

First Presbyterian Church in North Palm Beach

Vision Frame

Mission

Equipping people to pursue and share gospel-driven lives.

Core Values

- Biblically Rooted- We believe the Bible is God's Word and the primary means by which we know God. God's commands and promises are the pathway to life, blessings and wholeness.
- Caring Deeply- We are a family dedicated to love and support one another
- Serving Together- We use our individual and collective gifts to serve our church and community
- Developing Leaders- We equip people to discover their calling and embrace their role in building God's Kingdom
- Missionally Focused- Strategically invest in opportunities to spread the gospel everywhere

Spiritual outcomes-a person who pursues and shares a gospel-driven life....

- Studies the Bible and applies what is learned
- Talks with God and prays for others
- Walks with integrity and speaks the truth
- Loves other believers and extends kindness to everyone
- Stewards his/her resources and invests in others
- Knows his/her faith story and shares God's story

Ministry Strategy-a pattern of participation and involvement in our faith community

- Starting Point-the place people go to learn more about FPC and how they can get involved in the life of the church
- Attend a Worship Service weekly
- Connect in a small group regularly
- Serve on a Team at least monthly

90 Day Prayer Initiative

April 28, 2019

First Presbyterian in North Palm Beach is a special church. It's been my church since 1997. My sons grew up in Sunday School here, were Wednesday night regulars and devotees of Team.

Our family has appreciated the emphasis here on connecting with God's work around the world and students in our backyard. We have loved watching young people develop into leaders as they have been given opportunities to grow through internships. Steve and I love the high quality music we hear week after week and the stability of our pastoral leadership.

But all around First Pres, **change is happening.** Fewer folks in the surrounding community are taking the time for weekly worship. More and more children are growing up without any faith influence. The wider culture has less tolerance for talk of God in public spaces.

As changes happen outside the church, they also are happening inside. Our beloved Pastor Lucky is beginning to plan his retirement. While we have plenty of time before it happens, we are looking to the future and wondering what it will be like at First Pres. How will God work in our community as we go forward?

The more we think about the changes inside and outside the church, the clearer it becomes that there are **many possible paths** for us to take but some of them will not be healthy paths. We need God's guidance and provision. Only by seeking God together in prayer can we as a congregation find the path forward in this new season.

That is why the Session has asked me to lead the congregation in 90 days of focused corporate prayer for **God's vision for our future.** Next week I will address this initiative in my sermon and introduce you to the Weekly Prayer Guides that will help us pray together through the months of May, June and July.

These **Weekly Prayer Guides** will be published in the bulletin and on the web site. We know there are many faithful folks in our congregation praying. Our goal is for us to pray in unity, that is, to pray as a church in the same direction.

*Would you take **5 minutes today** to pray for our church to listen to God about how we are to fulfill our mission: "Equipping People to Pursue and Share Gospel Driven Lives"?*

I am excited to have your partnership. Let's join together in prayer for God's guidance.

Pastor Elizabeth Nielsen

90 Day Prayer Initiative Prayer Guide for May 5, 2019

On Paul's second missionary journey, he and Silas had plans about where to go to preach the news about Jesus, but they found that the Holy Spirit had other plans. The Spirit kept them from preaching the word where they had planned to go. When they tried a different place, they again found that God would not allow them to go. Finally, God sent a vision in the night giving them clear direction: "A man from Macedonia in northern Greece was standing there, pleading with [Paul], "Come over to Macedonia and help us!" So we decided to leave for Macedonia at once, having concluded that God was calling us to preach the Good News there." (Acts 16:9-10)

We, too, have plans for our church's ministry. How can we be sure that our plans line up with God's vision for our Church?

This week let's begin our 90 days of prayer by asking God to develop a deep **desire in all of us to hear from him**. Let's pray that we will be able to put aside our own desires and **together seek God's vision** for our future.

Please include all our pastors, staff and session, as well as each member of our congregation in your prayers.

For younger children: How do you find something you are looking for? Draw a picture of your family looking together for a special gift that God has for you. Pray that God will help us as a church family to search together for God's plan.

Thank you for your participation in the 90 Day Prayer Initiative. Let us know that you are praying with us by detaching this section and bring it in to put in the offering plate at church.

I/ We prayed for our church to find God's direction.

Name(s) _____

Date _____

Specific Prayer Concerns:

The Pastor Nominating Committee:

Jim Laub
John Carey
Becca Nabhan
Nick Crisafi
Kim Sanders
Bob Johnson
Ray Dorsey
Shirley Alley
Carrie Wallace

Pray for the committee as they put together a position description and connect with ECO to plan the process of evaluating candidates.

Pastors:

Lucky: Sermon series, preparing for transition
Ron: Sermon series, evaluation of programs

Session:

Seeking God together for vision
Financial health for the church

Staff:

Wisdom in planning
Joy, unity and stamina in service

90 DAY PRAYER CHALLENGE

Prayer Guide #2 for May 12th, 2019

One of our Core Values at FPBNPB is that we are **Biblically Rooted**. This means we believe the Bible is God's Word and the primary means by which we know Him. God's commands and promises are the pathway to life, blessing and wholeness. In Psalm 119 this is pictured beautifully.

This week's prayer guide will focus on that value. As in all the prayer guides, we want you to focus on ever increasing circles as you pray; for yourself, your family, your friends, FPCNPB (leadership, staff, members), our neighborhood, and globally. As you read and pray, try and keep in mind the core value of being Biblically Rooted.

Read aloud Psalm 119:105-117

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. I have sworn an oath and confirmed it, to keep your righteous rules. I am severely afflicted; give me life, O LORD, according to your word! Accept my freewill offerings of praise, O LORD, and teach me your rules. I hold my life in my hand continually, but I do not forget your law. The wicked have laid a snare for me, but I do not stray from your precepts. Your testimonies are my heritage forever, for

they are the joy of my heart. I incline my heart to perform your statutes forever, to the end. I hate the double-minded, but I love your law. You are my hiding place and my shield; I hope in your word. Depart from me, you evildoers, that I may keep the commandments of my God. Uphold me according to your promise, that I may live, and let me not be put to shame in my hope! Hold me up, that I may be safe and have regard for your statutes continually!

Read it aloud a second time pausing to pray between words or lines.

If there are things each verse brings to mind, pray for them. This is not a timed exercise and there is no right or wrong way to do this. Just allow yourself to pray for what comes to mind.

If you are doing this exercise with your family or a small group of friends, take turns reading each verse and praying between them.

If you have small children, try walking in the dark with a flashlight pointed at your feet. Talk and pray about how God's word can help us along our way.

I/we prayed this week for our Church to find God's direction.

Name(s): _____

Date: _____

Please cut this section off and place in the offering plate.

90 Day Prayer Challenge
Prayer Guide #3 – May 19, 2019
Caring Deeply

People’s lives can be transformed when they experience the care of another person. It is our hope that in being a part of the First Pres family, you experience being deeply loved and cared for.

Reflect on how you have been cared for at First Pres. Have you felt God’s love through your interactions here? Give thanks to God for that love if you have felt it, or tell God about your frustration in not feeling it.

Read the following two verses:

Romans 12:10 (NIV)

“Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves.”

Ephesians 4:32 (ESV)

“Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.”

What are some ways you can be kind and tenderhearted toward others? How has God gifted you to care? Would it be to take a meal to someone, write a note, visit someone, or offer to buy groceries for someone who can’t go shopping? Maybe it would be just to listen to someone. Praying for one another is also a significant way to express your care for others.

Sit a moment with God in silence, asking for Him to show you how you can show care and love for others. Ask God to guide you and show you who specifically you can care for. Perhaps it will be for someone younger than you or older than you. Maybe it will be a family member, neighbor, friend, co-worker, classmate, a single parent, a college student, a young mom, an ill or home-bound person, or someone who has lost a loved one.

This week, pray for opportunities to love and care for one another. Pray that God will bring people to mind and will show you ways to demonstrate His love and care. Be watchful and thankful for each opportunity!

For Parents: Children are eager to show love to others. Involve your child in praying about who needs to feel the love of God and help your child find some way to share it.

I/We prayed this week for our church

Names: _____ Date _____

Specific prayer requests for this week:

Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC): Continued guidance for the process and wisdom as they put together a profile and job description.

Lucky: For the PNC and the new pastor

Ron: For his trip to Cuba and new duties as Executive Pastor

Session:

Seeking God together for vision

Financial health for the church

Staff:

Wisdom in planning

Joy, unity and stamina in service

90 Day Prayer Challenge
Prayer Guide for May 26, 2019
Serving Together

Paul, in writing his first letter to the Corinthian church, was writing to a church struggling with divisions amongst its people. What is the glue that holds a church together that is made up of so many diverse individuals and personalities?

I Corinthians 13:4-7

⁴Love is patient, love is kind and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant, ⁵does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered, ⁶does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; ⁷bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. (NASB)

As you ponder these verses, think about how this kind of love would affect our serving together inside and outside the church.

Where does this kind of love come from? Galatians 5:22

What effect might it have on our community? John 13:35

Take a few minutes to read over these verses a couple of times, listening for one phrase or word that seems to stand out to you. Let that word become a prayer to God for our congregation.

Pray that by the power of the Holy Spirit we will serve together unified by a godly love for one another and our community. Pray for God's direction for how we can serve our church and community together.

Let us know that you are praying with us by detaching this section and bring it in to put in the offering plate at church.

I / We prayed for our church to find God's direction.

Name(s) _____

Date _____

SPECIFIC PRAYER REQUESTS

Pastor Nominating Committee:

for a clear sense of what characteristics are most important for the new pastor

Lucky: for the PNC and the new pastor

Ron: for wisdom in guiding the church programs

Session:

Seeking God together for vision

Financial health for the church

Staff:

Important updates to the website

Wisdom in planning

Joy, unity and stamina in service

Summer Programs:

Planning for VBS, Music Camp & Conservatory and Fun Arts Camp - for staff, volunteers and children

For youth activities and camps: planning, participation and effectiveness

90 Day Prayer Challenge
Prayer Guide #5 - June 2nd, 2019
Developing Leaders

We equip people to discover their calling and embrace their role in building Christ's Kingdom.

Would you and your family read this Scripture and pray with us this next week for the development of wise leaders for First Presbyterian? Whether you pray once or every day, we appreciate your involvement. Please detach the bottom of the page and put it in the offering plate next Sunday so we can be encouraged by your participation in the Prayer Challenge.

James 3:13-18

“Who is wise and understanding among you? By his good conduct, let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom. But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth. This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice. But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere. And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.”

This Scripture draws a very distinct contrast between two types of wisdom - an earthly wisdom and a godly wisdom, or “the wisdom that comes down from above.” We see that there is one kind of wisdom that is exercised by humans, of human origin. On the other hand, there is a true kind of wisdom that is exercised by humans, but of divine origin. One wisdom is heavenly, spiritual, and godly. The other is earthly, unspiritual, and ungodly.

We know that our Father will graciously provide wisdom when we humbly petition Him for it. It is good to pray often for wisdom for ourselves, and extremely crucial to pray it for our leaders.

Use James 3:17 as a guide for praying for our leaders: ***“The wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy, and good fruits, impartial and sincere.”***

Prayer Guide...

- First, begin by praying for our leaders’ **purity**.
- Pray that our leaders would love **peace** and strive to be peacemakers.
- Pray for our leaders to be **gentle** in all circumstances, with their words and their actions.
- Pray that our leaders would be excellent **listeners** to one another.
- Pray that our leaders would embrace God’s mercy for themselves, and reciprocate God’s **mercy** to others.
- Pray that there would be **impartiality** in our leadership, that our leaders would avoid playing favorites and treat all with fairness.
- Pray that our leaders would practice what they preach, and be **sincere** in all their ways.

