

## Thanks and Dedication

We would like to extend our sincerest thanks to everyone that helped make this event possible. In addition to those mentioned on the schedule, we also want to thank those who worked behind the scenes to make today's event possible: Pastor Don Allen, Pastor Robbie Mathis, Nicole McFarland, David Horn, David Possien, Brendan Spaar, Goose Orozco-Tello, Tanya Cohen and The Well Ministry, and our registration table volunteers. We would especially like to thank The Church at War Hill for providing its talented worship leaders including Pastor Daniel Prince, Ivy Prince, Jordan Estrada, Jacob Jeffords, Julie Browning, and Carol Browning. We sincerely believe that "if God's people, who are called by His name, will humble themselves and pray and seek His face and turn from their wicked ways, then He will hear from heaven, and forgive their sin and heal their land." (2 Chronicles 7:14). May we turn to Him today and see healing and revival in our land.



**GLORIFY GOD  
AMONG THE NATIONS**

**SEEKING HIM  
IN ALL GENERATIONS**  
1 CHRONICLES 16:24 NASB

**THURSDAY, MAY 7, 2026**

NATIONALDAYOFPRAYER.ORG

The Prayer at Valley Forge  
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**75<sup>TH</sup>**  
NATIONAL  
DAY OF  
PRAYER

**12:00 PM  
2026**

**MAY  
07**

**NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER**

*Cumming City Center*

“Tell of His glory among  
the nations, His wonderful  
deeds among all the  
peoples.”

1 Chronicles 16:24

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## Order of Service

National Anthem (Ivy Prince)

Welcome (Parker McFarland)

Proclamation (Chairman Alfred John, Forsyth County Board of Commissioners)

Pledge of Allegiance (Congressman Rich McCormick)

History of National Day of Prayer and Declaration of Personal Rededication (Parker McFarland)

“Waymaker” Song (Jordan Estrada & War Hill team, The Church at War Hill)

Prayer for Military (Pastor Todd Cox, Stonepoint Church)

Prayer for Families (Eric Tatum, Affordable Adoption Georgia)

Prayer for Students (Pastor Blake Carter, Horizon Christian Academy)

Prayer for Government (Congressman Rich McCormick)

Introduction of Vahid & Golsa Norouzi (Nicole McFarland, Café 1040)

Prayer for the Nations (Vahid & Golsa Norouzi, Reaching the Nations Ministries)

“Agnus Dei” Song (Vahid Norouzi & War Hill team)

Final Commissioning (Parker McFarland)

## NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER SONG LYRICS (2026)

### 1. “Way Maker” (Leeland)

2. You are here, moving in our midst  
I worship You  
I worship You  
You are here, working in this place  
I worship You  
I worship You  
You are here, moving in our midst  
I worship You  
I worship You  
You are here, working in this place  
I worship You  
I worship You  
You are  
Way maker, miracle worker, promise keeper  
Light in the darkness, my God  
That is who You are  
You are  
Way maker, miracle worker, promise keeper  
Light in the darkness, my God  
That is who You are  
You are here, touching every heart  
I worship You  
I worship You  
You are here, healing every heart  
I worship You  
I worship You  
You are here, turning lives around  
I worship You  
I worship You  
You are here, mending every heart  
I worship You  
I worship You  
You are  
Way maker, miracle worker, promise keeper  
Light in the darkness, my God  
That is who You are  
Way maker, miracle worker, promise keeper  
Light in the darkness, my God  
That is who You are

You are  
Way maker, miracle worker, promise keeper  
Light in the darkness, my God  
That is who You are  
Way maker, miracle worker, promise keeper  
Light in the darkness, my God  
That is who You are  
That is who You are  
That is who You are  
That is who You are  
That is who You are  
That is who You are  
That is who You are  
That is who You are  
That is who You are  
Way maker, miracle worker, promise keeper  
Light in the darkness, my God  
That is who You are  
Way maker, miracle worker, promise keeper  
Light in the darkness, my God  
That is who You are  
Even when I don't see it, You're working  
Even when I don't feel it, You're working  
You never stop, You never stop working  
You never stop, You never stop working  
Even when I don't see it, You're working  
Even when I don't feel it, You're working  
You never stop, You never stop working  
You never stop, You never stop working  
Even when I don't see it, You're working  
Even when I don't feel it, You're working  
You never stop, You never stop working  
You never stop, You never stop working  
Even when I don't see it, You're working  
Even when I don't feel it, You're working  
You never stop, You never stop working  
You never stop, You never stop working  
Way maker, miracle worker, promise keeper  
Light in the darkness, my God  
That is who You are  
Way maker, miracle worker, promise keeper  
Light in the darkness, my God

That is who You are  
That is who You are  
That is who You are  
That is who You are  
That is who You are  
That is who You are  
That is who You are  
That is who You are  
That is who You are  
Way maker, miracle worker, promise keeper  
Light in the darkness, my God  
That is who You are  
You are  
Way maker, miracle worker, promise keeper  
Light in the darkness, my God  
That is who You are  
That is who You are  
That is who You are  
That is who You are  
That is who You are  
That is who You are  
That is who You are  
That is who You are  
That is who You are

**“Agnus Dei” (Michael W. Smith)**

Alleluia, Alleluia  
For the Lord God Almighty reigns  
Alleluia, Alleluia  
For the Lord God Almighty reigns  
Alleluia  
[Chorus 1]  
Holy, Holy  
Are You Lord God, Almighty  
Worthy is the Lamb, worthy is the Lamb

You are Holy, Holy  
Are You Lord God, Almighty  
Worthy is the Lamb, worthy is the Lamb

Amen

[Verse]

Alleluia, Alleluia

For the Lord God Almighty reigns

Alleluia, Alleluia

For the Lord God Almighty reigns

Alleluia

[Chorus 2]

Holy, Holy

Are You Lord God, Almighty

Worthy is the Lamb, worthy is the Lamb

You are Holy, Holy

Are You Lord God, Almighty

Worthy is the Lamb, worthy is the Lamb

You are Holy, Holy

Are You Lord God, Almighty

Worthy is the Lamb, worthy is the Lamb

You are Holy, Holy

Are You Lord God, Almighty

Worthy is the Lamb, worthy is the Lamb...

[Chorus 3]

You are Holy, Holy

Are You Lord God, Almighty...

## **HOW TO PRAY FOR AMERICA**

### **WHY PRAY FOR AMERICA?**

God is sovereign and nothing comes as a surprise to Him. Whether we face fluctuating economics, threats from abroad, unrest at home, or other troubling circumstances, our Heavenly Father is not caught unaware. Through prayer, we are able to tap into His wisdom, strength, protection, and peace. He stands ready to respond to our needs when we humbly ask for divine intervention in the affairs of men.

As we Pray for America whose pledge of allegiance recounts that we are “one nation under God,” and whose currency states that it is “in God we trust,” we want Americans to encounter the God who rules over their country. “He who forms the mountains, creates the wind, and reveals His thoughts to man, He who turns dawn to darkness, and treads the high places of the earth—the LORD God Almighty is His name.” —Amos 4:13 NIV

He is the One who gave us this promise in 2 Chronicles 7:14: “If my people, who are called by My name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.” As we humbly and diligently seek Him, we’ll be changed, and we’ll see transformation in America through prayer!

### **HOW TO PRAY FOR AMERICA - BY PRAYING INTO SEVEN CENTERS OF INFLUENCE IN OUR NATION**

#### **GOVERNMENT**

Pray for your leaders, as well as the judges in our courts. Ask God to grant them wisdom to act with integrity.

(1 Kings 3:28; 1 Timothy 2:1-2; Exodus 18:21; Proverbs 11:3; Romans 13:1-2)

#### **Federal Government**

Consider praying for our President, Vice President, Cabinet Members, Congressional Leaders, Supreme Court Justices

#### **State Government**

Consider praying for your Governor, Executive Leaders, Legislative Leaders, Judicial Leaders

#### **Local Government**

Consider praying for your Mayor, City Counsel, Police Chief, Fire Chief, Judges, County

## Officials

### Praying For Leaders and Elected Officials in Government:

Scripture calls believers to pray for those in authority, regardless of political party or allegiance.

Government functions to provide a framework for an organized society, while our devotion and compass for what is true and good are rooted in the unchanging truths of God laid out in Scripture.

#### WHY to pray

In the days Jesus spent on earth, there was tension within the local Jewish leaders concerning the overlying occupation by the Roman government. History records several uprisings and rebellions against the Romans during the same time period, however, Jesus' teachings primarily revolved around the Kingdom of God. The book of Mark records the now famous words that Jesus uttered "Render unto Caesar what is Caesar's, render unto God what is God's" to show that government has a use, but it is not our savior and cannot compete with our allegiance to Christ Jesus.

