

Healing Prayer Team  
McFarland United Church of Christ  
2024

The healing prayer team was formed in February of 2024. Cameron Macdonald, Martha Olsen, Lisa Ludwig, and Trish Kalhagen formed the original group. We began by meeting regularly and studying the Healing Prayer tradition using the book *Stretch Out Your Hand: Exploring Healing Prayer*. We learned the practice of laying on of hands with anointing. When we began planning to offer a service, our team was joined by Anne Simon-Wolf, Tom Ludwig, Lori Stoneking and Pastor Bryan.

Cameron Macdonald introduced the congregation to the practice of healing prayer in its broadest sense through giving a message focused on this topic on two Sundays in the Fall of 2023. The first Contemplative Service with Prayers for Healing took place on April 10<sup>th</sup> 2024 from 6:30-7:30 pm, and we have offered an evening service on every second Wednesday of each month since then. During each service, we pray responsively, we listen to a reading, we meditate in silence for a period of ten minutes followed by sharing on our experience, and we share communion. At the end of the service, those who wish are invited to receive confidential prayers for healing in body and spirit with anointing while the rest of the participants sing a Taize chant. Attendance at the service has ranged from eight to twenty people, and is available on zoom and in person.

During the latter half of the year, we have begun to plan offer Sunday visits those who cannot come to church with communion and healing prayer, and to offer an outdoor service based on our Wednesday service one Sunday in summer of 2025.

We are blessed to share this worship experience with McFarland UCC, and hope others will join us, either by attending a Wednesday service or joining our ministry!