My family and I spent time this week in prayer for our church.

Name: _____

SPECIFIC PRAYER REQUESTS

Ron Hilliard, Executive Pastor: For our global church planters – Alex in Berlin, Alex in Greece, Hannah in Berlin, Erisbel in Cuba and Julio in Peru.

Chris Southard, Assistant Pastor: For the planning of the next evangelism workshop on September 14th on The Five Thresholds

Cary Koepke, Dir. Of Children's Ministries: For the leaders, campers and parents who are involved in Vacation Bible School

Kim Sanders, Dir. Of Student Ministries: For the 14 from our church going to serve at Student Life Camp from June 3 – 7

JoAnn Hayes, Coordinator of Adult Ministries: For the planning of Discovery Weekend #2 from November 1 – 3, led by Marissa Johnson

Gayle Coughanour, Administrator: For wisdom in putting the budget together for the new year beginning August 1, 2019; and that we finish the current fiscal year without taking a loss.

90 Day Prayer Challenge
Prayer Guide #6 - June 9th, 2019
Missionally Focused

We strategically invest in opportunities to spread the gospel everywhere.

Revelation 12:11

“And they overcame him [the devil] by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony...”

Our testimony is powerful. Take a moment to think of all the things you have experienced in your life thus far – what you have seen, what you have heard, and how God has used these experiences to transform you from the inside out.

As true followers of Christ, we believe there is incredible power in sharing about our experiences as we walk with The Lord.

How has God grown you?

What is He teaching you today?

The more Christians come forward and talk about how God works in their lives, the more people have the opportunity to realize that God truly is real, alive and active.

Together as a church, we believe in investing in every opportunity possible to make the gospel known, and this means opening up our hearts to vulnerability and sharing our story. Every person has a uniquely beautiful testimony to how God has worked in their lives, and when shared, God is glorified and the enemy is overcome.

Prayer Guide...

- First, begin your prayer by **reviewing** your own story with God.
- **Thank** God for your unique testimony - your past, present, and future, even the most difficult and challenging times. Acknowledge that your experiences have shaped you, which is a gift.
- Pray that the Lord would open your heart to vulnerability and **guide you personally** in how you can be sharing your testimony for His glory.
- Pray that the Lord would **guide our church together** and open doors of opportunities for sharing our stories and building strong connections with one another.

My family and I spent time this week in prayer for our church.

Name: _____ Date _____

Please tear off this section and place this in the offering basket.

SPECIFIC PRAYER REQUESTS

Ron Hilliard, Executive Pastor: For our global church planters – Alex in Berlin, Alex in Greece, Hannah in Berlin, Erisbel in Cuba and Julio in Peru.

Chris Southard, Assistant Pastor: For the planning of the next evangelism workshop on September 14th on The Five Thresholds

Cary Koepke, Dir. Of Children's Ministries: For the leaders, campers and parents who are involved in Vacation Bible School

Kim Sanders, Dir. Of Student Ministries: For the 14 from our church going to serve at Student Life Camp from June 3 – 7

JoAnn Hayes, Coordinator of Adult Ministries: For the planning of Discovery Weekend #2 from November 1 – 3, led by Marissa Johnson

Gayle Coughanour, Administrator: For wisdom in putting the budget together for the new year beginning August 1, 2019; and that we finish the current fiscal year without taking a loss.

90 Day Prayer Challenge
Prayer Guide #7 – June 16, 2019
Stewarding Your Resources and Investing in Others

Acts 4:32-37 All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they shared everything they had. With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and much grace was upon them all. There were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned lands or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales and put it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to anyone as he had need. Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus, whom the apostles called Barnabas (which means Son of Encouragement) sold a field he owned and brought the money and put it at the apostles' feet.

This scripture passage records the story of the believers who shared their possessions with each other. If they knew there was a need, they took action and gave from their own finances and possessions. They invested in others by putting their needs ahead of their own. The Bible calls the way they shared what they had with each other "stewardship."