In our country, our government has many different sectors that perform many different tasks. Local government influences the buildings and schools that populate communities State government influences the operation of businesses and the roadways to get to them. Federal government influences the relationships with other nations for international commerce and military aide for our allies.

The 'forest' of government is full of 'trees' that are the individually elected and appointed officials who are tasked with representing the interests of their constituents and seeking wise counsel to make decisions to lead our country forward. The sphere of government leaders need our prayers!

#### HOW to pray

Pray the Father's heart. To do this, seek scripture for the places God reveals how we should interact and participate in government. Meditating on scripture before beginning prayer puts our hearts into a position of submission to the will of God. These verses are good starting places to see God's purpose for Government:

Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God. Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor. - 1 Peter 2:16-17  
ESV

First of all, then, I urge that requests, prayers, intercession, and thanksgiving be made on behalf of all people, for kings and all who are in authority, so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity. - 1 Timothy 2:1-2 NASB

When a land is in rebellion, it has many rulers, but with a discerning and knowledgeable person, it endures. - Proverbs 28:2 HCSB

WHAT to pray

Provide leaders with wise and godly counselors who will provide honest wisdom and encouragement

Well up humility in the hearts of leaders to make apologies or adjustments when these things are necessary

Lord, pour out a spirit of cooperation between elected leaders

Break down the barriers that are built up by selfish ambition for personal power

Safeguard the marriages and families of elected leaders who spend large portions of time away from home

God, give leaders clarity to know what issues are most important to dedicate their time toward

Softening the hearts of leaders to hear and understand the needs of the communities they serve

Bring a spirit of harmony and righteousness among the staff members who work to support each elected leader

Protect leaders from falling into temptations of bribes, unfaithfulness or straying from what they know is right. Lord, protect them from the plots of evil to stand for what You have established

## **MILITARY**

“He appointed military officers over the people and assembled them...and encouraged them with these words: ‘Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or discouraged because of the king of Assyria and the vast army with him. With him only is the arm of flesh, but with us is the Lord our God to help us and to fight our battles...’” (2 Chronicles 32:6-8)

Perseverance to endure hardship (Isaiah 43:2; Deuteronomy 31:6)

Wise leaders who inspire respect from those under their command (Romans 13:1)

Protection and support for the families they have left behind (Romans 1:8-10)

### Praying for Our Armed Services:

In the Old Testament, we see God leading the Israelites through battles into the promised land.

God not only gave His chosen people deliverance in these historical events: He revealed aspects of His character that we praise and put our trust in, even today.

WHY to pray

The sphere of military has always been an influence in cultures throughout time. In the New Testament, see the Apostle Paul use military terminology to help believers comprehend spiritual truths, such as relating physical armor to spiritual armor and explaining the spiritual battle we fight against the powers of darkness in the heavenly places. (Ephesians 6:10-18)

Historically, the United States military has fought for the freedoms we see in our legal documents and to uphold American interests in other countries. The military itself is comprised of thousands of volunteers from all walks of life who submit themselves to fulfill the needs of our country, whether that is across the world or across state lines. The armed services can

provide a sense of purpose and structure, as well as opportunities in growing career fields. However, job stress and the unique culture of the military can also foster an environment that increases the likelihood of substance abuse and can place a great strain on marriage and family life. Military members are often exposed to dangerous and violent situations and have higher rate of experiencing Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, divorce, homelessness, and other life-altering challenges.

The military needs our prayer!

HOW to pray

Pray the Father's heart. To do this, seek scripture for wisdom on God's design for each person to rely on the Lord and His provision. Meditating on scripture before beginning prayer puts our hearts into a position of submission to the will of God. These verses are good starting places to see how we can pray for members of our military:

"For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord." – Romans 8:38-39 ESV

We wait for Yahweh; He is our help and shield. For our hearts rejoice in Him because we trust in His holy name. – Psalm 33:20-21 NIV

Haven't I commanded you: be strong and courageous? Do not be afraid or discouraged, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go." – Joshua 1:9 HCSB

WHAT to pray

pray for the leaders to make wise and righteous decisions based on Biblical principles rather than personal career gains

Lord, help all military personnel see You working in their daily lives, that You are with them, whether they are in the field, at home, or abroad

Remove stigmas for seeking medical attention for mental and physical needs

God, hold the families of service members close, and may they look to You for the strength and peace that only You can give

Comfort the spouses who are separated due to military jobs—keep these marriages strong

Lord, keep the hearts of the military from being desensitized to violence, while keeping them strengthened through battles. Only You can provide such a balance.

