

Presenting the prayer quilt before the congregation, and requesting their prayers for the recipient is done in many different ways. Chapters need to work with their pastors to figure out the best way to present the quilt and recipient to the congregation, and then to invite the congregation to tie a knot and say a prayer. In some churches, the prayer quilt(s) are near the altar during the service with the pastor lifting up the recipient in prayer during prayer time, and then inviting the congregation to tie a knot as a sign of their prayers during or following the service. However the quilt is presented to the congregation, it is a good thing to have it as part of the worship experience.

How and where the quilt is tied is also accomplished in a variety of ways. Ideally, the quilt will be on a table large enough to display most of the quilt in an area accessible to a large number of people, and where a spirit of prayer can be maintained. Some chapters have the quilts in a corner of the narthex so people can pray before, during, between or after church services. Another choice might be in a meeting room during fellowship time – just be careful of food and drinks getting on the quilt. Some chapters have devised stands over which quilts can be draped so they are displayed vertically and are accessible for tying the knots.

## Praying/Tying Knots

This is the most important part! Remember to keep a spirit of prayer where the quilt is being tied. There should be a reminder in the form of a card or sign about whom the quilt is for and specifically what to pray for.

The knots tied in the quilt should be square knots, which are not easily untied. To tie a square knot, remember “left over right and under the loop”. If a knot is not done as described, just tie a square knot over the top of it to keep it secure. No matter what happens to the knot, the prayer will last forever. Leaving the threads long, rather than trimming them after tying, will allow others along the way to also tie knots and say prayers for the recipient. It is amazing, when family members, friends, hospital personnel, etc. know it’s a prayer quilt, they want to tie a knot and say a prayer for the person. What a wonderful opportunity to witness to your faith.

## Finishing/Details

Make sure the recipient’s name and the date are written on the Prayers & Squares label using a permanent marking pen for fabric. Once the quilt has been tied, the sponsor should pick up the quilt and ensure delivery to the recipient as soon as possible. If the quilt needs to be mailed, the sponsor is responsible for that as well.

Each quilt is special because prayer is tied into each knot, and not because of the pattern used, the combination of colors or any other factor. So, while comments will be made about the beauty of the quilts, we need to remind people that the quilt is not as important as the prayers that go with it. The purpose of this ministry is to promote prayer and not to show off what great quilters we are. As you are in the process of making a prayer quilt, continue to think about why you are making it. Keep prayer as your priority from start to finish.

To tie a square knot:

