

St. Andrew Presbyterian Church Next Chapter Prayer Vigil March 2017

Dear Church Family,

This packet is a list of ideas. Ideally, one member of your prayer group comes prepared to guide the others through the hour. We don't expect you to use all the material in the packet. Depending on your comfort level with group prayers, you might not use any of it. We want to offer you variety of resources and approaches to prayer so you can pick out the ones that resonate best with your group. However you pray, we are confident the Lord will bless your time together.

Yours,
The Capital Campaign Team

Romans 8:26-27, "Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God."

A Simple Plan For Prayer

1. **Prepare the heart...** *“Be still and know that I am God”* (Psalm 46:10)
2. **Partake of God’s Word...** *“I have esteemed the words of His mouth more than my necessary food”* (Job 23:12)
3. **Pray intellectually and purposefully.** Fellowship with the Lord through four aspects of prayer:
 - A Adoration...**Enter into fellowship with God with great respect and admiration. Tell the Lord you love Him. Reflect on His greatness, His power, His mercy, His patience, His majesty and His grace.
 - C Confession...**As you come into God’s presence you will recognize your human weakness, and know that you are welcomed and comforted.
 - T Thanksgiving...**Think of several specific things for which to thank God.
 - S Supplication...**This is the part of your prayer in which you make your requests known to God.

A Season Of Prayer

What/Who should be included in the requests you make to God in prayer?

1. Your **church’s** needs
2. Your **friends’** and **acquaintances’** needs
3. Your **family’s** needs

A SELECTION OF PRAYER SCRIPTURES

Jeremiah 29:11, "For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope."

Jeremiah 29:13, "You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart."

Jeremiah 33:3, "Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know."

Psalms 116:1-2, "I love the Lord, for he heard my voice; he heard my cry for mercy. Because he turned his ear to me, I will call on him as long as I live."

Romans 8:26-27, "Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God."

I John 5:14-15, "This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us--whatever we ask--we know that we have what we asked of him."

Isaiah 55:6, "Seek the Lord while he may be found; call on him while he is near."

Isaiah 65:24, "Before they call I will answer; while they are still speaking I will hear."

Ephesians 3:20, "Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us."

Philippians 4:6-7, "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

I Thessalonians 5:17-18, "Pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."

I Peter 3:12, "For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and his ears are attentive to their prayer, but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil."

James 1:5, "If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him."

Matthew 7:7-8, "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened."

Sample Prayer Agenda

Praise Chorus/Read Scripture

5 Minutes

Opening Prayer Time

5 Minutes

Ideas for prayer requests:

1. Each person open to the voice of God.
2. Pastor to effectively cast the vision for our church and our future.
3. The blessing of God upon our worship services.
4. Faithful commitments to giving and receiving; good stewardship of our time, talent and treasure.
5. Congregational focus upon God and His ability to help us as individuals and as a church family.
6. Revival within the church as a result of obedience to and cooperation with God.

Personal Prayer Time

10 Minutes

Ideas for silent prayer:

1. Faith to believe God for continued miracles.
2. Unity with the leadership concerning church's journey.
3. My personal commitment to the church.

One-on-One Prayer Time

10 Minutes

Find a partner or two and share a personal request; pray audibly for one another.

Intercessory Prayer Time

25 Minutes

Review (silently or out loud) the six posters including photos, bible verses and prompts for prayer. Consider the suggested prayers of response and confession.

Group Praise

5 minutes

Close the prayer time together. Give God praise for what He is doing for our church and what He will do for the next year. Sing the Doxology.

Next Chapter Prayer Litany

Leader: Gracious God, we thank and praise you for the many ways you have richly inspired, blessed and guided us since we began as a congregation. May we fulfill our calling with generous hearts, graciously giving back the gifts that you have bestowed upon us through your mercy.

People: We give thanks for gifts given and for love shared in the Holy Spirit.

Leader: We pray for our broken world...for all places marked by conflict, violence, injustice, poverty and fear. With grateful hearts, we give thanks for our country, for all military personnel and their families worldwide. We pray for the political leadership in our world.

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: In our church family we pray for the the young and the old and all in between. We hold up to you, O Lord, all those who are grieving, the lonely, the discouraged, the unemployed, all dealing with broken relationships. We remember all who yearn for 'more,' for purpose and meaning and answers. Help us to witness to Your power and Your presence in our lives and our hope that they will also embrace the good news and the risen life. We ask for God's healing touch, on all those in need.

