

UPWARD BASKETBALL PRAYER GUIDE



The Power of Prayer and Evangelism

By Pat Medeiros, senior pastor

The 19th season of Upward Basketball is about to start. This is an amazing opportunity for us as a church family to invest the soul-saving Gospel message into players and their families. Fifty-one percent of the families registered are either unchurched or attend a non-evangelical church. The evangelism opportunity before us calls us to stand in the gap to pray. Pray that the spiritual darkness that blinds their hearts from believing upon the Lord Jesus Christ be consumed by the light of the Good News of Jesus Christ. Pray that through the ministry of Upward Basketball, they will encounter God's holy love. Pray for faith to come alive in every heart.

Praying for lost people is both a privilege and a responsibility. It is a privilege because our prayers can make a difference in people's lives for all eternity. It is a responsibility because our Savior calls us to this very task.

Upward Basketball is not about a great basketball program, it's about the Great Commission. It's not about the score, it's about the soul of every player and family member.

It is my desire to see everyone in our church family join the prayer team. You can pray for the players at home. You can pray for the players in your small group. You can pray for the players during Refuge Student Ministry. You can pray onsite on game days in our new PRAYER ROOM, Room 201. It would be awesome if we had prayer teams praying during each game hour. If you are interested in being a part of the game day prayer team, please select a time and date at greeceassembly.org/upwardprayerteam.

"Prayer is the lifeline of New Testament evangelism, the oxygen for its holy fire. The New Testament was born in prayer. It knows no evangelism without prayer, and no prayer which does not lead to evangelism." Those are the words of Armin Gesswein, a man God used to ignite a prayer movement in America and around the world. I am persuaded that his words are absolutely true. There is no evangelism without prayer and no prayer that does not lead to reaching the lost for Christ.

WHY PRAY FOR THE LOST?

First, we should pray for the lost because of God's heart. The greatest verse in the Bible assures us that God truly cares for those who don't know Him. *"For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life"* (John 3:16).

Second, we should pray for the lost because of Christ's sacrifice. Christ came for the lost. *"For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost"* (Luke 19:10). And He died to provide a way of salvation for the whole human race. *"For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself as a ransom for all men"* (I Timothy 2:5-6).

Third, we should pray for the lost because of Paul's example. In Romans 10:1, Paul reveals his heart for his Jewish friends, neighbors, and relatives: *"Brothers, my heart's desire and prayer to God for the Israelites is that they may be saved."* Paul purposed in his heart to pray for his own people to be saved. As Christ followers, we should be motivated and moved to do the same.

Fourth, we should pray for the lost because of their condition. The New Testament in many places reveals to us how hopeless and helpless the lost are without Christ. They are ...

- Blind: *"The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God"* (II Corinthians 4:4).
- Captive to Satan: We should pray that Upward players and their families might *"escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will"* (II Timothy 2:26).
- Condemned: *"Whoever believes in Him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son"* (John 3:18).
- Dead: *"As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins"* (Ephesians 2:1).

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- Heading towards God's judgement: *"Whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on him"* (John 3:36b).
- Hopeless: *"Without hope and without God in the world"* (Ephesians 2:12).
- Without Understanding: *"The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned"* (I Corinthians 2:14).

HOW TO PRAY:

Lord, I pray for the unbelieving Upward players and their families and ask that You would:

LEAD THEM TO REPENTANCE

God, You are gracious and compassionate, slow to anger, and abounding in love and faithfulness. You don't wish for any of the Upward players and their families to perish, but for them to come to repentance. Yet we, like sheep, have gone astray. There is none righteous, nobody who understands or seeks after You, none who come to faith unless the Father draws them. So, I ask You to mercifully draw the Upward players and their families to Yourself, LORD. Grant them the humility they'll need to confess & turn away from their sin and to accept the forgiveness You so freely offer in Christ Jesus.

Psalms 86:15; 2 Peter 3:9; Isaiah 53:6; Romans 3:10-11; John 6:44; 1 Peter 5:5; Acts 3:19

OPEN THEIR EYES TO YOUR GOODNESS

Lord Jesus, Light of the World, I pray that You would shine brightly upon the hearts and lives of the Upward players and their families. The heavens declare Your magnificent glory—please open their eyes to comprehend it. Allow them to taste and see that You are good. Let them observe Your goodness in the land of the living and help them to stop walking in the darkness. Deliver them from the power of sin and from the evil that threatens to overcome them. Plant Your Word in their heart & let them take hold of the wondrous truths in Your law (Word).