Move service members to seek the Lord and family for comfort, rather than overuse of substances

## **MEDIA**

“...Whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.”  
(Philippians 4:8)

The decision makers within the media to realize they can make a profit by producing uplifting projects (Proverbs 8:10-11)

Christians in media to find favor and be filled with creative ideas that bring kingdom principles and life-giving messages to the public (Proverbs 2:1-15)

Praying for Arts, Entertainment, and Media:

God demonstrated the ultimate creativity when He created the Heavens and the Earth and all that is within it.

The creatives who make up the arts, entertainment and media sphere need our prayers to honor the God-given creative gifts and steward them to bless our culture.

WHY to pray

As people populated the Earth, God poured creative talents into people for different works that would benefit them and glorify the Lord. Today, people with these creative gifts make up the Arts, Entertainment, and Media spheres. The average American consumes an astounding amount of media each day: entertainment television, digital games, social media, news, and music. These influences shape the things we think about, the words we say, and the way we see others and treat them. It takes prayer to discern what media influences will keep the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts acceptable and pleasing to God. (Psalm 19:14)

The people who make tv shows, report the news, and perform in shows need our prayers. They are filled with God-given talents and abilities and need the Lord to guide them in using their gifts to glorify Him. Some need to experience salvation, while others need a faith community to surround them with support. Thousands of Christians who work in arts and entertainment are fighting to infuse life-giving and uplifting content in our culture while Christians in the media sphere work hard to honor the God of Truth through truthful news reporting.

Arts, Entertainment and Media needs our prayers!

HOW to pray

Pray the Father's heart. To do this, seek scripture for the heart of the Creator who is the source of all creativity and who knows what our hearts and minds need in the entertainment we consume. Meditating on scripture before beginning prayer puts our hearts into a position of submission to the will of God. These verses are good starting places to see God's design and purpose for Arts, Entertainment and Media:

“He has filled them with skill to do all the work of a gem cutter; a designer; an embroiderer in blue, purple, and scarlet yarn and fine linen; and a weaver. They can do every kind of craft and design artistic designs.” – Exodus 35:35

“Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.” -Philippians 4:8 ESV

“Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a worker who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.” – 2 Timothy 2:15 NASB

WHAT to pray

Lord, encourage the believers who are called to use their creative gifts to glorify You and cultivate a culture of concern for one another

Teach us to use the news as prayer prompts and ideas for how to serve our local community

Pour out wisdom for people who bring funding to entertainment media to fund things that are wholesome and speak the truth of God

Send creativity for artists to create thought-provoking works of art and entertainment that point towards Your redemptive plan for humanity

fill the hearts of artists who can fill stadiums with adoring fans but still feel alone—You are the only one who can make them whole

Guide news professionals to seek truth and gather evidence, to present the issues of the day clearly and honestly

Strengthen the Christians in these spheres to boldly stand for Biblical truth in the writer's rooms, board meetings and creative processes

## **BUSINESS**

“I have filled him with the Spirit of God, giving him great wisdom, ability, and expertise in all kinds of crafts. He is a master craftsman, expert in working...” (Exodus 31:3-4)

Impartation of ideas and resources to open principled businesses, especially in areas that need an economic boost (Psalm 132:15)

Christian workers to display Christ-like humility and service to their co-workers (Philippians 2:3)

Praying For Businesses and the Workplace:

Since the beginning of time, divisions of labor and trade of goods and services has been a consistent occupation for people across every era and time period.

A workplace is anywhere work is performed—both outside and within the home. We see in Scripture that Moses was a government leader, Deborah was a judge, Paul was a tentmaker and Mary and Martha were homemakers.

#### WHY to pray

Each of these heroes of the faith boldly followed the call of the Lord even in their different positions. There is not exclusive job title necessary to be used by God. It is a JOY, not a JOB, to be obedient to God to love the Lord with all our heart, soul, mind and strength, love our neighbor as ourselves, and go into all the world and make disciples. (Matthew 22:37 and Matthew 28:19-20)

Each person is created in the image of God and holds inherent dignity, and as His creator God calls each person to work as if working as a representative of Christ. Therefore, both our place of work and our heart's position at work need to reflect our dignity and obedience to God. A God-honoring business can be a great benefit to employees and the community, and a person who honors God in each task through the day speaks a testimony of faith. We need to cover our workplaces in prayer to see hearts changed for the Kingdom of God!

