



PASTOR SEARCH **PRAYER GUIDE**

*“The prayer of a righteous person
is powerful in its effect.”*

JAMES 5:16



FIRST BAPTIST
CHURCH
CHARLOTTESVILLE • PARK STREET
Pointing Generations to Jesus

Dear First Baptist Church Family,

As your Pastor Search Committee (PSC), you have given us the sacred task of seeking the Lord's wisdom and direction as He leads us to the man He has already chosen to be our next Senior Pastor. In humility, we thank each of you for the honor of this sacred trust. This is a time of utmost importance in our church's history. So, we soberly take on this assignment with an understanding of the depth of our responsibility.

As we embark on our work, we earnestly desire your prayers during this exciting and hopeful time of transition. Our goal with this prayer guide is to unite and focus us together as one body, so that as a church family, we can together experience the power of answered prayer, resulting in Jesus Christ receiving all the glory.

Ephesians 3:20-21 states, "Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us, to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen."

May God reveal His perfect will for our church as we give prayer our first priority. Please join us in praying for our congregation, for our next Senior Pastor, and for our PSC. May Christ be magnified and glorified in all we say and do as His Church!

In Christ, Who Is Our Life,

Your Pastor Search Committee:

Amanda Bitler, Glenn Hahn, Moe Lescault, Carla Light,
Sally Nisley, Larry Sides, Reid Young

QUALIFICATIONS FOR A SENIOR PASTOR

1 Timothy 3:1-7: “This saying is trustworthy: “If anyone aspires to be an overseer, he desires a noble work.” An overseer, therefore, must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, self-controlled, sensible, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not an excessive drinker, not a bully but gentle, not quarrelsome, not greedy. He must manage his own household competently and have his children under control with all dignity. (If anyone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he take care of God’s church?) He must not be a new convert, or he might become conceited and incur the same condemnation as the devil. Furthermore, he must have a good reputation among outsiders, so that he does not fall into disgrace and the devil’s trap.”

Titus 1:6-9: “An elder must be blameless, the husband of one wife, with faithful children who are not accused of wildness or rebellion. As an overseer of God’s household, he must be blameless, not arrogant, not hot-tempered, not an excessive drinker, not a bully, not greedy for money, but hospitable, loving what is good, sensible, righteous, holy, self-controlled, holding to the faithful message as taught, so that he will be able both to encourage with sound teaching and to refute those who contradict it.”

1 Peter 5:1-3: “I exhort the elders among you as a fellow elder and witness to the sufferings of Christ, as well as one who shares in the glory about to be revealed: Shepherd God’s flock among you, not overseeing out of compulsion but willingly, as God would have you; not out of greed for money but eagerly; not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock.”

Ephesians 4:11-13: “And he himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, to build up the body of Christ, 13 until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of God’s Son, growing into maturity with a stature measured Christ’s fullness.”



September

Prayers for Our New Senior Pastor

Psalm 78:72: “He shepherded them with a pure heart and guided them with his skillful hands.” Just as David was a shepherd to God’s people, Israel, pray that our new pastor will be a true shepherd in guiding, leading, and protecting the congregation at First Baptist Church.

2 Timothy 4:2: “Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction.” Pray that our new pastor has a deep hunger and thirst to preach and teach the whole counsel of God’s Word.

John 16:13: “When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth. For he will not speak on his own, but he will speak whatever he hears. He will also declare to you what is to come.” Pray that our new pastor will be very dependent on hearing and listening to the voice of the Holy Spirit and that the Spirit guides all his preparation and teaching.

Prayers for the Congregation

Colossians 2:6-7: “So then, just as you have received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to walk in Him, being rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, and overflowing with gratitude.” Pray that this time of transition be filled with gratitude and thanksgiving to God, as He in His perfect timing brings to First Baptist the man that He has chosen.

Colossians 3:14: “Above all, put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity.” Pray that individually and as a congregation that we would be known for our deep love of our Savior, and for loving one another, which will result in the perfect bond of unity.

Ephesians 1:11: “In Him we have also received an inheritance, because we were predestined according to the plan of the One who works out everything in agreement with the purpose of His will.” Praise God that He is sovereign over all things, that He is directing our pastoral transition according to His will, and that He is trustworthy and gives peace during this time of change.

