

Blessing Based Spiritual Nurture & Holy Listening

In addition to Prayer Shawls, ministries of **The Blessing Center** include:

Praying with Your Baby—

Encouragement for new parents through the giving of Blessing Blankets and a “Praying with Your Baby” booklet.



Training for incorporating chapel experiences into day preschools, Sunday School and other programs— Holy Listening, Prayer, Blessing



Classes— for parents, child care givers, teachers, leaders, in other ways of this ministry

One-on-One Spiritual Nurture— for children and teens, offered without fee to all.



Resource provision for others wishing to incorporate Blessing Based Spiritual Nurture into programs of religious and public education, pastoral care, and other ministries which care for the whole person. A Certification Course in Blessing Based Spiritual Nurture and Holy Listening is offered periodically.



Exploration of Spiritual Nurture

throughout life— for those in leadership in the church. This includes encouraging the use of items which nurture a spiritual connection to God, including Scripture, Blessing Balm, Prayer Shawls, Blessing Lambs, Prayer Beads, Holy Listening Stones, candles, and Prayer Pouches, as well as other visual and tactile articles which contribute to the spiritual growth of all people.

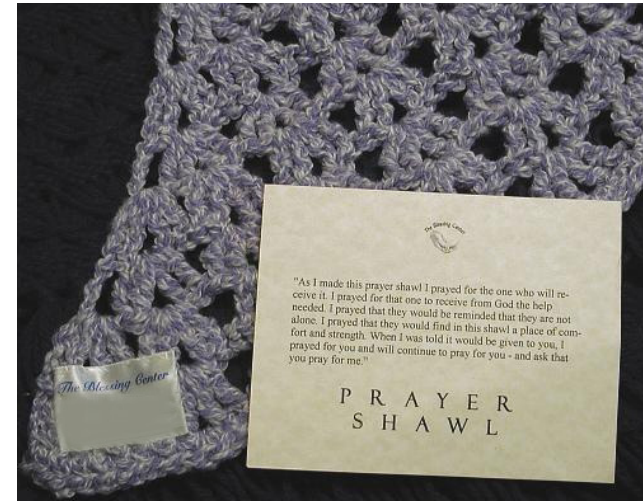
The Blessing Center
3962 Oakmont Way
Beavercreek, Ohio 45430

The Blessing Center

Blessing Based
Spiritual Nurture



“Bless the Lord, O my soul; and all that is within me, bless God’s holy name.” -Ps 103.1



PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

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LEARN MORE AT
www.blessingcenter.org

THE SHAWL MINISTRY

About Prayer Shawls



Peoples from many faith traditions have found it helpful in their praying to have ways of recognizing a space as sacred.

A prayer shawl is such an aid. The shawl is usually large enough to wrap around one's shoulders, or even drape over one's head, and thus "create" a sacred space in which to meditate and pray.

Some shawls have been made large enough so that an adult, say a mother or father, can wrap themselves and their child inside of this space.

On the other hand, some are small so that they are manageable by someone whose arm strength is less than it once was – small enough that these are really prayer scarves that elderly folks find physically comforting in those chilly drafts – as well as comforting as a space where remembering God and God's blessings is encouraged.

Prayer Shawls are called mantles when made of warm, cuddly fleece. They can be made as ponchos, also.

The added blessing in a prayer shawl ministry is that those who make the shawls pray for the recipient as they are making them. The promise is that this praying for another will continue after the shawl has been presented.



Congregations are encouraged to begin their own Prayer Shawl ministries. Ministries have been begun by individuals and by groups. Often the makers of shawls get together so prayers and fellowship are part of the process.

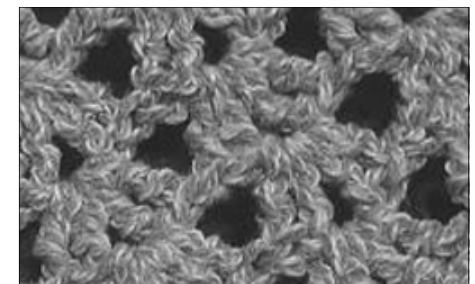
Descriptions of various Prayer Shawl ministries can be found at The Blessing Center website at www.blessingcenter.org. Click on "Prayer Helps." The Blessing Center's primary shawl makers, Phyllis Desch (937-376-7864) and Mary Ann Noble (937-372-3908) are also available to advise those interested.



The prayer shawl ministries fostered by the Blessing Center are not elaborately explained. The shawl is a physical aid to praying – like labyrinths, prayer beads and candles, like pinwheels, Lectio Divina, and particular postures.

The meaning is this: someone prays while making a shawl, knotting, sewing, knitting, crocheting. The shawl is given to another who needs to be reminded of God's blessing along with the narrative of prayerful creation. The recipient then uses the shawl in the ways that are personally helpful.

"The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace. So shall they put my name on the Israelites; and I shall bless them" -Numbers 6:24-27



See a variety of shawl patterns at www.blessingcenter.org