#### HOW to pray

Pray the Father's heart. To do this, seek scripture for the divine design and wisdom concerning righteous ways to conduct business and honor God while working. Meditating on scripture before beginning prayer puts our hearts into a position of submission to the will of God. These verses are good starting places to see God's design and purpose for righteous working practices:

Whatever you do in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father. -Colossians 3:17 NASB

It is well with the man who deals generously and lends; who conducts his affairs with justice. -Psalm 112:5 ESV

Give her the reward of her labor, and let her works praise her at the city gates. -Proverbs 31:31 HCSB

Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much. So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches? -Luke 16:10-11 NIV

#### WHAT to pray

Reveal

May each business leader be of great character: of integrity, humbleness of spirit and heart, honest in speech and actions, empathetic and vulnerable.

Lord, raise up a workforce that is filled with a spirit of excellence and unity in all they do  
Dispel any false belief that a person's value comes from a job title—let the truth ring out that a person is valuable because they are image bearers of You, their Creator

Pour out a spirit of generosity onto the mountain of Business like never before  
May the gifts of the work of their hands be a great blessing to each family and community  
Father, open the hearts of business leaders to be soul-searching, to cast out any greed, selfish  
ambition and idols and lay them on the altar of repentance  
Give shift leaders hearts genuinely concerned with the overall wellbeing of their workers

## **EDUCATION**

“If you call out for insight and cry aloud for understanding, and if you look for it as for silver and search for it as for hidden treasure, then you will understand the fear of the LORD and find the knowledge of God. For the LORD gives wisdom, and from his mouth come knowledge and understanding.” (Proverbs 2:3-6)

A safe atmosphere conducive to learning

Excellence in educators (Exodus 18:20-21)

Equal opportunities for every student to achieve their full potential (Philippians 1:9)

### Praying For The Education of Young People:

God created our minds to learn, with the greatest abilities to increase brain growth occurring before the age of 25.

Education is not just about memorizing a series of facts—it is growing in knowledge about the world, learning beneficial interactions with others and applying these things to live in the calling of Christ.

#### WHY to pray

Education is an investment into the future, and a unifying connecting point for each person. The Apostle Paul used this universal fact to convey the spiritual truth of ‘growing up’ in Christ-like wisdom and letting go of childish ways. (1 Corinthians 13:11)

There are endless avenues for young people to receive an education: public school, private school, homeschool, and formats that mix elements of each. Not to mention the many opportunities for extra-curricular activities. Parents and caretakers need wisdom from the Lord to make the right choice for their children to receive education that aligns with the truth of Scripture and helps them fulfill the plans the Lord has for them. Students need to know they were created by God with value and that their Creator has a purpose for them. Instructors need endurance to faithfully teach pupils in God-honoring lessons.

The sphere of education needs our prayers!

#### HOW to pray

Pray the Father’s heart. To do this, seek scripture for the divine design and wisdom about children growing in knowledge and wisdom. Meditating on scripture before beginning prayer

puts our hearts into a position of submission to the will of God. These verses are good starting places to see God's design and purpose for the sphere of education:

Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it. – Proverbs 22:6 NIV

And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. -Deuteronomy 6:6-7 ESV

And whoever receives one such child in My name, receives Me; but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to sin, it is better for him that a heavy millstone be hung around his neck, and that he be drowned in the depths of the sea. -Matthew 18:5-6 NASB

WHAT to pray

Father, Stir the hearts of parents to take an active role in the academic, spiritual, and emotional formation of their children

God, guide school boards to be wise in choosing curriculums that uphold the truth of the Word

Move the hearts of funding leaders to prioritize the needs teachers and students have for classroom materials

Give Christian parents a missionary mindset to minister to teachers in their children's lives

Lord, draw near to teachers in the classroom and teach them to rely on the Holy Spirit throughout the day rather than their own strength

Set young people free from the hopelessness, despair, depression, anxiety, loneliness, and substance abuse

Bless teachers with an outpouring of grace and endurance of such magnitude it overflows onto their students, their schools, and their communities

Turn the hearts of students to see their worth and value in their Creator and Savior, rather than test scores, athletic performance or social media following

Pour out discernment on older students and their parents to know what path You have for them transitioning into adulthood

## **CHURCH**

“So then, just as you received Jesus Christ as Lord, continue to live in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness. See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ.” (Colossians 2:6-8)

The church would find a new zeal and commitment to the mission and purpose of Jesus Christ (Matt 22:37)

Unity with and among churches that reveal God's love to the world (John 17:23)

Integrity—that God's people look and act differently from the world (I Peter 2:11; 1 Corinthians 13:6)

## Praying for the Body of Christ:

Jesus established the church to continue the work He had begun on Earth.