John 8:12; Psalm 19:1; Psalm 34:8; Psalm 27:13; John 3:19; Matthew 6:13; James 1:21; Psalm 119:18

SAVE THEM BY YOUR GRACE

Thank You, LORD, that You are mighty to save! Praise be to Jesus, who conquered death and the grave and grants eternal life to all who accept it by grace through faith! Please make that true of every Upward player and family. They are dead in their sin, just as I was before You changed my heart & granted me salvation. Please do the same for them: Lavish Your grace upon them & give them a deep longing to know You. May they place their full trust & confidence in Jesus Christ, not in their own works or righteousness, which is as filthy rags.

Zephaniah 3:17; I Corinthians 15:54-55; Ephesians 1:7-8; Ephesians 2:1-9; Galatians 6:14; Philippians 3:9-10; Isaiah 64:6

TRANSFORM THEM TO YOUR IMAGE

God, I pray you would not only save the Upward players and families, but that You would sanctify them, as well. Complete the good work You've begun in their hearts. Give them the mind of Christ & conform them to His image. Empower them to walk in the good works You've established beforehand for them to do. Develop in them the fruit of Your Holy Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. May their redeemed lives accurately reflect Your character to others & bring glory to You.

John 17:17; Philippians 1:6; Romans 8:29; Romans 2:12; Ephesians 2:10; Galatians 5:22; 2 Corinthians 3:18; I Corinthians 10:31

Pray. Pray. Pray. Pray. Pray.

"Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen"

Ephesians 2:20-21



PRAY for our SEASON

Upward Basketball is a ministry of Greece Assembly. The season starts January 12 and ends March 22. We have 385 participants this season. Our main goal is to reach them with the gospel of Jesus Christ. Through teaching them the game of basketball, we are able to show them the love of Christ, impart biblical principles into their lives, and share the gospel of Jesus Christ. We also share the gospel with families and friends during halftime of every game. We have the incredible opportunity to share the love of Jesus with so many!

Please join us in praying for the 2026 season!

Below are a few prayer points, and the following pages are season dates, as well as the names of coaches and participants you can be praying for throughout the season.

**That the game weekends would run smoothly
and bring glory to God in all aspects.**

ROMANS 12:9-12

That coaches and volunteers would continue to serve joyfully.

COLOSSIANS 3:23-24

That coaches would have an extra measure of love.

1 CORINTHIANS 16:13-14

That participants would learn good sportsmanship.

PHILIPPIANS 2:3

**That the Gospel would impact participants
and their families in a powerful way.**

1 CORINTHIANS 2:1-5

**That unchurched families would find
a home at Greece Assembly.**

ACTS 2:46-47



Our SEASON SCHEDULE

THANK YOU for PRAYING!



PRACTICE NIGHTS:

Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays
5:30 PM - 9 PM

Weeks of: Jan. 12th, 19th, 26th
Feb. 2nd, 23rd
Mar. 2nd, 9th, 16th

GAME DAYS:

Saturdays from 8:30 AM - 8:30 PM

Dates: Jan. 24, 31; Feb. 7, 14, 28; Mar. 7, 14, 21

**Games run every hour starting 8:30 AM until 5:30 PM.*

***Final games are 7th-9th boys at 6:15 PM and 7:30 PM.*

FINAL TWO UPWARD EVENTS

Sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ

Saturday, March 21 @ 8:30 PM

This is the "5th Quarter" for boys in our 7th-9th grade division. We gather in the gym following their championship game, enjoy pizza, fellowship, and share the Gospel with the players and their families. Pray for souls to be saved and for the young people to desire to get connected through Refuge!

Sunday, March 22 @ 3 PM

This is our Season Celebration for players in Kindergarten through 6th grade. Families are invited to attend as well. Our sanctuary is filled to capacity! Please be in prayer that hearts would be open to receive the Gospel of Jesus Christ at this celebration.

PRAY for our COACHES

David Barry
Lindsey Bishop
Steven Bopp
Jason Bramwell
Donovan Braun
Rob Braun
Mara Briggs
Aaron Bundschuh
Patrick Carrington
Ben Cassata
Sophia Cassata
Terriance Cecil
Anna Chebanenko
Omar Chevalier
Lucas Christopher
Luke Cialdella
Zachary Cutlip
Averi Cyr
Traci Cyr
Kevin Damann
Krista Damann
Mark DiRaddo
Jesse Flint
Pam Flint
Matt Fordham
Sarah Friery
Zack Friery
Allison Galvano
Jeremiah Garcia
Toni Gennarino
Jeff Grace
Erin Graupman
Lucy Guagliardo
Jonathan Hakes
Paige Hakes
Dan Hindman
David John
Keoni Kaanana
Drew Karschner
Jameson Kelly
Aaron Kent

