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# *Bethel Prayer Concerns*

*Sunday, September 5, 2021*

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## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Generous God, you are my maker and I trust in you.

Surround me with your favor today  
that I may hear the cry of those in need  
and share my resources with the poor;

in the excellent name of Jesus Christ, my Savior and Lord. Amen.

## **REFLECTIONS**

“Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? But you have dishonored the poor” (Jas. 2:5–6a). A UNICEF study reports that the United States has the second-highest child poverty rate in the industrialized world, with more than one in five children living in households that fall below the poverty line ([http:// www.unicef-irc.org/publications/pdf/rc10\\_eng.pdf](http://www.unicef-irc.org/publications/pdf/rc10_eng.pdf)). What does this mean to you as a person of faith? How might God call the church to respond to this situation?

# Bethel Presbyterian Church Announcements

## HOME FOOD COLLECTION

For the month of September our focus foods are **Canned Fruit & Applesauce**. These and other non-perishable food items can be brought in throughout the month and placed in the Hands of Mercy (HOME) collection basket in the Gathering Area. Thank you for supporting our local food pantry and helping feed hungry folks in our community.



In the September Open Door it was announced that there will be a special Fall Market in October. The date in the newsletter is wrong. The Fall Market date is **Saturday, October 30 from 10 AM to 2 PM**

## HOW HEALTHY IS OUR FREEDOM?

Our attitude toward the poor is still one of the surest tests of the health of our freedom. The moment freedom is used to avoid acts of mercy or help or compassion, it is exposed as a fraud. A free person who finds ways to enhance the lives of the poor demonstrates the truest and most mature freedom. ... We are not free to dismiss poor people from our awareness, to turn a deaf ear to voices that ask for help, to harbor even the slightest contempt for the failures and rejects in our society.

—Eugene H. Peterson, *Traveling Light*