Christ's ministry established a lifestyle of caring for needs, praying in relationship with the Father, and sharing the Gospel message of salvation.

### WHY to pray

The Church unites all believers in the proclamation of faith in Christ Jesus. There are many denominations and practices, but one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all. (Ephesians 4:5-6)

A healthy church is a powerful tool God uses to bring people into salvation and a community that continues to spurn one another on in the faith. We need to cover our churches in prayer, because there are many distractions that can prevent a church from living in the fullness of God's design. Is a church too focused on perceived image and a single leader, or on making Christ known above all? Is a church ignoring issues, or addressing challenges with humble hearts seeking Biblical healing and justice? Are the church members actively living out a missional lifestyle and engaging in intergenerational discipleship or is church just a weekly event?

The church needs our prayers!

### HOW to pray

Pray the Father's heart. To do this, seek scripture for the divine design and wisdom concerning challenges within the Church. Meditating on scripture before beginning prayer puts our hearts into a position of submission to the will of God. These verses are good starting places to see God's design and purpose for the Church:

And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." Matthew 28:18-20 ESV

For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. Romans 12:4-5 ESV

Continue to remember those in prison as if you were together with them in prison, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering. Hebrews 13:3 NIV

### WHAT to pray

God, use Your Church as a beacon of light and joy to a world that is searching for answers Jesus, give your pastors keen wisdom and insight that is in tune with your Spirit so they would never lose sight of the mission of Your Church

Lord, open hearts in the church to care for people outside the church, to be praying for them and to become visibly and tangibly concerned and helping them in needs and struggles  
Bring a focus for exalting You above all else, to pastors, church staff, volunteers and lay leaders  
Stir the Holy Spirit among the body to actively participate in discipling one another in Scripture  
Father, burden the Church with urgency to share the Gospel with passion and the power of the Spirit  
Remind us to eagerly look for ways to use our time, talents, and treasures to build up the Body of Christ

## **FAMILY**

“If a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand.” (Mark 3:25)

Unity and love in individual families that reach out in hospitality toward others (Romans 12:9-13)

Establish healthy relationships between parents and children (Malachi 4:5-6)

### Praying for Families In Our Nation:

God established families at the foundation of the world, creating Eve from Adam's bone, and growing children from their union.

Later in scripture, we see the formation of tribes along kinship lines. Family sets the foundation for understanding our experiences and the world around us.

#### WHY to pray

Scripture even records God using the term 'father' to help our finite human minds begin to understand the relational nature of our omnipotent and all-powerful God. (Exodus 4:22)

The family is first place we learn about God and create expectations for how to form relationships. Healthy families provide a strong foundation for children to grow into mature adults and model the love of Christ by sacrificially serving one another.

When the foundation of family is shaken through tragedy, trauma or broken trust, the foundation for life is shaken right along with it. Divorces, work/life imbalance and lack of loving support can profoundly shape the rest of a person's life, even if the painful event occurred decades prior/ Christ shared in the sufferings of family troubles while He walked on Earth: the leaders of Nazareth rejected Him as the Son of God, refusing to see Him as more than “Joseph's son.”

There are timeless challenges such as joining lives as a married couple and raising children, and there are the new challenges of navigating family dynamics in an age of the social media barrage of opinions and connections.  
Families need our prayers!

#### HOW to pray

Pray the Father's heart. To do this, seek scripture for the divine design for families and wisdom on cultivating a healthy family life. Meditating on scripture before beginning prayer puts our hearts into a position of submission to the will of God. These verses are good starting places to see God's design and purpose for families:

Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you. -Exodus 20:12 NIV

Listen to counsel and receive instruction so that you may be wise later in life. -Proverbs 19:20 HCSB

And be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving one another, just as God also forgave you in Christ. Ephesians 4:32 HCSB

Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger by the way you treat them. Rather, bring them up with the discipline and instruction that comes from the Lord. Ephesians 6:4 NLT

WHAT to pray

Wisdom in choosing a spouse; to be equally yoked together in faith

Grant us humility, and with that humility bring stability and peace to families

Give husbands and wives the grace to consider each other before self

Endurance for single parents or grandparents stepping in as parents

Comfort for families moving forward through grief

Strengthen families who also serve as caretakers for medically fragile family members

Give empty-nest parents comfort in transition and the vision to grasp their new role as full-time intercessors for adult kids

Harmony in blended families

Create a means of escape and healing from harmful family dynamics