

40 days
of prayer
for our church

COVENANT



Acts 2:42

they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

*Prayer
Guide*



September 10 – October 19

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Bible References: Contemporary English Version (CEV) English Standard Version (ESV), New American Standard Bible (NASB), New English Translation (NET), New International Version (NIV), New King James Version (NKJV), New Living Translation (NLT), New Revised Standard Version (NRSV), The Living Bible (TLB)

Some prayers were taken from the *Book of Common Worship*, Westminster John Knox Press, 1991 edition.

Pray without ceasing!

In 1 Thessalonians 5:17, the apostle Paul admonishes us to pray and pray and pray and keep praying all the time. Pray constantly.

Yeah, right. So much easier said than done.

Praying intentionally, consistently and with focus is one of the greatest challenges we face as believers.

On September 10, we are embarking on *40 days of prayer for our church*. Forty days of prayer? I can hardly sustain forty seconds without my mind wandering. It is like starting on a new diet. I have every good intention, but after a day, or if I am really motivated, a week, my good intentions blunt and, well, you know.

We are in a season of beginning our new program year at church. We have a new pastor. We are rounding into the fall season where we begin to think more about church, and the holidays are just around the corner.

We are also in a season of our church where much has happened in the past several years. Much in our church, our neighborhood, and our world has really changed.

We need to pray now. We need to pray lots. We need to pray over and over, every day for our church, the good people of our church, and that the message of Christ – with us as his voice, hands, and feet – can truly go out to our part of the world.

The booklet, ***40 days of prayer for our church***, is a guide to help us sustain these prayers. It is designed to keep us on track from September 10 to October 19.

If you are like me, you say, “Wow, that is a long time.” It is. And this season of prayer is so needed. It is hoped that this booklet will help when we lose focus, when we can’t concentrate, or when we let other things distract us.

Each day of prayer has a specific theme and contains a prayer point, Scripture, and then a longer reflection or prayer. Some days, maybe most days, the prayer points will be enough. Other days, you may read it all and sit with it for a much longer time. It is designed for you to pray using your style, and with the time you have available.

I just ask you to pray. Praying constantly is a great challenge, maybe too great a challenge. I simply ask you to pray daily, even for a moment, for our family – the Body of Christ, the Church.

Jesus taught in the Sermon on the Mount, “⁷Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. ⁸For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened.” *Matthew 7:7-8, (NRSV)*

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Steve Nofel

Week 1

Unity in Prayer

John 17:20-21 (NRSV)

²⁰"I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one."

For the first week, let's focus on the prayer that Jesus prayed over his church at the Last Supper. His prayer was not just for the disciples, but for all who would come to believe. Here, Jesus prays for us and all who follow after us. As you read through the selected Scriptures this week, take the time to think about all of the words that resonate with you and turn them into a conversation between you and God.

Day 1: Sunday, September 10

► **Pray for unity of the church. Pray that, following Jesus' example, we may continue to serve one another.**

John 13:3-10,12-17, 20 (NASB)

³Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He had come forth from God and was going back to God, ⁴got up from supper, and laid aside His garments; and taking a towel, He girded Himself.

⁵Then He poured water into the basin, and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded. ⁶So He came to Simon Peter. He said to Him, "Lord, do You wash my feet?" ⁷Jesus answered and said to him, "What I do you do not realize now, but you will understand hereafter." ⁸Peter said to Him, "Never shall You wash my feet!" Jesus answered him, "If I do not wash you, you have no part with Me." ⁹Simon Peter said to

Him, "Lord, *then wash* not only my feet, but also my hands and my head." ¹⁰Jesus said to him, "He who has bathed needs only to wash his feet, but is completely clean; (The Message: "My concern, you understand, is holiness, not hygiene") and you are clean, but not all *of you.*"

¹²So when He had washed their feet, and taken His garments and reclined *at the table* again, He said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? ¹³You call Me Teacher and Lord; and you are right, for so I am. ¹⁴If I then, the Lord and the Teacher, washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. ¹⁵For I gave you an example that you also should do as I did to you. ¹⁶Truly, truly, I say to you, a slave is not greater than his master, nor *is* one who is sent greater than the one who sent him. ¹⁷If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.

²⁰Truly, truly, I say to you, he who receives whomever I send receives Me; and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me."

