starting edge and each SC of ending edge.