Take a minute to reflect in God's presence. Can you think of a time when someone reached out to meet a need for you? **Give thanks** to God for those he has used to meet your needs.

How may God be calling you to share your finances and possessions with others? This week ask God to show you **how you can share** what you have with others. Pray that God will bring people to mind who are in need. Be aware and be watchful!

Parents, encourage your children to be aware and eager to share with classmates, neighbors, and friends who might have a need. Pray together for those to whom God would want you to reach out.

Pray that First Presbyterian may be **marked by selfless generosity** toward both those inside and those outside our congregation.

I/We prayed this week for our church

Names _____ Date _____

SPECIFIC PRAYER REQUESTS

Mission trip to Greece – Travelers: Meg Brown, Lea Carey, Kim Kerr, Ken & Carolyn Weda

For children who attended VBS – that seeds will grow!

For PNC

For Session as they lead the Church into the Vision Frame

Summer interns as they serve in student ministries

Younger members as they serve in missions – Maggie Helmholdt – Belize, Kara Kress – Cuba, Aileen Maxwell – Costa Rica, Charlie VanMeter - YWAM – New Zealand, Allison Wallace - Cuba

90 Day Prayer Challenge
Prayer Guide for June 23, 2019
Integrity

***One who pursues and shares a gospel driven life...
walks with integrity and speaks the truth.***

Ask God to speak to you as you read these verses over several times:

⁸ He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God? Micah 6:8 (ESV)

Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another. Ephesians 4:25 (ESV)

¹ O Lord, who shall sojourn in your tent? Who shall dwell on your holy hill?

² He who walks blamelessly and does what is right and speaks truth in his heart; Psalm 15:1-2 (ESV)

Sit quietly in God's presence asking him to help you see in what ways your life reflects his character. **Give thanks** for God's work in your heart to help you in those areas.

In what ways does your life fail to reflect God's character?

Confess your failure to God.

Be **reassured that God loves you** and is working to change you.

Pray that God would transform you from the inside out by his love. May God will give us the faith and courage to do the right thing even when it is costly.

Pray that we at First Pres will be people who by **God's grace and power will live lives of integrity**, justice and righteousness with humility and lovingkindness, that we would seek to reflect the Lord Jesus Christ in our everyday lives.

For families:

One definition of integrity is that our words match our actions. Help your children think about what that means and pray with them for courage to do what is right.

Let us know that you are praying with us by detaching this section and bring it in to put in the offering plate at church.

I / We prayed for our church to find God's direction.

Name(s) _____

Date _____

SPECIFIC PRAYER REQUESTS

For the participants on the mission trip to Greece – for safety as they return later this week

For the 43 people going on a mission trip to the Dominican Republic, led by Rev. Southard, from June 25 – July 2 – for their safety, that they would grow in the Lord, and that He would greatly use them to further His Kingdom work.

For the Pastor Nominating Committee – for discernment as they seek to find the candidate God has already chosen for our congregation.

For our congregation – that during this period of transition, that we would be united, that we would realize that God brought each of us here to utilize our spiritual gifts in this body, and that we truly understand that God can be trusted with the future of our lives and the future of this church.

For the Officer Nominating Committee, as they begin the process of searching for the best candidates to serve as elders and deacons for the 2020 – 2023 term.

For the finances of the church – that we could end our fiscal year well (ending July 31) and raise all of the funds needed to complete the Building on our Blessings campaign.

For Rev. Southard's voice, which he has been having issues with.

For our Session and Rev. Hilliard as they lead the Church in our vision frame process.

90 Day Prayer Challenge Prayer Guide for June 30 Strategy

We at First Presbyterian church want to have a clear ministry strategy. Think of Strategy as a pattern of participation. It reveals places and rhythms of being involved. It shows how every major environment (time and place at church) is a part of a discipleship pathway.

It is easy for us who attend regularly to know where everything is and how everything works. Imagine what it's like for someone stepping foot into our church for the first time. A strategy will help all who attend First Pres, whether it's the first time or the 200th time, know how to get involved.