Day 2: Monday, September 11

- ▶ **Pray that Covenant continues reflecting Jesus' charge that we be known for our love.**

John 13:34-35 (NASB)

³⁴"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. ³⁵By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

Day 3: Tuesday, September 12

- ▶ **Pray that Covenant is always filled with the confidence and peace that comes from surrendering to God as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.**

John 14:1,11-18 (NASB)

¹"Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me."

¹¹"Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me; otherwise believe because of the works themselves. ¹²Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do, he will do also; and greater *works* than these he will do; because I go to the Father. ¹³Whatever you ask in My name, that will I do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴If you ask Me anything in My name, I will do *it*.

¹⁵If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.

¹⁶I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; ¹⁷*that is* the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, *but* you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you.

¹⁸I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you."

Day 4: Wednesday, September 13

► **Pray that as a Body of Christ we listen constantly to the Holy Spirit and allow God's peace to fill our congregation.**

John 14:23 (NRSV)

"Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them."

John 14:19-27 (NASB)

¹⁹"After a little while the world will no longer see Me, but you *will* see Me; because I live, you will live also. ²⁰In that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you. ²¹He who has My commandments and keeps them is the one who loves Me; and he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and will disclose Myself to him."

²²Judas (not Iscariot) said to Him, "Lord, what then has happened that You are going to disclose Yourself to us and not to the world?"

²³Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our abode with him. ²⁴He who does not love Me does not

keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine, but the Father's who sent Me.

²⁵"These things I have spoken to you while abiding with you. ²⁶But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you. ²⁷Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful."

Day 5: Thursday, September 14

► **Pray that Covenant may constantly abide in Jesus and continually bear the fruit of God's work in the church.**

John 15:4-17 (NASB)

⁴"Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither *can* you unless you abide in Me. ⁵I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing. ⁷If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples. ⁹Just as the Father has loved Me, I have also loved you; abide in My love. ¹⁰If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love; just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love. ¹¹These things I have spoken to you so that My joy may be in you, and *that* your joy may be made full. ¹²This is My commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you. ¹³Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends. ¹⁴You are My friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵No longer do I call you slaves, for the slave does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I have heard from My Father I have made known to you. ¹⁶You did not choose Me but I chose you, and appointed you that you would go and bear fruit, and *that* your fruit would remain, so that whatever you ask of the

Father in My name He may give to you. ¹⁷This I command you, that you love one another."

Day 6: Friday, September 15

▶ **Pray that the congregation would continue to be filled with the love of the Father. May we have the courage to overcome whatever trials we may face together.**

John 16:27a

²...for the Father himself loves you.

John 16:33 (NASB)

³³"These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world."

Day 7: Saturday, September 16

▶ **Pray for all to be one in Christ.**

John 17:1-3, 9-11, 13-23 (NASB)

¹Jesus spoke these things; and lifting up His eyes to heaven, He said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify Your Son, that the Son may glorify You, ²even as You gave Him authority over all flesh, that to all whom You have given Him, He may give eternal life. ³This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.

⁹I ask on their behalf; I do not ask on behalf of the world, but of those whom You have given Me; for they are Yours; ¹⁰and all things that are Mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine; and I have been glorified in them. ¹¹I am no longer in the world; and yet they themselves are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, keep them in *Your name*, the name which You have given Me, that they may be one even as We are.

¹³But now I come to You; and these things I speak in the world so that they may have My joy made full in themselves. ¹⁴I have given

them Your word; and the world has hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. ¹⁵I do not ask You to take them out of the world, but to keep them from the evil one.

¹⁶They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.

¹⁷Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth. ¹⁸As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world. ¹⁹For their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they themselves also may be sanctified in truth

²⁰I do not ask on behalf of these alone, but for those also who believe in Me through their word; ²¹that they may all be one; even as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may believe that You sent Me.

²²The glory which You have given Me I have given to them, that they may be one, just as We are one; ²³I in them and You in Me, that they may be perfected in unity, so that the world may know that You sent Me, and loved them, even as You have loved Me.”