Prayers for the Pastor Search Committee

Psalms 51:10: “God, create a clean heart for me and renew a steadfast spirit within me.” Pray for each committee member to have a steadfast spirit and repentant heart.

Colossians 1:9-10: “For this reason also, since the day we heard this, we haven’t stopped praying for you. We are asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding, so that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to Him: bearing fruit in every good work and growing in the knowledge of God.” Pray that the PSC may be filled with the knowledge of God’s will and bear fruit for the kingdom of God as they discover the man God has already chosen for First Baptist Church.

Proverbs 3:5-6: “Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not rely on your own understanding; in all your ways know him, and he will make your paths straight.” Pray for the committee to place all of their confidence in the Lord and His sovereignty, that He will direct the committee to His chosen candidate.



October

Prayers for Our New Senior Pastor

2 Timothy 2:15: “Be diligent to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who doesn’t need to be ashamed, correctly teaching the word of truth.” Pray that our new pastor will study faithfully to show himself approved and that he will handle the Word of God with great wisdom and guidance from the Holy Spirit.

Acts 20:28: “Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has appointed you as overseers, to shepherd the church of God, which he purchased with his own blood.” Pray that our new pastor keeps watch over his own life as well as the congregation, protecting the flock against any false doctrine or division.

1 Thessalonians 2:11-12: “As you know, like a father with his own children, we encouraged, comforted, and implored each one of you to walk worthy of God, who calls you into his own kingdom and glory.” Pray that our new senior pastor will teach us like a father does with his own children, and that we will receive encouragement and comfort as he implores each of us to walk in a manner worthy of the calling of God.

Prayers for the Congregation

James 3:17: “But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peace-loving, gentle, compliant, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without pretense.” Praise God we can know His wisdom is perfect in every way, and that as we pray faithfully, He will indeed guide us by His wisdom and we will bear fruit.

Isaiah 42:9: “The past events have indeed happened. Now I declare new events; I announce them to you before they occur.” Pray that the members of First Baptist Church see and trust God’s sovereignty in His perfect plan.

Psalms 139:23-24: “Search me, God, and know my heart: test me and know my concerns. See if there is any offensive way in me; lead me in the everlasting way.” Pray for a powerful move of the Holy Spirit within our congregation. Pray that we are daily abiding in Christ, confessing our sins, and walking in the fruit of the Spirit.

Prayers for the Pastor Search Committee

Philippians 2:3-4: “Do nothing out of selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility consider others as more important than yourselves. Everyone should look not to his own interests, but rather to the interests of others.” Pray that the PSC will seek God’s will for the church above their own personal desires and preferences.

Psalms 32:8 “I will instruct you and show you the way to go; with My eye on you, I will give counsel.” Pray that the PSC have teachable hearts and will listen to the Lord’s counsel daily.

Ephesians 4:3-6 “Making every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit - just as you were called to one hope at your calling - one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.” Pray for the search committee to have powerful unity and oneness of spirit within the committee and that there be no division.



November

Prayers for Our New Senior Pastor

Psalm 19:14: “May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, Lord, my rock and my Redeemer.” Pray that our pastor’s words and meditations are acceptable and pleasing to the Lord.

Psalm 1:2-3: “...his delight is in the Lord’s instruction, and he meditates on it day and night. He is like a tree planted beside flowing streams that bears its fruit in its season and its leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers.” Pray that our new pastor delights in the Lord’s instructions and meditates on them day and night.

1 Timothy 6:11-12: “But you, man of God, flee from these things, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, and gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of eternal life to which you were called and about which you have made a good confession in the presence of many witnesses.” Pray that our new pastor will fight the “good fight,” pursuing righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, and gentleness.



Prayers for the Congregation

Psalm 100:2-4: “Serve the LORD with gladness; come before Him with joyful songs. Acknowledge that the LORD is God. He made us, and we are His people, the sheep of His pasture. Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise. Give thanks to Him and bless His name.” Pray that we would serve God joyfully during this transition time, that we would celebrate that we belong to God alone, as He is sufficient to meet all our needs and answer all our prayers.

John 15:4: “ Remain in me, and I in you. Just as a branch is unable to produce fruit by itself unless it remains on the vine, neither can you unless you remain in Me.” Pray that we abide in Christ and remain connected to the vine so that we can produce fruit in accordance with the will of Christ.