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: We ask God's blessing on all those who visit our church, both now and throughout the transition period, for the seekers and those wanting to connect again with a faith community. Teach each one of us, O Lord, to be your welcoming committee in this place.

People: Lord, empower us by your Spirit.

Leader: We ask your blessing upon us all during this time of transition and transformation; grant us patience, understanding, strength, your grace and your peace. We feel for those who may be anxious about changes in our church and our community. Calm their fears, O Lord, and encourage them to see your Hand in all Your works.

People: Lord, empower us by your Spirit.

Leader: We pray for our worshipping community throughout the coming months, and for the ministries that we will plant and sustain in our new building. We give thanks for all those who have participated in the Next Chapter discussions, who have offered their homes, their enthusiasm, their ideas and their conviction. Be with us now so that generations to come may continue to invite others, find peace, and follow you in compassionate service.

People: Lord, empower us by your Spirit.

Leader: We give thanks for the dedication of all of your servants who have given of their many gifts in the development of our new church building: time and energy, expertise and skills, money and other resources. We pray for your continuing guidance now as the vision and mission of the future that lies ahead for St Andrew; with You, O Christ as the cornerstone.

People: Praise to you, O Lord, for the abundance of your blessings in this place.

All: With thanks, in praise, in Your service and to Your glory, O Lord, hear our prayer. Amen.

1. Responsive prayer
(celebrating our God's guidance throughout our church history)
based on John 3:14,15

As our founding members gathered in yard and country farm house in 1958.

even so do we gather in your name.

As the first children rattled the metal chairs in the sanctuary

even so do we gather in your name.

As the attendance grew and we added a pipe organ to our worship in the 1980s,

even so do we gather in your name.

As the Stephen Ministry program and short term mission trips began in the 1990s

even so do we gather in your name.

As the men's ministry parked cars on Saturdays through 2015,

even so do we gather in your name.

For as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so shall the Son of Man be lifted up.

That whosoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

2. Responsive prayer
(celebrating excellence in worship at St. Andrew)

Engaged by the sound of our own musicians

We gather to worship the Lord

Inspired by the vision of our own artists

We rejoice in the Lord

Enthralled by the voices of our own readers

We heed the voice of the Lord

Enriched by the sermons of our own pastors

We delight in the ways of the Lord

Enabled by the presence of people with all abilities

We bring praise to the Lord.

3. Responsive prayer
(celebrating family friendly programs at St. Andrew)
based on Psalm 95

Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord,
let us shout aloud to the rock of our salvation.
Let us come before him with thanksgiving

For the Lord is a great God,
The great King above all gods.
With his hand he formed us as children, as families, as friends.
*The church is his, for he made it,
his hands bring together people of all ages.
He gives shelter and warmth and coffee and donuts.*

Come, let us bow down in worship,
let us kneel before the Lord our Maker:
*for he is our God and we are the people of his pasture, the flock
under his care.*

4. Confession:
(remembering the importance of our local community)
referencing Psalm 32

Lord, at times, meeting the needs of people around the world seems impossible. Reports of violence and hunger and sickness sap our strength like the heat in summer. Despite our many mission outreach programs, reading the news overwhelms us. Forgive us for getting distracted. You are our hiding place, you protect us from trouble and surround us with songs of deliverance. Instruct us in the way we should go; counsel and watch over us. Help us to see those in our local community: the schools and neighborhoods near Gathering Place Ln; the wide open spaces around our new building; the free lunch program and the crisis center; the retirement communities and the ecumenical bible studies. Here, Lord, in our own community we find daily work and your unfailing love. Help us to trust in you.

5. Confession

(remembering ministry support teams at St. Andrew)
referencing Psalm 23

Lord, we are a people of many blessings. Our lives hold so many comforts. Yet we worry. We worry there is still not enough. We worry about our personal finances and our church finances. We hoard our free time. We let uncertain futures overwhelm the joy of the present moment. Forgive us for taking our blessings for granted. Forgive us for acting entitled to more. Forgive us for devaluing the work of our ministry support teams. Forgive us our doubts as we forgive our doubters. You do not lead us into temptation. Your rod and your staff comfort us. Thank you for those St. Andrew members serving on the session, building, finance and personnel teams. Deliver them to green pastures and still waters. Guide them--and all of us-- in paths of righteousness, for your names sake.