Week 2

Unity in the Spirit

► **Pray that we rejoice always, give thanks in everything, and not quench the Spirit.**

1 Thessalonians 5:12-24 (NASB)

¹²But we request of you, brethren, that you appreciate those who diligently labor among you, and have charge over you in the Lord and give you instruction, ¹³and that you esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Live in peace with one another. ¹⁴We urge you, brethren, admonish the unruly, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with everyone. ¹⁵See that no one repays another with evil for evil, but always seek after that which is good for one another and for all people. ¹⁶Rejoice always;

¹⁷pray without ceasing; ¹⁸in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. ¹⁹Do not quench the Spirit; ²⁰do not despise prophetic utterances. ²¹But examine everything *carefully*; hold fast to that which is good; ²²abstain from every form of evil.

²³Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴Faithful is He who calls you, and He also will bring it to pass.

Day 8: Sunday, September 17

▶ **Pray for those who *diligently labor among us.***

Proverbs 21:5a (NRSV)

⁵The plans of the diligent *lead* surely to abundance,...."

There are so many people who are necessary to make everything happen at Covenant. The senior pastor and staff don't do it all. Let us lift up those who are on staff and who volunteer and reach out to the congregation. Let us "*esteem them very highly in love because of their work.*" Pray for strength and guidance and clarity for decisions. Pray for energy, so that no one grows weary.

Day 9: Monday, September 18

▶ **Pray that we would *live in peace with one another.***

Romans 15:5 (NRSV)

⁵May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus.

Day 10: Tuesday, September 19

▶ **Pray that we would *encourage the fainthearted, help those around us, and demonstrate patience to everyone.***

Isaiah 40:28-31 (NASB)

²⁸Do you not know? Have you not heard?
The Everlasting God, the LORD,

the Creator of the ends of the earth
Does not become weary or tired.
His understanding is inscrutable.
²⁹ He gives strength to the weary,
And to *him who* lacks might He increases power.
³⁰ Though youths grow weary and tired,
And vigorous young men stumble badly,
³¹ Yet those who wait for the LORD
Will gain new strength;
They will mount up *with* wings like eagles,
They will run and not get tired,
They will walk and not become weary.

Pray also that we would *seek after that which is good for one another and for all people*. Pray that we would be joyful and filled with gratitude. Pray for all to wait on the Lord and allow *Him* to renew their strength. Pray for the Lord's energy. Pray for encouragement for our leaders.

Day 11: Wednesday, September 20

▶ **Pray that our prayers never cease.**

1 Thessalonians 5:17(NASB)

¹⁷pray without ceasing.

This doesn't mean you should stop doing anything other than kneel before God in prayer for all of your waking hours. Rather, it involves staying in consistent communication with God, keeping the channel open at all times. When we come before the King of Kings, when we remember his greatness and holiness, we find it hard to hang onto our own agendas.

As we pray, spending time with God and allowing the Spirit to pray through us, we discover that our grip on our own will loosens as our desire for God's will increases. Pray with Jesus: "Thy will be done, on

earth as it is in Heaven.” Faithful is the one who has called us, and “He will bring it to pass.”

Day 12: Thursday, September 21

▶ **Pray that all may have healing of heart, soul, mind, and body.**

Mark 10:47 (NASB)

⁴⁷When he [Bartimaeus] heard that it was Jesus the Nazarene, he began to cry out and say, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!”

Lord, we pray for Covenant, that we may be genuine in our self-reflection, tireless in our commitment, patient in our discernment, loving in our communion, open in our search, imaginative about our future and daring in our faith. As we seek to welcome, instill in us your grace; as we seek to challenge, commit us to your mission; as we seek to inspire, fill us with your Spirit. All this we pray, empowered by the love of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Day 13: Friday, September 22

▶ **Pray that all may know that God is still at work among us, filling us with peace and joy.**

Ephesians 3:20-21 (NET Bible)

²⁰Now to him who by the power that is working within us is able to do far beyond all that we ask or think, ²¹to him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

Dear God, let us be always aware that you are doing more things than we can imagine or ask for. Give us open minds and hearts to embrace change and to be a positive force in our continuing ministry with this congregation and in the community. Give the leaders and staff your grace. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

Day 14: Saturday, September 23

▶ **Pray that we realize that God answers our prayers.**

“O most merciful Redeemer, Friend and Brother, may we know you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly, day by day. Amen.” Richard of Chichester (1197-1253)

Week 3

Fellowship of Believers

This week we focus on the body of Christ and the fellowship of believers – the church.