Matthew 28:18-20: “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; And remember I am with you always to the end of the age.” Praise God Pastor Mike has reminded us during this time of transition, we are not in “intermission” but on “mission.” Praise God that under the excellent leadership of Pastor Mike, Pastor Dale, and Pastor Benji, we are faithfully carrying out the Great Commission.

Prayers for the Pastor Search Committee

Psalms 93:1-2: “The LORD reigns! He is robed in majesty; the LORD is robed, enveloped in strength. The world is firmly established; it cannot be shaken. Your throne has been established from the beginning; You are from eternity.” Praise God that He has been ruling and reigning from all eternity. Praise Him that His promises and purposes are unshakable and speak of His holiness and majesty. Pray that the PSC views all their responsibilities and decisions through the lens of God’s sovereignty and infinite wisdom.

James 1: 5-8: “Now if any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God-who gives to all generously and ungrudgingly- and it will be given to him. But let him ask in faith without doubting. For the doubter is like the surging sea, driven and tossed by the wind. That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord, being double-minded and unstable in all his ways.” Pray for the PSC to have wisdom and discernment from God’s Word to discover the man God has chosen for First Baptist Church.

December

Prayers for Our New Senior Pastor

Titus 2:6-7: “In the same way, encourage the young men to be self-controlled in everything. Make yourself an example of good works with integrity and dignity in your teaching. Your message is to be sound beyond reproach, so that any opponent will be ashamed, because he doesn’t have anything bad to say about us.” Pray that our new pastor will set an example in integrity, dignity, and teaching. May his message to us be sound and beyond reproach.

James 3:17: “But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peace-loving, gentle, compliant, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without pretense.” Pray our new pastor is filled with wisdom that can only come from God the Father.

Colossians 3:12-14: “Therefore, as God’s chosen ones, holy and dearly loved, put on compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another if anyone has a grievance against another. Just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you are also to forgive. Above all, put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity.” Pray that our new pastor would be kind, humble, gentle, patient, forgiving, and loving, as he leads our church in unity.



Prayers for the Congregation

Isaiah 41:10: “Do not fear, for I am with you; do not be afraid, for I am your God. I will strengthen you; I will help you; I will hold on to you with My righteous right hand.” Pray that we have no anxiety as we wait on the Lord, being confident in His perfect timing for the selection of our next senior pastor.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18: “ Rejoice always, pray constantly, give thanks in everything; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.” Thank God in advance for the pastor He is preparing to come to First Baptist. May our prayers of gratitude continue and may our church flourish under our current and future leadership.

1 Thessalonians 5:12-13: “Now we ask you, brothers and sisters, to give recognition to those who labor among you, lead you in the Lord, and admonish you, and to regard them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves.” Pray to be great encouragers to Pastor Mike, Pastor Dale, and Pastor Benji as they lead our congregation while we wait on God’s timing for our new pastor.

Prayers for the Pastor Search Committee

1 Corinthians 12:4: “Now there are different gifts, but the same Spirit.” Praise God for the various gifts within the church and within the PSC. Ask the Lord to use those gifts for fruitful ministry during this transition time.

1 Peter 5:8: “Be sober-minded, be alert. Your adversary the devil is prowling around like a roaring lion, looking for anyone he can devour.” Pray for protection for the PSC, realizing this season will bring spiritual warfare. Pray that each committee member would “submit therefore to God, resist the devil and he will flee from you” (James 4:7).

Matthew 16:18: “I also say to you that you are Peter and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it.” Praise God the future of the church is in His hands, and He has promised that nothing will prevail against the building of His church.

January

Prayers for Our New Senior Pastor

2 Timothy 2:24-25: “The Lord’s servant must not quarrel, but must be gentle to everyone, able to teach, and patient, instructing his opponents with gentleness. Perhaps God will grant them repentance leading them to the knowledge of the truth.” Pray that our new pastor is not quarrelsome, but gentle to all people. Pray that he teaches with patience, winsomely shares the gospel, and brings many to repentance and faith in Jesus Christ.