Matthew Kotsyuba
Ashley Krajna
Brandon Kuzgun
Angel Lagares
Joseph Loray
Manuella Maftey
Kyle Mattle
Grace Medeiros
Maria Melnik
Gerri Melnotte
Jenell Miller
Mark Miller
Rob Miller
Matt Minnis
Brenton Moore
Jathniel Morales-Lopez
Josh Peck
Sarah Peterson
Paul Petrella
Clayton Pittinaro
Jessica Portanova
Luis Recio
Scott Rhodes
Freddy Salcedo
Alphonse A Sasso
Kurt Schultz
Matt Schultz
Addie Sloan
Anibal Sosa Lorenzo
Carlos Soto
Olivia Swizdor
Steven Taccone
George Torres
Dennis Tyson
Anna Valenti
Joe Verdura
James VonBramer
Cuevas Walker
Nehemiah Walker
Malorie Wright

PRAY for our PLAYERS

Logan Adams
Joshua Adiele
Jerrin Ahrens
Ryan Arbore
Gino Armeli
Grady Arnold
Sadie Bachmann
Aleah Banks
Gabriel Banks
Bahati Baraka
Henry Barber
Alyssa Bard
Clare Barry
Aubrey Barut
Matthew Barz
Brynn Baxter
Hudson Baxter
Jack Baxter
Ross Baxter
Teagan Baxter
Dean Bedenbaugh
Olivia Bishop
Brody Blanchard
Eli Bliss
Aaleyah Blue
Reese Bonafede
Michael Bosak
Adeline Brado
Micah Bramwell
April Braun
Liam Bruce
Lucas Bruce
Colin Buck
Reese Buckley
Nick Burgmaster
Henry Burkhardt
Milana Burkovskaya
Marcus Burkovskiy
Frank Buscemi
Vivienne Buscemi
Llewyn Bushen
Landon Caccamise
Louie Caccamise

Abigail Calder
James Calvy
Darcya Campbell
Viviana Campione
William Cannon Jr.
Cam Caprino
Princeton Carrington
Joel Cassata
Seth Cassata
Levi Cavalieri
Joey Chapman
Ezra Chappell
Isaiah Chappell
Jordan Chappell
Zeke Chappell
Leah Chebanenko
Michael Chebanenko
Alex Chevalier
Johnny Chianfoni
Dominic Chimino
Leo Chimino
Leona Cignarale
Ronin Cignarale
Liam Clary
Amelia Colaprete
Kyle Commauf
Landen Crittleton
Charlotte Cutlip
Marshal Daly
Michael Daly
Hannah Davcev
Aubrey Davis
Skylar Decker
Hayden DeCramer
Crosby Deignan
Graham DeMerchant
Olivia DeMerchant
Nathan Dennis
Caleb Devlin
Asher Diffenderfer
Anthony DiGabriele
Andrea Dillard
Valentino Dillard

Giovanni DiPasquale
Elias DiRaddo
Jordyn Doolin
Jason Dunham
Giovanni Evangelista
Grace Fabry
Isabella Fabry
Malia Fabry
Mira Fabry
Sean Fallon
Frank Fedele
Angelina Fendikevich
Jonny Fendikevich
Milana Fesyuk
Halen Fintak
Lucas Fischer
Leah Flint
Luke Flint
Lorenzo Fontanez
Chase Fordham
Weston Fordham
Conrad Foster
Ellis Foster
Ava Franklin
Tanner Franz
Vincenzo French
Leah Friery
Trent Friery
Ryder Fulford
Dominic Gaiteri
Fiorella Garcia
Eloise Garofoli
Cully Genier
Giuliana Gennarino
Elijah George
Rah'Mero George
Evelyn Gerwitz
Antonio Gibbardo
Jackson Grabowski
Adrian (Georgie) Grace
Remi Grape
Julia Graupman
Elijah Grinishin

PRAY for our PLAYERS

Liam Grinishin
Dima Gritsak
Julianna Gritsak
Max Gritsak
Kingston Guillod
Benjamin Gurali
Ilya Gurali
Joshua Guy
Elijah Hakes
Leighanna Hakes
Aaron Hall
Brady Hall
Price Hall
Steele Hall
Lane Harris
Luke Harris
Callan Hart
Henry Heckle
Aria Heinsbergen
Isaac Henderson
Corey Hepburn
Sheldon Hepburn
Charlie Herbert
Desmond Higgins
Matteo Hindman
Benjamin Horton
Gavin Hysner
Finn Ilges
Emerson Jaffarian
Janae James
Liam Jerge
Logan Jerge
Jagger Jovcevski
Bane Kaanana
Ruby-Kate Karschner
Naomi Kasap
Nathan Kawski
James Keating
Acelyn Kelly
Andrew Kent
Gavin Kent
Zeke Kent