Hebrews 10:25 (NLT)

²⁵And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.

Day 15: Sunday, September 24

- ▶ **Pray everyone would allow God to use us and stretch us in areas where we are not comfortable or strong.**

2 Corinthians 4:7 (NRSV)

⁷But we have this treasure in clay jars to show that its extraordinary power comes from God and not from us.

Day 16: Monday, September 25

- ▶ **Pray that people would be faithful to attend worship. Pray that people would find their niche at Covenant, serve in new ways, and find themselves more connected and more energetic. Pray that we increase in faithfulness.**

Hebrews 10:23-25 (NASB)

²³Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful; ²⁴and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, ²⁵not forsaking our own

assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging *one another*; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.

Day 17: Tuesday, September 26

► Pray church members may always be connected to one another through use of their spiritual gifts. Pray that we might be one body functioning with our different gifts.

1 Corinthians 12:4-14, 24-26 (NASB)

⁴Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit. ⁵And there are varieties of ministries, and the same Lord. ⁶There are varieties of effects, but the same God who works all things in all *persons*. ⁷But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. ⁸For to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, and to another the word of knowledge according to the same Spirit; ⁹to another faith by the same Spirit, and to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, ¹⁰and to another the effecting of miracles, and to another prophecy, and to another the distinguishing of spirits, to another *various* kinds of tongues, and to another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually just as He wills.

¹²For even as the body is one and yet has many members, and all the members of the body, though they are many, are one body, so also is Christ. ¹³For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. ¹⁴For the body is not one member, but many.

²⁴...But God has so composed the body, giving more abundant honor to that *member* which lacked, ²⁵so that there may be no division in the body, but *that* the members may have the same care for one another. ²⁶And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; if *one* member is honored, all the members rejoice with it. ²⁷Now you are Christ's body, and individually members of it.

Day 18: Wednesday, September 27

- ▶ **Pray for extra patience and understanding among the fellowship of believers.**

Ephesians 4:1-3 (NLT)

¹...lead a life worthy of your calling, for you have been called by God. ²Always be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other's faults because of your love. ³Make every effort to keep yourselves united in the Spirit, binding yourselves together with peace.

Day 19: Thursday, September 28

- ▶ **Pray for the financial health of our church.**

Leviticus 27:30 (NASB)

³⁰Thus all the tithes of the land, of the seed of the land or of the fruit of the tree, is the LORD'S; it is holy to the LORD.

- ▶ **Pray we understand that everything is a gift of the Lord.**

Psalms 24:1 (NLT)

¹The earth is the LORD'S, and everything in it. The world and all its people belong to him.

Day 20: Friday, September 29

- ▶ **Pray for our corporate worship service.**

Psalms 100: 2 (NLT)

²Worship the LORD with gladness. Come before him, singing with joy.

Corporate worship is vital to the life of a church. It provides the opportune moment to gather together to worship the Lord, to greet one another and visitors, to pray and reconnect with our community. Pray that our worship service would be a joyful time of worshipping Our Father together, in ways that cannot happen when we are alone. Pray that we would experience the presence of the Holy Spirit as we gather together to fulfill Acts 2:42 by devoting ourselves to teaching,

fellowship, and prayer. Pray for God to bless the church and draw us deeper in our relationships with Him.

Day 21: Saturday, September 30

▶ **Praise God that his will for our church will be accomplished.**

Romans 8:28 (NKJV)

²⁸ We know that all things work together for the good for those who love God, to those who are called according to *His* purpose.

God has a vital purpose in mind for each of us and our church. Pray that we can remain faithful so that God's will can be accomplished through us.

Glory to you, O God, we trust that you hear and answer our prayers with grace and truth. You will fulfill your promises to work all things for good. We pray that in this trust we have the will to keep running and finish the race you have for us. We pray this in Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Week 4

Discipleship

Day 22: Sunday, October 1

▶ **Pray that we always follow the Good Shepherd, Jesus Christ.**

John 10:14 (ESV)

I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me.

Covenant belongs to God, and we continue to obey His commands and love one another. Pray that we would trust Him fully. Pray that we would believe that God is in control and that Jesus was telling the truth when He said He would build His church. Pray that the church

would live out of the knowledge that He is trustworthy and able to guide us. He is our shepherd.