This week's prayer guide will focus on the idea of being strategic. As you pray, focus on ever increasing circles. Pray for yourself, your family, your friends, FPCNPB (leadership, staff, members), our neighborhood, and our world. As you read and pray try and keep in mind the idea of being strategic in ministry.

Read Acts 17:16-34

When Paul was in Athens he is described as "deeply distressed" due to the multitude of idols in the city.

- Pray for those that you know that are lost
- Pray about our reactions and interactions with those who don't know Jesus

Paul decides the best strategy to communicate the gospel to them is to use something they know and understand. This idea of an "unknown god."

- Pray about how we communicate the gospel to those who we know. Pray that we would do so with imagination, strategy, hope and love.
- Pray for visitors and how you would want them to feel or what you would want them to experience as they come to First Presbyterian Church.

Finish by reading Psalm 127

- Pray that as we plan and strategize that we continue to rely on God to build his kingdom.
- Pray that you would trust and believe that it is God who makes our efforts a success
- Pray that we all would trust and believe that this church belongs to God and that our growth and ability to reach the lost is reliant on God's work.

Let us know that you are praying with us by detaching this section and bring it in to put in the offering plate at church.

Name(s) _____

Date _____

SPECIFIC PRAYER REQUESTS

For the 41 people on a mission trip in the Dominican Republic through July 2nd – for their safety and that they will be greatly used by God

For the Pastor Nominating Committee – for the completion of the pastor church profile that will go on the Eco website and preparing for receiving applications

For Music, Fun Arts and Student Ministry camps – that the camps will go well and the youth will strengthen their walk with the Lord

For the Officer Nominating Committee, as they search for the best candidates to serve as elders and deacons for the 2020 – 2022 term, and for the candidates themselves – that they would hear the call from God to serve

For the finances of the church – that we could end our fiscal year well (ending July 31) and raise all of the funds needed to complete the Building on our Blessings building campaign

For the study pilgrimage to Greece and Italy

For our Session - that they will have discernment in all decisions

For our congregation – for health, unity and Spirit-filled lives

90 Day Prayer Challenge
Prayer Guide #10 – July 7, 2019
God's Peace

Philippians 4:4-9

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! **5**Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. **6**Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. **7**And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. **8**Finally, brothers, 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. **9**Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me – put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

Settle yourself in silence for a moment and ask God to meet you as you meditate on this passage.

Read the passage out loud slowly, **listening for a word or phrase** that sticks in your mind. Then take a few deep breaths and savor that word or phrase as God's message to you today.

Read the passage again out loud and slowly, listening this time for the way that the word or phrase **connects with either your personal life or the life of our church**. Again, rest in what you hear for a few moments.

Read the passage again a third time, **allowing your heart to respond** to what you hear honestly. Take a few minutes to pray and tell God how you feel about it.

Rest in in the love and presence of God and his provision for you and for our church. May you know God's peace this week!

Parents, invite your children to listen with you to God's word and to share what they hear.

Let us know that you are praying with us by detaching this section and bring it in to put in the offering plate at church.

Name(s) _____

Date _____

SPECIFIC PRAYER REQUESTS

For Music Camp from July 8 – 12 – that the camp will go smoothly and the children benefit greatly from participating in it.

For the Pastor Nominating Committee – for discernment as they receive the Pastor candidate applications

For Fun Arts and Student Ministry camps – that the camps will go well and the youth will strengthen their walk with the Lord

For the Officer Nominating Committee - for discernment as they continue the process of choosing candidates to serve as elders and deacons for the 2020 – 2022 term, and for the candidates themselves – that they would hear the call from God to serve

For the finances of the church – that we could end our fiscal year well (ending July 31) and raise all of the funds needed to complete the Building on our Blessings building campaign

For the study pilgrimage to Greece and Italy

For our Session and Rev. Hilliard – for discernment in all areas

For our congregation – for health, unity and Spirit-filled lives

For the preschool – as they prepare for the upcoming school year and that we will fill all of the openings in each class

For the Saturday morning prayer group that meets from 7:30 – 8:30 am weekly – that more individuals would commit to coming and becoming prayer warriors for the church

90 Day Prayer Challenge
Prayer Guide #11 – July 14, 2019
God's Goodness and Faithfulness

Psalm 100:1-5

“Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth.

Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs.

Know that the Lord is God. It is he who made us, we are his;

we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give

thanks to him and praise his name.

For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness

continues through all generations.”

Let our prayers this week focus on God's goodness and faithfulness to each of us individually, as well as a church family.

As you read and reflect on the above passage, listen for a word or phrase that speaks to you. This is a psalm that guides us in our worship of God, which includes loud praises, joyful singing, giving thanks to God, and praising His name.

Let us think of the ways God has been good and faithful. What can you specifically praise God for this week individually and as a family? After doing this, think of how God has been good and faithful all these years to First Pres. We just had our 56th anniversary celebration. God has been faithful to us and will be through all the next generations. This psalm encourages us to remember God's faithfulness both in the past as we look back and in the future as we look ahead. Think of the children now that we see each week in the courtyard and around the church. Imagine their children and their children's children and God's faithfulness to them in the years to come.

This week as you pray, remember that the Lord is God and that we belong to Him. Be sure to take some time to thank Him for that promise.

Let us know that you are praying with us by detaching this section and bring it in to put in the offering plate at church.

Name(s) _____

Date _____

SPECIFIC PRAYER REQUESTS

For the Gospel Celebrating Experience on the 5 Thresholds of Awareness which will be held in the morning of September 14th – that it will be well attended and beneficial in making true disciples of Christ

For the Pastor Nominating Committee – for discernment as they receive the Pastor candidate applications

For Fun Arts and Student Ministry camps – that the camps will go well and the youth will strengthen their walk with the Lord

For the Officer Nominating Committee - for discernment as they continue the process of choosing candidates to serve as elders and deacons for the 2020 – 2022 term, and for the candidates themselves – that they would hear the call from God to serve

For the finances of the church – that we could end our fiscal year well (ending July 31) and raise all of the funds needed to complete the Building on our Blessings building campaign

For the study pilgrimage to Greece and Italy

For our Session and Rev. Hilliard – for discernment in all areas

For our congregation – for health, unity and Spirit-filled lives

For the preschool – as they prepare for the upcoming school year and that we will fill all of the openings in each class

For the Saturday morning prayer group that meets from 7:30 – 8:30 am weekly – that more individuals would commit to coming and becoming prayer warriors for the church

90 Day Prayer Challenge
Prayer Guide #12 – July 21, 2019

Jesus, Our Shepherd

John 10:7-11

Jesus said again, "I tell you the truth; I am the gate for the sheep. All who ever came before me were thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. He will come in and go out, and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. I am the Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd lays down His life for the sheep."

Jesus is our Shepherd. He wants us to hear His voice. He promises to be with us as He leads us, as we "come and go." He wants us to have life, and have it to the full, knowing that He is the Good Shepherd and that He laid down His life for us.

How do you hear His voice? Do you take time to be quiet and to be still to listen? Think about the times in the past when you have felt Him leading you and guiding you. As you pray this week individually, with your family, and for our church, think about some of the words to Fanny Crosby's familiar hymn, and Chris Tomlin's worship song, both titled "All the Way My Savior Leads Me."

"All the way my Savior leads me, who have I to ask beside? How could I doubt His tender mercy, who through life has been my guide? All the way my Savior leads me, cheers each winding path I tread. Gives me grace for every trial, feeds me with the living Bread. This my song through endless ages, Jesus led me all the way."

As we continue to pray this week, thank God for His promises to shepherd us and lead us. Thank Him for His faithfulness in how He has led us in the past and will into the future. Parents, ask your children to recall times God has led them and seen Him care for them. Keep listening to His voice and rest in the assurance of His love and care.

We're almost to the end of our 90 Day Prayer Challenge. We'll be wrapping up next week. Please be sure to continue to pray and to remember the requests on the back of this page.

