

Chaplaincy Update, Fall 2022

Dear Friends,

Patient C. covets our prayers.

She finds herself quite alone in the world and faces a long healing process which will likely be followed by an even longer physical therapy process to regain her strength. She requested a chaplain visit before she went into her most recent surgery. When I met her at the bedside, C. asked me, "Chaplain, please pray for me to have a good outcome from my surgery" which of course I did on the spot. Then she asked, "do you know anyone else that would remember me in prayer? Please ask them to pray for me", and again, of course I did. I also brought her a beautiful blanket that had been made by hand, and prayed over stitch by stitch, and donated to the chaplains to give to a patient. I explained that a person in the community had made it with prayers for her healing (even though that person would never know her name). I invited C. to remember that others are praying for her healing everytime the nurses drape it over her bed. She blinked back tears as she told me that was the nicest thing anyone had ever done for her.



Chaplains at LAC+USC Medical Center share blankets with patients in special circumstances all year round. And when Christmas comes, we hope to have enough blankets on hand to give a blanket to all the patients in the hospital that day. Thanks to those of you who have already been knitting, crocheting, quilting and sewing this year! Special shout out to Barbara and Alyss of First Presbyterian Church of Newhall (pictured below) for creating and donating so many blankets (pictured above)!



For those of you who have yet to start your handmade blanket, now is the time to get creative! We would love about 700 colorful, handmade blankets to give to patients during the Christmas season as a reminder that they are not alone, that, in fact a complete stranger has taken over 40 hours to hand craft a special gift with love and prayer for their healing.

Finished blankets need to be at least 36" x 36" and we need to receive them by December 13, 2022. We ask that with each stitch, that you pray into that blanket your blessings for healing and hope.

Please email with questions at Elizabeth.GibbsZehnder@gmail.com.

– Rev. Elizabeth Gibbs Zehnder serves as Presbyterian staff chaplain at LAC+USC Medical Center. The Presbyterian Chaplaincy is made possible through the Consortium funded by the Synod of Southern California and Hawaii, the Presbyteries of the Los Ranchos, Pacific, San Fernando and San Gabriel (special thanks to San Marino Community Church). To find out more about this ministry and how you can be involved, please contact her at Elizabeth.GibbsZehnder@gmail.com.