Day 23: Monday, October 2

▶ **Pray for peace.**

Philippians 4:6-7 (CEV)

⁶Don't worry about anything, but pray about everything. With thankful hearts offer up your prayers and requests to God. ⁷Then, because you belong to Christ Jesus, God will bless you with peace that no one can completely understand. And this peace will control the way you think and feel.

Pray that God would bring joy and excitement over the future that He has planned for Covenant.

Day 24: Tuesday, October 3

▶ **Pray for each other as we build up the body of Christ.**

Romans 14:19 (NET Bible)

So then, let us pursue what makes for peace and for building up one another.

Lord, we are filled with faith, energized by the power of your love, and united by the mission you have entrusted to us as we pray for our community. May the richness, diversity and gifts of each person be treasured and used in the service of your name. We ask this through you who live and reign forever and ever. Amen.

Day 25: Wednesday, October 4

▶ **Pray with joy and excitement for the life of our congregation and what God has in mind for us.**

Jeremiah 29:11-14a (NRSV)

¹¹For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.

¹²Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will

hear you. ¹³ When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart, ¹⁴ I will let you find me, says the LORD,....

Day 26: Thursday, October 5

▶ **Pray that our light may shine.**

Matthew 5:14 (NLT)

¹⁴“You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden.

Invigorate us, O God, with zeal and help us shine like stars in a dark world by living into your call to nurture and love one another as a community of faith; by being bold and caring in the pursuit of justice, peace and healing; and by bringing joy and hope to all our neighbors who are weighted down by sorrows. In Christ’s name we pray. Amen.

Day 27: Friday, October 6

▶ **Pray for openness to God’s guidance.**

John 14:5-6 (NRSV)

⁵Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” ⁶Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

God, you know us better than we know ourselves. Empower each one of us to use our unique gifts in your service. Guide us by your Holy Spirit, that we may be united in love and joyfully accomplish your mission, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Day 28: Saturday, October 7

▶ **Pray for our pastor.**

Ephesians 4:11-13 (NRSV)

¹¹The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, ¹² to equip

the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, ¹³until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ.

Week 5

Leadership

This week we focus on those serving as leaders in the church, both ordained and lay, both staff and volunteer. Pray that those who lead fulfill God's charge to them and serve as models for others.

Mark 10:43-45 (NLT)

⁴³"But among you it will be different. Whoever wants to be a leader among you must be your servant, ⁴⁴and whoever wants to be first among you must be the slave of everyone else. ⁴⁵For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Day 29: Sunday, October 8

► **Prayer for laborers for the church. Pray for those who volunteer their time supporting Covenant's various ministries.**

1 Corinthians 3:9 (NLT)

For we are both God's workers. And you are God's field. You are God's building.

We respond to your divine command, O Lord, and sincerely beseech you to richly bestow the Holy Spirit on these your servants and on all of us who are called to your ministry, that your name be hallowed, your kingdom come, and your will be done. Hear this our prayer through your beloved Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who, with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns throughout eternity. Amen.

Day 30: Monday, October 9

▶ Pray for the elders in the church.

Bless those called to be elders, that they may govern wisely and fairly. Give them full measure of your Spirit, that they may refresh your people along the journey of faith, discerning, teaching, and sharing the Word of life, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Day 31: Tuesday, October 10

▶ Pray for the members of our church commissions: Worship Arts and Prayer, Adult Discipleship, Children and Student Ministries, and Operations.

Galatians 2:9 (NRSV)

...when James and Cephas (Peter) and John, who were acknowledged pillars, recognized the grace that had been given to me (Paul), they gave to Barnabas and me the right hand of fellowship.

We pray that the commission members are filled with the joy of service and confidence in God's presence in the work of the commissions. May they be filled with a spirit of trust and love in partnering together to accomplish God's purposes for the church. Amen.

Day 32: Wednesday, October 11

▶ Pray for our deacons, that they remain strong, courageous and faithful to their calling.

Hebrews 13:7 (NIV)

Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you.
Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith.

God of love and compassion, you poured out your life in service in your Son, Jesus Christ. By word and example he taught us to find fulfillment in giving ourselves, and greatness in serving others.