Let us know that you are praying with us by detaching this section and bring it in to put in the offering plate at church.

Name(s) _____

Date _____

SPECIFIC PRAYER REQUESTS

For the Gospel Celebrating Experience on the 5 Thresholds of Awareness which will be held in the morning of September 14th – that it will be well attended and beneficial in making true disciples of Christ

For the Pastor Nominating Committee – for discernment as they receive the Pastor candidate applications

For Fun Arts camp (July 22 – 26) and Student Life Camp in North Carolina (July 27 – August 2) – for safety and that the youth will strengthen their walk with the Lord

For the Officer Nominating Committee - for discernment as they continue the process of choosing candidates to serve as elders and deacons for the 2020 – 2022 term, and for the candidates themselves – that they would hear the call from God to serve

For the finances of the church – that we could end our fiscal year well (ending July 31) and raise all of the funds needed to complete the Building on our Blessings building campaign

For the study pilgrimage to Greece and Italy

For our Session and Rev. Hilliard – for discernment in all areas

For our congregation – for health, unity and Spirit-filled lives and that we will all utilize the spiritual gifts that God has given us for His glory

For the preschool – as they prepare for the upcoming school year and that we will fill all of the openings in each class

For the Saturday morning prayer group that meets from 7:30 – 8:30 am weekly – that more individuals would commit to coming and becoming prayer warriors for the church

90 Day Prayer Challenge
Prayer Guide #13--July 28, 2019
Praise to Our God

This is the last prayer guide for the 90 Day Prayer Challenge. We hope you have enjoyed praying together as a congregation and have been encouraged to be part of a group effort. We trust that praying together has allowed the Holy Spirit to align our hearts with His and to unite us as we give thanks for the past and commit our future to Him.

Let's end our Prayer Challenge by praising God together!

Psalm 105:1-5

Give praise to the Lord, proclaim his name;
make known among the nations what he has done.
Sing to him, sing praise to him;
tell of all his wonderful acts.
Glory in his holy name;
let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.
Look to the Lord and his strength;
seek his face always.
Remember the wonders he has done,
his miracles, and the judgments he pronounced....

Take some time individually or as a family to remember aloud some of God's "wonderful acts."

Then sing a song of praise to God- If you can't think of one try this
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i5rcbE5PRfY> (You are the Most High, Urbana version).

Finally, as you think about the challenges that face you personally and our congregation as a whole, pray about them as the psalmist does: "Look to the Lord and his strength."

Let us know that you are praying with us by detaching this section and bring it in to put in the offering plate at church.

Name(s) _____ Date _____

SPECIFIC PRAYER REQUESTS

For the Gospel Celebrating Experience on the 5 Thresholds of Awareness which will be held in the morning of September 14th – that it will be well attended and beneficial in making true disciples of Christ

For the Pastor Nominating Committee – for discernment as they receive the Pastor candidate applications

For the students at Student Life Camp in North Carolina (July 27 – August 2) – for safety and that the youth will strengthen their walk with the Lord

For the Officer Nominating Committee - for discernment as they continue the process of choosing candidates to serve as elders and deacons for the 2020 – 2022 term, and for the candidates themselves – that they would hear the call from God to serve

For the finances of the church – that we could end our fiscal year well (ending July 31) and raise all of the funds needed to complete the Building on our Blessings building campaign

For the study pilgrimage to Greece and Italy

For our Session and Rev. Hilliard – for discernment in all areas

For our congregation – for health, unity and Spirit-filled lives and that we will all utilize the spiritual gifts that God has given us for His glory

For the preschool – as they prepare for the upcoming school year and that we will fill all of the openings in each class

For the Saturday morning prayer group that meets from 7:30 – 8:30 am weekly – that more individuals would commit to coming and becoming prayer warriors for the church

Pastor Nominating Committee - For great discussions and progress in their work; that they continue to pray for guidance in each step of the process; and for wisdom as they discuss the job profile and position description.