Elise Kirik
Lucas Kirik
Timothy Kirik
Johnny Klepanchuk
Jonathon Knapp
Daniel Kostyuk
James Kostyuk
Liana Kostyuk
Eloise Krajna
Addison Krautwurst
Kayden Kuzgun
Christian Lacek
Aviana Lagares
Joseph Lagas
Brooklyn Latta
Camden Latta
Mia Leonardo
Antonio Licata
Jonathon Liotta
Luke Lipinczyk
Grayson Longnecker
Theodore Longnecker
Sammy Loray
Jack Macri
James Macri
Aaron Maftey
Avenir Maftey
Travis Malone
Tristan Malone
Liam Marcello
Luciano Marcello
Marco Marcello
Audrina Marello
Wyatt Marello
Jagger Markson
Lucas Marshall
Elijah Matiishin
Isaiah Matiishin
Jackson Mattle
Jett Mattle
Bria Mazur
Jakai McPherson

Jaxson McPherson
Jesse Medeiros
Nora Medeiros
Steven Meinhold
Gabriel Melnik
Jonathan Melnik
Caleb Merrill
Christian Merrill
Mia Michael
Daniel Mikhaylov
Isaac Miles
Easton Miller
Jazlyn Miller
Josaphine Miller
Juliette Miller
King Mills
MacKenzie Mills
Greyson Minnis
Jay Minnis
Caleb Moore
Carter Moore
Lilah Moore
Makayla Moore
Seth Moore
Sailor Morris
Alijah Muniz
Callum Muraj
Micah Musumeci
Lily Nelson
Jesiah Nugent-Mills
Jason O'Buck Jr
Eva O'keefe
Adelyn O'Meara
Finn OBrien
Sam Obrien
Marshall Ohl
Weston Ohl
Marko Onyshchuk
Abigail Oshinnaiye
Ace Ostrander
Liam Palermo
Owen Park

PRAY for our PLAYERS

Austin Parry
Ellison Payne
Vivian Peck
Mario Penna
Finnley Peters
Sawyer Peters
Daxton Peterson
Mikey Petrella
Brynn Philipp
Paige Philipp
Elijah Piano
Olivia Piano
Luca Piccirillo
Ben Piper
Adrian Pittinaro
Pending Player
Amelia Poprozhuk
Olivia Portanova
Elijah Porzi
Henry Power
Lucy Power
Mark Primakov
Joey Proia
Giovanni Provenzano
Antonio Prus
Mila Prus
Avery Quackenbush
Sophie Quackenbush
Kameron Rivers
Ariyah Roberson
Fiona Robertson
James Robinson
Andrew Romaniv
Caleb Ronnenberg
Isaac Rosario
Isaiah Rosario
Joseph Rutan
Anna Sachman
Carter Sachman
Harper Sackett
Cristiano Salcedo
Nico Sanchez
Alphonse "AJ" Sasso

Lucio Sasso
Silas Sasso
Uriah Sasso
Caroline Savage
Leo Schantz
Brady Schoeps
Callie Schoeps
Chase Schoeps
Jaden Schrader
Jackson Schrier
James Senchyna
William Senchyna
Lizzy Shaw
Jordan Shellman
Brielle Sheridan
Dylan Shippers
Leysa Shoaf
Eric Simms
Nora Simms
Iris Simonelli
Mackenzie Simpson
Landen Sloan
Jase Smarcz
Ezekiel Smeltzer
Judah Smeltzer
Carlos Soto
Leymarie Soto
Sebastian Spagnola
Milo Spallina
Mikey Spencer
Carter St Arnaud
Dallas Stickney
Dalton Stickney
Jason Sushko
Ethan Taccone
Theodore Taccone
Beckett Thomas
Sebastian Thomas
Kimberly Tindal
Keegn Tucker
Savannah Tumminelli
Cameron Tyler
Abby Tyson

Adelynn Ursulom
Dominick Vacco
Gus Vacco
Emmanuelle Vega
Ellie VerWulst
Isla VerWulst
Luke Vileria
Luke Vincent
Charlie Voellinger
Daxton VonBramer
Aiden Voronin
Daniel Voronin
Lucas Voronin
Sarah Voronin
Calvin Vowles
Nathan Vysotskiy
Teddy Waasdorp
Tessa Waasdorp
Camden Wagner
Levi Wagner
Naomi Walker
Nathan Walker
Nehemiah Walker
Noah Walker
Logan Walters
Wayde Watt
Santino Weingart
Casey Welker
Joey Wenzel
Aaro West
Willa Whitney
Daisy Wilkins
Hazel Wilkins
Hudson Willert
Aiden Wilson
Penelope Wright
Priscilla Wright
Simehoni Yeremia
Michael York
Jayden Zgainer
Isaiah Zuhlke
Josiah Zuhlke
Kellin Zuhlke