Bless those called to be deacons, who lead us in service and caring. Empower them by the grace of your Spirit, that your whole church may give its life for the sake of the world, in the name of Jesus Christ who came not to be served, but to serve. Amen.

Day 33: Thursday, October 12

▶ **Pray for Covenant's staff.**

Isaiah 41:10 (NLT)

¹⁰ Don't be afraid, for I am with you.

Don't be discouraged, for I am your God.

I will strengthen you and help you.

I will hold you up with my victorious right hand.

We give thanks for Covenant's staff, for how they are faithful in supporting the church and enabling the church to accomplish its purpose. May they be encouraged and strengthened and feel God's presence in their work.

Day 34: Friday, October 13

▶ **Pray for our Ministers of the Word and Sacrament that they remain inspired and protected by God's Spirit.**

Acts 20:28 (ESV)

Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood.

Almighty God, through your Son Jesus Christ you gave the holy apostles many gifts and commanded them to feed your flock. Inspire all pastors to preach your Word diligently and your people to receive it willingly, that finally we may receive the crown of eternal glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Day 35: Saturday, October 14

- ▶ Pray for the future ministers and leaders of Covenant as they even now are being prepared for the work God has in mind for them.

Ephesians 2:10 (NRSV)

For we are what He has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

Week 6

Mission and Outreach

Day 36: Sunday, October 15

- ▶ Pray for harvesters.

Matthew 9:35-38 (NASB)

³⁵Jesus was going through all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every kind of disease and every kind of sickness.

³⁶ Seeing the people, He felt compassion for them, because they were distressed and dispirited like sheep without a shepherd. ³⁷ Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. ³⁸ Therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest."

We ask the Lord of the harvest to send us His workers. Consider the people in our community who need a shepherd, and pray that the Lord would send laborers to work beside us in our harvest field. Amen.

Day 37: Monday, October 16

- ▶ Pray that we remain faithful to the great commission; that we are a light to the world shining Jesus' love that others may know the love and grace of God in their lives.

Matthew 28:18-20 (NASB)

¹⁸ And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

Christ sent the Holy Spirit, his own first gift for those who believe. He sends us out to proclaim the gospel to all nations, baptizing in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Glory to you forever and ever. Amen

Day 38: Tuesday, October 17

- ▶ **Pray for the community and that Covenant may be a light to the neighborhood and Colorado Springs.**

Isaiah 58:10 (TLB)

¹⁰Feed the hungry, and help those in trouble. Then your light will shine out from the darkness, and the darkness around you will be as bright as noon.

- ▶ **Pray encouragement for those touched by Covenant:**

for those who work in the community garden; for the students who enter for grilled cheese sandwiches; for those who come to AWANA; for those who come to our building for Music Greenhouse, the Caregiver's Journey, the Women's Divorce Recovery Group, and Fellowship of Christian Athletes; for Philadelphia Church and their Arise prayer group.

We pray that those outside of the church have reason to reflect positively on their experience with this church, that God's name is not put to shame but reflected in grace and love. Amen.

Day 39: Wednesday, October 18

▶ Pray for missionaries supported by Covenant.

Nici Barrett, BEE World; Jon and Gabriela Barstad, YWAM; Brad and Rebecca Hopkins, Mission Aviation Fellowship; David and Ana Rau, The Navigators; Rusty Stephens, The Navigators.

Acts 13:47 (NET)

For this is what the Lord has commanded us: 'I have appointed you to be a light for the Gentiles, to bring salvation to the ends of the earth.'"

Grant that those who labor side by side for you may not trust in their own work but in your help; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Day 40: Thursday, October 19

▶ Pray for the outreach ministries and ministry partners supported by Covenant.

At-risk children, Feed My Starving Children, Children's HopeChest, Orphan's Tree, the Pokrov Orphanage and Vladimir Ministry Center, Mercy's Gate, Young Life.

Ephesians 2:10 (NASB)

¹⁰For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.

As we conclude the 40 days of prayer for our church, we will join in the Sanctuary for a concert to benefit "Feed My Starving Children on Friday, October 20, at 7:00 p.m.

40 days of prayer
for our church

Prayer Guide

September 10 - October 19, 2017

Covenant Presbyterian Church

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