Colossians 4:2-3: “Devote yourselves to prayer; stay alert in it with thanksgiving. At the same time, pray also for us that God may open a door to us for the word, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains.” Pray that our new pastor will be a man devoted to prayer and thanksgiving. May he speak boldly from the Word, and encourage our congregation to do the same as they share the gospel.

Romans 12:1-2: “Therefore, brothers and sisters, in view of the mercies of God, I urge you to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God; this is your true worship. Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may discern what is the good, pleasing, and perfect will of God.” Pray that our new pastor grows in holiness and does not conform to this world, but is daily transformed by the renewing of his mind, so that he can discern what is pleasing to God.

Prayers for the Congregation

Proverbs 16:3: “Commit your activities to the LORD, and your plans will be established.” Pray in all things that we commit our ways and thoughts to the Lord, and thank Him that He promises our plans will be established according to His will.

I Corinthians 15:58: “Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the Lord’s work, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.” Pray that each one of us continues serving in our calling, using our spiritual gifts and excelling in the Lord’s work during this transition time.

Ephesians 1:17-19: “I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, would give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him. I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened so that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what is the wealth of His glorious inheritance in the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the mighty working of His strength.” Praise God for the immeasurable greatness of His power towards us who believe. Pray that our congregation will grow in wisdom, through the revelation of the knowledge of Christ both individually and corporately.

Prayers for the Pastor Search Committee

1 Samuel 16:1-7: “But the LORD said to Samuel, “Do not look at his appearance or his stature because I have rejected him. Humans do not see what the LORD sees, for humans see what is visible, but the LORD sees the heart.” Pray that God will give the search team His wisdom in identifying His candidate for First Baptist Church. Ask God to help the committee look past their personal preferences to see whom God has chosen.

Ephesians 6:10-12: “Finally, be strengthened by the Lord and by his vast strength. Put on the full armor of God so that you can stand against the schemes of the devil. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this darkness, against evil, spiritual forces in the heavens.” Pray that the PSC is not deceived by the schemes of the enemy. Pray for God’s protection of the committee and their families.



February

Prayers for Our New Senior Pastor

Galatians 5:22-25: “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. The law is not against such things. Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit.” Pray that our new pastor will be filled with the fruit of the Spirit, and that he will faithfully walk in obedience to the Spirit.

Joshua 1:8-9: “This book of instruction must not depart from your mouth; you are to meditate on it day and night so that you may carefully observe everything written in it. For then, you will prosper and succeed in whatever you do. 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.” Pray that when our new pastor receives the call, God will protect his heart as he prepares to leave his current ministry and move to First Baptist Church. Pray that God will give him and his family peace, knowing that they are following God’s will.

Prayers for the Congregation

1 Peter 5:6-7: “Humble yourself, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you at the proper time, casting all your cares on him, because he cares for you.” Pray that our congregation will have humble hearts and that they will bring their cares, worries, or anxieties to the foot of the cross.

Philippians 2:1-4: “If then, there is any encouragement in Christ, if any consolation of love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any affection and mercy, make my joy complete by thinking the same way, having the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility consider others as more important than yourselves. Everyone should look not to his own interests, but rather to the interests of others.” Pray that each one of us at First Baptist Church will be united in love, intent on one purpose, and consider others more important than oneself.

John 17:22-21: “May they all be one, as You, Father, are in Me and I am in You. May they also be in us, so that the world may believe You sent me. I have given them the glory you have given me, so that they may be one as we are one.” Pray for great unity in calling the new pastor. May our congregation receive him and his family with unconditional love and renewed commitment. Pray also for God’s grace, guidance, and strength for the church from which our new pastor comes.

Prayers for the Pastor Search Committee

1 Corinthians 1:10: “Now I urge you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree in what you say, that there be no divisions among you, and that you be united with the same understanding and the same conviction.” Pray that as the PSC makes decisions, they are unified in Christ, seeking the same understanding and convictions.

Romans 14:19: “So then, let us pursue what promotes peace and what builds up one another.” Pray that the PSC pursues lives that promote peace and continually build one another up in the faith.

2 Corinthians 13:11: “Finally, brothers and sisters, rejoice. Become mature, be encouraged, be of the same mind, be at peace, and the God of love and peace will be with you.” Pray that we rejoice together, encourage one another, and strive to be like-minded.



LET'S PRAY TOGETHER



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